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THE HERALD

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EP President Martin Schulz opened the May plenary session with a statement on Europe Day which is held every year on 9 May to mark the anniversary of a declaration by French Foreign Minister Robert Schuman in 1950. Plenary session agenda includes asylum policy, Schengen, Europol, Greece, China, taxing multinationals, food origin and fish labelling among other topics.



EUROGROUP SEES GREECE AND LENDERS INCH TOWARDS DEAL

EKATHIMERINI.COM

A meeting of finance ministers in Brussels on Monday ended with Greece and its lenders appearing closer to an agreement that would conclude the pending bailout review and clear the way for debt relief talks, but only in return for another key concession from Athens.

In its statement, the Eurogroup welcomed "the completion of a policy package, which should pave the way for a successful completion of the first review." It recognized the 2 percent of gross domestic product in fiscal measures that were passed through Parliament on Sunday night and noted that Greece still has another 1 percent of GDP in fiscal interventions to pass, as well as to legislate the sale of nonperforming loans and move ahead with setting up a new privatization fund.

Regarding the outstanding package of contingent measures, worth 2 percent of GDP, that the creditors have demanded, Greece's proposal for a mechanism that will make automatic cuts in public spending if Athens does not hit its primary surplus targets in the coming years appears to have been accepted. The International Monetary Fund and other creditors had preferred that the government should legislate specific measures now and keep them on hold until it was clear whether they were needed to cover shortfalls in 2017 and 2018.

Finance Minister Euclid Tsakalotos had argued that passing such measures was not compatible with the Greek Constitution, while government officials had raised doubts about whether MPs would support another large austerity package at this stage.



AUSTRIAN CHANCELLOR STEPS DOWN AFTER ELECTION DRUBBING

THELOCAL.AT



Austria's Chancellor Werner Faymann is stepping down and will also resign as head of the Social Democrats. The centre-left Faymann, 56, chancellor since 2008, said in a statement that he no longer had "strong backing" in his party, the Social Democrats. "As a result of this insufficient support I am drawing the consequences and resign my functions as party leader and chancellor, effective today," he said.

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MIGRANT ARRIVALS IN GERMANY FALL TO NEW LOW

THELOCAL.DE



Germany recorded a steep decline in asylum seeker arrivals in April, official data showed Monday, after the closure of the popular route used by migrants through the Balkans. Some 16,000 migrants arrived in April, down almost a quarter from 20,000 in March, and nearly a 90-percent plunge from December when 120,000 arrivals were recorded.

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NATO CHIEFS WARN BREXIT WILL 'GIVE SUCCOUR TO THE WEST'S ENEMIES'

TELEGRAPH.CO.UK

Britain leaving the European Union would "give succour to the West's enemies", five former Nato Secretaries-General say. In a letter to The Telegraph, the former Nato chiefs, who served the organisation between 1984 and 2014, warn that it would be "very troubling" if Britain votes to leave the EU on June 23rd.

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BRITAIN WILL NOT ACCEPT CHILD REFUGEES FOR UP TO SEVEN MONTHS, NUMBER 10 ADMITS

TELEGRAPH.CO.UK

Britain will not accept any refugee children from camps on the European mainland for up to another seven months, Number 10 has admitted. The news prompted an outcry from Conservative MPs who had campaigned for the Government to with one saying that public expected "an urgent response".

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CENTRAL EUROPEAN COUNTRIES 'SHOULD FORM LOBBY GROUP IN EU, NATO'

THENEWS.PL

Central European countries should form a lobby group to press for their interests in the EU and NATO, Polish Foreign Minister Witold Waszczykowski said on Monday after meeting his Croatian counterpart, Miro Kovac, who is on a visit to Poland.

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TUSK CONGRATULATES IRELAND'S ENDA KENNY ON RE-ELECTION

THEPARLIAMENTMAGAZINE.EU

European Council President Donald Tusk has congratulated Enda Kenny on his re-appointment as Irish Taoiseach. Tusk said it was good that a leader of his calibre and experience was returning. Kenny is the first Fine Gael Prime Minister to win re-election in Irish history, though his triumph is marred by a minority administration that is propped up by independent MPs and, more crucially, by Fianna Fáil.

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OPENING: EUROPE DAY 9 MAY "IT'S TIME TO FIGHT FOR EUROPE"

EUROPARL.EUROPA.EU

President Schulz recalled the declaration by French foreign minister Robert Schuman on 9 May 1950 that paved the way for the European Coal and Steel Community. He called upon Europeans to show the same courage and fight to ensure that solidarity and peaceful cooperation across borders, not hatred, violence and destruction, shape the coexistence of nations in Europe. Schulz concluded by voicing confidence that the overwhelming majority of Europeans still believe that cooperation across borders is the best path to take. "It is time to fight for Europe", he urged.

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10 MAY, 2016

THE AGENDA

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EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

• 9:00 **the plenary session continues in Strasbourg.** On the agenda: DEBATES: China's market economy status - Council and Commission statements, Economic growth and youth employment - Council and Commission statements. 12:00 VOTES followed by explanations of votes: Protection against subsidised imports from countries not members of the EU (report by **Heidi Hautala**, Greens/EFA), Protection against dumped imports from countries not members of the EU (report by **Heidi Hautala**, Greens/EFA), EU-Liberia sustainable fisheries partnership agreement (recommendation by **Jarosław Wałęsa**, EPP), EU-Mauritania fisheries partnership agreement: fishing opportunities and financial contribution (recommendation by **Gabriel Mato**, EPP), Cooperation agreement on a civil Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) with Korea (recommendation by **Gianluca Buonanno**, ENF), New territorial development tools in cohesion policy 2014-2020 (report by **Ruža Tomašić**, ECR), Statistics concerning balance of payments, international trade in services and foreign direct investment (report by **Sven Giegold**, Greens/EFA), Cohesion policy in mountainous regions of the EU (report by **Iliana Iotova**, S&D). 15:00 DEBATES: Ongoing negotiations on the first review of the economic adjustment programme for Greece - Commission statement, Preparation of the World Humanitarian Summit - Council and Commission statements, EU-MERCOSUR: The way forward in the Association Agreement's trade negotiations oral question, Follow-up and state of play of the Agenda 2030 and Sustainable Development Goals - Council and Commission statements, EU assistance to Lebanon and Jordan to face the effects of the Syrian crisis - statement by the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Situation in Venezuela - statement by the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, West Bank displacement and demolitions, including of EU-funded projects - statement by the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy.

WHO WHEN WHERE

- 9:30 the European Commission is organising a **Conference with experts of rail passenger security which aims to share ideas on rail security and stimulate discussion across the sector** (Albert Borschette Conference Center, Rue Froissart 36, Brussels).
- 9:30 the European Commission and the Government of the Netherlands co-host the fourth edition of **"Adaptation Futures 2016"** - biennial conference of the Global Programme of Research on Climate Change Vulnerability, Impacts and Adaptation (Rotterdam, The Netherlands).

TODAY CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS



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