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THE HERALD

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EU Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Development meet in Brussels today to discuss a revision of the European consensus for development in light of the 2030 agenda. The topic of migration is also on the table.



GROWING EU-TURKEY TENSIONS FUEL FEARS FOR MIGRANT DEAL

EKATHIMERINI.COM

Concerns rose on Wednesday regarding the fate of a deal between the EU and Turkey that has radically reduced the influx of migrants toward the bloc via Greece as a dispute over Ankara's refusal to adopt EU anti-terrorism laws escalated.

The migrant deal is facing "a very dangerous moment," Turkey's EU Affairs Minister Volkan Bozkir said at a news conference with European Parliament President Martin Schulz in Strasbourg.

Bozkir said Turkey had basically fulfilled the terms of the deal, even though Brussels is insisting that Turkey overhaul its anti-terrorist legislation before Turkish nationals can enjoy visa-free travel to Europe.

Schulz expressed his conviction that the agreement between Turkey and the EU would hold.

However, an adviser to Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Burhan Kuzu, expressed Ankara's impatience on his Twitter account, indicating that Turkish authorities would "send the refugees back" to Europe if Turkish citizens are not granted visa-free travel.

In Athens, officials are concerned that a flow of migrants across the Aegean that has slowed in recent weeks may intensify again in view of the growing tensions between the EU and Turkey.

More than 50,000 migrants are currently living in reception centers across the country, with around 10,000 at a makeshift camp near the village of Idomeni close to Greece's border with the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.



COMMISSION PROHIBITS HUTCHISON'S PROPOSED ACQUISITION OF TELEFÓNICA UK

EUROPA.EU



The Commission has blocked the proposed acquisition of O2 by Hutchison under the EU Merger Regulation. It had strong concerns that UK mobile customers would have had less choice and paid higher prices as a result of the takeover, and that the deal would have harmed innovation in the mobile sector.

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SPAIN AND PORTUGAL AT RISK OF EU SANCTIONS OVER NATIONAL BUDGETS

POLITICO.EU



The European Commission is mulling possible fines for Spain and Portugal for failing to meet EU national budgetary targets. One source from within the room in Tuesday's college of commissioners' meeting in Strasbourg confirmed to POLITICO on Wednesday that there was a debate but said no decisions were taken.

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EU AMBASSADORS BACK EXTENDED BORDER CONTROLS

POLITICO.EU

EU ambassadors on Wednesday backed a European Commission proposal to extend internal border controls for a maximum of six months. Five countries in the border-free Schengen area – Austria, Germany, Denmark, Sweden and non-EU Norway – have reintroduced temporary border controls since September because of the migration crisis. Thanks to the agreement, they will now be able to keep those controls in place.

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BULGARIA'S RULING PARTY SAYS GOVERNMENT WILL REMAIN STABLE

REUTERS.COM

The stability of Bulgaria's government is not at risk despite a small center-left ally withdrawing its support, leaving the center-right coalition without a majority in parliament, a top official from the leading GERB party said on Wednesday. The leadership of the ABV party said on Tuesday it would end its backing for the government due to disagreements over policy and changes in the election code, and its deputy prime minister and labor minister resigned.

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TURKEY'S EU NEGOTIATOR: CHANGING ANTI-TERROR LAW IS 'IMPOSSIBLE'

EUOBSERVER.COM

Turkish minister for EU affairs Volkan Bozkir said Wednesday it is "completely impossible" to change his country's anti-terror law, a condition for visa liberalisation, after meeting EP president Schulz. He cited reasons of "more than 450 security officers killed by PKK terrorism, more than five or six suicide bomb attacks."

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PARLIAMENT APPROVES NEW EUROPOL POWERS TO FIGHT TERRORISM

POLITICO.EU

The European Parliament on Wednesday approved new powers for the law enforcement agency Europol in an effort to boost the EU's ability to fight terrorism and improve intelligence-sharing among its member countries. The new regulation is the result of three years of negotiations. It pushes EU countries' to provide the agency with more relevant information, and makes it easier for Europol to set up specialized units on terrorism.

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ITALIAN MPS PAVE WAY TO LEGALISING SAME-SEX CIVIL UNIONS

FRANCE24.COM

The Italian parliament cleared the way to approving same-sex civil unions and granting some rights to unmarried heterosexual couples in a confidence vote on Wednesday called by Prime Minister Matteo Renzi to force the bill into law.

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12 MAY, 2016

THE AGENDA

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EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

- 8:30 **the plenary session continues in Strasbourg**. On the agenda: Framework Agreement on parental leave (report by **Maria Arena**, S&D), Preventing and combating trafficking in human beings (report by **Catherine Bearder**, ALDE), Debates on cases of breaches of human rights, democracy and the rule of law (Rule 135): Crimean Tatars, Gambia, Djibouti. 12:00 VOTES followed by explanations of votes: Motions for resolutions concerning debates on cases of breaches of human rights, democracy and the rule of law (Rule 135), Mandatory automatic exchange of information in the field of taxation (report by **Dariusz Rosati**, EPP), Motions for resolutions - Traceability of fishery and aquaculture products in restaurants and retail, China's market economy status - motions for resolutions, Follow-up and state of play of the Agenda 2030 and Sustainable Development Goals - motions for resolutions, Motions for resolutions - Mandatory indication of the country of origin or place of provenance for certain foods, Framework Agreement on parental leave (report by **Maria Arena**, S&D), Preventing and combating trafficking in human beings (report by **Catherine Bearder**, ALDE). 15:00 Foreign currency loans - Commission statement.
- 8:30 **Committee on Foreign Affairs**. The agenda includes: Discussion with **Denis Zvizdic**, Chairman of the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina (WIC - 200).
- 9:00 **Committee on Transport and Tourism**. On the agenda: European Border and Coast Guard (adoption of draft opinion **Marie-Christine Arnautu**, ENF) (LOW - N1.3).

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

- 10:00 a two-day meeting of **Foreign Affairs Council** starts in Brussels. Ministers will hold an orientation debate on the revision of the European consensus on **development**. The Council will address migration and development, following up on the situation 6 months after the Valletta summit, with a focus on the Emergency Trust Fund and high-level dialogues. Ministers will discuss how to maximise EU support to refugees and displaced people. The Council is expected to adopt conclusions on the EU's approach to forced displacement and development. The Council will touch on humanitarian issues in preparation for the World Humanitarian Summit, which will take place in Istanbul on 23-24 May 2016. Over lunch, ministers will exchange views on the preparations for the Brussels conference on Afghanistan, which will take place on 4-5 October 2016. The Afghan Minister for Finance, Eklil Ahmad Hakimi, will be joining them.

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

- The European Commission launched a new case law search engine on the European e-Justice Portal. Since 2010, this Portal guides citizens, businesses and law professionals through justice procedures both at EU and national level. For instance, the portal helps them find a lawyer or understand how they can access to courts in any Member State. The **European Case Law Identifier** (ECLI) search engine will now allow citizens, businesses, legal practitioners and academics to find information on case law published by national and international courts and tribunals

WHO WHEN WHERE

- 9:00 the Conference of the Regional and Local Authorities for the Eastern Partnership holds a conference **"Fiscal decentralisation: The conditions needed to make it a success"** (European Committee of the Regions, Rue Belliard 99-101, Brussels).
- 9:30 The Directorate-General for SME Policy of the Belgian Federal Public Service for Economy is organising the **"A second chance for entrepreneurs: from failure to success"** seminar in collaboration with the Belgian regions (Palais d'Egmont, Place du Petit Sablon 8bis, Brussels).
- 12:30 the European Commission and the Government of Croatia hold

the **First forum of the EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian region** in Dubrovnik.

- 15:15 President of the European Parliament **Martin Schulz**, **Jean-Claude Juncker**, President of the European Commission and **Angela Merkel**, Chancellor of Germany officially open of the visitors centre **"Erlebnis Europa"** in Berlin.
- Climate Action and Energy Commissioner **Miguel Arias Cañete** will be visiting London today, and Dublin on Friday.
- **Johannes Hahn**, Commissioner for European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations visits Algiers.

13. 5. CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS



Karol KARSKI
ECR
(50)



Momchil NEKOV
S&D
(30)