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THE HERALD

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The EU's proposed agreement with Turkey for help in dealing with the refugee crisis still needs to be "rebalanced" before it will be acceptable to all countries in the bloc at a summit later this week, Donald Tusk said Tuesday.



CYPRUS THREAT TO EU-TURKEY DEAL

BBC.COM

Cypriot President Nicos Anastasiades has rejected the terms of an EU offer to Turkey to resume membership talks, jeopardising a deal to send back migrants landing on the Greek islands.

The short boat trip from Turkey has become the most popular route to the EU for migrants and refugees.

Turkey agreed last week to take back the new arrivals in return for EU concessions.

But Cyprus has said that Turkey will have to agree concessions of its own.

One million irregular migrants have taken the sea route from Turkey since the start of 2015 and several countries along the Balkan route have recently acted to halt the influx. Macedonia has closed its Greek border crossing at Gevgelija, leaving at least 44,000 currently stranded in Greece.

Speaking after talks in Nicosia with European Council President Donald Tusk, Mr Anastasiades explained that Turkey first had to "fulfil its obligations", such as recognition of the Cypriot government and opening up Turkish ports and airports to passengers and trade.

The island of Cyprus has been divided since the Turkish military invaded the north in 1974 in response to an Athens-inspired coup.

However, the election of Mustafa Akinci as Turkish Cypriot President last year has injected new hope of reunification and UN-backed talks are said to be at an important stage.



FYROM 'DUMPING' MIGRANTS BACK IN GREECE, SOURCES ON BORDER SAY

EKATHIMERINI.COM



Police sources on Greece's northern frontier with the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM) on Tuesday told Kathimerini that some 1,000 migrants and refugees who managed to breach the sealed border on Monday were being returned without formal consent from the Greek government.

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BRUSSELS POLICE KILL GUNMAN IN PARIS ATTACKS RAID

REUTERS.COM



Belgian police killed a suspect armed with an assault rifle after four officers were wounded on Tuesday in a raid on a Brussels apartment linked to investigations into November's Islamist attacks in Paris, prosecutors said.

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ESTONIA MULLS SCHENGEN BAN ON RUSSIAN OFFICIALS

EUOBSERVER.COM

Estonia may unilaterally ban Russian officials deemed guilty of human rights abuses from entering the EU's Schengen travel zone after a parliament vote.

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EU REFERENDUM: BREXIT CAMPAIGN HAS THE EDGE, SAYS TELEGRAPH POLL

TELEGRAPH.CO.UK

Supporters of Brexit are more likely to vote in the forthcoming referendum which could give the Leave campaign a decisive edge in the final result, a new Telegraph poll suggests.

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UKRAINE PARLIAMENT PASSES MAJOR LAW, PAVING THE WAY TO VISA-FREE TRAVEL

EURACTIV.COM

Ukraine's parliament yesterday approved a vital anti-corruption bill that Kyiv hopes will pave the way for visa-free travel to EU countries this year. The legislation establishes public oversight over the assets of both senior and lower-level officials and their relatives.

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INTERNATIONAL TRADE AGREEMENTS WILL BENEFIT PEOPLE ON BOTH SIDES OF THE ATLANTIC

ECRGROUP.COM

On Monday, the Committee on International Trade discussed the CETA trade agreement between the EU and Canada as well as taking stock of progress concerning TTIP following the meeting last week between the Commissioner, Cecilia Malmström and the US Trade Representative, Michael Froman.

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EUROSTAT: EMPLOYMENT UP BY 0.3% IN EURO AREA AND BY 0.1% IN THE EU28

EUROPA.EU

The number of persons employed increased by 0.3% in the euro area (EA19) and by 0.1% in the EU28 in the fourth quarter of 2015 compared with the previous quarter, according to national accounts estimates published by Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union.

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16 MARCH, 2016

THE AGENDA

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EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

- 9:00 **Subcommittee on Human Rights**. The agenda includes: Hearing on the human rights situation in the countries of origin and transit of migration. 15.45 Discussion on human rights situation in Crimea. 17.15 Discussion with **Golog Jigme**, Tibetan human rights activist (ASP - 3G-3).
- 9:00 **Committee on Budgets**. The agenda includes: New initiatives on the provision of emergency support within the Union - presentation by the Commission, The EU Trust Fund for Africa: the implications for development and humanitarian aid (exchange of views, rapporteur for the opinion **Eider Gardiazabal Rubial**, S&D) (JAN - 4Q-1).
- 9:00 **Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs**. The agenda includes: Amending Directive 2014/65/EU on markets in financial instruments as regards certain dates (vote on a report by **Markus Ferber**, EPP), **Common system of value added tax**, with regard to the duration of the obligation to respect a minimum standard rate (vote on a report by **Peter Simon**, S&D) (PSH - 3C50).
- 9:00 **Committee on Employment and Social Affairs**. The agenda includes: Implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities with special regard to **the Concluding Observations of the UN CRPD Committee** (consideration of draft report by **Helga Stevens**, ECR), Fighting inequalities to boost economic growth in the EU (adoption of question for oral answer, co-rapporteurs: **David Casa**, PPE, **Jutta Steinruck**, S&D, **Anthea McIntyre**, ECR, **Enrique Calvet Chambon**, ALDE, **Patrick Le Hyaric**, GUE/NGL, **Jean Lambert**, Verts/ALE, **Laura Agea**, EFDD, **Dominique Martin**, ENF) (PSH - 1A002).
- 9:00 **Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety**. The agenda includes: Discussion with the European Commission on the TTIP negotiations, Discussion with **Jyrki Katainen**, European Commission Vice-President responsible for Jobs, Growth, Investment and Competitiveness, as part of the structured dialogue, and including on the implementation of the Circular Economy Action Plan (JAN - 2Q2).
- 9:00 **Committee on Industry, Research and Energy**. The agenda includes: Review of Telecoms Framework - progress update by Director General **Roberto Viola**, European Commission, Governance tools in the Single Market: making life easier for businesses and industries - presentation by Director **Valentina Superti**, European Commission (JAN - 4Q2).
- 9:00 **Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs**. The agenda includes: **European Criminal Records Information System**: exchange of information on third country nationals - discussion with the Commission (rapporteur **Timothy Kirkhope**, ECR). 15:00 The situation in Greece as regards migration and refugees - discussion with **Ioannis Mouzalas**, Greek Alternate Minister of Immigration Policy (JAN - 6Q2).
- 15:00 **Committee on Regional Development**. The agenda includes: Workshop on Simplification in cohesion (ASP - 1G3).

EUROPEAN COUNCIL

- 16:00 **The Tripartite Social Summit** takes place one day before the March European Council. The main focus of the Social summit is a discussion on a strong partnership for job creation and inclusive growth (Justus Lipsius building).

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

- The European Commission yesterday released **€10 million for research on the Zika virus**, currently affecting large parts of Latin America. The Horizon 2020 funding will go into projects seeking to develop diagnostics and test potential treatments or vaccines.

- Yesterday **the Commission announced €445 million in humanitarian aid for the Syria crisis in 2016**. The support is part of the Commission's pledge made at the conference 'Supporting Syria and the Region' held earlier this year in London, where the EU and the Member States pledged over €3 billion to assist the Syrian people this year.
- The Commission announced at **the Council meeting of agriculture ministers** an additional package of exceptional measures using all the tools made available in **the Common Agricultural Policy** to support EU farmers while safeguarding the EU internal market.
- **According to Eurostat**, in 2014, **5.132 million babies were born in the European Union (EU)**, compared with 5.063 million in 2001. Among Member States, France continued to record the highest number of births (819 300 in 2014), ahead of the United Kingdom (775 900), Germany (714 900), Italy (502 600), Spain (426 100) and Poland (375 200).

WHO WHEN WHERE

- Meeting '**eSkills for Jobs**' takes place in The Netherlands (The Hague, Ministry of Economic Affairs).
- A two-day '**9th International conference for improving energy efficiency in commercial buildings and smart communities**' takes place in Frankfurt during Light+Building, the world's leading trade fair for Architecture and Technology (Germany).

TODAY CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS



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(58)