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the foundation for european reform

THE HERALD

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Austrian chancellor Werner Faymann on Tuesday defended his controversial decision to tighten border controls, telling EU Council president Donald Tusk that "Austria is not a waiting room for Germany."



EU TO UNVEIL EMERGENCY AID PLAN

BBC.COM

The European Union is preparing to spend hundreds of millions of euros on humanitarian aid, as Greece struggles to cope with an influx of migrants.

Under plans to be submitted on Wednesday, EU funds could be deployed within Europe in the same way they are used to help crises outside the bloc.

The UN has warned of a humanitarian disaster caused by a build-up of migrants on Greece's borders.

Thousands of asylum seekers remain trapped on the border with Macedonia. The plan to be submitted by the EU's executive body, the European Commission, means EU aid agencies would for the first time work directly with the UN and other groups inside Europe, rather than dispersing money to individual member states.

EU officials said the aid plan would allocate 300m euros (£233m; \$325m) this year to help any EU state deal with the migration crisis. In all, 700m euros would be made available over three years.

However, BBC Europe correspondent Chris Morris says that even if such funding can be deployed quickly, the EU also needs to stem the flow of new arrivals. That would mean better co-operation with Turkey, he adds.



SOME EU MIGRANTS CAN BE TOLD WHERE TO LIVE, TOP COURT RULES

REUTERS.COM



Some migrants can be told where they must live in the European Union as long as the reason is to help them integrate into society, the EU's top court ruled on Tuesday.



GREECE SEEKS EU AID FOR 100,000 REFUGEES

EKATHIMERINI.COM



Greece has asked the EU for 480 million euros (\$534 million) in emergency funds to help shelter 100,000 refugees, the government said Tuesday, warning that the migrant influx threatened to overwhelm its crisis-hit resources.

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SÁNCHEZ CALLS FOR SUPPORT TO PULL SPAIN OUT OF CURRENT POLITICAL IMPASSE

ELPAIS.COM

Socialist Party leader Pedro Sánchez made his much-anticipated investiture speech in Congress on Tuesday afternoon, offering “a government of change and of dialogue” that would save Spain from its current situation of impasse, and that, above all, would rectify the consequences of the four years of Popular Party government.

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GERMANY'S CONSTITUTIONAL COURT COULD BAN EXTREMIST NPD

DW.COM

On Tuesday, the second attempt to ban the right-wing extremist National Democratic Party of Germany begins. The highly regulated negotiations will take place in the Federal Constitutional Court.

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FRENCH PM POSTPONES LABOUR REFORM PLAN AFTER PARTY REBELLION

REUTERS.COM

France's government will present unpopular labour reforms two weeks later than planned, giving the first sign that it is prepared to water down its plans following strong pressure from unions and within the governing Socialist party.

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'NO ASYLUM IN AUSTRIA' FACEBOOK CAMPAIGN TELLS AFGHANS TO STAY HOME

EURACTIV.COM

Austria wants to deter Afghans from seeking asylum there by funding a campaign of advertisements on Kabul buses, on Facebook and on television telling them not to expect a warm welcome.

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EUROSTAT: EURO AREA UNEMPLOYMENT RATE AT 10.3%

EUROPA.EU

The euro area (EA19) seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate was 10.3% in January 2016, down from 10.4% in December 2015, and from 11.3% in January 2015. This is the lowest rate recorded in the euro area since August 2011. The EU28 unemployment rate was 8.9% in January 2016, down from 9.0% in December 2015, and from 9.8% in January 2015.

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2 MARCH, 2016

THE AGENDA

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EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

• 8:30 **Committee of Inquiry into Emission Measurements in the Automotive Sector**. On the agenda: Election of the Chair, Election of the Vice-Chairs (JAN - 6Q2).

• 15:00 **Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs**. On the agenda: Economic Dialogue and discussion with Euclid Tsakalotos, Minister of Finance of the Hellenic Republic (JAN - 4Q1).

• 18:00 joint hearing with the **BUDG: Budgetary capacity for the Euro area** (PSH - 1A-002).

• 17:00 the President of the European Parliament **Martin Schulz** will meet **Erna Solberg**, Prime Minister of Norway (PSH - Grand Salon Protocolaire).

• „Cooperation with Ukraine is essential and our solidarity should not be questioned”, said European Parliament President **Martin Schulz** at the opening of “**Ukraine week**” on Monday evening.

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

• Yesterday, the Commission launched a **12-week public consultation** to gather input on the current regime for registration of interest representatives who seek to influence the work of the EU institutions and on its development into a mandatory lobby register covering the European Parliament and Council of the European Union as well as the Commission.

• Yesterday, the Commission approved a **€252.5 million assistance package for Palestine**. It is the first part of the EU's 2016 annual support package for Palestine, confirming the EU's long-standing commitment to the Palestinians.

• The Commission confirmed **the full participation of Ireland in the EU relocation scheme**. In line with its 'opt in' under the Lisbon Treaty, Ireland notified the Commission on 6 October of its wish to participate in both Council Decisions on relocation and to relocate applicants for international protection from Italy and Greece.

• The **European Investment Fund, KredEx**, and the **Estonian Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications** yesterday launched **EstFund**, a €60 million risk capital fund-of-funds investing in several risk capital funds which will then invest in Estonian SMEs.

COURT OF JUSTICE OF THE EU

• The Court gave as a **ruling on the relationship between the freedom of movement of beneficiaries of international protection and measures intended to facilitate their integration**. According to the Court a place-of-residence condition may be imposed on beneficiaries of subsidiary protection if they face greater integration difficulties than other non - EU citizens who are legally resident in the Member State that has granted such protection (C-443/14 and C-444/14).

• The Court upheld the freezing of **the National Iranian Oil Company's funds** for the period from 16 October 2012 until its removal from the list on 16 January 2016.

According to the Court the Council was empowered to freeze NIOC's funds on the basis of the criteria it had laid down (C-440/14 P)

WHO WHEN WHERE

• 9:00 **'European humanitarian roundtables 2016'** takes place in Poland. These panel debates will foster information and idea sharing between those affected by humanitarian crises, academics, practitioners and youth involved in humanitarian action, and aim to feed into the EU's humanitarian policy and practice (University of Warsaw, Poland).

• 9:30 **'10th meeting of the Network of public finance economists in public administration'** holds on Brussels. The aim is to discuss relevant analytical issues and find best practices, which could feed into policy advice in the future (Centre Albert Borschette, Brussels).

• A two-day **'Small Big Data Value Association Summit'** starts in The Netherlands. The central theme of the Summit is the societal impact of big data (NH Hotel, The Hague).

• Commissioner **Jyrki Katainen** gives a speech in the **'Atlantic Council'** (West Tower, Washington, DC).

TODAY CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS



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(55)



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(63)