



New  
Direction

the foundation for european reform

# THE HERALD

[newdirectionfoundation.org](http://newdirectionfoundation.org) follow us @europeanreform



Fifth Ordinary Session of the Euronext Parliamentary Assembly. Meeting of the Committee on Economic Integration, Legal Approximation and Convergence with EU policies.



## EU HELP WITH REFUGEES ON THE WAY BUT UNHCR CONCERNED

EKATHIMERINI.COM

European officials are expected to start arriving in Greece next week to help put into action the refugee plan agreed at last week's summit with Turkey in Brussels.

The first of some 2,500 personnel from other European Union countries is expected from March 28. The EU's border agency, Frontex, asked member-states and Schengen associated countries on Monday to provide 1,500 police officers and 50 return and readmission experts to support Greece in returning migrants to Turkey. Frontex currently has 734 personnel in Greece.

"It is important to stress that Frontex can only return people once the Greek authorities have thoroughly analyzed each individual case and issued a final return decision," said Frontex Executive Director Fabrice Leggeri. "The return of those who do not have the right to international protection will proceed in full compliance with EU and international law."

However, the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) announced that it is scaling back its assistance. It said that it would no longer transfer refugees and migrants who arrive on Lesbos to the Moria camp as it has now become a closed facility.

The UNHCR also expressed concern that the EU and Greek authorities are rushing into the implementation of the agreement with Turkey, which will see refugees and migrants returned to Turkey, from where other refugees will be resettled directly



## REPORT: BREXIT COULD COST €128BN AND 1M JOBS

EUOBSERVER.COM



Quitting the EU could lead to 950,000 job losses in the UK and reduce average annual household incomes by €4,700 by 2020, a report commissioned by business lobby group CBI has warned. The report, by PricewaterhouseCoopers, said Brexit could cost the UK economy €128bn, or 5% of GDP, by 2020.

[READ MORE](#)



## GERMAN FAR-RIGHT PARTY SENDS DEATH THREATS TO MEPS

TELEGRAPH.CO.UK



Fears of a resurgent far-right in Germany grew on Sunday after a group calling itself the armed wing of the country's new anti-migrant party sent death threats to MEPs. Several former members of the Alternative for Germany (AfD) party received threatening letters from a group calling itself the "AfD Army Faction". "We will take revenge for every vote you cost the AfD! Blood! Death to you!" read one of the letters.

[READ MORE](#)

[READ MORE](#)





## SECRET EU PLAN TO DEPORT 80,000 AFGHANS

TELEGRAPH.CO.UK

More than 80,000 Afghans will need to be deported from Europe "in the near future" under a secret EU plan, amid warnings of a new influx as parts of the country fall back under Taliban control. The European Commission should threaten to reduce aid that provides 40 per cent of Afghanistan's GDP unless the "difficult" Kabul government agrees to the mass removal of tens of thousands of failed asylum migrants, a leaked document suggests.

[READ MORE](#)



## RECORD 2 MILLION PEOPLE MOVED TO GERMANY IN 2015

THELOCAL.DE

In 2015 almost 2 million foreigners came to Germany, making it the year with the highest levels of inward migration in the history of the Federal Republic. The number of migrants who arrived in Germany rose by almost 700,000 from a 2014 level of 1,343,000, numbers released on Monday by the Federal Statistics Office (Destatis) show. The number of foreign citizens who left Germany also increased in 2015 from 766,000 the previous year to 860,000.

[READ MORE](#)



## GUNMEN ATTACK BAMAKO BASE OF EU MILITARY TRAINING MISSION IN MALI

DW.DE

Gunmen attacked hotel Nord-Sud in Mali's capital, Bamako on Monday, news agencies reported. The European Union Training Mission in Mali (EUTM) said none of its soldiers had been hurt or injured in the attack. The hotel had been converted into a base for nearly 600 soldiers of the European Union Training Mission (EUTM).

[READ MORE](#)



## THE COMMISSION PUBLISHES FURTHER TTIP DOCUMENTS

EUROPA.EU

The European Commission published further documents from the ongoing negotiations on a Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership), in line with its commitment to enhanced transparency in the ongoing trade negotiations with the United States. The documents made public yesterday include the recent EU proposal on regulatory cooperation which the Commission submitted to the United States during the last round of talks in February.

[READ MORE](#)



## AFET MEMBERS CONDEMN THE COURT RULING ON SAVCHENKO

EUROPARL.EUROPA.EU

On Monday members of the Foreign Affairs Committee have protested against the ruling of the Donetsk city court finding Ukrainian pilot Nadezhda Savchenko guilty of murder following the killing of two Russian journalists near Lugansk in 2011. Elmar Brok, Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee has denied the information regarding a European Parliament delegation to the Yalta international Economic Forum in April.

[READ MORE](#)



New  
Direction  
the foundation for european reform





New  
Direction

the foundation for european reform

# THE AGENDA

[newdirectionfoundation.org](http://newdirectionfoundation.org) follow us @europeanreform

## EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

- 9:00 **Committee on Foreign Affairs**. The agenda includes: Exchange of views with **Shawki Ibrahim Abdel-Karim Allam**, Grand Mufti of Egypt, Exchange of views with **Riad Al-Malki**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Palestine. 15:00 **jointly with the Subcommittee on Human Rights**: Debriefing by **Stavros Lambrinidis**, EU Special Representative for Human Rights, on his recent visit to Belarus (8-11 March). Exchange of views on the situation of Belarus with representatives of the opposition of Belarus (JAN - 2Q2).
- 9:00 **Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs**. The agenda includes: **Public Hearing with Danièle Nouy**, Chair of the Supervisory Board of the ECB (PHS - 3C050).
- 9:00 **Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety**. The agenda includes: The fight against trafficking in human beings in the EU's external relations (adoption of draft opinion of **Miroslav Mikolášik**, EPP), Mandatory indication of the country of origin or place of provenance for certain foods (adoption of motion for a resolution further to a question for oral answer), Zika virus outbreak (adoption of motion for a resolution further to a question for oral answer), Discussion with the European Commission on health care for refugees (JAN - 4Q2).
- 9:00 **Committee on Fisheries**. The agenda includes: The traceability of fishery and aquaculture products in restauration and retail (vote on a draft resolution by **Alain Cadec**, EPP), Community Fisheries Control Agency (vote on a draft regulation by **Alain Cadec**, EPP), Exchange of views with a Commission representative on fisheries agreements with non-EU countries and the ongoing negotiations (ASP - 1G2).
- 10:00 **Committee on Employment and Social Affairs**. The agenda includes: **Joint hearing with the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality: Creating labour market conditions favourable for work-life balance** (rapporteurs **Vilija Blinkevičiute**, S&D, and **Tatjana Ždanoka**, Greens/EFA) (JAN - 4Q1). 15:00 Setting up a European pillar of social rights - discussion with **Allan Larsson** (JAN - 6Q2).
- 10:00 **Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality**. On the agenda: **Joint hearing with the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs** (JAN - 4Q1).
- 15:00 **Committee of Inquiry into Emission Measurements in the Automotive Sector**. On the agenda: Discussion with European Commission - DG GROW, DG CLIMA and DG ENV, Exchange of views on the working plan and working methods of the committee of inquiry (ASP - 3G-3).
- 15:00 **Committee on Budgetary Control**. The agenda includes: Discharge 2014: EU general budget - Council and European Council (adoption of draft report by **Ryszard Czarnecki**, ECR), Discharge 2014: EU general budget - Court of Justice (adoption of draft report by **Anders Primdahl Vistisen**, ECR), Discharge 2014: EU general budget - European Court of Auditors (adoption of draft report by **Ryszard Czarnecki**, ECR), Discharge 2014: EU general budget - European Economic and Social Committee (adoption of draft report by **Anders Primdahl Vistisen**, ECR), Discharge 2014: EU general budget - Committee of the Regions (adoption of draft report by **Monica Macovei**, ECR), Discharge 2014: EU general budget - European Ombudsman (adoption of draft report by **Ryszard Czarnecki**, ECR), Discharge 2014: EU general budget - European Data Protection Supervisor (adoption of draft report by **Monica Macovei**, ECR) (PHS - 1A-002).

The **5th session of Euronest Parliamentary Assembly**, which brings together MEPs and MPs from Armenia, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine, continues in Parliament's premises from until Wednesday 23 March. Agenda items include common security threats, reacting to Russian disinformation, ways forward for energy cooperation and the movement of skilled labour.

## WHO WHEN WHERE

- 9:00 the French Ministry of Social Affairs, Health and Women's Rights and the European Commission organise **High level conference on global health security**, co-sponsored by the World Health Organization and the Netherlands Presidency of the Council of the EU. The main objective of this conference is to encourage the implementation of the International Health Regulations, adopted by the World

Health Assembly in 2005 (Lyon, France).

- 9:30 Interreg Europe holds **the second interregional cooperation forum 'Europe, let's cooperate!'** (De Doelen, Willem Burger Complex, Kruisplein 40, Rotterdam).
- 14:00 The European Network of Transmission System Operators for Electricity (ENTSO-E) and the European Distribution System Operators for Smart Grids (EDSO) hold **"InnoGrid2020+ 'Digital Energy'" - The Distribution and Transmission Research and Innovation Conference** (Center for Fine Arts (BOZAR), Rue Ravenstein 23, Brussels).
- The European Commission and the US Mission to the EU are organising a **Joint EU-US Security Workshop**, hosted by Europol in The Hague. The meeting brings together for the first time experts from over 20 law enforcement agencies and public administrations from the European Union and the United States. Representatives will be present from the US Department for Homeland Security, Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Transport Security Agency (TSA) and Customs and Border Protection (CBP). On the EU side, there will be experts from national financial investigation units, police, border guards and intelligence services.
- The third board meeting of the **EU Regional Trust Fund in response to the Syrian crisis** takes place in Brussels today. The board is expected to adopt the next series of projects that will be financed by the Trust Fund.

## TODAY CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS



**Norbert NEUSER**  
S&D  
(67)



**Artis PABRIKS**  
EPP  
(50)