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# THE HERALD

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The Eurogroup meet in Brussels today to discuss the economic situation in the euro area, the state of play of the implementation of Greece's ESM economic adjustment programme, and the outcome of the 5th post-programme surveillance mission to Spain.



## AUSTRIA ELECTION: UNITY CALL AFTER CLOSE DEFEAT FOR FAR RIGHT

BBC.COM

Austria's new president has vowed to listen to the people's "fear and anger" after his far-right opponent narrowly missed out on a landmark victory.

Independent Alexander Van der Bellen beat the Freedom Party's Norbert Hofer by just 31,000 votes among the 4.64 million cast in Sunday's election.

The victor accepted there was a "rift" but said: "We are two sides of the same coin. Together we make up Austria."

Mainstream European politicians expressed relief at the result.

If he had won, Mr Hofer would have become the first far-right head of state of a European Union nation.

German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier said all of Europe was "breathing more easily".

And French Prime Minister Manuel Valls said it was a "relief" to see Austrians "reject populism and extremism".

Mr Hofer had run on a Eurosceptic, anti-immigration platform. Many nations have seen a surge in nationalist and anti-immigration parties amid the migrant crisis and economic uncertainty.

In his victory speech, Mr Van der Bellen, a pro-EU candidate backed by the Greens, said he accepted that many people believed that they were not being heard.

He said: "We need a different culture of dialogue and a political system which deals with people's fears and anger."



## SCHULZ: TURKEY ON THE WAY TO BECOMING A 'ONE-MAN STATE'

POLITICO.EU



Recent moves by Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan represent a "stunning rejection of the values of Europe" and make any discussion of Turkey becoming a member of the EU "effectively impossible," European Parliament President Martin Schulz said in an interview published Monday.

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## GREECE TO REMOVE ALL MIGRANTS FROM IDOMENI

DW.COM



Athens plans to relocate over 8,000 refugees from the camp near Macedonian border, officials say. Some 50 riot police squads are to be deployed to Idomeni, according to a police source. Greek authorities plan to move migrants gradually and hope to avoid using force, a source in the Greek government told the AFP news agency.

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## € STURGEON SAYS 'FEAR-BASED' ARGUMENT FOR EU MAY BACKFIRE

BBC.COM

SNP leader Nicola Sturgeon has said "overblown" government warnings about the economic impact of leaving the EU risk alienating the public. The Scottish First Minister and Remain supporter said "fear-based" campaigning could have a negative effect on voters.

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## 🏛️ GERMANY SEES RISE IN RIGHT-WING VIOLENCE

DW.COM

The German government says political violence reached a new high in 2015 as the country saw a massive influx of migrants. German ministers have previously promised to crack down on hate crimes.

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## ★ NETANYAHU REJECTS FRENCH PEACE INITIATIVE AFTER MEETING WITH VALLS

FRANCE24.COM

Israeli leader Benjamin Netanyahu rejected a multilateral French peace initiative as he met French Prime Minister Manuel Valls Monday, offering instead to hold direct talks with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas in Paris.

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## 🏛️ WORLD HUMANITARIAN SUMMIT: EUROPEAN UNION COMMITS TO ACTION

EUROPA.EU

The EU announces support for all World Humanitarian Summit core commitments and pledges 100 EU-specific action commitments as its contribution to help reshape international aid.

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## ★ EUROPEAN UNION AGREES TO AID LIBYAN NAVY TO STOP TRAFFICKERS

REUTERS.COM

The European Union will help rebuild Libya's shattered navy and coastguard to tackle migrant smugglers after a plea for aid from the new U.N.-backed unity government in Tripoli, EU foreign ministers agreed on Monday.

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24 MAY, 2016

# THE AGENDA

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## EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

- 9:00 **Committee on Foreign Affairs**. The agenda includes: EU strategic communication to counteract propaganda against it by third parties (exchange of views, rapporteur **Anna Ezbieta Fotyga**, ECR) (JAN - 2Q2).
- 9:00 **Committee on International Trade**. The agenda includes: Macro-financial assistance to Tunisia (adoption of draft report by **Marielle De Sarnez**, ALDE), Public hearing: International digital trade in goods and services, Europe as a global player (ASP - 3G-3).
- 9:00 **Committee on Budgets**. The agenda includes: Preparation of the post-electoral revision of the MFF 2014-2020: Parliament's input ahead of the Commission's proposal (co-rapporteurs: **Jan Olbrycht**, EPP, and **Isabelle Thomas**, S&D) (ASP - 1G-3).
- 9:00 **Committee on Budgetary Control**. The agenda includes: Amending Regulation No 883/2013, as regards the secretariat of the Supervisory Committee of the European Anti-Fraud Office (adoption of draft report by **Ingeborg Gräßle**, EPP) (ASP - 3E-2).
- 9:00 **Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs**. The agenda includes: Rules against tax avoidance practices that directly affect the functioning of the internal market (vote on a report by **Hugues Bayet**, S&D) (PSH - 1A002).
- 9:00 **Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety**. The agenda includes: EU Strategy on Heating and Cooling (rapporteur for the opinion **Christofer Fjellner**, PPE) (JAN - 4Q2).
- 9:00 **Committee on Industry, Research and Energy**. The agenda includes: Implementation report on the Energy Efficiency Directive (2012/27/EU) (adoption of draft report by **Markus Pieper**, EPP) (PSH - 3C050).
- 9:00 **Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection**. On the agenda: Approval and market surveillance of motor vehicles and their trailers, and of systems, components and separate technical units intended for such vehicles - presentation by the Commission, discussion (rapporteur **Daniel Dalton**, ECR) (PSH - 5B001).
- 9:00 **Committee on Transport and Tourism**. The agenda includes: European Maritime Safety Agency (vote on a draft regulation by **Marie-Christine Arnautu**, ENF) (JAN - 4Q1).
- 9:00 **Committee on Legal Affairs**. The agenda includes: Establishing an information exchange mechanism with regard to intergovernmental agreements and non-binding instruments between Member States and third countries in the field of energy and repealing Decision No 994/2012/EU (rapporteur **Zdzisław Krasnodebski**, ECR) (ASP - 5G-3)
- 9:00 **Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs**. The agenda includes: General budget of the European Union for the financial year 2017 - all sections (exchange of views in the presence of the rapporteurs of the committee on budgets, rapporteur for the opinion **Monica Macovei**, ECR) (JAN - 6Q2).
- 9:00 **Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality**. The agenda includes: Joint FEMM/EMPL meeting and exchange of views with the Commission: Creating Labour Market Conditions Favourable for Work-Life Balance (co-rapporteurs **Vilija Blinkeviciute**, S&D and **Tatjana Ždanoka**, Verts/ALE) (ASP - 1G-2).
- 15:00 **Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development**. The agenda includes: Election of a new 2nd Vice-Chair (JAN - 4Q2).
- 15:00 **Committee on Regional Development**. The agenda includes: Discussion with **Jyrki Katainen**, Vice-President of the European Commission (ASP - 3G3).
- 15:00 **Committee on Employment and Social Affairs**. The agenda includes: exchange of views with the Commission: **Tiina Astola**, Director-General DG

JUST and **Michel Servoz**, Director General DG EMPL (PSH - 3C050).

- 15:00 **Special Committee on Tax Rulings and Other Measures Similar in Nature or Effect** (TAXE 2). On the agenda: Report of the special committee on tax rulings and other measures similar in nature or effect - discussion on a draft report by **Michael Theurer**, ALDE (PSH - 1A002).
- 9:00 President of the European Parliament **Martin Schultz** takes part in **Mid-term conference of the Sakharov Prize Network** (PSH - Mehudin Space).

## COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

- 15:00 **The Eurogroup holds on Brussels**. EU Finance ministers will discuss the economic situation in the euro area, the state of play of the implementation of Greece's ESM economic adjustment programme, and the outcome of the 5th post-programme surveillance mission to Spain.
- 10:00 **The General Affairs Council** takes place in Brussels. The Council will prepare the European Council of 28 and 29 June 2016 by discussing an annotated draft agenda (Justus Lipsius Building).

## WHO WHEN WHERE

- **'The European Innovation Partnership on Smart Cities and Communities'** holds its 2016 General Assembly in Eindhoven, Netherlands.

## TODAY CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS



**Nathalie GRIESBECK**  
ALDE  
(60)



**Giulia MOI**  
EFDD  
(45)