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# THE HERALD

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EU standards on the environment and public health risk being undermined by compromises with the US, Greenpeace has warned, citing leaked documents.



## EU 'TO GRANT TURKEY VISA-FREE TRAVEL'

BBC.COM

The European Commission is to grant Turkey conditional approval this Wednesday for visa-free travel within the EU's Schengen area, sources have told the BBC.

The move is part of a deal in which Turkey has agreed to take back migrants who have crossed the Aegean to Greece.

But Turkey must still meet EU criteria, BBC Europe Editor Katya Adler says.

She says the EU fears that if the visa agreement slides, so will Turkey's commitment to stopping migrants.

If the European Commission (the EU's executive body) does make the recommendation this Wednesday that Turks be granted visa-free travel in Europe's Schengen area, as whispers from well-placed EU sources suggest, then it will be doing so holding its nose and its breath.

The freedom of speech; the right to a fair trial and revising terrorism legislation to better protect minority rights - these are just some of the criteria demanded by the EU of countries before it lifts visa requirements even for short-term travel.

It is hard to see how Turkey could be described as meeting these conditions. Ankara increasingly cracks down on its critics in a manner more autocratic than democratic.

But these are desperate times for the EU. The European Commission and most EU governments are under huge public pressure to ease the migrant crisis.



## CHIEF TTIP NEGOTIATOR: GREENPEACE STATEMENTS "WRONG"

EURACTIV.COM



The EU's chief TTIP negotiator, Ignacio Garcia Bercero, said on Monday that Greenpeace's leaked text about EU-US negotiations on a transatlantic trade deal "is not a reflection of the outcome of the negotiation."

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## SLOW PROGRESS ON GREEK REFORMS, MAY 9 DEAL UNLIKELY, SAY SOURCES

EKATHIMERINI.COM



Talks on concluding Greece's bailout review to unlock new funds and debt relief are progressing only slowly and no deal is likely at a special meeting of eurozone finance ministers on May 9, two sources close to the talks said on Monday.

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## € BREXIT 'COULD BOOST EUROZONE GDP'

FT.COM

Eurozone economies would gain at the expense of Britain if the UK voted to leave the EU, a leading French economist has predicted, with a relocation of financial activity out of London causing sterling to plummet.

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## 🏛️ FOTYGA PROTESTS DECISION ALLOWING SANCTIONED RUSSIAN OFFICIALS ACCESS TO THE PARLIAMENT

ECRGROUP.EU

ECR chair of the European Parliament's Security and Defence subcommittee Anna Fotyga has co-written an open letter criticising the decision to allow two Russian officials allowed on an EU sanctions list access to the European Parliament.

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## 🏛️ DENMARK EXTENDS CONTROLS ON GERMAN BORDER, EU SET TO AUTHORISE MORE

REUTERS.COM

Denmark extended temporary controls at its border with Germany on Monday, imposed to help control an influx of migrants, as the European Commission confirmed it would shortly authorise more such extensions within the passport-free Schengen zone.

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## 🏛️ GERMAN PRESIDENT GAUCK URGES EU TO MAINTAIN OPEN BORDERS

DW.COM

As the number of refugees arriving in Germany remains low, President Joachim Gauck has stressed the importance of open borders in the EU. The EU Commission is due to address Schengen Zone controls in coming days.

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## 🏛️ FRANÇOIS HOLLANDE'S LABOR REFORM RUNS INTO NEW TROUBLE

POLITICO.EU

President François Hollande's attempt to overhaul France's labor system is in peril again as the bill's rapporteur warned Monday the government lacked a majority to pass it in parliament, and violence again marred protests.

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# THE AGENDA

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## EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

• 9:00 **Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs** jointly with the **European agency for the operational management of large-scale IT systems in the area of freedom, security and justice** (eu-LISA). The aim of the event is to present the current state-of-play of the three large-scale IT systems (Eurodac, SIS II and VIS) managed by eu-LISA as well as the future challenges, objectives and evolution of the systems (ASP - 5G2).

• 11:00 President of the European Parliament **Martin Schulz** will meet **Qiangba Puncog**, Vice-Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (PSH - Grand Salon Protocolaire).

• 13:30 President of the European Parliament **Martin Schulz** will meet **Emily O'Reilly**, European Ombudsman (PSH - Salon Protocolaire III).

• ECR Agriculture spokesman **James Nicholson** MEP will host a seminar on **the impact of the Mercosur Trade deal on EU agriculture**. There will be speakers from the Irish Farmers' Journal, Wageningen University, the Ministry of Agriculture for Brazil and the Commission.

## EUROPEAN COMMISSION

• **According to the Eurostat**, in 2015, 88 300 asylum seekers applying for international protection in the Member States of the European Union were considered to be **unaccompanied minors**. While their number always stood between 11 000 and 13 000 in the EU over the period 2008-2013, it almost doubled in 2014 to reach slightly more than 23 000 persons, then nearly quadrupled in 2015.

• The Commission has found a **€3 billion re-increase of the guarantee ceiling granted** in June 2013 by the German Länder of Hamburg and Schleswig Holstein to stabilise **the German bank HSH Nordbank** in line with EU state aid rules. This decision is based on new commitments by Germany to split HSH Nordbank into two parts and to sell the operational business without additional state aid. It enables the bank's core activities to remain in the market if the sale process is completed successfully and the resulting entity is viable.

• The Commission takes note of **Halliburton and Baker Hughes' announcement** that they are abandoning their proposed merger. This follows competition concerns against that proposed transaction expressed by a number of competition agencies across the world, including the Commission. The Commission had opened an in-depth investigation in January 2016.

• The Commission has approved under the EU Merger Regulation the **acquisition of sole control over Royal Reesink by private equity group Gilde**, both of the Netherlands. Royal Reesink distributes branded machinery and equipment, steel products, personal protection products and hydraulic components and systems. Gilde is a group of private equity funds which invest mainly in medium-sized companies in Europe.

• The European Commission has approved under the EU Merger Regulation the **acquisition of sole control over EconGas GmbH by OMV Aktiengesellschaft**, both of Austria. OMV is an integrated oil and gas company active across the entire crude oil and natural gas value chain. EconGas is a natural gas supplier

and is currently jointly controlled by OMV and a group consisting of WIEN ENERGIE GmbH and EVN AG.

## WHO WHEN WHERE

• 17:30 President of the European Parliament **Martin Schulz** gives a speech at the Charlemagne Prize Europe Forum: **'Europe's last chance'** (Town Hall, Aachen).

• 19:00 The award ceremony of the **European Charlemagne Youth Prize** takes place in Aachen. The three final European winners will be announced at the ceremony in the presence of **Martin Schulz**, President of the European Parliament, **Hans-Gert Pöttering**, former President of the European Parliament, **Michael Jansen**, Chairman of the Charlemagne Prize foundation and **Marcel Philipp**, Mayor of the city of Aachen (University of Aachen).

• **World Press Freedom Day** is held in Brussels. The event is hosted by Vrije Universiteit Brussel and Université Libre de Bruxelles in association with the Centre for Fine Arts, the Motion Picture Association of America, the European Broadcasting Union, UNESCO, the media concern Bertelsmann, the International Federation of Journalists and the Erasmus University College Brussels. Commissioner Günther Oettinger gives a speech at the event.

• Commissioner **Vera Jourová** will speak at **'Women in Tech'** event organised by Google.

## TODAY CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS



**Olaf STUGER**  
ENF  
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