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EUROPEAN MIGRANT CRISIS: SHIPWRECKS 'KILL UP TO 700 MIGRANTS'

BBC.COM

Up to 700 migrants are feared drowned in a series of shipwrecks off the coast of Libya in the last few days, the UN refugee agency says.

The boats sank south of Italy on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday as the migrants tried to reach Europe in unseaworthy vessels.

Spring weather has led to a surge of people attempting the perilous crossing from Africa to Europe.

It is now a key migration route since a deal curbed numbers sailing to Greece.

Meanwhile, the MSF Sea group suggested the death toll from the last week could be as high as 900.

Survivors are being taken to the Italian ports of Taranto and Pozzallo.



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HOLLANDE AND MERKEL REMEMBER WWI DEAD 100 YEARS AFTER VERDUN BATTLE

FRANCE24.COM



German Chancellor Angela Merkel and French President Francois Hollande marked the 100-year anniversary of the Battle of Verdun side-by-side on Sunday, laying a wreath at a cemetery in northeastern France for the 300,000 soldiers killed.

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LEADING CONSERVATIVES CHALLENGE BRITISH PM OVER IMMIGRATION

REUTERS.COM



Two leading members of the ruling Conservatives accused British Prime Minister David Cameron on Sunday of breaking his promise to curb immigration, stepping up hostilities in the party over a battle to win next month's referendum. In an open letter to Cameron, his one-time allies Justice Minister Michael Gove and former London mayor Boris Johnson said "a failure" to curb migration was "corrosive of public trust in politics".

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FRANCE BRACES ITSELF FOR TRANSPORT STRIKE CHAOS

THELOCAL.FR

France is bracing for a week of severe disruption to transport after unions called for more action in their bitter standoff with the Socialist government over its labour market reforms. The escalating unrest, which last week sparked petrol shortages that forced the government to dip into strategic fuel reserves, comes less than two weeks before football fans pour into France for the Euro 2016 championships.

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EU SETS ASIDE €400 MILLION TO FIGHT ISLAMIC RADICALISATION IN SCHOOLS

EURONEWS.COM

The battle against Islamic radicalisation in Europe is to be taken into the classroom. The European Commission is setting aside €400 million from its Erasmus+ programme. The aim is to help students in primary and secondary schools learn critical thinking and democratic values. It will also include youth volunteering to help with the issue of youth unemployment. It will use the existing e-twinning programme, with around 300,000 teachers to establish links between schools and teachers across the EU.

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UKRAINE ANGERED BY GERMAN CALL TO LIFT RUSSIA SANCTIONS

EURACTIV.COM

Germany's Vice-Chancellor, Sigmar Gabriel (SPD), has provoked the ire of Ukraine after calling for sanctions against Russia to be gradually lifted.

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EU SET TO IMPOSE RECORD CARTEL FINE ON TRUCKMAKERS

FT.COM

The EU is set to issue the biggest cartel fine in its history, punishing Europe's largest truckmakers over charges that they fixed prices and delayed the introduction of new emission technologies. Margrethe Vestager, EU competition commissioner, issued the original charge sheet against DAF, Daimler, Iveco, Scania, MAN and Volvo/Renault in 2014. Four of those companies have now set aside provisions amounting to \$2.6bn.

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GREECE BACK ON ECB AGENDA AT VIENNA MEETING

EKATHIMERINI.COM

The ECB, expected to hold fire on monetary policy at its meeting on Thursday, will likely focus instead on welcoming Greece back into the fold of fully-fledged eurozone borrowers after a bailout deal, analysts said. European Central Bank chief Mario Draghi may well also use the lull in the bank's unprecedented stimulus drive to remind governments that they can't leave all the heavy lifting for Europe's recovery to central bankers alone.

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30 MAY, 2016

THE AGENDA

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EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

- 15:30 **Subcommittee on Human Rights**. On the agenda: Feedback from DROI missions to Turkey and the World Humanitarian Summit (Istanbul). 16:30 public hearing "**Minorities caught between the Syrian civil war and ISIS in Iraq and Syria**" (ASP - 3G-3).
- 15:00 **Committee on Budgets**. On the agenda: **Joint meeting with Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs** (PHS - 3C50).
- 15:00 **Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs**. The agenda includes: **Joint meeting with the BUDG Committee**: Budgetary capacity for the Eurozone (consideration of draft report by **Reimer Böge**, EPP, and **Pervenche Berès**, S&D). Appointment of the President of the Board of European Financial Reporting Advisory Group (EFRAG) - **public hearing with Jean-Paul Gauzès**, proposed by the Commission for the position, Appointment of the President of the Board of European Financial Reporting Advisory Group (EFRAG) (PHS - 3C50).
- 15:30 **Committee on Employment and Social Affairs**. The agenda includes: Protocol to the EC/ Switzerland Agreement on the free movement of persons, to take account of the accession of the Republic of Croatia to the EU (consideration of draft report), Implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities with special regard to the Concluding Observations of the UN CRPD Committee (adoption of draft report by Helga Stevens, ECR), Refugees: Social inclusion and integration into the labour market (adoption of draft report by Brando Benifei, S&D) (JAN - 4Q1).
- 15:00 **Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection**. The agenda includes: Approval and market surveillance of motor vehicles and their trailers, and of systems, components and separate technical units intended for such vehicles - discussion with stakeholders (rapporteur **Daniel Dalton**, ECR) (JAN - 6Q2).
- 15:00 **Committee on Culture and Education**. The agenda includes: Assessment of the EU Youth Strategy 2013-2015 (vote on a draft resolution by **Andrea Bocskor**, EPP) (ASP - 1A002).
- 15:00 **Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs**. The agenda includes: European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) - presentation of FRA's annual report by **Michael O'Flaherty**, Director and **Frauke Lisa Seidensticker**, Chair of the Management Board. European Criminal Records Information System (ECRIS) (vote on draft report and on the opening of interinstitutional negotiations and on the composition of the negotiating team, rapporteur **Timothy Kirkhope**, ECR), Uniform format for visas (vote on draft report and on the opening of interinstitutional negotiations and on the composition of the negotiating team, rapporteur **Sylvia-Yvonne Kaufmann**, S&D), European Border and Coast Guard (vote on draft report and on the opening of interinstitutional negotiations and on the composition of the negotiating team, rapporteur **Artis Pabriks**, EPP), European travel document for the return of illegally staying third-country nationals (vote on draft report and on the opening of interinstitutional negotiations and on the composition of the negotiating team, rapporteur **Jussi Halla-Aho**, ECR) (JAN - 4Q2).
- 15:00 **Committee on Constitutional Affairs**. The agenda includes: Joint AFCO/JURI Working Group on the Interpretation and implementation of the Interinstitutional Agreement on Better Law-Making (exchange of views: information about the first meeting on 10 May 2016) (ASP - 1G3).

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

- 9:00 the **EU ministers of interior** meet with EU partner countries and European stakeholders (such as the Committee of the Regions) to endorse the Pact of Amsterdam as a new step in the further development of the Urban Agenda for the EU, and to launch the first thematic partnerships between European cities (The National Maritime Museum,
- 10:00 the **Education, Youth, Culture and Sports Council** takes place in Brussels. The Council is expected to adopt conclusions on the role of the youth sector in preventing and combating violent radicalisation of young people. Ministers will also discuss, in public deliberation, the role of youth policy in

an integrated approach to support youth identity development. The morning session will be followed by a working lunch of education and youth ministers, who will discuss the joint role of education and youth policies in preventing radicalisation among young people. The afternoon session, beginning at 15:00. The Council is due to adopt conclusions on developing media literacy and critical thinking through education and training. Ministers will also exchange views, in public deliberation, on the modernisation agenda for higher education in Europe.

WHO WHEN WHERE

- The 2016 edition of **Green Week "Investing for a greener future"**, the biggest annual occasion to debate and discuss European environment policy, starts in Brussels today (The Egg, Brussels).
- 9:00 the Dutch EU Presidency holds a conference "**Promoting Decent Work in Europe: the Role of Social Partner**" (The Social and Economic Council of the Netherlands, Bezuidenhoutseweg 60, The Hague).
- 9:30 the National Statistical Institute of Spain and Eurostat hold the **European conference on quality in official statistics** (Circulo de Bellas Artes, Madrid).
- 10:00 the European Committee of the Regions organizes a **Forum on the EU Urban Agenda**. The Forum focuses on concrete steps for implementing the **EU Urban Agenda** and demonstrates how to improve the urban dimension in EU policy (Westergasfabriek, Amsterdam).
- 14:30 the Dutch Presidency of the Council of the EU hosts a conference "**European Space Solutions**" in The Hague.

TODAY
CELEBRATING
BIRTHDAY



David-Maria SASSOLI
S&D
(60)