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The Letter in PDF format

The Foundation on  and 

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## Naval rearmament, European perspectives

Author: Nicolas Mazzucchi



The challenge of protecting maritime gateways, combined with those arising from the war in Ukraine and the Union's desire to make plans for the Indo-Pacific, are leading to a strengthening of European naval operational cooperation and an increase in bilateral and multilateral industrial projects.

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### Foundation :

#### Publication of the Schuman Report, the State of the Union 2023



Europe has changed ... this is what the "Schuman Report on Europe, the State of the Union 2023" shows, which analyses the profound changes that have taken place in Europe, accelerated by the shock of the war in Ukraine. This 17th (14th in English) edition published by Marie B. includes 19 contributions from high level personalities, 30 original maps and a complete set of commented statistics. The book is available in print and digital formats (English version only in digital form only). Order your copy now!.. [Read more](#)

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#### European Recovery Plans: figures and priorities



In response to the economic and social impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, the European Union has set up a €672.5 billion recovery fund. On 27 April, Denmark received a first payment of €301 million. Slovakia and Malta submitted an amendment request to the Commission to add a REPowerEU chapter to their plan. On 28 April, the Commission approved a positive assessment of Luxembourg's request for a payment of €20.2 million. The Foundation offers you an interactive map of the plans country by country, providing you with information on the amounts and timeframes... [Read more](#)

## Ukraine :

### Agreement on cereals



The Commission announced on 28 April that it had reached an agreement with Poland, Hungary, Slovakia, Romania and Bulgaria on the extension of the suspension of customs duties for Ukrainian goods. Ukrainian grain and agricultural products will be able to flow again through the five neighbouring European countries, which will be granted €100 million in aid for farmers affected by price fluctuations... [Read more](#)

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### European Aid of 1.5 billion €



On 25 April, the European Commission disbursed a further €1.5 billion in financial assistance to Ukraine. This is the third disbursement under the macro-financial assistance (MFA+). The support is aimed at helping Ukraine to keep essential public services running, such as hospitals, schools and housing for relocated people. It should also help restore critical infrastructure destroyed by Russia, such as energy infrastructure... [Read more](#)

### Visits by Estonian, Czech and Slovakian leaders



Estonian Prime Minister Kaja Kallas visited Ukraine on 24 April to meet Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky. The two leaders signed a joint declaration of support for the Ukrainian peace formula, for Ukraine's membership of the European Union and NATO, and for the establishment of a special tribunal to try Russian war crimes. On 28 April, the Czech and Slovak presidents, Petr Pavel and Zuzana Caputova, paid a joint visit to Volodymyr Zelensky to express their support for Ukraine's European aspirations... [Read more](#)

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## Commission :

### Pharmaceutical legislation reform



On 26 April, the Commission presented a reform of the pharmaceutical legislation, with the aim of making medicines more available, accessible and affordable in the European Union, but also to support innovation and the competitiveness of the European pharmaceutical industry...

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### Draft reform of economic governance rules



On 26 April, the Commission presented a reform of the economic governance rules to encourage debt reduction by leaving room for investment in the green transition or defence spending. States will have more flexibility and time to comply with the current guidelines - a public deficit not exceeding 3% of GDP and a public debt ceiling of 60% of GDP. The aim is both to reduce debt and to stimulate growth... [Read more](#)

### Designation of platforms and search engines subject to the DSA



On 25 April, the Commission designated 17 online platforms and 2 online search engines which, because of their economic weight and number of users, will have to comply with the obligations set out in the Digital Services Regulation (DSA) and ensure greater accountability of users, better protection of minors, improved content moderation and transparency...

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### Launch of joint gas purchases



On 25 April, the Commission launched the AggregateEU mechanism for joint European gas purchases. Energy companies have until 2 May to register their requirements. The corresponding volumes are expected to be purchased jointly at EU level... [Read more](#)

### Towards harmonised patent rules



On 27 April, the Commission proposed new rules to help businesses, especially small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), make the most

of their inventions, mobilise new technologies and contribute to the EU's competitiveness and technological sovereignty... [Read more](#)

## Council :

### Eurogroup Meeting



Euro area finance ministers discussed on 28 April developments in macroeconomic and financial stability, the legislative package on the crisis management and deposit insurance framework and the follow-up to the Eurogroup's work on the strategic aspects of the capital markets union... [Read more](#)

### Meeting of Agriculture and Fisheries Ministers



On 25 April, the Ministers of Agriculture and Fisheries approved conclusions on the opportunities offered by the bioeconomy. They discussed aspects related to agriculture and forestry in the proposed regulation on carbon absorption certification, the state of progress of the CAP strategic plan 2023-2027, and the situation of the agricultural market, particularly since the invasion of Ukraine... [Read more](#)

### Meeting of Economy and Finance Ministers



Economic and finance ministers met with central bank governors in Stockholm on 28-29 April to discuss inflation, the design of fiscal policy to support the most vulnerable households and businesses as well as reconstruction in Ukraine... [Read more](#)

### Council and Parliament agree to decarbonise the aviation sector



On 25 April, the Council and Parliament reached a provisional political agreement on a proposal to decarbonise the aviation sector and create a level playing field for sustainable air transport. The RefuelEU Aviation initiative aims to increase both the demand for and supply of sustainable aviation fuels, while ensuring a level playing field across the EU aviation market... [Read more](#)

### Final adoption of 5 texts of the climate package



On 25 April, the Council definitively adopted five texts of the 'Fit for 55' package, which aims to reduce CO2 emissions by 55% by 2030 compared to 1990... [Read more](#)

## Diplomacy :

### Meeting of Foreign Affairs Ministers



At their meeting on 24 April, Foreign Ministers exchanged views with their Ukrainian counterpart, Dmytro Kuleba, regarding the latest developments on the ground. They adopted restrictive measures against: human rights violations in Iran, the trade in narcotics benefiting the Syrian regime, and persons and entities affiliated with ISIL/Daech operating in the Cabo Delgado region of Mozambique... [Read more](#)

### G7 Ministers' Statement on Digital



The G7 digital and technology ministers met from 29 to 30 April in Japan. Among other things, they plan to adopt "risk-based" regulation of artificial intelligence, aimed at "preserving an open and enabling environment" for its development and based on democratic values... [Read more](#)

### Moldova: European civilian mission and sanctions framework



On 28 April, the Council adopted a new framework for targeted restrictive measures which allows the EU to impose sanctions against those who support or carry out actions that undermine or threaten the sovereignty and independence of Moldova... [Read more](#)

**Court of Auditors :****Report on Defence Spending**

In a report published on 26 April, the European Court of Auditors found that the Preparatory Action for Defence Research (PADR) did not adequately prepare for the establishment of its successor, the European Defence Fund. The auditors point to delays in the development of projects and the lack of a long-term strategy for the European defence industry... [Read more](#)

**European Agencies :****Agreement with the USA on defence cooperation**

The European Defence Agency (EDA) signed an agreement with the US Department of Defense (DoD) on 26 April to establish an administrative cooperation and dialogue forum... [Read more](#)

**Oliver Röpke elected President of the Economic and Social Committee**

The Austrian Oliver Röpke was elected President of the European Economic and Social Committee on 26 April. He declared that democracy, fundamental rights and the rule of law would be the guiding principles of his two-and-a-half-year term of office... [Read more](#)

**Belgium :****North Sea Summit**

At the end of the second North Sea summit held on 24 April in Ostend, nine bordering states pledged to cooperate to make the North Sea "the largest green energy production area in the world", in particular through offshore wind power... [Read more](#)

**Estonia :****Meeting of Kaja Kallas with the Polish Prime Minister**

Estonian Prime Minister Kaja Kallas visited Poland on 25 April to meet her Polish counterpart Mateusz Morawiecki to discuss defence, support for Ukraine and the upcoming NATO summit in Vilnius. She then participated in a round table discussion at the College of Europe in Natolin... [Read more](#)

**Finland :****Negotiations to form a coalition**

In Finland, official negotiations to form a government started on 2 May. They involve the National Coalition (centre-right), the party of Petteri Orpo, the likely future Prime Minister, the Party of the Finns (far-right) and two other small parties that are traditional allies of the right... [Read more](#)

**France :****Catherine Colonna visits Azerbaijan, Armenia and Georgia**

The French Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs, Catherine Colonna, visited Azerbaijan and Armenia from 26 to 28 April. This visit marks France's support for the peace negotiations between the two countries. She also went to Georgia to show her support for reforms in the field of the rule of law and the preservation of the civic space, which are essential prerequisites for the country's rapprochement to the European Union... [Read more](#)

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**Italy :****Visit by Giorgia Meloni to the UK**

During her visit to London on 27 April, the President of the Italian Council, Giorgia Meloni, signed joint initiatives with her British counterpart, Rishi Sunak, on issues such as the fight against illegal immigration and support for Ukraine, thus strengthening the dialogue and strategic cooperation between Rome and London... [Read more](#)



## Lithuania :

### Meeting with the German Chancellor



On 27 April, Lithuanian President Gitanas Nausėda travelled to Berlin to meet with German Chancellor Olaf Scholz ahead of the upcoming NATO Summit in Vilnius in July. The two leaders exchanged views on several foreign and security policy issues. They agreed on the gradual deployment of a German brigade in Lithuania. The necessary infrastructure to host the brigade in Lithuania should be in place by 2026... [Read more](#)

## Luxembourg :

### Visit by the Luxembourg Prime Minister



On 27 April, Luxembourg's Prime Minister, Xavier Bettel, visited NATO headquarters in Brussels to meet its Secretary General, Jens Stoltenberg. The latter thanked Xavier Bettel for Luxembourg's leading role in NATO's innovation efforts. Kyiv has already received more than 98% of the promised combat vehicles, i.e. 1550 armoured vehicles, 230 tanks, other equipment and ammunition... [Read more](#)

## Norway :

### Green Alliance with the European Union



On 24 April, European Commission President Ursula Von der Leyen and Norwegian Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Støre signed a Green Alliance agreement in which they reaffirmed their respective commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55% from 1990 levels by 2030 and to become climate neutral by 2050... [Read more](#)

## Vatican :

### Visit by the Pope to Hungary



Visiting Hungary from 28 to 30 April, Pope Francis gave a speech on Europe in Budapest and met with President Katalin Novak and Prime Minister Viktor Orbán. He highlighted the historical, cultural and civilisational importance of the city and the continent, and highlighted some of the founding fathers of the European Union. The Pope spoke of the migration issue, recalling that the Christian attitude was to welcome refugees in legal and dignified conditions... [Read more](#)

## Council of Europe :

### Session of Parliamentary Assembly



The situation of Ukrainian civilians, including children, forcibly displaced or transferred to Russia or Ukrainian territories under de facto Russian control, with the online participation of Olena Zelenska, was among the topics debated at the plenary session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) in Strasbourg from 24 to 28 April. Icelandic President Guðni Jóhannesson addressed the Assembly on 27 April... [Read more](#)

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### Cooperation between the United Nations and the Council of Europe



On 26 April, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution on Cooperation between the United Nations and the Council of Europe by 122 votes, including China and India. The resolution considers that "the unprecedented challenges currently facing Europe as a result of the aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine" require enhanced cooperation between the UN and the Council of Europe to restore peace and security in the region... [Read more](#)

### Anti-money laundering commitment



Ministers responsible for combating money laundering in the member states of the Council of Europe's dedicated committee, MONEYVAL, pledged on 25 April to strengthen their frameworks for preventing and combating money laundering, terrorist financing and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction... [Read more](#)

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## IMF :

### Europe: beating inflation without recession



On 28 April, the IMF published a study on its blog on the most advanced ways for Europe to beat inflation without recession. Success will require tighter macroeconomic policies tailored to the changing financial situation, strong financial supervision and regulation, and bold supply-side reforms... [Read more](#)

### Financial aid to Moldova



On 26 April, the IMF Executive Board completed the third stage of Moldova's assessment under the Extended Fund Facility and the Extended Financing Facility. As a result, Moldova was granted 96 million in assistance. This assistance is intended to support Moldova's long-term development... [Read more](#)

## Eurostat :

### GDP growth in the first quarter of 2023



In the first quarter of 2023, seasonally adjusted GDP increased by 0.3% in the European Union and by 0.1% in the euro area compared with the previous quarter, according to the estimate published by Eurostat on 28 April. This represents an increase of 1.3% compared with the first quarter of 2022... [Read more](#)

## Studies/Reports :

### SIPRI report on military spending



On 23 April, the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) published a report on global military spending in 2022. According to the organisation, total military spending has increased by 3.7% in 2022, reaching a record level of \$2240 billion. Military spending in Europe saw its highest annual increase in 30 years. The three biggest spenders in 2022 were the US, China and Russia, which accounted for 56% of global military spending... [Read more](#)

## Culture :

### European Union Prize for Literature



On 28 April, the European Union Prize for Literature was awarded to the Croatian writer and poet Martina Vidaić. The prize is awarded by the Federation of European Publishers (FEE) and the European and International Booksellers Federation (EIBF) to authors from the 41 countries participating in the Creative Europe programme... [Read more](#)

### Independent film festival Krakow



The 16th edition of the Mastercard Off Camera international independent film festival is taking place until 7 May in Krakow. The best film will win the Andrzej Wajda Award... [Read more](#)

### Baselitz's studio at Schloss Derneburg



Until 27 August, Derneburg Castle in Lower Saxony, where the famous German painter and sculptor Georg Baselitz produced several of his huge paintings, prints and sculptures over a period of thirty years, is open to the public on the occasion of the artist's 85th birthday. The "Baselitz in the Studio" exhibition includes about two dozen paintings and one sculpture... [Read more](#)

### Normans. Migrants, conquerors, innovators in Rouen



Until 13 August, the Musée des Beaux-Arts in Rouen is presenting an exhibition that highlights the complexity and diversity of the links forged between Normandy and the rest of the world from the 9th and 12th centuries. More than 250 works are presented as milestones in the Norman epic, the pioneering builders of Europe, who in their time took up residence in various

countries, from England to Sicily. A space is devoted to a selection of works by three contemporary Norwegian photographers... [Read more](#)

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### Female surrealism in Paris



Until 10 September, the Musée de Montmartre in Paris is presenting an exhibition on surrealism in the feminine. The exhibition presents the works of some fifty artists, visual artists, photographers and poets from all over the world and seeks to show the ambivalent and complex relationship that these women had with the surrealist movement... [Read more](#)

### Persia and Greece exhibition in London



Until 13 August, the exhibition "Luxury and power: Persia to Greece" at the British Museum in London tells the story of how the wealth of the ancient Persians and Greeks helped shape the political landscape in Europe and Asia in the first millennium BC... [Read more](#)

### Ancient and modern in Rome



Until 30 July, the Roman National Museum in Rome is presenting the exhibition "The Instant and the Eternal. Between us and the ancients". The exhibition puts ancient and modern art face to face and seeks to show the different forms of transmission and attempts at reinterpretation of ancient art by modern art... [Read more](#)

### Carmen Calvo in Barcelona



Until 3 September, the Picasso Museum in Barcelona is hosting an exhibition devoted to Carmen Calvo, born in 1950, one of Spain's most important visual artists, who explores the remains of the past and the memory of Spain... [Read more](#)

## Agenda :



3-4 May 2023

Stockholm

Informal Meeting of Employment and Social Affairs Ministers



4-5 May 2023

Stockholm

Informal Meeting of Health Ministers

Frankfurt European Central Bank Governing Council meeting Brussels Development Council



9 May 2023

Europe Day

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