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The Letter in PDF format

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## With war next door, Moldova is accelerating its rapprochement with the EU

Author: Maia SANDU



On 1 June, Moldova is hosting the second summit of the European Political Community. In a text written for the "Schuman Report on Europe, State of the Union 2023", Moldovan President Maia Sandu explains why joining the European Union would be beneficial for both

parties.

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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, as it analyses the profound changes that have taken place in Europe, accelerated by the shock of the war in Ukraine. This 17th edition (14th in English), published by Marie B., includes 19 contributions from leading personalities, including Moldovan President Maia Sandu, who is hosting the second summit of the European Political Community on 1 June. It also includes 30 original maps and a full set of annotated statistics. The book is available in paper and digital versions in French, and in digital format in English. Order your copy now!.. [Read more](#)

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### European recovery plans - figures and priorities



In response to the economic and social consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic, the European Union has set up a €672.5 billion recovery fund. On 22 May, Ireland proposed modifications to its recovery plan to the Commission to amend two measures. On 26 May, Portugal submitted a request to modify its plan and add a REPowerEU chapter. The Foundation offers you an interactive map of the plans country by country, to find out the amounts and timetables... [Read more](#)

## Commission :

### The Commission's economic recommendations



On 24 May, the Commission presented its economic recommendations to the Member States. It calls on them to pursue a prudent budgetary policy, protect their public investments and phase out energy support measures. Out of 16 Member States assessed, the Commission notes that the deficit criterion has not been met by 14 countries, including France and Italy. The debt criterion is not met by three countries, including France and Italy. The Commission proposes guidelines for Member States' employment policies in 2023... [Read more](#)

### New proposals for the Capital Markets Union



On 24 May, the Commission presented measures on retail investment, which include improving information and transparency on investment services and products offered to retail investors as part of the Capital Markets Union. These measures should help maintain high standards for the professional qualification of financial advisers, combat conflicts of interest in the distribution of investment products and strengthen cooperation between Member States in terms of supervision... [Read more](#)

## Council :

### Defence Ministers Meeting



On 23 May, Defence Ministers discussed support for Ukraine and the situation on the ground. They discussed the European Union's commitment to the Common Security and Defence Policy and cooperation with NATO. The ministers approved conclusions on cyber defence policy and a decision confirming Denmark's participation in permanent structured cooperation (PSC)... [Read more](#)

### Meeting of Trade Ministers



Trade ministers met on 25 May to discuss the European Union's relations with the United States, and in particular the draft agreements on critical materials. They also addressed the issue of trade relations with China. The ministers also prepared for the next World Trade Organisation ministerial conference and adopted a WTO protocol establishing an agreement on fisheries subsidies... [Read more](#)

### Meeting of Competitiveness Ministers



The Ministers for Industry and Research, meeting on 22 and 23 May, formally adopted a new regulation harmonising the health and safety requirements applicable to work machinery. They adopted their position on the eco-design regulation. They discussed long-term competitiveness, the draft regulation for a net zero emissions industry, the single market and critical raw materials. They adopted conclusions on free, fair, transparent access to academic publications, and on the "fair and sustainable use of space"... [Read more](#)

## Diplomacy :

### Meeting of Foreign Affairs Ministers



Foreign ministers met on 22 May to discuss Russia's war against Ukraine and the European Union's strategy towards the Horn of Africa. They exchanged views on the Western Balkans, Tunisia and Central Asia. They adopted conclusions on a new compact on common civilian security and defence policy. They decided to impose sanctions on five new Iranian individuals and entities for human rights violations... [Read more](#)

### Meeting of the European Economic Area Council



The European Economic Area (EEA) Council, meeting in Brussels on 24 May, discussed the overall functioning of the agreement between its members (EU, Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein). They also discussed strengthening "the long-term competitiveness of the internal market in the face of global challenges"... [Read more](#)

## ECB :

### 25th anniversary celebration



The European Central Bank (ECB) celebrated its 25th anniversary on 24 May in Frankfurt. Its President, Christine Lagarde, said that the ECB's monetary policy had made it possible for it to respond "quickly and decisively" to a range of shocks. German Chancellor Olaf Scholz welcomed the fact that the euro was an "attractive, secure and stable" currency... [Read more](#)

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## European Agencies :

### Balkan crime network dismantled



An international operation coordinated by Europol led to the arrest on 24 May of 15 suspected members of a criminal arms and drugs trafficking network in the Balkans. The raids were carried out simultaneously in Croatia, Slovenia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, the Netherlands, Italy, Belgium and Germany. A total of 37 suspects were arrested in the course of the investigation. Cash, firearms, drugs, explosives, false documents and fake uniforms were seized... [Read more](#)

## Cyprus :

### Meeting with the Cypriot President



On 25 May, Cypriot President Nikos Christodoulides travelled to Berlin to meet German Chancellor Olaf Scholz. The two leaders agreed to work more closely on climate protection, energy supply and defence. Olaf Scholz repeated his support for the settlement of the Cyprus question... [Read more](#)

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## Spain :

### Snap election 23 July



On 29 May, the President of the Spanish government, Pedro Sanchez, announced that early general elections would be held on 23 July. His decision came the day after his party, the Socialist Party (PSOE), lost the regional and municipal elections. It had held 9 regions and now holds just 3. With 31% of the vote, Alberto Nuñez Feijoo's Partido Popular (PP), which held 2 regions, now holds 8, including 5 with the support of Vox... [Read more](#)

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## France :

### Franco-German Parliamentary Assembly



On 22 May, the Franco-German Parliamentary Assembly met at the European Parliament in Strasbourg. The French and German MPs discussed the creation of a new working group on foreign and security policy, energy policy and the situation and prospects of the Western Balkans... [Read more](#)

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### Agreement on the Franco-Dutch border in Saint-Martin



The French Minister of the Interior and Overseas Territories, Gérald Darmanin, and Silveria E. Jacobs, Prime Minister of the autonomous government of Saint Martin, signed an agreement on 26 May between France and the Netherlands on the delimitation of their common border at Oyster Pond on the island of Saint Martin. The agreement specifies "the delimitation of the border while preserving the principle of free movement of goods and persons established by the Concordia agreements of 23 March 1648". This agreement should contribute to the island's reconstruction process following Hurricane Irma in 2017... [Read more](#)

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## Lithuania :

### Lithuanian President visits France



On 24 May, French President Emmanuel Macron hosted a meeting with his Lithuanian counterpart, Gitanas Nausėda, to prepare for the NATO summit to be held in Vilnius on 11 and 12 July. The two leaders discussed preparations for the European Political Community summit on 1 June in Chisinau and the forthcoming European Council in June. They discussed energy, asylum and migration issues. They repeated their support for

Ukraine on military, humanitarian, economic, diplomatic and judicial issues. Finally, they discussed bilateral relations... [Read more](#)

## Türkiye :

### Re-election of Recep Tayyip Erdogan



Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan was re-elected for a third term on 28 May in the second round of the presidential election, with 52.18% of the vote against the united opposition candidate, Kemal Kılıçdaroglu... [Read more](#)

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## Ukraine :

### Speech and meetings by Volodymyr Zelensky



On 25 May, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky made a video address to the European Committee of the Regions. After thanking the cities and regions of the European Union for welcoming Ukrainian refugees, he appealed for their support in the reconstruction of his country. The same day, he met the Swedish Defence Minister, Pal Johnson. They discussed the international coalition being formed to supply Ukraine with F16 fighter jets and the launch of a pilot training programme... [Read more](#)

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### Commercial advantages and financial assistance



On 25 May, the Council renewed the suspension of all customs duties, quotas and trade defence measures on Ukrainian exports to the European Union until June 2024. On 23 May, the Commission made a fourth payment of €1.5 billion as part of the €18 billion macro-financial assistance package. This aid is intended to help Ukraine continue to pay public wages and pensions and maintain the operation of its essential public services... [Read more](#)

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## OECD :

### Growth up in first quarter



On 23 May, the OECD reported a moderate acceleration in GDP growth for its members in the first quarter of 2023. With an increase of 0.4%, GDP is up slightly on the 0.2% growth recorded in the previous quarter... [Read more](#)

## IMF :

### Report on the UK's economy



On 23 May, the IMF published a report on the UK economy. Whereas it had previously forecast a contraction in UK GDP of 0.3% in 2023, it now anticipates growth of 0.4%. However, the IMF warns the government against further tax cuts, which could fuel inflation and lead to a prolonged period of high interest rates. Instead, the report encourages the authorities to maintain a tight monetary policy in order to control inflation and preserve the financial situation... [Read more](#)

## Studies/Reports :

### Report on sustainable development objectives



On 25 May, Eurostat published the 2023 edition of its "Monitoring Report on Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals". The data shows that the European Union has made progress in achieving most of the objectives over the last five years... [Read more](#)

## Culture :

### The war in Ukraine through the Eyes of Children



Until 5 June, the European Parliament's Europe Station in Brussels is hosting an exhibition entitled "The war in Ukraine through the eyes of children" organised by the Mieroszewski Centre in collaboration with the Polish Centre for Political Narratives of Democracy... [Read more](#)

Winners of the Cannes Film Festival



FESTIVAL DE CANNES

At the 76th Cannes Film Festival, the jury chaired by Swedish director Ruben Östlund awarded the Palme d'Or to French director Justine Triet for "Anatomie d'une chute". The festival's Grand Prize went to Briton Jonathan Glazer for his film "The Zone of Interest". The Jury Prize went to Finland's Aki Kaurismäki for "Les Feuilles Mortes"... [Read more](#)

### Photography Festival in Krakow



The Photomonth Festival is being held in Krakow until 26 June. It is one of Europe's leading photography festivals. The 21st edition features a number of exhibitions inviting viewers to take part in a rich, varied discussion... [Read more](#)

### Exhibition on the Baroque in Copenhagen



Statens Museum for Kunst  
National Gallery of Denmark

Until 5 November, the National Gallery of Denmark in Copenhagen is presenting the "Baroque" exhibition. Through 60 paintings, 20 drawings and two sculptures, it traces the history of the Baroque period in Europe... [Read more](#)

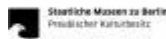
### Enzo Cucchi, poet and magician in Rome



MAXXI  
Museo nazionale  
delle arti del XXI secolo

Until 24 September, the Maxxi in Rome is hosting an exhibition on Enzo Cucchi, one of the most prolific and innovative artists on the contemporary scene. More than two hundred works mark an itinerary that is indivisible and full of surprises, a story told in scattered pages that rejects any chronological linear approach and captures creativity in perpetual motion... [Read more](#)

### Alice Springs Exhibition in Berlin



Städtische Museen zu Berlin  
Präsidentlicher Kulturbeirat

To mark the 100th birthday of the photographer June Newton, alias Alice Springs, more than 200 of her photographs are being exhibited at the Museum of Photography in Berlin. Many photographs from Alice Springs' private collection, including portraits of her husband and self-portraits, have never been exhibited before and shed new light on her work... [Read more](#)

### Sonia Boyce Exhibition in Leeds



LEEDS  
ART  
GALLERY

In 2022, visual artist Sonia Boyce became the first British artist in decades to win the Golden Lion for Best National Entry at the Venice Biennale. Her installation in the British Pavilion, which combines sculptures, collages and recordings, is on show at Leeds Art Gallery until 5 November. Entitled "Feeling Her Way", the work showcases and honours the work of five black British female musicians... [Read more](#)

### Nuits de Fourvière



nuits  
de fourvière

The 2023 edition of the Nuits de Fourvière in Lyon opens on 31 May. Until 28 July, the festival will present over 150 performances of theatre, music, dance, opera, circus and performing arts... [Read more](#)

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### White Night in Paris



NUIT  
BLANCHE

On 3 June, Nuit Blanche will be taking place in Paris, where visitors will be able to rediscover the city through prestigious venues with a special focus on contemporary art. To mark the occasion, many museums and cultural institutions will be open free of charge all night long... [Read more](#)

### Primavera Sound Festival in Barcelona and Madrid

Until 4 June, the Spanish festival Primavera Sound is taking place in Barcelona, offering a number of new wave concerts. In 2023, the festival is also moving to Madrid for the first time, from 5 to 11 June. In all, more than 200 artists will take to the stage... [Read more](#)



## Agenda :



May 31 2023  
Latvia  
Presidential Election



May 31- June 1 2023  
Brussels  
European Parliament Plenary Session



June 1 2023  
Chisinau Summit of the European Political Community Luxembourg Transport Council



June 2 2023  
Luxembourg  
Telecommunications Council  
Tcholpon- Ata  
EU-Central Asia Summit

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