

**Letter n°1158 of Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2026**

## **Internal security: which role for Europol in support of the Member States?**

[Catherine De Bolle - 02 Jun 2026](#)

European internal security increasingly relies on enhanced cooperation in the face of transnational, digital and evolving threats. Europol is establishing itself as a key player in supporting Member States through its capabilities in analysis, operational coordination and technological innovation. In particular, the Agency contributes to the fight against organised crime, terrorism and illicit financial networks. Its future development must balance operational effectiveness with respect for fundamental rights and the sovereignty of Member States.



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■ **Front page! :**



## The universality of European values

The contemporary challenges posed by conflicts, technological advances and the rise of artificial intelligence raise fundamental questions regarding ethics, freedom and respect for human dignity. Given the rise of authoritarian regimes and the erosion of fundamental rights, the protection of the individual has emerged as a central challenge for modern democracies. In this context, European values based on human rights, the rule of law and individual freedom represent both an achievement to be preserved and a commitment to be strengthened. [Read more](#)

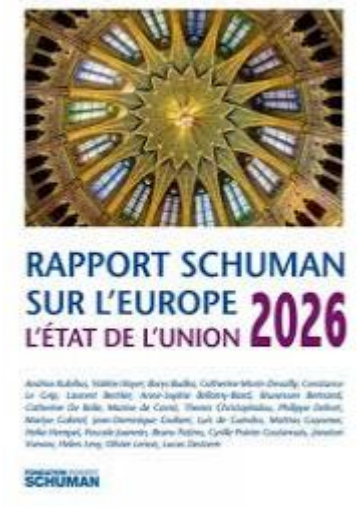
## ■ Elections :



### Malta: fourth consecutive victory for the Labour Party

In the snap general election held on 30 May in Malta, Robert Abela's Labour Party secured a historic fourth consecutive victory with 51.77% of the vote and 36 seats, ahead of Alex Borg's Nationalist Party, which won 44.68% of the vote and 31 seats. The other political parties, including Momentum (1.54%) and the AD-PD (1.31%), remain marginal and failed to win any seats, confirming the dominant position of the two-party system in Malta. The election was also marked by a very high turnout of 87.5%, reflecting strong voter commitment. [Read more](#)

## ■ Foundation :



### 20th edition of the 'Schuman Report on Europe: The State of the Union'

Published on 29 May by Hémisphères, the 20th edition of the 'Schuman Report on Europe, the State of the Union 2026' examines the current context of profound geopolitical upheaval. This edition analyses the major challenges facing the European Union: security and defence, economic competitiveness, technological sovereignty and political cohesion. As war continues on the continent and global balances shift, Europe finds itself at a decisive turning point in its history. This reference work helps readers understand the transformations underway and reflect on the future of the Union. It is available in French for purchase on the Foundation's website and in bookshops. [Read more](#)



## NextGenEU: new payments for Finland and Malta

On 22 May, the Commission made a fourth payment of €267.1 million to Finland. With this latest payment, Finland has now received 71% of its total allocation of €1.95 billion. On 27 May, the European Commission made a fourth payment of €18.9 million to Malta under the Recovery and Resilience Facility, the centrepiece of NextGenerationEU. The Foundation provides a summary of the various national recovery plans on its website, setting out the amounts, timetables and priorities. [Read more](#)

## ■ Commission :



### Communication on humanitarian aid

On 27 May, the European Commission and the High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy renewed their commitment as the world's leading donor of humanitarian aid. At a time when the international humanitarian system has been severely shaken by the proliferation of conflicts and severe budget cuts, this communication sets out measures to strengthen European action in the context of major crises. It is based on three pillars to ensure that humanitarian aid is delivered safely, that its cost-effectiveness is optimised, and that it is delivered in partnership with multiple stakeholders to reduce dependence on it. [Read more - Other link](#)



### Strengthening satellite connectivity

On 27 May, the European Commission adopted a proposal for a regulation on the selection of mobile satellite service providers to replace the 2008 decision, which is due to expire in 2027 for the current selected operators. Recognising the strategic importance of satellite connectivity for technological sovereignty, the Commission is therefore proposing to establish a Union-wide selection procedure for the allocation of the 2 GHz MSS spectrum according to use, whether governmental or commercial. This will ensure high-speed connectivity for all areas of the Union, particularly those where terrestrial networks are not available. [Read more](#)



## €200 million fine for Temu

On 28 May, the European Commission imposed a €200 million fine on the Chinese e-commerce giant Temu for breaching digital services legislation. According to the Commission, Temu failed to meet its consumer protection obligations by allowing illegal products to be sold to European consumers on its platform. [Read more](#)

## ■ Council :



### Meeting of Ministers for Agriculture and Fisheries

On 26 May, the Ministers for Agriculture and Fisheries responded to the Commission's action plan aimed at addressing the high cost of agricultural inputs, and held an exchange of views to determine new policy directions on trade-related agricultural issues. They recognised the need for additional financial support and for the Union to achieve strategic self-sufficiency in the production and use of fertilisers. [Read more](#)



### Meeting of Competitiveness Ministers

On 28 and 29 May, the Competitiveness Ministers discussed the draft law on industrial acceleration (IAA) and the progress report on the space legislation. They discussed a new framework for scientific diplomacy and the direction of the 28th legal framework for 'EU Inc.' companies. They adopted conclusions on the establishment of a sustainable and competitive tourism sector. [Read more](#) - [Other link](#)



### Meeting of European Affairs Ministers

On 26 May, European Affairs Ministers began preparations for the June European Council. They held a policy debate on the next multiannual financial framework for 2024–2038, focusing on its contribution to the integration of the EU's single market. The ministers also discussed the state of relations between the European Union and the United Kingdom, in particular the progress made in implementing existing agreements. Finally, they held country-by-country discussions on the rule of law. [Read more](#)

## ■ Diplomacy :



## G7 Digital Ministers' Meeting

On 29 May, G7 ministers meeting in Paris discussed artificial intelligence and key digital issues. At the conclusion of the meeting, they adopted a joint declaration designed to address the opportunities and challenges of digital technology, centred on four priorities: strengthening trust and transparency in the artificial intelligence sector; accelerating innovation and the adoption of AI, particularly for SMEs; recognising the environmental impact of digital technology, with the adoption of a framework of best practices to guide governments; and adopting measures to strengthen the protection of minors online, such as strengthening age verification and default protection tools. [Read more](#)



## 62nd meeting of the European Economic Area Council

On 27 May, the 62nd meeting of the European Economic Area (EEA) Council discussed the general functioning of the EEA, highlighting the agreement's growing importance against a backdrop of geopolitical uncertainty. Ministers held a policy debate on the theme "Ensuring competitiveness and green growth in the internal market", in which they drew attention to the importance of close cooperation between the European Union and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) states that are members of the EEA. [Read more](#)

### ■ France :



## Mutual Defence Agreement with Norway

On 27 May, the Norwegian Minister of Defence, Tore O. Sandvik, and his French counterpart, Catherine Vautrin, signed the Narvik Agreement in Paris, a major strategic partnership aimed at strengthening military cooperation between the two countries in the face of the deteriorating security situation in Europe. Following his meetings with French President Emmanuel Macron and his counterpart Sébastien Lecornu, Norwegian Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Støre announced his country's participation in a review of the contribution of French nuclear capabilities to European deterrence, as part of a working group comprising nine other European states. [Read more](#) - [Other link](#)

### ■ Hungary :



## Peter Magyar's visit to Brussels

On 28 and 29 May, Hungarian Prime Minister Peter Magyar visited Brussels. Among others, he met with the President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, who announced on this occasion that more than €16 billion in funds earmarked for Hungary would be released, subject to reforms. These funds come primarily from the NextGenerationEU recovery plan and the Cohesion Funds, and will help finance reforms in sectors such as energy, housing, transport and SMEs. Furthermore, the President of the European Commission also announced the return of Hungarian students to the Erasmus+ programme. [Read more](#) - [Other link](#)

## ■ Latvia :



## Parliament approves the new government

On 28 May, Latvian MPs approved a coalition government led by Andris Kulbergs, to remain in office until the general election scheduled for October. 66 of the 96 members of the Saeima supported this four-party coalition, comprising the United List, led by Andris Kulbergs, the centre-right National Alliance, as well as the New Unity party, led by former Prime Minister Evika Silina, and the Union of Greens and Farmers. Andris Kulbergs has announced his intention to make his country's security a top priority. [Read more](#) - [Other link](#)

## ■ Poland :



## 23rd Council of the Baltic Sea States

On 28 and 29 May, the foreign ministers of the Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS), meeting in Sopot, Poland, adopted a Declaration reiterating their commitment to strengthening regional cooperation in the face of growing security threats in the Baltic region. The text emphasises the fight against hybrid threats, the protection of critical infrastructure, maritime security and support for Ukraine in the context of the war waged by Russia. This declaration comes at a time of high regional tension and illustrates the strengthening of cooperation between the Nordic, Baltic and European states on issues of defence and strategic resilience. [Read more](#)



## New strategic treaty with the United Kingdom

On 27 May, British Prime Minister Keir Starmer and his Polish counterpart Donald Tusk signed a security and defence treaty in London, aimed at strengthening their cooperation in the face of growing threats in Europe. The two leaders emphasised the need to bolster security on NATO's eastern flank and to continue their support for Ukraine against a backdrop of increasing hybrid attacks attributed to Russia. This agreement forms part of the UK's strategy to forge closer ties with European states since Brexit, following the conclusion of similar agreements with France and Germany [Read more](#) - [Other link](#)

## ■ Albania :



## Albania meets the criteria for the 'fundamentals' cluster

On 26 May, the eighth meeting of the Accession Conference on Albania confirmed that the country has met the interim benchmarks relating to Cluster 1, 'fundamentals'. This cluster covers, in particular, the functioning of democratic institutions, public administration reform, the chapters on the rule of law and economic criteria. Albania has opened all 35 negotiation chapters and will now be able to begin closing some of them. [Read more](#)

## ■ Iceland :



## The Icelandic Parliament approves the holding of a referendum on EU membership

On 28 May, Icelandic MPs voted in favour of holding a referendum on the resumption of accession negotiations with the European Union, by 34 votes to 8, with 14 abstentions. The referendum will take place on 29 August. Iceland had begun accession negotiations in 2009 before suspending the process in 2013. [Read more](#)

## ■ Ukraine :



## Sweden bolsters Ukraine's air defence

On 29 May, during a visit to Sweden by Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson announced a new military aid package for Ukraine worth nearly €2.5 billion. This agreement aims to strengthen Ukraine's air capabilities through the sale of around 20 Gripen E/F fighter aircraft, partly funded by an EU support mechanism, as well as the donation of 16 Gripen C/D aircraft, in accordance with the letter of intent signed on 22 October last year. It includes the provision of military equipment and ammunition, as well as enhanced support for the Ukrainian defence industry. At the Uppsala military base, Volodymyr Zelensky emphasised the importance of maintaining this European unity in the face of the ongoing conflict. [Read more - Other link](#)



## Facility for Ukraine: payment of €2.8 billion

On 28 May, the Council approved a seventh payment of nearly €2.8 billion to Kyiv under the EU Facility for Ukraine. This amount reflects Ukraine's successful completion of eleven of the twenty milestones required for the seventh tranche. [Read more](#)

## ■ Culture :

FONDATION  
BEYELER

### Pierre Huyghe in Basel

Until 13 September, the Fondation Beyeler is hosting an exhibition dedicated to Pierre Huyghe, a leading figure in international contemporary art. Designed specifically for the Swiss institution, this exhibition brings together previously unseen works as well as several recent iconic pieces that blend film, technology, biology and immersive installations. Through evolving installations where fiction and reality merge, the artist explores shifts in perception and the interactions between the physical environment and the digital world. [Read more](#)

GUGGENHEIM BILBAO

### Jasper Johns in Bilbao

Until 12 October, the Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao is hosting an exhibition dedicated to the American artist Jasper Johns. Featuring over 140 works, the exhibition traces the career of one of the most influential artists of our time, from his early works of the 1950s to some of his most recent pieces, created in the 2000s, combining paintings, works on paper and sculptures. [Read more](#)



## Ekhof Festival in Gotha

The Ekhof Festival is taking place in Gotha until 4 October, held in the Baroque theatre at Friedenstein Castle in collaboration with the Thüringen Philharmonie Gotha-Eisenach. Held in one of the world's oldest Baroque theatres, which still boasts its original, fully functional stage machinery, the festival offers a programme combining opera, concerts, theatre and musical performances. [Read more](#)



## Camille Henrot in Copenhagen

Until 31 December, Copenhagen Contemporary is hosting an exhibition dedicated to Camille Henrot, a leading figure in international contemporary art. Entitled "Paper Planes", this exhibition is, to date, the artist's largest solo show in Scandinavia and brings together installations, sculptures, drawings, videos and previously unseen works exploring the relationships between technology, ecology and contemporary perception. A highlight of the exhibition is the Scandinavian premiere of the film "In the Veins", which explores the tensions between the environmental crisis, temporality and everyday experiences. [Read more](#)



## Dubrovnik Music Festival

Until 18 June, the Dubrovnik Musical Spring is presenting a spring series of classical music concerts. For this year's edition, the rich and varied programme combines symphonic concerts, recitals and themed evenings. [Read more](#)



## Contemporary Dance in Cyprus

Running until 21 June, the Cyprus Contemporary Dance Festival returns for its 27th year. Organised by the Cypriot Ministry of Culture in collaboration with the Rialto Theatre, the festival brings together European and international companies and choreographers for a programme of works combining dance, visual theatre and experimental performance, exploring the transformations of the body and new forms of artistic narratives. [Read more](#)



## Holland Festival in Amsterdam

Running until 28 June, the 79th edition of the Holland Festival is presenting shows in Amsterdam, featuring a wide range of artistic performances including theatre, dance, music and the visual arts. The festival boasts a rich and varied programme, offering both avant-garde art forms and the rediscovery of classic masterpieces. [Read more](#)



## JR's La Caverne du Pont-Neuf

From 6 to 28 June, French artist JR is presenting his work "La Caverne du Pont-Neuf", a tribute to Christo and Jeanne-Claude's wrapping of the Pont-Neuf in 1985. The installation is the largest immersive artwork in the world. La Caverne will be open to the public free of charge, day and night. With this latest creation, JR revisits both Plato's famous allegory and the capital's architectural heritage, notably the great rock formations from which the stones used to build the city were quarried. [Read more](#)

## ■ Agenda :

 04/06/2026

**'Justice and Internal Affairs' Council**

 05/06/2026

**EU-Western Balkans Summit**



## The Letter n°1158

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