LA LETTRE SCHUMAN

This week's European news

Letter n°1176 of Tuesday 17th November 2026

Seventy-five years of shared responsibility for the protection of human rights: respect for constitutional identities and subsidiarity in a changing Europe

Mattias Guyomar - 17 Nov 2026

The European Convention on Human Rights plays a vital role in safeguarding freedoms and democracy in Europe. The main challenge is to ensure that values shared by all States are upheld, whilst taking into account their differences and national specificities. A balance must therefore be struck between the role of the European Court of Human Rights and that of the Member States, which remain primarily responsible for protecting those rights. The aim is to ensure the effective protection of everyone's rights, whilst respecting the sovereignty of the Member States.



Front page! | Foundation | Russia-Ukraine War | Diplomacy and Geopolitics | Defence and Security | Economy and Finances |

Digital, technologies and space | Institutions and Neighbourhood | Democracy and Politics | Citizenship and Mobility | Culture |

Agenda | Other issues | Contact

Front page! :



Without Europe, there can be no peace in Ukraine

Whilst Europeans were excluded from the Russia-Ukraine talks in Abu Dhabi, at the 9th summit of the European Political Community in Dublin they stressed that no lasting peace in Europe could be achieved without Ukraine. Russia, Ukraine and Europe must be fully involved in the negotiations in order to achieve a just and lasting peace. Read more

Foundation :



New edition of the "Permanent Atlas of the European Union"

The Foundation has just published the 6th edition of its "Permanent Atlas of the European Union", with Hémisphères. Available on the Foundation's website and in bookshops, as well as in digital format (e-book) in French, this reference work provides an understanding of the European Union, its institutions, each of its Member States and their overseas territories through maps, fact sheets and summary statistics. Order your copy now! Read more



NextGenerationEU: green light for Finland, Estonia and Luxembourg

On 6 November, the European Commission gave a positive assessment of Finland's sixth and final payment request, amounting to €331 million, under the NextGenerationEU plan. On 10 November, it gave a positive assessment of the latest payment requests from Estonia (€190.6 million) and Luxembourg (€59 million). These countries have met the milestones and targets associated with their recovery and resilience plans. The Foundation provides a summary of the various national recovery plans on its website, setting out the amounts, timetables and priorities. Read more - Other link - Other link - Other link

Russia-Ukraine War :



Collegial representation at future peace negotiations in Ukraine

On 13 November, the 27 Heads of State or Government met in Dublin for an informal meeting of the European Council. Following discussions on issues relating to artificial intelligence, the leaders addressed the ongoing diplomatic efforts to reach a peace agreement in Ukraine. At the end of the meeting, the President of the European Council, António Costa, announced that they had agreed to set up a European team tasked with coordinating Europe's contribution to the peace negotiations. This team will bring together five European countries from the Coalition of the Willing (France, Germany, Italy, Poland and the United Kingdom) as well as the EU institutions. Read more



Estonia: closure of the border with Russia

On 15 November, the Estonian government announced that it planned to close its road border crossings with Russia from 1 December, in response to a sabotage attempt targeting the defence firm Threod Systems, orchestrated by Russian military intelligence (GRU). The Estonian Foreign Minister, Margus Tsahkna, justified this decision on the grounds of the need to respond to Moscow's hostile actions. According to him, closing the border crossings will reduce Russia's ability to carry out hostile activities against Estonia and limit the risk of sanctions being circumvented. Read more



Volodymyr Zelensky's visit to Denmark

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky visited Denmark on 10 and 11 November to meet Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen and other Nordic leaders. The visit resulted in the finalisation of a new €650 million military aid package to fund the purchase of drones and ammunition, as well as the allocation of €20 million to support energy infrastructure in the Kherson region. The Ukrainian President met with business leaders from the defence sector to discuss cooperation between Ukraine and Denmark on the production of drones, radars and ballistic missile components. He delivered a speech to the Folketing, becoming the first foreign head of state to address the Danish Parliament directly. Read more - Other link



Resolution on deported Ukrainian children

On 12 November, MEPs adopted a resolution concerning Ukrainian children who have been forcibly deported to Russia or are living in Russian-occupied Ukrainian territories. They are calling for the immediate, safe and unconditional return of all these children to unoccupied Ukrainian territory. MEPs are calling for better coordination between Member States, Ukraine, international partners and specialised organisations to speed up the identification, location and return of all missing or deported Ukrainian children. Finally, MEPs reaffirmed their support for the International Criminal Court and emphasised that accountability must extend to all those involved in these crimes, not just senior Russian officials. Read more

Diplomacy and Geopolitics :

G7 Foreign Ministers' Meeting

On 9 and 10 November, the G7 foreign ministers met in Paris to coordinate their positions on key international issues. In their joint statement, they reiterated their support for Ukraine and their commitment to stepping up economic pressure on Russia. Discussions also focused on tensions in the Middle East, security in the Indo-Pacific, the situation in Sudan and Haiti, as well as hybrid threats and transnational crime. The ministers also emphasised the need to strengthen the security of critical infrastructure, the resilience and security of supply chains, and international cooperation in tackling global challenges. Read more



New UK sanctions

On 12 November, the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) updated the UK sanctions list for Russia. The update includes 20 new sanctions, comprising 9 entities and 11 vessels, as well as an amendment relating to an entity already on the list. The targeted companies operate in the energy, oil, gas, petrochemicals and coal sectors. Furthermore, six LNG carriers and five oil tankers are now barred from entering UK ports. Read more

European Political Community in Dublin

On 12 November, more than 40 heads of state and government, including the Canadian Prime Minister and the Ukrainian President, gathered in Dublin for the 9th summit of the European Political Community. Organised around the theme 'A Strong, Secure and Connected Europe', the meeting focused on strengthening the continent's security and resilience, against the backdrop of the war in Ukraine. They adopted a declaration on the fundamental principles of European security. The European Union reaffirmed its support for Ukraine, particularly in terms of financial and military assistance, as well as in efforts to achieve a just and lasting peace. The leaders of the Core Group reaffirmed their support for Armenia's sovereignty, territorial integrity, stability and independence. Read more - Other link - Other link

Defence and Security :



Meeting of the Franco-British Nuclear Steering Group

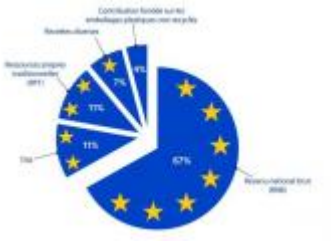
Senior French and British military officials met in London on 10 November to further their nuclear cooperation, in accordance with the Northwood Declaration. Signed in 2025, this bilateral agreement aims to coordinate the respective nuclear deterrence strategies of France and the United Kingdom. The Nuclear Steering Group (GPN) noted the progress made since 2025 and welcomed the United Kingdom's participation in the French airborne nuclear exercise "Rummy". It reaffirmed both countries' commitment to strengthening the international nuclear non-proliferation framework and to continuing dialogue with other nuclear-weapon states. Read more



Drone Summit

On 9 and 10 November, the Drone Summit was held in Brussels, bringing together more than 400 participants to discuss the development of a competitive, user-centred European drone market. The Commission is therefore expected to adopt a roadmap in 2027, focusing on the functioning of the single market, the integration of drones into European airspace and industrial competitiveness. The initial results of the pilot project for the European Trusted Drone Label (ETDL) have been published. Verified by a third party, it aims to guarantee resistance to malicious interference, cybersecurity, operator control over data and transparency in the supply chain. Read more

Economy and Finances :



Meeting of Ministers for Economic Affairs and Finance

On 9 and 10 November, European ministers for economic affairs and finance approved new rules to simplify VAT for online sales, with a view to aligning the tax collection system with recent reforms to the EU's customs system. They extended the mandate of the EU's military assistance mission to Ukraine (EUMAM Ukraine) by two years, until 15 November 2028. On 11 November, the Council and the European Parliament reached an agreement on the EU's annual budget for 2027, providing for a total of €199.7 billion in commitment appropriations and €211.5 billion in payment appropriations. Read more - Other link - Other link - Other link

Report by the "Five Wise Men" on the German economy

On 11 November, the German Council of Economic Experts presented its annual report to Chancellor Friedrich Merz. Whilst the recovery in Germany is set to continue, the "Five Wise Men" forecast GDP growth of 1.3 per cent in 2026, but only 1 per cent in 2027. They warn about public finances: federal budget expenditure will continue to rise, particularly on defence and debt servicing. Closing the growing funding gap represents a challenge of historic proportions for fiscal policy, one that will require difficult decisions. The experts also highlight significant disparities in productivity between companies, even within the same sector. To harness this potential, they recommend accelerating the adoption of new technologies and increasing labour mobility. Read more

Digital, technologies and space :



Strengthening digital fairness

On 11 November, the European Commission presented a proposal for a regulation on digital fairness (the Digital Fairness Act). This aims to ensure the same level of consumer protection online as offline. In particular, it proposes to ban manipulative marketing tactics ('misleading interfaces'), ensure clearer and more transparent pricing, and make it easier to cancel digital contracts and subscriptions. At the same time, the Commission has proposed a revision of the Regulation on Consumer Protection Cooperation (CPC) to strengthen its powers of supervision and enforcement, with fines of up to 6 per cent of the global annual turnover of the companies concerned. Read more



EU-Australia Agreement on the Horizon Europe programme

On 12 November, the European Union and Australia signed an agreement paving the way for Australian researchers and organisations to participate in and lead projects under Horizon Europe, the EU's flagship research and innovation programme. In particular, it will allow Australian researchers and organisations to participate directly in calls for proposals under Pillar II of Horizon Europe, to lead international consortia and to access European funding on terms comparable to those of member states and countries associated with the programme. Read more

First data from the Euclid space mission

On 12 November, the European Space Agency and the Euclid consortium published the first set of data collected by the Euclid space telescope, covering 14 per cent of the sky that the satellite is set to explore during its mission. This release includes, in particular, more than 900 million galaxies and some 15,000 candidates for strong gravitational lensing. Launched on 1 July 2023 for a six-year mission, the Euclid mission aims to map the Universe in three dimensions in order to "take our understanding of the origins and evolution of the Universe a step further". Read more

Institutions and Neighbourhood :



Trilogues on fisheries and aquaculture, as well as on emissions quotas.

On 12 November, the Council and the European Parliament reached a provisional agreement on a new European framework for fisheries and aquaculture statistics, as well as on the revision of the Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS). The first agreement concerns the modernisation and simplification of the method for collecting and using statistical data on fisheries and aquaculture. The new framework aims to improve the availability, quality and comparability of data at European level, whilst reducing administrative burdens. The second agreement provides for an increase in free allocations of emission allowances for the period 2026–2030, to support the competitiveness of energy-intensive European sectors. Both agreements must now be formally approved. Read more - Other link



Moldova is now connected to the European electricity grid

The Vulcănești–Chișinău overhead power line, which will eventually carry more than 50 per cent of Moldova's electricity consumption, was inaugurated on 8 November. This infrastructure aims to facilitate the import of energy from Romania, thereby reducing Moldova's dependence on Russian sources. It thus bypasses the breakaway region of Transnistria. Moldovan President Maia Sandu has announced two new interconnections with Romania, supported by the European Union and the United States. Read more - Other link

European Court of Justice upholds 'Adjustment to the 55' legislation

On 12 November, the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) dismissed Poland's appeals challenging the legality of seven legislative measures in the 'Adjustment to the 55' package. The contested provisions aimed, amongst other things, to strengthen Member States' greenhouse gas emission reduction targets, to extend the Emissions Trading Scheme, and to establish the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM). Poland had put forward various grounds for its challenges, such as a breach of the principle of subsidiarity, a violation of the principle of equal treatment, and the inappropriateness of the ordinary legislative procedure, all of which the Court rejected in their entirety. Read more

Democracy and Politics :



37th anniversary of the fall of the Wall

A commemorative ceremony took place in Berlin on 9 November to mark the 37th anniversary of the fall of the Wall in 1989. On this occasion, Federal President Frank-Walter Steinmeier addressed the audience at the National Theatre in Weimar during the Weimar Forum, which was dedicated to the culture of remembrance. There, he called for a culture of remembrance that is mindful of history and urged citizens to commit to democracy, inviting them to play an active part in shaping the history of the future. Read more



Hungarian Prime Minister Péter Magyar in Berlin

On 9 and 10 November, the Hungarian Prime Minister, Péter Magyar, visited Berlin. On 9 November, he delivered the 17th 'Speech on Europe', an annual event organised by the Konrad Adenauer Foundation to mark the anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall. The following day, he held talks with Chancellor Friedrich Merz, who reiterated his commitment to revitalising relations with Hungary. In addition to stepping up economic exchanges, cooperation will be deepened in the fields of energy and defence. Friedrich Merz also announced a strengthening of cultural ties, with the organisation of a German-Hungarian Year of Culture in 2028. Read more - Other link

Citizenship and Mobility :



International Migration Outlook

On 12 November, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) published the 50th edition of its report "International Migration Outlook". The report provides an overview of recent trends in migration flows and the situation of immigrants in the labour market in OECD countries. Immigration into OECD countries has fallen for the second year running, recording a 1.6 per cent decline in 2025 to stand at 6.1 million new immigrants. Despite this decline, migration flows remain high, 12 per cent above the levels observed in 2019. Read more



Resolution on artificial intelligence

On 12 November, MEPs adopted a resolution on the institutional aspects of artificial intelligence (AI) in the context of European integration. They call for an amendment to the Charter of Fundamental Rights to incorporate new rights relating to the use of AI, and for the establishment of a genuine 'internal market for AI' designed to reduce fragmentation between Member States and disparities in digital infrastructure, technological capabilities and expertise. Furthermore, they emphasise the need to better understand the socio-economic consequences of AI, particularly its impact on the labour market. At international level, they call on the European Union to take a leading role in drafting an international convention on AI. Finally, they propose considering the creation of a 'European Parliament AI Observatory'. Read more

Culture :



Sophie Calle in Berlin

Sophie Calle is presenting her first exhibition in over twenty years in Berlin, at the Hamburger Bahnhof – Nationalgalerie der Gegenwart, until 4 April 2027. Six bodies of work created over the last three decades, combining photography, text, installation and video, offer an insight into the French artist's diverse practice. In an approach that is often autobiographical, by turns sombre and tinged with humour, she explores the meanings of memory, loss and history. Read more

'Rilke and Spanish Art' in Madrid

To mark the centenary of Rainer Maria Rilke's death, the Prado Museum in Madrid is dedicating an exhibition to the poet entitled "Rilke and Spanish Art". It explores the place Spanish artistic culture occupied in Rilke's world, as well as the distinctive features of his interpretation of it. An admirer of Picasso, the poet discovered works by Spanish artists, both old and modern, in Vienna, Munich, Rome, Paris, Berlin and many other cities. The exhibition runs until 7 March 2027. Read more

Marina Abramović in Rome

Until 4 April 2027, the Gallery of Modern and Contemporary Art in Rome is hosting an exhibition dedicated to Marina Abramović to mark the artist's 80th birthday. The exhibition features more than 150 of the most significant works from her career since 1974, alongside a selection of objects. Read more

Art fair in Luxembourg

Founded in 2015 by gallery owner Alex Reding, Luxembourg Art Week brings together the Luxembourg art scene and the international art market. Its 12th edition is taking place from 20 to 22 November, featuring 78 exhibitors from 15 countries. Read more

'A Journey in the English Style' in Lille

Until 22 March 2027, the Palais des Beaux-Arts in Lille is hosting an exhibition dedicated to British artists of the 'Grand Tour', including Turner, and to the rise of British landscape painting between the late 18th and mid-19th centuries. Through nearly 90 works, this exhibition explores the influence of travels in Europe – particularly in France and Italy – on the development of landscape painting in Britain. Read more

THE NATIONAL GALLERY

Van Eyck in London

The National Gallery in London is exhibiting the nine known portraits by the Belgian painter Jan van Eyck (14th–15th centuries) until 11 April 2027. For the first time, these masterful works are being brought together in a single venue. The 'Van Eyck' exhibition thus showcases half of his works currently held in collections around the world. Read more

Agenda :

16/11/2026

"Foreign Affairs" Council (Brussels)

19-20 November 2026

"Education, youth, culture and sport" Council (Brussels)

19 November 2026

"General Affairs" Council (Brussels)

20 November 2026

EU-UK Summit (Brussels)

23 November 2026

"Agriculture and fisheries" Council "Cohesion" Council (Brussels)

23-26 November 2026

Plenary Session of the European Parliament (Strasbourg)



The Letter n°1176

PDF

in English -- Edition of Tuesday 17th November 2026

I download

The Letter is also available in:

I love the Robert Schuman Foundation's Letter

The Letter's Editorial Team :

Editors-in-chief :

Helen Levy ;
Catherine d'Angelo, Lauriane Draghi, Charles Mateos y Lago, Charlotte Feldmann
N° ISSN: **2729-6482**
A question, a suggestion ?
Contact us!
info@robert-schuman.eu

Juliette Bachschmidt
Publishing Director :
Pascale Joannin

Click here if this email is not displayed correctly.

FONDATION ROBERT SCHUMAN

You no longer wish to receive our letters. {LINK}