Tuesday 4th October 2011

issue 503

The Letter in PDF format

The EUScope application



The Foundation on





The Euro and the Debt Crisis: towards greater political integration



Author: Alain Fabre

In spite of the means deployed since the beginning of the crisis, the euro zone is still under pressure from the financial markets. The latter fear that differing opinions, which continue to rage over the method to employ to solve the crisis, will finally lead to the infection of all euro zone States and the banking systems, which have already suffered the effects of the financial turbulence of 2008-2009.

Read more

Contents

Front page! : Editorial - Franz Stock Elections : Poland - Ireland Financial Crisis: Germany - Austria - Cyprus - Estonia - Finland - Slovenia of the Commission: Report/Finances - Internet Speech/State Parliament: Economic governance - Tourism Council: Food - Competitiveness -Eastern Partnership - Road Safety Germany: Interview/Schäuble Denmark: EU Presidency - Government Spain: Constitution - Banks France: G20/Employment -2012 Budget Greece: Austerity - Germany - France Italy: Employers Poland: 2012 Budget Slovenia: Elections Sweden: Nobel/Medicine Russia: Resignation Ukraine: Tymoshenko/Trial **Eurostat**: Inflation Unemployment Studies/Reports: Eastern Partnership - Diplomacy - Turkey Publications : Arab Revolution - Agriculture Culture: Exhibition/Paris Exhibition/Berlin - Exhibition/Degas - Exhibition/Berlin-Warsaw - Exhibition/Baselitz

Agenda | Other issues | Contact

Front page! :

He who pays the piper, calls the tune



The chairman of the Robert Schuman Foundation, Jean-Dominique Giuliani has published an editorial on his site entitled "He who pays the piper, calls the tune". He explains that we should thank rather than criticise France and Germany in their attempts to settle the euro zone crisis. These two countries are paying "to come to the aid of distressed

Member States", by dint of criticism the rule will be reversed and the old proverb will apply: "he who pays the piper, calls the tune.".. Read more

Christian Resistance to Nazism in France and Germany

The Franz Stock Meetings (1904-1948), in partnership with the Collège des Bernardins and the support of the Robert Schuman Foundation, are presenting a seminar on 7th and 8th October on Christian



Elections:

Parliamentary Elections in Poland



On 9th October more than 30 million Poles will be renewing the two chambers of their parliament: the Diet (Sejm), and the Senate (Senat). The polls are anticipating victory for the Civic Platform, outgoing Prime Minister, Donald Tusk's party. The gap between it and its main rival, Jaroslaw Kaczynksi's, Law and Justice Party, has been

narrowing over the last few weeks. In the most recent poll by Homo Homini, published on 25th September, the Civic Platform (PO) retains its lead with 33% of the vote, followed by Law and Justice (PiS) 28%; the Democratic Left Alliance (SLD) 12%; the People's Party (PSL) 9%, and the Palikot Movement (RPP), an anticlerical party founded in June 2011 by former PO member Janusz Palikot, 3.5%. On 1st October, a poll by Homo Homini for the Polish public radio indicated that Civic Platform (PO) is due to win 30.1% and Law and Justice (PiS) 29.1%, the PSL is due to win 10.4%, the SLD 9.9% and the new left party Ruch Palikota, 9%... Read more

Presidential/Ireland



3.1 million Irish are being convened to vote on 27th October next to elect the successor to Mary Patricia McAleese as President of the Republic; she cannot stand again, having completed two terms in office. The President of the Republic of Ireland is elected in the so-called alternative election for a 7 year mandate that can be renewed once. The post is open to any Irish citizen aged 35 or more, who has

the signatures of 20 members of the Oireachtas (Irish Parliament) or those of at least 4 County Councils or 4 local councils. Seven people are standing: Gay Mitchell, MEP, represents Fine Gael (party of Prime Minister Enda Kenny), Michael Higgins, Labour Party, Martin McGuinness, Deputy Prime Minister of Northern Ireland, Sinn Fein and four independent candidates: Sean Gallagher, Mary Davis, Dana Rosemary Scallon and David Norris. We should note that Fianna Fail is not putting a candidate forward... Read more

Financial Crisis:

Germany



The Bundestag and the Bundesrat approved the enhancement of the European Financial Stability Fund (EFSF), decided upon by European leaders on 21st July. On 29th September, 523 of the 620 MPs voted in support of the government's project. German Chancellor Angela Merkel succeeded in federating the vote of enough MPs in her government

coalition to win a majority of 315 MPs in her own camp who supported the draft law, ie four more than the required number. Moreover on 30th September the Bundesrat approved, without voting, the extension of the euro zone's rescue fund, thereby finalising Germany's green light with regard to the mechanism... Read more

Austria



The Austrian Parliament approved the extension of the rescue fund for the 17 countries in the euro zone (EFSF) on 30th September, which will bring the Austrian guarantee up from 12.2 billion to 21.6 billion euros. The vote was won 117 votes in favour, 53 against, out of 170 MPs... Read more

Cyprus



On 29th September the Cypriot Parliament approved unanimously (with one abstention) the increase in the island's contribution to the European Financial Stability Fund. Cyprus's contribution will therefore rise from 863 million to 2.02 billion euros... Read more

Estonia



On 29th September the Estonian Parliament approved the extension of the package and competences of the European Financial Stability Fund by a wide majority - 58 MPs votes in support and 18 against. Estonia's contribution to this funds is due to rise to around 1.995 billion euros... Read more

Finland



On 27th September the Finnish Parliament approved the enhancement of the European Financial Stability Fund (EFSF) designed to help countries in the euro zone in financial distress. The vote was won 103 votes in support, 66 against - 30 MPs were absent. Since the pro-

European coalition led by Prime Minister, Jyrki Katainen, has the majority in Parliament it supported the vote whilst the opposition parties, the Centre and National Finnish Party (formerly the True Finns) voted against... Read more

Slovenia



The Slovenian Parliament approved the increase of the European Financial Stability Fund on 27th September which will bring the Slovenian guarantee up from 2.1 billion euros to 3.7 billion. The vote was settled with 49 votes in support out of 90 MPs, 4 voted against and 24 abstained... Read more

Commission:

European Union/Financial Report



On 30th September the European Commission published its annual financial report. According to the Budget Commissioner, Janusz Lewandowski, around 90% of the EU's budget is used for projects in the 27 Member States. 300 million euros were granted to border control, and to the management of migration, 69 million to nuclear

safety; more than 2,000 SME's benefited from the 7th R&D Framework Programme and 293,000 university grants were given. The execution level of the budget achieves 97%. The net contribution by the UK to the European Union has doubled in three years. The net contribution of Germany is 9 billion euros in 2010, ie 2 billion more than in 2008. That of France remains the same at 5 billion euros. The two main beneficiaries in 2010 were Spain (4 billion euros) and Poland (8 billion euros)... Read more

Social Networks must protect childrens' life better



The European Commission believes that social networking sites on internet might protect the private life children better than they do at present, notably with regard to sexual predators, according to a report published on 30th September. The report focuses on the implementation of the "EU's principles for safer social networks".

According to the European Commissioner for new technologies, Neelie Kroes, "the social networking sites must take their responsibilities seriously as far as young people are concerned.".. Read more

"The European Revival"



In his speech on the "State of the Union" on 28th September, the President of the Commission, José Manuel Barroso put forward a European tax on financial transactions. He declared that after European taxpayers had spent around 4,600 billion euros to save the

banking sector, it was time for the latter to contribute also. With its minimal rate of 0.1% on shares and 0.01% on securities, 55 billion euros could be brought in and this would go towards funding national and European budgets. In his speech Mr Barroso also admitted that there was a confidence crisis in the European institutions, whilst, in his opinion, the cause of the present problems did not lie in the latter but because of dominant national interests. He is concerned about the rise of nationalism and the threat this poses for the future of Europe. He finally re-asserted the major

role played by the community rather than the intergovernmental method and also rather than having isolated action on the part of the various Member States in terms of finding European responses to the present crisis. In order to emerge from the stalemate over unanimity, the Commission might even consider changes being made to the treaties... Read more

Parliament:

Adoption of six texts on economic governance



____ On 28th September the European Parliament adopted in plenary session a package of six regulations and directives to enhance the economic governance of the Union. From now on the Member States that are suffering major macro-economic imbalance and which do not respect the stability criteria will have to expect automatic sanctions to

a total of 0.2% of the GDP. Bringing procedures to a halt will now only be possible with the majority of the Council. The States will have to explain themselves in public before the Parliament. Rapid response mechanisms and an early warning system completes the package, which still has to be adopted by the Council, probably at the beginning of 2012. The head of the European Central Bank Jean-Claude Trichet, congratulated MEPs on the improvements that had been made, which aimed to prepare Europe for future crises... Read more

Tourism



On 27th September, International Tourism Day, the European Parliament adopted measures to promote tourism by a wide majority the latter is a major economic sector for Europe. This project focuses on more targeted structural funds, a quality label and the harmonisation of hotel ratings, as well as VAT rates. The results

expected are the creation of new jobs and the prevention of rural exodus... Read more

Council:

Labelling of food products



The labelling of foodstuffs will now be harmonised and more extensive. On 29th September the Council of the European Union adopted, on second reading, a compromise text with the European Parliament, which aims to provide consumers with better information. The indication of allergens, energy values, and the quantities of (saturated) fat, sugar, proteins and salt will now be obligatory. The European

authorities hope that if Europeans are better informed, obesity and illnesses linked to poor nutrition will be reduced... Read more

Competitiveness



The 27 Competitiveness Ministers, who met on 29th and 30th September adopted the conclusions for a better use of natural resources in order to improve Europe's, notably industrial, competitiveness. The ministers also discussed the reform of standards

policies, patents and the directive on professional competence. With regard to research the Ministers came to an agreement on the participation in Euratom projects, as well as on the impact of demographic change on the population... Read more

Eastern Partnership



In the introduction to the Eastern Partnership Summit that took place in Warsaw on 29th and 30th September the EU decided not to initiate any kind of cooperation with Belarus without the liberation of political opponents. Further European sanctions are being planned if the situation does not move forwards. Belarus decided on 30th September

not to take part in this summit. The situation in Ukraine also weighed heavily over the atmosphere at this second summit, which aimed to promote democracy. Europeans are unhappy with the legal treatment meted out to former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko. The summit ended with the payment of one million euros to the Technical Assistance Fund in support of the countries in the Eastern Partnership, launched by the European Investment Bank (EIB)... Read more

Road Safety



On 29th September the Council adopted a directive on seconding reading, based on a text that was decided upon by the European Parliament regarding infringements of road safety. This directive aims to fight against offences on the road that are a serious threat to safety by facilitating the exchange of cross-border information. A member

State in which an offence has been committed with a vehicle that is registered in another member State will be able to identify the owner of the vehicle and define who is personally responsible for the offence, so that sanctions can be implemented... Read more

Germany:

For an elected President of the EU



German Finance Minister Wolfgang Schäuble pleads once more for an election by direct universal suffrage of a President of the EU, in an interview with the weekly "Die Zeit" published on 28th September. "If we look to the future, it would be more important to think about

having a president of the European Union than a European Finance Minister - and I have nothing against a European Finance Minister," he declared... Read more

Denmark:

Priorities/EU Presidency



Denmark revealed a draft calendar for the Presidency of the Council of the EU which the country will undertake as of January 2012. The draft published on 27th September, outlines the major strategic targets which are: revival of the economy, enhancement of the common foreign policy and the rapprochement of the EU and its citizens. The

Danish Presidency's site, under construction, is available at the present address: http://www.eu2012.dk/.. Read more

New Government



Helle Thorning-Schmidt, whose social democratic party won the general elections on 15th September was officially appointed Prime Minister on 2nd October by Queen Margaret II. She presented her government on 3rd government. The new government coalition includes the Prime Minister's Social Democratic Party, the People's Socialist Party, and the Social Liberals. Socialist Party leader Villy

Sovndal, will be Foreign Minister, whilst Ms Thorning-Schmidt's economic advisor, Bjarne Corydon will be Finance Minister. Ms Thorning-Schmidt, who is the first woman to lead a Danish government will take over from Lars Loekke Rasmussen. The new government is planning to invest more than one billion euros in public funds into the revival of the country's economic activity... Read more

Spain:

Financial Stability as part of the Constitution



Spanish Prime Minister José Luis Zapatero attended a ceremony at the royal palace on 27th September during which the King of Spain, Juan Carlos, ratified the reform of article 135 of the Spanish Constitution. This reform approved at the beginning of the month by the two

chambers of parliament, introduces an obligation for budgetary stability... Read more

Recapitalisation of four savings banks

The Spanish State is to recapitalise four savings banks by injecting a total 7,551 billion euros. This intervention marks the end of a recapitalisation process that started in 2009, declared the Bank of Spain in a press release on 30th September... Read more



France:

G20/Employment



On 26th September French President Nicolas Sarkozy defended "world social regulation" as G20 Labour Ministers met in Paris. Mr Sarkozy recalled that "the crisis had caused devastation on the labour market (...)" adding that "the G20 will only maintain its legitimacy if it manages to show it is effective in support of growth and employment." In this way he exhorted his partners to set up a "minimum social base

in every country"... Read more

Budget 2012: deficit reduction



The French government presented a draft budget for 2012 on 28th September planning for a reduction of the deficit: the public deficit is due to reduce from 5.7% of the GDP this year to 4.5%. The finance law for 2012 is projecting a reduction of 95.5 billion euros in the State's budget this year down to 81.8 billion. However France's public debt will be higher than forecast; the debt, which was already

expected to reach a record high of 85.5% of the GDP this year, will lie at 87.4% in 2012. Moreover growth in France will be impeded by a record trade deficit: 73.8 billion euros next year; however inflation is due to slow to 1.7% in 2012... Read more

Greece:

Downsizing the Civil Service



Greek Prime Minister George Papandreou chaired a council of ministers meeting on 2nd October which aimed to set down a plan to downsize the civil service, as demanded by Greece's international creditors, if aid is to be maintained. After numerous consultations with the auditors of the troika (FU, IMF, FCB), the Greek government seems to have

the troïka (EU, IMF, ECB), the Greek government seems to have defined a "labour reserve scheme" in which some 30,000 workers from the public sector would be placed. Ministers looked into the draft budget for 2012. According to this project Greece's budgetary deficit will be brought down to 8.5% of the GDP in 2011 against 10.5% in 2010. Greece will not achieve the goal set in June to reduce the public deficit in 2011. Moreover Greece is due to enter its fourth year of recession in 2012, since the Greek GDP is due to have contracted by 2.5% over this year. This draft is now being examined by the euro zone Finance Ministers and then it will come under the scrutiny of the EU Finance Ministers... Read more

Germany



During a meeting with Greek Prime Minister, George Papandreou on 27th September in Berlin, Chancellor Angela Merkel, declared that Germany wanted a strong Greece in the euro zone. According to the Chancellor, Germany is prepared to give all the aid necessary. However Greece must respect the strictest terms of rigour. Moreover in

addition to austerity plans Greece also has to invest to revive its economy... Read more

France



French President Nicolas Sarkozy was host to Greek Prime Minister George Papandreou on 30th September - the latter repeated that the Greek government and the people were "determined to make the necessary changes" to improve the country's financial system. The French head of State said that the respect of these promises would

now be checked upon "step by step" by "European partners" dispatched to Athens. "The bankruptcy of Greece would be the failure of Europe as a whole," said Nicolas

Italy:

Manifesto for Growth



Italian employers published a manifesto for growth on 30th September in order to "save Italy" from "decline" and to restore its credibility on the markets. "Italy is at a crossroads. It may choose between reform and growth in a context of public finance stability or on the contrary slip inevitably into economic and social decline," declare the employers' organisations, including Confindustria, in this manifesto... Read more

Poland:

2012 Budget



The Polish government approved a draft, amended finance law for 2012 on 27th September which is counting on GDP growth of 4% against an expected 4.1% this year. "Poland's strong economy is entering a period of major turbulence in the world's economy", declared Finance Minister Jacek Rostowski. Donald Tusk's government

is hoping next year that the public deficit will be down to 2.9% of the GDP, against 6.5% forecast in 2011 and that average annual inflation will lie at 2.8% against 3.5% this year. The public debt is due to decline slightly to 53% of the GDP at the end of 2012 compared with 53.8% at the end of 2011 said Mr Rostowski... Read more

Slovenia:

Early Elections



Slovenian President Danilo Turk announced on 28th September that early elections would take place on 4th December. The Slovenian government led by Borut Pahor was overthrown on 20th September after having lost the confidence vote in Parliament. The Slovenian President also added that "in line with the constitution, he would

dissolve the Parliament on 21st October.".. Read more

Sweden:

Nobel/Medicine



On 3rd October the Nobel Medicine Prize was given to Bruce Beutler (USA) and Ralph Steinman (Canada) jointly also to a Luxemburger Jules Hoffmann for their analysis of the immunity system. Hoffmann is a European researcher who studied and mainly undertook his research in France (Strasbourg) but also in Germany (Marburg)... Read more

Russia:

Resignation



On 27th September Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin appointed Anton Siluanov as interim Finance Minister and asked Deputy Prime Minister Igor Shuvalov to monitor the economy and finances after the forced resignation of Alexey Kudrine. The latter said that he refused to take part in a government led by Dmitri Medvedev, whilst the latter

announced last week with Vladimir Putin, that they would exchange posts in 2012 during the next presidential and legislative elections in Russia... Read more

Ukraine:

Tymoshenko/Trial

Ukrainian prosecutors recommended a seven year prison sentence against Yulia Tymoshenko 27th September. The former Prime Minister and opponent to President Viktor Yanukovich is accused of abuse of power after signing gas agreements with Russia that were damaging to her country in 2009. The EU is following the trial closely and is

demanding the liberation of the politician. A spokesperson for High Representative Catherine Ashton called on Ukraine to respect the principle of transparency on 28th September, which is "particularly important in a country with whom we are planning to deep contractual relations." The EU's Ambassador in Ukraine stepped up pressure by declaring that the "message had not been heard and that a process, which we would like to avoid for Ukraine's good and its relations with the EU, is continuing." Ms Tymoshenko qualified her trial and a "political lynching" on 29th September. The verdict will be given on 11th October announced Judge Rodion Kireyev on 30th September... Read more

Eurostat:

Inflation



On 30th September Eurostat published inflation figures for September. In the euro zone inflation is estimated at 3% ie +0.5 points in comparison with August... Read more

Unemployment



According to Eurostat figures published on 30th September, the unemployment rate in the euro zone lay at 10% in August 2011, which was stable in comparison with July. It lay at 10.2% in August 2010. In the EU the unemployment rate totalled 9.5% in August 2011, which was also stable in comparison with July. It lay at 9.6% in August 2010.

According to Eurostat estimates 22.785 million men and women were unemployed in August 2011 in the EU, 15,739 million of whom were in the euro zone. In comparison with July 2011 the number of unemployed dropped by 62,000 in the Union and by 38,000 in the euro zone. Compared with August 2010 unemployment declined by 300,000 and by 215,000 in the euro zone... Read more

Studies/Reports:

Eastern Partnership



The Foundation for International Relations and External Dialogue (FRIDE) has published a study entitled "Is the EU's Eastern Partnership promoting Europeanisation?" in which it stresses the failure of this policy to initiate real reforms in the field. The authors highlight the fact that good relations with the EU's immediate neighbourhood is however

a significant advantage in a world in which new political players are emerging and in which the EU must refashion its role... Read more

Diplomacy



The Finnish Institute of International Affairs published a study on 23rd September on the difficulties facing the implementation of the EU's external representation (Swimming Murky Waters: Challenges in Developing the EU's external Representation"). The author stresses the complexity of this operation notably because of hesitation by the actors

(Union or Member State) to represent the EU, but also because of confusion between the international competences with regard to this representation and that of other European institutions... Read more

Is Turkey going rogue?



In an article published on 28th September Daniel Pipes believes that Turkey in spite of showing a certain stability in terms of the Arab spring, is in danger of turning into a rogue State and thereby contribute to regional conflict. Several reasons push him to this analysis. From a political point of view the dissolution of the

traditionally secular army to the benefit of Islamic politicians comes in addition to an

non-existent opposition. From an economic point of view Turkey is facing increasing difficulties because of a credit crunch and and deficit oriented policies which effectively target the electorate and winning their vote. From a geopolitical point of view Turkey is doing nothing to appease its tense relations with its neighbours, whether this is by threatening to boycott the EU during the Cypriot presidency, or by provoking Israel and the Kurdish minority - and this may lead to an anti-Turkish front rising against it. With Iran, Turkey may be the biggest threat in terms of regional stability... Read more

Publications:

"The Arab Revolution: 10 lessons from the Democratic Uprising"



Former diplomat, associate professor at Sciences-Po Paris, specialist of the Muslim world, Jean-Pierre Filiu has published a book with Fayard entitled "La Revolution arabe, dix leçons sur le souvlèvement démocratique"... Read more

The Challenges facing Green Europe



Bernard Bourget has published a worked entitled "Les défis de l'Europe verte" with L'Harmattan, in which he analyses new challenges facing the common agricultural policy, that was created half a century ago and which is undergoing in depth reform. The CAP has to face new challenges: food security, climate change, the protection of biodiversity and water management... Read more

Culture:

"Pompeï: a way of life"

The Maillol Museum, Paris, is presenting an exhibition until 12th February - Pompeï - Un art de vivre". A "domus pompeiana", a Pompeian house will be described based on its most famous and traditional rooms: the atrium, the triclinium and the culina, the peristyle around the garden, the balneum, and the vereneum. Every room will be decorated with frescoes and various objects. Two hundred pieces from Pompeï and other Vesuvian sites will be on show... Read more

Exhibition/Berlin



An exhibition on Pergamon, that offers a major panoramic view of the ancient Greek city of Asia-Minor at the time of the Roman emperor Hadrien, was opened on 30th September. For one year visitors of the

Pergamon Museum, one of the most famous in Berlin on the Museum Island in the German capital. Accompanying the museum's exhibition, the newly designed monumental 360° panoramic view of the ancient city will be on display in the museum's forecourt. The 25 x 100 m large photo-realistic panoramic view brings the ancient culture, architecture and public goings-on in an ancient Greek-Roman city to life... Read more

Exhibition/Degas



The Royal Academy of Arts of London is devoting an exhibition to Edgar Degas until 11th December: "Picturing Movement". This landmark exhibition focuses on Edgar Degas' preoccupation with movement as an artist of the dance. Degas and the Ballet: Picturing Movement traces the development of the artist's ballet imagery throughout his career, from the documentary mode of the early 1870s

to the sensuous expressiveness of his final years... Read more

Exhibition/Berlin-Warsaw

The Martin-Gropius-Bau and the Royal Castle of Warsaw are presenting an exhibition "Door to Door - Poland - Germany - 1000



years of art and history" until 9th January. The exhibition shows the masterpieces such as the portrait of Albert de Brandenburg by Lucas Cranach, pictures of 17th century Gdansk, and a great deal of work by modern artists... Read more

Exhibition/Baselitz



The Museum of Modern Art of the city of Paris is organising an exhibition devoted to sculptures by German artist Georg Baselitz (born in 1938). The exhibition is offering a retrospective of one of the aspects of the artist's work, who has not been shown very much in

France to date... Read more

Agenda:



3rd October Luxembourg Eurogroup Meeting

Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Council



4th October Economy and Finance Council

EU-Brazil Summit



6th October ECB Governors' Council



6th-7th October Transport Council



9th October General elections Poland



10th October Environment Council



10th-11th October General Affairs Council

The Letter is also available in









in I love the Robert Schuman Foundation's Letter

The Letter's Editorial Team:

Venise Ollivier, Julian Schorpp, Jan Wilker

Chief Editor: Pauline Massis-Desmarest Publishing Director: Pascale Joannin

Contact/Suggestions info@robert-schuman.eu

The Robert Schuman Foundation, created in 1991 and acknowledged by State decree in 1992, is the main French research centre on Europe. It develops research on the European Union and its policies and promotes the content of these in France, Europe and abroad. It encourages, enriches and stimulates European debate thanks to its research, publications and the organisation of conferences. The Foundation is presided over by Mr. Jean-Dominique Giuliani

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