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Outlook at the next Spanish general elections

Author: Angel Sanchez Navarro



On 20th December next the Spanish will be called to ballot. Angel Sanchez Navarro, professor at the Complutense University of Madrid have reviewed the results of Mariano Rajoy's government since 2011 recalling the context of his victory and following the developments of the last four years in certain vital areas (economy, corruption, the party system and the situation in Catalonia). He also puts forward his view of the answers that have to be provided by the up-coming elections.

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Foundation :

Publication of the 3rd edition of the European Union Atlas



The third edition of the European Union Atlas has just been published in paper and in digital form. The work presents the Union, its institutions, its 28 Member States and a novelty - their overseas territories. With 50 maps, historic information sheets and the most recent statistics, as well as current political affairs in the Member States, this work is a practical, unique tool for readers to learn everything they need to know about Europe... [Read more](#)

Counter/Terrorism :

Diplomatic meetings to coordinate the fight to counter IS



French President François Hollande met his American counterpart Barack Obama and Russian Vladimir Putin, as well as German Chancellor Angela Merkel and President of the Italian Council Matteo Renzi, to secure their support in the fight to counter IS. Although the

coalition has allowed for coordination, political leaders all demonstrated their solidarity by promising to act alongside France... [Read more](#)

German engagement in Syria and Mali



German Defence Minister Ursula von der Leyen is prepared to provide a frigate and reconnaissance airplanes as well as supplies in contribution to the fight to counter Islamic State. She would like to dispatch 650 soldiers to Mali... [Read more](#)

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Direct or indirect military support by EU members in French external operations



The 27 other EU Member States are to provide direct or indirect military support to France's external operations announced the French Defence Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian on 25th November. Moreover French MPs and Senators approved the extension of the commitment of air forces over Syrian territory... [Read more](#)

Response to David Cameron regarding intervention in Syria



On 26th November the British Prime Minister David Cameron published his answer to the Parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee regarding the extension of British military operations in Syria. Parliament is to deliver its decision in the next few days... [Read more](#)

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MEPs want to step up the fight to counter on-line radicalisation



MEPs adopted a non-binding resolution on 25th November on the prevention of radicalisation. They believe that preventing radicalisation and the recruitment of fighters by the Islamic State in Europe must be undertaken via greater effort against jihadist propaganda on the internet... [Read more](#)

Migration :

Progress regarding measures for refugees



On 27th November the European Commission published the state of progress in terms of measures taken under the European agenda regarding migration with the aim of stabilising the present situation and to introduce a strong system that will withstand the test of time... [Read more](#)

Perception of refugees by German businesses



41% of more than 3000 businesses, which took part in a survey by the economic research institute Ifo, believe that the refugees, who are now coming to Germany, could be taken on as simple workers. 22% are able to consider them as qualified workers... [Read more](#)

Finland adopts an integration action plan



On 27th November the Finnish government adopted an action plan for the management of migrant integration as the latter are arriving in the country in great numbers... [Read more](#)

The British migratory balance at an historic high over one year at 336,000



636,000 people entered the UK legally over a period of one year whilst 300,000 people left (Britons, EU citizens, and third country citizens) according to figures published by the Office for National Statistics on 26th November... [Read more](#)

Sweden can no longer receive asylum seekers en masse



On 24th November the Swedish Prime Minister Stefan Löfven announced that Sweden could no longer receive mass numbers of asylum seekers... [Read more](#)

Commission :

Launch of European Semester 2016



On 26th November the Commission launched the European Semester 2016 with its annual assessment of growth. It established economic and social priorities and recommends EU Member States to revive investments, continue structural reform and implement responsible fiscal policies to consolidate recovery and stimulate convergence... [Read more](#)

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A European deposit guarantee system



On 24th November the European Commission put forward a certain number of measures that aim to strengthen banking union. Amongst these feature a bank deposit guarantee fund, an idea taken from the 5 Presidents' Report... [Read more](#)

International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women



On 25th November, on the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against women, Federica Mogherini, the EU's High Representative and several European Commissioners published a joint declaration denouncing the extent of this type of violence. A new action plan on gender equality will enter into force in January 2016...

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Parliament :

Adoption of the European Budget 2016



On 25th November 2015 MEPs approved the draft EU budget 2016, which should notably help Member States overcome the migratory crisis, 516 votes in support, 179 against. The Council adopted it on 24th November... [Read more](#)

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More transparency in insurance



On 24th November MEPs approved a resolution modifying the rules surrounding insurance sales. These will now provide more room for transparency and consumer information... [Read more](#)

Tax rulings



On 25th November MEPs approved a resolution, 508 votes against 108, encouraging the Member States to guarantee that the profits of a business be taxed in the State where they are generated... [Read more](#)

Council :

Letter to the Commission co-signed by 18 European Economy Ministers



On 26th November, in a letter addressed to the First Vice-President of the European Commission Frans Timmermans, 18 European Economy Ministers said they wanted to define precise goals to relieve regulatory burden... [Read more](#)

Conclusions of the Trade Council



On 27th November Ministers responsible for trade discussed various on-going trade negotiations, notably the TTIP - the Transatlantic trade and investment partnership... [Read more](#)



Conclusions of the Energy Council



On 26th November Ministers responsible for energy adopted conclusions regarding the labelling of energy efficacy and the governance of Energy Union... [Read more](#)



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Conclusions of the Youth, Education, Culture and Sports Council



On 24th November the EU's Youth, Education, Culture and Sports Ministers discussed strategies to integrate migrants and those with an immigrant background as far as education and training were concerned... [Read more](#)



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Competitiveness Council Conclusions



A competitiveness Council took place on 30th November in Brussels during which the Luxembourg Presidency reviewed its work in terms of economic and competitiveness convergence. Also making better use of the "Better Regulation" programme in these two areas was discussed... [Read more](#)



Diplomacy :

EU-Turkey Summit



European and Turkish leaders met on 29th November in Brussels to "revive" their relations and to "stem migratory flow"... [Read more](#)



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Economic Summit between China and the countries of Central and Eastern Europe



On 24th November the 4th Economic Summit between China and the countries of Central and Eastern Europe took place in Suzhou in China. China is forecasting investment funds of 500 million \$ to support joint projects with these countries... [Read more](#)



ECB :

Financial Stability Report



In its six-monthly report on financial stability, published on 25th November the ECB looked into the effects of the slowing of the Chinese economy and the future rise of the American FED's key interest rates... [Read more](#)



Germany :

2016 budget in balance



During debate in the Bundestag on the 2016 budget Finance Minister Wolfgang Schäuble stressed that the federal budget will still be balanced in 2016. The budget was adopted 466 votes against 114... [Read more](#)



France :

Launch of COP21



From 30th November to 11th December the 21st UN Conference on Climate Change is now running in Paris (COP21). 147 heads of State and government are present. The aim is to reach a new international agreement to maintain global warming below 2°C... [Read more](#)



Ireland :

Reconciliation in Northern Ireland and on the borders of Ireland



On 30th November the European Commission adopted the new EU programme for peace and reconciliation to a total of nearly 270 million € in order to strengthen reconciliation in Northern Ireland and the border regions of Ireland... [Read more](#)

Portugal :

The new Portuguese Prime Minister Antonio Costa is sworn serment



The Portuguese government supported by the far left was sworn in on 26th November and the new Prime Minister Antonio Costa said that he would present his government programme to Parliament on 2nd December... [Read more](#)

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UK :

British Strategy for national defence and security for the next five years



Prime Minister David Cameron presented his defence strategy for the next five years to the British Parliament for which he is forecasting a budget of £178 billion... [Read more](#)

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Fewer cuts made to the British budget



On 25th November the Chancellor of the Exchequer, George Osborne raised his end of decade budgetary surplus goal and gave up the controversial measure to reduce tax credits granted to poor workers... [Read more](#)

Kosovo :

Kosovo: 200,000 signatures against the agreement for normalisation with Serbia



On 23rd November the opposition delivered a petition signed by more than 200,000 people to the Kosovar President. The petition demanded the relinquishment of the agreement, supported by the EU, aiming to normalise relations between Kosovo and Serbia.. [Read more](#)

Russia :

Russian economic sanctions against Turkey



In response to the shooting down of a Russian plane on 24th November by the Turkish army, Russian President Vladimir Putin decided to take several sanctions against the regime in Ankara... [Read more](#)

Switzerland :

The lifting of bank secrecy as of 2017



On 25th November the Swiss government adopted the agreement on the automatic exchange of information regarding tax with the EU and transferred it for the approval of both legislative chambers... [Read more](#)

Ukraine :

Ukraine bans Russian planes flying over its territory



On 25th November the Ukrainian Prime Minister Arseny Yatsenyuk announced the ban on Russian planes flying over Ukraine to prevent "provocation"... [Read more](#)

Ukraine temporarily suspends the delivery of merchandise to Crimea



Ukraine announced on 23rd November that it was suspending merchandise deliveries to Crimea, the Ukrainian peninsula annexed by Russia in March 2014, which is facing an almost complete cut in electricity supplies... [Read more](#)

Eurostat :

The Union's population



On 27th November Eurostat published a study regarding the EU's population structure. The population's profile has changed, partly due to the ageing of society, the development of family models and structures, as well as the change in the distribution of roles between men and women... [Read more](#)

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High concentration of holdings and ageing farmers



One farm in four disappeared from the EU between 2003 and 2013 and more than half of farmers are over 55 years of age highlights a survey published on 26th November by the Europe Office for Statistics... [Read more](#)

Eurobarometer :

Europeans support the fight to counter climate change



On 25th November the Commission published a Eurobarometer regarding European citizens' support in the fight to counter climate change. 93% of those interviewed approved work undertaken in this area and deem that the response should be global... [Read more](#)

Culture :

Christmas Markets



With Advent many Christmas Markets have been opened across Europe, especially in Germany and Austria... [Read more](#)

37th Transmusicales Rennes



From 2nd to 6th December the Transmusicales are taking place in Rennes - this event has now become the venue for the music of tomorrow... [Read more](#)

Calder exhibition at the Tate Modern London



The exhibition devoted to Alexander Calder is taking place at the Tate Modern in London until 3rd April 2016. This exhibition brings together work by this artist who invented "mobiles" in 1931... [Read more](#)

Georgia O'Keeffe Exhibition at the Museum of Grenoble



The Museum of Grenoble is showing "Georgia O'Keeffe and her Photographer Friends" until 7th February 2016. This is the first monography devoted to this artist in France... [Read more](#)

Alfons Mucha. The Slav Epic



You have until 31st December to visit the "Alfons Mucha. The Slav Epic" exhibition at the Narodni Galerie in Prague. On show are around twenty canvasses illustrating the history of the Slav peoples and their civilisation... [Read more](#)

Toulouse-Lautrec Exhibition in Rome

From 4th December 2015 to 8th May 2016 the exhibition devoted to Toulouse-Lautrec will be run by the Ara Pacis Museum in Rome. Around



170 works by Toulouse-Lautrec provide visitors with an idea of Bohemian life in Paris at the end of the 19th century... [Read more](#)

Agenda :



30th November and 1st December
Brussels
Competitiveness Council



30th November to 11th December
Paris
UN Conference on Climate Change



3rd December
ECB Governors' Council



From 3rd to 4th December
Brussels
"Justice and Internal Affairs" Council



7th December
Brussels
"Employment, Social Policy, Healthcare and Consumer" Council
Brussels
Eurogroup Meeting

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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.

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