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"Inaction is sometimes more costly than action."

Author: Jean-Pierre Filiu



The international community met in London on 4th February in a bid to collate financing to help the displaced and Syrian refugees. On this occasion the Foundation offers its readers an interview with Jean-Pierre Filiu.

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Elections :

General elections in Slovakia on 5th March



On 5th March next 4.4 million Slovaks are being called to ballot to renew the 150 members of the National Council of the Republic, the only chamber of parliament, 23 parties are running... [Read more](#)

Foundation :

Permanent Atlas of the European Union (3rd edition)



The third edition of the Permanent Atlas of the European Union is a work of reference which presents the Union, its institutions, each of its 28 Member States and now a new feature - their overseas territories - via their history, their culture and their everyday life..... [Read more](#)

European Council :

British referendum: proposals by Tusk, Cameron's response



The President of the European Council, Donald Tusk announced his proposals in response to requests to reform the Union put forward by British Prime Minister David Cameron... [Read more](#)

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Commission :

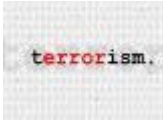
The Commission has published its Winter Economic Forecast



On 4th February the European Commission published its Winter Economic Forecast for the coming months and deemed that growth would remain moderate... [Read more](#)

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Presentation of an action plan to counter the financing of terrorism



On 2nd February the European Commission presented an action plan to counter the financing of terrorism... [Read more](#)

Free trade agreement EU/Vietnam



On February 1st the European Commission published the text on the Free Trade Agreement between the European Union and Vietnam... [Read more](#)

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"Risk of collapse" of steel sector



Several European Ministers for the Economy warned on 8th February of a "major, imminent risk of collapse of the European steel sector", that is confronted by "dumping" on the part of China and a situation of over production worldwide... [Read more](#)

Parliament :

The President of Estonia calls for greater European solidarity



Estonian President Toomas Hendrik Ilves addressed MEPs on 2nd February. He called on Member States to "stand by" their partners who were most affected by the migratory crisis... [Read more](#)

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Agreement on services trade: Parliament approves recommendations



On 3rd February MEPs approved recommendations regarding negotiations over the trade of services... [Read more](#)

Schengen Border Code



On 2nd February MEPs adopted a resolution on the rules governing the movement of people across borders... [Read more](#)

Resolutions concerning Serbia and Kosovo



On 4th February MEPs adopted to resolutions regarding Serbia and Kosovo. They welcomed the progress made between the two countries in terms of the appeasement of their relations and encouraged them to continue work in the implementation of various reforms... [Read more](#)

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China's market economy status



On 1st February Cecilia Malmström debated China's status as a market economy with MEPs... [Read more](#)

Council :

Member States' agreement on financing of 3 billion euro for Turkey



On 3rd February the 28 Member States came to agreement on the financing of 3 billion euro in aid of the refugee situation in Turkey... [Read more](#)

Informal defence council



On 5th February Federica Mogherini presented the main issues for the informal defence council: cooperation between the EU and NATO, various operations in Africa, Sahel, Libya and in Afghanistan, as well as the preparation of the Union's global strategy... [Read more](#)

Diplomacy :

London Conference in aid of Syria



An international conference in support of Syria, organised jointly by the UK, Germany, Kuwait, Norway and the UN, took place on 4th February in London in view of collating funds to help those affected by war in Syria... [Read more](#)

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ECB :

ECB: first economic bulletin of 2016



On 4th February the ECB published the first economic bulletin 2016 devoted to recent economic and monetary developments... [Read more](#)

Germany :

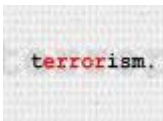
Military cooperation between Germany and the Netherlands



On 4th February the Dutch Defence Minister Jeanine Hennis-Plasschaert and her German counterpart, Ursula von der Leyen, signed two agreements on enhanced military cooperation... [Read more](#)

Belgium :

Franco-Belgian summit on the fight to counter terrorism



On February 1st the Belgian and French Prime Ministers, Charles Michel and Manuel Valls decided to step up bilateral and European cooperation in terms of data exchange and reporting... [Read more](#)

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Spain :

Pedro Sanchez responsible for forming a Spanish government



On 2nd February the leader of the lower chamber of the Spanish parliament announced the appointment of Pedro Sanchez by King Felipe VI to form a new government... [Read more](#)

France :

Giving up the Schengen Agreements would cost France 10 billion euro



In an analytical paper dated February 3rd France Stratégie estimates the long term financial losses if the Schengen agreements were relinquished at 10 billion euro... [Read more](#)

The Senate suggests a European resolution on the demand for reform of the EU by the UK

The European Affairs Committee at the French Senate delivered a draft



European resolution by Fabienne Keller on the requests for the reform of the EU put forward by the UK... [Read more](#)

Ireland :

General elections in Ireland on 26th February



Irish Prime Minister Enda Kenny announced on 3rd February the dissolution of the lower house of parliament (Dáil Éireann) by the President of Ireland Michael D Higgins. Elections will be held on 26th February next... [Read more](#)

Poland :

Polish Prime Minister visits France



On 3rd February Beata Szydlo, the Polish Prime Minister held talks with the French President François Hollande in Paris... [Read more](#)

Portugal :

Commission's opinion on Portugal's 2016 draft budget



On February 5th the European Commission adopted an opinion on Portugal's 2016 draft budget indicating that there was a continued danger of "non-conformity" with the requirements of the Stability Pact... [Read more](#)

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The Portuguese Prime Minister visits Germany



On 5th February, after her meeting with Portuguese Prime Minister Antonio Costa, German Chancellor Angela Merkel praised the economic work achieved by Portugal and recalled that the management of the migratory crisis was a common goal for both countries... [Read more](#)

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UK :

Visit by David Cameron to Poland and Denmark



On 5th February British Prime Minister David Cameron travelled to Warsaw and to Copenhagen... [Read more](#)

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Sweden :

Sweden: report to close schools to begging migrant children



On 2nd February Martin Valfridsson (national coordinator for vulnerable European citizens) delivered his report in which he recommends that migrant children surviving from begging should no longer have access to Swedish schools... [Read more](#)

Ukraine :

Resignation of the Ukrainian Economy Minister



Ukrainian Economy Minister Aivaras Abromavicius announced that he was resigning from government on 3rd February... [Read more](#)

Meeting between Angela Merkel and Petro Poroshenko

Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko travelled to Berlin on 1st February and met German Chancellor Angela Merkel to discuss the situation in the east of Ukraine... [Read more](#)



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The OSCE denounces an escalation in violence in the east of Ukraine



On February 4th OSCE Chair Frank-Walter Steinmeier deplored the repeated ceasefire infringements on the east of Ukraine... [Read more](#)

UN :

UN: moral responsibility to help refugees



On 5th February Peter Sutherland, the Special Envoy of the Secretary General for International Migration, indicated that it was a moral responsibility for European countries to help the refugees... [Read more](#)

NATO :

The US are to quadruple their military spending in Europe



On 2nd February the US announced that they were quadrupling their military spending in Europe in 2017. The present package of 789 million \$ is due to rise to 3.4 billion \$... [Read more](#)

Eurostat :

Unemployment declines to 9% in the EU and to 10% in the euro zone



According to Eurostat on 2nd February, in December 2015 unemployment totalled 10.4% in the euro zone and 9% in the EU. This is the lowest unemployment rate since September 2011 and June 2009 in both zones respectively... [Read more](#)

Eurostat confirms Europe's dependence on energy imports



On 4th February Eurostat announced that the European Union had imported more than half of its energy requirements in 2014 (53.4%)... [Read more](#)

More than half of young Europeans are learning at least two foreign languages



Around 60% of young Europeans in the first part of their secondary education were learning at least two foreign languages in 2014 announced Eurostat on 1st February... [Read more](#)

Studies/Reports :

Report on French influence within the European Union



On 2nd February the European Affairs Committee at the French National Assembly published the information report by Pierre Lequiller and Christophe Caresche on French influence in the European Union... [Read more](#)

Report on European unemployment insurance



The European Affairs Committee at the French National Assembly has delivered an information report by Jean-Patrick Gille on European unemployment insurance... [Read more](#)

Culture :

Helena Almeida Exhibition at the Jeu de Paume



From 9th February to 22nd May 2016 the Jeu de Paume in Paris is hosting the exhibition "Corpus" by Helena Almeida... [Read more](#)

Exhibition by Francis Towne in London



An exhibition devoted to Francis Towne (1739-1816) is taking place until 14th August 2016 at the British Museum... [Read more](#)

Exhibition on Anton Maria Zanetti in Zurich



The Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH Zurich) is hosting an exhibition on Anton Maria Zanetti from 10th February to 3rd April next. This artist played a major role in 18th century Venetian cultural life... [Read more](#)

66th Berlinale



From 11th to 20th February the Berlin Festival, the Berlinale 2016, is taking place, focusing largely on the refugee crisis, with 18 films running in the competition. The jury is chaired by American actress Meryl Streep... [Read more](#)

Agenda :



11th February

Eurogroup Meeting



12th February

Brussels
Economic and Financial Affairs Council



15th February

Brussels
"Foreign Affairs" Council and "Agriculture and Fisheries" Council

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