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## The annexation of Crimea: lessons for European security

Author: Anna Dolya



In the present context of war in the East of Ukraine, the issue of Crimea has undoubtedly become secondary two years after its annexation by Russia. However the peninsula represents a unique case where in times of peace, a State has occupied and annexed a part of another State's territory, thereby breaching all existing international and intergovernmental agreements. This study lays out the mechanisms of annexation and the political systems used.

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### Foundation :

#### Crying wolf



In an editorial published on his site Jean-Dominique Giuliani, Chairman of the Foundation encourages Europe's leaders to act rather than to cry wolf... [Read more](#)

#### Permanent Atlas of the European Union (3rd edition)



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

#### Conference on the Irish elections

The Hanns Seidel Stiftung, the Wilfried Martens Centre and the Robert



Schuman Foundation are organising a conference in Brussels on March 1st on the Irish elections. Enrolment free of charge but obligatory... [Read more](#)

#### European Council :

##### Conclusions of the European Council



After long hours of negotiation an agreement was found between the 28 heads of State and government on 19th February regarding the requests for reform put forward by British Prime Minister, D. Cameron, for the upkeep of his country in the EU. On 18th February the Ministers discussed the migratory issue and decided on an EU-Turkey summit at the beginning of March... [Read more](#)

#### Migration :

##### Austria wants to stem the influx of asylum seekers



The Austrian Minister for Home Affairs Johanne Mikl-Leitner announced on 16th February the introduction of controls on twelve border crossings with Slovenia (7), Hungary (2) and Italy (3) in order to limit access by asylum seekers. The government has set a ceiling at 37,500 requests... [Read more](#)

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##### Bulgaria allows the deployment of the armed forces on its borders



On 18th February the Bulgarian parliament authorised the deployment of the army on its border in response to the inflow of migrants in this country which has a 260 km land border with Turkey... [Read more](#)

##### Amnesty International launches an appeal for the migrants in Calais



In a declaration published on 15th February, Amnesty International launched an appeal for cooperation between the French and British government for them to ensure, in virtue of the principle of family reunion, the transfer of migrants living in Calais and Dunkerque who have family living in the UK... [Read more](#)

##### No exclusion of Greece from Schengen



On 20th February Greek Prime Minister, Alexis Tsipras, spoke to parliament of the migratory crisis and announced that Greece would not be excluded from the Schengen Area... [Read more](#)

##### European financial aid for the refugee crisis in Macedonia (FYRM)



On 15th February the European Commission adopted an additional financial support programme of 10 million € for the refugee crisis in Macedonia (FYRM)... [Read more](#)

##### Visegrad Group Summit on the migratory issue



On 15th February the Polish, Czech, Slovakian and Hungarian Prime Ministers met in Prague on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the founding of the Visegrad Group to discuss the migratory issue... [Read more](#)

##### Conclusions of the General Affairs Council

On 16th February the 28 European Affairs Ministers discussed the national implementation of decisions prior to the refugee crisis... [Read more](#)

## Financial Crisis :

### Greece adopts social measures



The Greek Parliament adopted several social measures on 20th February notably in the area of healthcare, in a bid to palliate the effects of the crisis... [Read more](#)

### Euro zone: private sector growth continued to slow in February



Private activity growth in the euro zone continued to slow in February with the composite PMI showing 52.7, its lowest level since January 2015, according to a first monthly estimation published on 22nd February by Markit... [Read more](#)

### The OECD publishes its economic outlook



In its report on the world economic outlook presented on 18th February the OECD indicated that "economic expansion in 2016 will not be stronger than in 2015, reaching its slowest rate in the last five years..." [Read more](#)

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## Commission :

### Proposals for energy security



On 16th February the European Commission presented measures on energy security aiming to guarantee energy transition and to overcome possible disruptions in supply... [Read more](#)

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### On-line dispute settlement platform



On 15th February the European Commission launched the on-line dispute settlement platform to solve disputes regarding purchases made on the web... [Read more](#)

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### The fight to counter tax fraud



On 17th February the European Commission announced the release of 14.5 million € to help Member States counter tax fraud, corruption and illegal activities... [Read more](#)

## Parliament :

### Jeroen Dijsselbloem wants to strengthen banking union



During his speech to the Economic and Monetary Committee at the European Parliament on 18th February, the President of the Eurogroup, Jeroen Dijsselbloem announced that he wanted to strengthen European banking union and to step up the fight to counter tax avoidance... [Read more](#)

## Diplomacy :

### Joint declaration on Libya

In a joint declaration on 18th January the German, Spanish, American, French, Italian, British governments and that of the United Arab Emirates said they "were pleased with the announcement made by the



Libyan Presidential Council on the 14th February of a government of national unity..." [Read more](#)



**European Agencies :**

**Agreement between Europol and the American Immigration and Customs Agency**



On 17th February Europol and the American Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency signed an agreement on their joint fight to counter money laundering... [Read more](#)



**Ireland :**

**Polls on the general elections in Ireland**



According to the most recent polls published by the information channel RTE on 20th February, Fine Gael led by Enda Kenny is due to win 28% of the vote during the election on 26th February. Labour has fallen back to 7%, Sinn Fein remains stable at 18% and Fianna Fail is due to win 20%... [Read more](#)



**UK :**

**Referendum on the European Union on 23rd June**



On 20th February the British Prime Minister David Cameron set the date for the referendum on the European Union for 23rd June 2016. Mr Cameron will campaign for the "in vote" but some of his ministers and the Mayor of London, Boris Johnson will campaign for the "out vote"...

[Read more](#)



**Montenegro :**

**Montenegro starts negotiations to join NATO**



On 15th February negotiations for Montenegro's membership of NATO started in Brussels. Discussions focused on accession details, notably the political, military and legal aspects... [Read more](#)



**Ukraine :**

**Ukraine: extremely weakened government coalition**



The government coalition in Ukraine is on the brink of collapse. The Samopomich Party which has 26 seats, announced on 18th February that it was leaving the coalition after a similar decision was taken on 17th February by Batkivshchina, the party of former Prime Minister Yulia Timoshenko (19 seats)... [Read more](#)



**Vatican :**

**Pope Francis supports the reform of Europe**



On 18th February Pope Francis spoke in support of the reform of Europe. In his opinion, "the old continent has a strength, a culture, history that cannot be wasted..." [Read more](#)



**Council of Europe :**

**Sweden: anti-torture report by the Committee for the Prevention of Torture**



On 17th February the Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT) of the Council of Europe presented its report in which it demands Sweden "to relax the restrictions set on people placed on remand..." [Read more](#)



**Condemnation of Belarus by the Council of Europe**



On 17th February, Thorbjørn Jagland, Secretary General of the Council of Europe condemned the death sentence delivered in Belarus... [Read more](#)

**IMF :**

**Christine Lagarde officially re-appointed as head of the IMF for five years**



The Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), French woman Christine Lagarde, was officially re-appointed by the Executive Board on 19th February for a five year mandate... [Read more](#)

**Eurostat :**

**Statistics of Agriculture in the EU**



According to a press release by Eurostat on 18th February within the European Union the Member States having contributed most to the value of agricultural production were France (18%), followed by Germany (14%), Italy (13%), Spain (10%), UK (8%), Netherlands (7%) and Poland (5%). Together these 7 States represent around three quarters of the EU's total agricultural production... [Read more](#)

**18% of European job seekers have found work**



On 19th February Eurostat published a press release according to which 62.7% of job seekers in the second quarter of 2015 were in the same position in the third, whilst 17.9% of them had found work and that 19.4% had become economically inactive... [Read more](#)

**Studies/Reports :**

**2015 Financial statements of the ECB**



On 18th February the European Central Bank published its financial statements for 2015. The results show that the ECB made a net profit of 1,082 million € in 2015, in comparison with 989 million € in 2014... [Read more](#)

**Report on the financing of European security**



Fabienne Keller, French Senator, presented an information report on the financing of the fight to counter terrorism and the protection of external borders on behalf of the French Senate's European Affairs Committee... [Read more](#)

**Budgetary Union for the Euro Zone?**



The French Economic Analysis Council published a paper by Agnès Bénassy-Quéré, Xavier Ragot and Guntram Wolff on 18th February, entitled "Quelle union budgétaire pour la zone euro?".. [Read more](#)

**Culture :**

**World Press Photo: a photo on the migrant crisis wins the first prize**



On 18th February the World Press Photo awarded Australian Warren Richardson and his photograph entitled "Hope of a new life" featuring a man and his child as they passed over the Serbo-Hungarian border... [Read more](#)

**Ceci n'est pas l'Europe - This is not Europe**



The Mons Memorial Museum is running an exhibition until 26th June "Ceci n'est pas l'Europe" organised together with Cartooning for Peace. It presents diverse views of Europe and draws a picture of European

society... [Read more](#)

### Hieronymus Bosch – Visions of Genius



The Noordbrabants Museum of 's-Hertogenbosch (Netherlands) is running a retrospective event until 19th May of the Dutch painter Hieronymus Bosch on the occasion of the 500th anniversary of his death... [Read more](#)

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### Matisse Exhibition in Turin



The Palazzo Chiabrese is running an exhibition until 15th May "Matisse e il suo tempo": 50 of the artist's works and 47 pictures by modern artists are on show representing the poetry of the "grand master of colours" and his influence over the artistic world... [Read more](#)

### Exhibition on realism at the Thyssen-Bornemisza Museum



The Thyssen-Bornemisza Museum is running an exhibition until 22nd May on the realism in the work by the painters and sculptors who have lived and worked in Madrid... [Read more](#)

### Gérard Fromanger Exhibition at the Pompidou Centre



The Pompidou Centre is running an exhibition until 16th May on Gérard Fromanger's work from 1975 to 2015... [Read more](#)

### Agenda :



24th February

Brussels  
Education, Youth, Culture and Sports Council



25th February

Brussels  
Justice and Home Affairs Council



25th-27th February

Shanghai  
Meeting of Finance Ministers and governors of the central banks of the G20 countries



26th February

Ireland  
General Elections



29th February

Brussels  
Competitiveness Council

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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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