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Will Europe's Leap Forward Come from Women?

Author: Pascale Joannin



For several years now our studies have shown that the situation of women in Europe, which is still one of the best in the world - at the moment - is progressing at a pace that is far too slow for us to measure clear, significant progress. In spite of the laws that have been approved and work which shows that women's involvement and participation would be beneficial, women are struggling to move forward. If there were more women in positions of responsibility on

this continent wouldn't things be better?

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Elections :

No party wins the majority in the general elections on 5th March in Slovakia



Direction-Social Democracy (SMER-SD) of outgoing Prime Minister Robert Fico came out ahead of the general elections on 5th March in Slovakia but it failed to win a majority (28.28% and 49 seats - 34 less than last time). Freedom and solidarity (Sloboda and Solidarita, SaS) came second with 12.1% (21 seats - 10 more than last time), followed by OL'aNO and NOVA which won 11.02% and 19 seats together. The National Party (SNS) took fourth place with 8.64% and 15 seats (+15) and the People's Party Our Slovakia (LSNS) 8.04% (14 seats). SME-Rodina won 6.62% (11 seats), Most-Hid 6.5% and 11 seats (-2) and SIET 5.6% and 10 seats. In all 8 parties will be represented in Parliament. Given this fragmentation what might the future government coalition be?.. [Read more](#)

Foundation :

Permanent Atlas of the European Union (3rd edition)



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

Migration :

Management of the Migratory Crisis



On 2nd March the Commission put forward the implementation of a new emergency aid tool regarding the migratory crisis which should enable the EU to respond more rapidly and thereby support Member States in the management of refugee flows... [Read more](#)

NATO mission in the Aegean



On 6th March NATO announced that it was extending the maritime zone covered by its support operation to settling the migratory crisis in the Aegean Sea in support of Frontex. The UK and France confirmed the mobilisation of ships in support of NATO's anti-smuggling operations... [Read more](#)

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Record number of asylum seekers



On 4th March Eurostat published a press release according to which in 2015 1,255,600 primo-asylum requests were made in the Member States of the EU i.e. double the 2014 figure... [Read more](#)

HCR recommendations to settle the refugee situation



The UN Agency for Refugees presented a six-point action plan on 4th March to settle the present refugee situation in Europe. It announced on March 1st that a humanitarian crisis was imminent in Greece... [Read more](#)

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Croatia wants to deploy its army on the borders



On 4th March the Croatian government adopted amendments on the law for the defence and control of the borders so that the armed forces can be deployed if there are humanitarian or security reasons to do so... [Read more](#)

Croatian Prime Minister Tihomir Oreskovic meets Angela Merkel



On March 1st Croatian Prime Minister Tihomir Oreskovic met German Chancellor Angela Merkel to discuss the refugee crisis in particular... [Read more](#)

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Meeting between François Hollande and Angela Merkel



On 4th March President François Hollande hosted German Chancellor Angela Merkel at the Elysée to discuss the migratory crisis, placing particular emphasis on the strengthening of the external borders of the Schengen Area... [Read more](#)

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A State can impose a place of residence on certain migrants



The EU's Court of Justice validated the obligation to a place of residence on 1st March regarding certain categories of migrants who receive social aid on condition that they "face more integration difficulties" than other foreigners... [Read more](#)

Financial Crisis :

Unemployment at 8.9% in the EU and 10.3% in the euro zone



According to Eurostat figures published on March 1st unemployment lay at 8.9% in January 2016 in the EU and at 10.3% in the euro zone. This is the lowest rate in the EU since May 2009 and in the euro zone since August 2011... [Read more](#)

New measures for Financial Stability



On March 1st the European Commission adopted new rules regarding the centralised clearing obligation on certain contracts of lending derivatives... [Read more](#)

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The financial crisis has reduced Europe's middle classes



According to a report published on 29th February by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) the financial crisis and the development of labour relations have caused the contraction of the middle classes in most EU countries over the last ten years... [Read more](#)

Commission :

Roadmap for the Schengen Area



On 4th March the European Commission published its roadmap to make the Schengen system fully functional thanks to the protection of the external borders, immediate financial aid to Greece, the implementation of the Schengen rules... [Read more](#)

Personal data protection measures



On 29th February, as part of the exchange of information between the US and the EU, the Commission presented its measures for the protection of personal data... [Read more](#)

Assessment of the implications of the agreement on the climate for the EU



On 2nd March the European Commission presented an assessment of the implications for the EU of the new world agreement on the climate adopted in December 2015 in Paris... [Read more](#)

EU/Canada



On 29th February as part of its legal assessment, the trade agreement between the EU and Canada was modified to include a new European approach to investment protection and the settlement of litigation... [Read more](#)

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Parliament :

Conclusions of the European Parliament on Ukraine



On 2nd March after the conference between the European Parliament and the Verkhovna Rada, Andrej Plenkovic (EPP, HR) announced an agreement aiming to improve the quality of the legislative process at the Ukrainian Parliament... [Read more](#)

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Council :

Conclusions of the Environment Council



The 28 Environment Ministers assessed the action plan in support of the circular economy, they discussed the follow up to the Paris Agreement on climate change and stressed the importance of defining the scientific criteria regarding endocrine disruptors... [Read more](#)

Eurogroup Conclusions



On 7th March the 19 Eurogroup Finance Ministers declared that the budgetary situation of the euro zone continued to improve with a progressive reduction in debt ratios. They said they were pleased with the improvement in the situation in Cyprus and the early exit of the country from the international aid plan. At the same time ministers discussed the revision of the Greek economic adjustment plan and were informed of the upcoming visit by European political leaders to Athens... [Read more](#)

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"Employment, social policy, healthcare and consumers" Council



On 7th March during the Employment, Social Policy, Healthcare and Consumers Council the 28 Ministers debated the implementation of the recommendations in the European Semester but did not reach agreement. At the same time the Commission presented the legislative package on worker mobility... [Read more](#)

European Council :

EU/Turkey Summit



At the end of the EU/Turkey Summit the heads of State and government came to agreement on the following points: the return of illegal migrants leaving from Turkey travelling to the Greek islands; the resettlement of Syrians in the EU Member States and an acceleration in EU/Turkey discussions (roadmap for the liberalisation of visas, financial aid of 3 billion euro, the opening of EU membership negotiation chapters)... [Read more](#)

European Patents Office :

Requests for European patents by Asian and US businesses



According to figures published on March 3rd requests for European patents by Asian and US businesses rose sharply in 2015 thereby contributing to a new filings record in Europe... [Read more](#)

Germany :

France is no longer Germany's leading trade partner



For the first time since the 1970's France has lost its place as Germany's lead trade partner to the benefit of the USA, indicated the Federal Statistics Office on 2nd March... [Read more](#)

Spain :

The Spanish Parliament votes against the investiture of Pedro Sanchez



On 2nd and then 4th March the Spanish Parliament rejected the investiture of the socialist candidate Pedro Sanchez. The leader of the PSOE needed an absolute majority 176 votes on 2nd, then the simple majority on 4th, but he only won 131 against 219... [Read more](#)

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France :

34th Franco-British Summit



During the 34th Franco-British Summit that took place on 3rd March in Amiens, the British Prime Minister David Cameron promised to release €22 million to help France in its management of the migrants in Calais... [Read more](#)

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Lithuania :

Seven countries join the European road network "Via Carpatia"



Seven countries (Lithuania, Hungary, Slovakia, Poland, Romania, Ukraine and Turkey) want to build a road "Via Carpatia" linking Lithuania to Bulgaria according to a joint declaration signed on 3rd March in Warsaw... [Read more](#)

The Netherlands :

Trade agreement on secondary raw materials



On 3rd March the Netherlands, France, UK signed the North Sea Resources Roundabout (NSSR) agreement with businesses to facilitate the trade of raw materials that result from the incineration of waste and to develop the circular economy... [Read more](#)

UK :

Scotland might vote for independence in the event of a Brexit



On 29th February Scottish First Minister Nicola Sturgeon said she hoped that the referendum on 23rd June would enable the UK to remain in the EU. In the event of the contrary this decision would not be in Scotland's interest... [Read more](#)

Serbia :

General elections in Serbia on 24th April



On 4th March Serb President Tomislav Nikolic dissolved the Serbian Parliament and convened early general elections on 24th April... [Read more](#)

Ukraine :

French, German, Ukrainian and Russian Ministers' meeting



On 3rd March the Foreign Affairs Ministers from France, Germany, Ukraine and Russia met in Paris to discuss progress in the implementation of the Minsk Agreements as well as the action to take to guarantee the cease-fire... [Read more](#)

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OSCE deems its role vital in Ukraine



On 29th February during a speech to the UN Security Council, Frank-Walter Steinmeier declared that the OSCE's role was vital in light of the situation in Ukraine... [Read more](#)

Eurobarometer :

The Union's image damaged but still better than that of the States



Eurobarometer published the poll on March 1st whereby overall trust of citizens in the EU remains higher than in the national authorities... [Read more](#)

Studies/Reports :

British government's reports on the possible exit from the EU



On 29th February and 2nd March the British government issued reports on the possible Brexit which would take around ten years and trigger a long process of renegotiation with the EU... [Read more](#)

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EU: men/women pay gap



On 7th March Eurostat published a press release indicating that the wage gap between men and women lay at 16.1% in the EU... [Read more](#)

Culture :

Botticelli exhibition at the Victoria and Albert Museum London



The Victoria and Albert Museum in London is hosting an exhibition until 3rd July on Sandro Botticelli exploring the way artists and designers have re-interpreted his works... [Read more](#)

Andy Warhol Exhibition at the Guggenheim Museum of Bilbao



Until 2nd October the Guggenheim Museum of Bilbao is showing the 102 silkscreened canvas panels made by Andy Warhol, comprising his "Shadows" work which aimed to formalize earlier explorations with abstraction... [Read more](#)

Salvador Dali Exhibition in Liège



The exhibition of works by Salvador Dali is taking place at the TGV station of Liège-Guillemins until 31st August. Following a circuit of over 2000m2 visitors will find themselves immersed in the Spanish painter's alternative world... [Read more](#)

Picasso sculptures in Paris



From 8th March to 26th March 2016 the Picasso Museum in Paris is hosting an exhibition devoted to sculptures made by Pablo Picasso... [Read more](#)

TEFAF Art Fair Maastricht



From 11th to 20th March Maastricht is hosting the TEFAF art fair, one of the most prestigious art and antiques fairs in the world, which brings together 250 art and antiques dealers... [Read more](#)

Agenda :



7th March

Brussels
EU/Turkey Summit
Brussels
Eurogroup Meeting
Brussels
"Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumers" Council



7th-10th March

Strasbourg
European Parliament Plenary Session



8th March

Brussels
"Economy/Finance" Council



10th March

Frankfurt/Main
ECB Council of Governors



10th-11th March

10
Mar

Brussels
"Justice and Internal Affairs" Council

14
Mar

14th March
Brussels
"Foreign Affairs" Council, "General Affairs" Council, "Agriculture and Fisheries"
Council

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