

— I support the Robert Schuman Foundation —

A Tiger in the Tank: How can we take the Franco-German industrial policy forward?

Author: Emmanuel Lefebvre



Franco-German cooperation is clearly set out in joint declarations. It often helps towards finding compromises which support the progressive integration of the European Union. However, real achievements are lacking, particularly in terms of a more cooperative industrial policy. To do this it seems that new impetus is necessary, targeting trust/confidence and support in a two-pronged movement: top-down – i.e. on the part of the State in the shape of inter-ministerial action and bottom-up i.e. on the part of the regions

and economic players.

[Read more](#)

Contents

Foundation : Atlas/EU Migration : Germany - Relocation - Parliament Financial Crisis : Stock exchange/Merger - France European Council : Conclusions Commission : Agriculture - Steel Council : EU/Future - Fisheries Court of Justice : Results/2015 European Agencies : Mentoring Poland : Roads UK : Budget - Resignation Slovakia : Coalition Moldova : Agreement/EU Russia : Syria Ukraine : Crimea - Visa/EU Council of Europe : France Eurostat : Demography - Employment/Social - Inflation - Trade Eurobarometer : Citizenship Studies/Reports : UK/EU - Happiness - Law/EU Culture : Exhibition/Brussels - Festival/Aix - Museum/Brussels - Exhibition/Paris

[Agenda](#) | [Other issues](#) | [Contact](#)

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 that presents the Union, its institutions each of its 28 Member States and a new feature - their overseas territories, via their history, their culture and reality. An absolute must to learn everything there is to learn about Europe... [Read more](#)

Migration :

Speech by Angela Merkel at the Bundestag



On 16th March on the eve of the European Council German Chancellor Angela Merkel repeated to the Bundestag that only a European solution was possible regarding the refugee question... [Read more](#)

Relocation and resettlement



On 16th March the European Commission presented a report on the implementation of the temporary relocation programme and the European resettlement programme... [Read more](#)

Proposal for a European central system for the management of asylum seekers



On 16th March MEPs from the Civil Liberties Committee supported a resolution proposing to revise the Dublin III regulation... [Read more](#)

Financial Crisis :

Merger agreement between London and Frankfurt stock exchanges



The German and British stock exchanges, Deutsche Börse and London Stock Exchange, have agreed to merge on 16th March. If the deal is accepted by the shareholders the merger will be completed in the 1st quarter of 2017 at the latest... [Read more](#)

INSEE announces that the French economy is gathering pace



The French National Institute for Statistics and Economic Studies announced on 17th March that France's economy had started along a moderate, but effectively faster path... [Read more](#)

European Council :

Conclusions of the European Council



On 17th and 18th March the 28 Heads of state and government approved the report on annual growth and encouraged the strengthening of energy security. Regarding the action plan with Turkey they approved the plan "1 Syrian returned for one hosted"; they opened two new negotiation chapters and decided to accelerate the visa liberalisation procedure... [Read more](#)

[Other link](#)

Commission :

Additional measures for agriculture



On 14th March as part of the Common Agricultural Policy, the European Commission announced two additional measures that aim to protect farmers as well as the European internal market... [Read more](#)

Communication on the steel sector in Europe



On 16th March the European Commission published a communication on the issues at stake, both short and mid-term, in the steel sector in Europe... [Read more](#)

Council :

Conclusions of the General Affairs Council



On 15th March the 28 European Affairs Ministers adopted the regulation establishing the European emergency aid instrument and approved the inter-institutional agreement on "better regulation"... [Read more](#)

Multiannual agreement on the management of fisheries in the Baltic Sea

An agreement between the 28 countries of the EU, the parliament and the Commission on 16th March opens the way for the introduction of a



multiannual management plan of fishing in the Baltic Sea, the first of its kind in the EU... [Read more](#)

Court of Justice :

1,711 cases at the European Court of Justice in 2015



In 2015 1,711 cases were addressed at the European Court of Justice and 1,755 others were closed, which is a historic record, both in terms of activity and productivity on the part of the European legal institution... [Read more](#)

European Agencies :

Inauguration of the European Mentoring Center



The European Mentoring Center devoted to research, knowledge and applied research method sharing was inaugurated on 17th March in Leeuwarden (Netherlands)... [Read more](#)

[Other link](#)

Poland :

Towards the completion of the trans-European infrastructures



On 17th March the European Commission approved ten major projects for a total of 3.3 billion € for the construction of 330km of new express roads in Poland... [Read more](#)

UK :

2016 Budget in the UK



On 16th March during the presentation of the 2016 budget to the House of Commons the Chancellor of the Exchequer George Osborne recalled that his country's withdrawal from the EU would have unpredictable economic consequences... [Read more](#)

[Other link](#)

Resignation of the British Work and Pensions Minister



British Work and Pensions Minister, Iain Duncan Smith, a supporter of the UK's exit from the EU resigned on 18th March. He was replaced by Stephen Crabb, who has been Minister for Wales to date... [Read more](#)

[Other link](#)

Slovakia :

Slovakian Prime Minister forms a government coalition



The Slovakian Prime Minister Robert Fico announced that his party SMER-SD has signed a coalition agreement with nationalist party, SNS and two centrist parties, Most-Hid and Siet, representing 82 seats out of 150... [Read more](#)

[Other link](#)

Moldova :

Association Agreement EU/Moldova



On 14th March during the second association agreement meeting between the EU and Moldova both parties reasserted their determination to strengthen the political and economic integration of Moldova into the EU... [Read more](#)

Russia :

Moscow announces its withdrawal of its troops from Syria

Russian President Vladimir Putin ordered the withdrawal of Russian



troops from Syria on 14th March... [Read more](#)

Ukraine :

Anniversary of the illegal annexation of Crimea



On 18th March on the occasion of the 2nd anniversary of the illegal annexation of Crimea Federica Mogherini and six European ministers denounced the non-respect of Human Rights in Crimea and repeated their support for the territorial integrity of Ukraine... [Read more](#)

[Other link](#) | [Other link](#)

Adoption of a law and liberalisation of visas with the EU



The Ukrainian Parliament adopted an anti-corruption law on 14th March that was vital to win the lifting of visa obligations for Ukrainians travelling to the EU for visits of under 90 days. Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko announced on 17th March that the visa liberalisation would take place very soon... [Read more](#)

[Other link](#)

Council of Europe :

The Venice Commission publishes an opinion on France



On 15th March the Venice Commission published an opinion on the constitutional reform started in France, notably regarding the constitutionalisation of the state of emergency and the deprivation of nationality... [Read more](#)

[Other link](#)

Eurostat :

Births and fertility in the EU



In 2014 5.13 million babies were born in the EU in comparison with 5.06 in 2001. Amongst the Member States France still records the highest number of births ahead of the UK, Germany and Italy... [Read more](#)

Employment up



According to a Eurostat communication dated 15th March in the fourth quarter of 2015 employment rose by 0.3% in the euro zone and by 0.1% in the EU in comparison with the previous quarter and by 1.2% and 1% respectively in comparison with the 4th quarter of 2014... [Read more](#)

Annual inflation down -0.2%



According to a communication by Eurostat published on 17th March the EU and euro zone's annual inflation rates lay at -0.2% in February 2016... [Read more](#)

International goods trade - EU and Euro Zone



On 17th March Eurostat announced a surplus of 6.2 billion € for the euro zone and a deficit of 11 billion € for the EU in the international goods trade for the month of January 2016... [Read more](#)

Eurobarometer :

Perception of the idea of European citizenship



A Eurobarometer study on the idea of European citizenship undertaken in October 2015 and published on 15th March notably highlights that 87% of Europeans are familiar with the term, but that only 42% felt that they were informed about their rights... [Read more](#)

Studies/Reports :

Exit from the EU would cost the British economy £100 billion



The UK's exit from the European Union might cost the British economy £100 billion and destroy nearly a million jobs according to a study published on 20th March by the CBI, the country's main employers' confederation... [Read more](#)

Seven European States in the top 10 of the happiest countries



The 2016 version of the world happiness report was published on 16th March. Amongst the 156 countries studied 7 European States rank in the top 10 (Denmark, Switzerland, Iceland, Norway, Finland, Netherlands and Sweden)... [Read more](#)

[Other link](#)

Senate Information Report on the European proposals



On 10th March Senators Fabienne Keller and Jean-Yves Leconte published a report in which they oppose certain proposals for reform with the exception of the accumulation of "mandates between MPs sitting in national or regional parliaments with that of MEP.".. [Read more](#)

Culture :

Exhibition of "Uncensored Photographs" by Andres Serrano in Brussels



The Royal Museum BOZAR in Brussels is running an exhibition "Uncensored Photographs" by artist Andres Serrano until 21st August... [Read more](#)

Easter Festival in Aix-en-Provence



From 22nd March to 3rd April the 4th Easter Festival of Aix-en-Provence devoted to classical music will be taking place... [Read more](#)

Museum of Art and Design in Brussels



The new museum and art centre, the Atomium of Brussels provides visitors with a glimpse of art and design in the 20th century up to the present day... [Read more](#)

Exposition "Carambolages" at the Grand Palais



The Grand Palais in Paris is running an exhibition until 4th July offering visitors an opportunity to go beyond the traditional idea of the history of art with "Carambolages", a mix of 185 works of art from different areas, styles and countries... [Read more](#)

Agenda :



21st March

EU-OPEP Dialogue on Energy



23rd March

Brussels

Meeting between French Prime Minister and the European Commission

The Letter is also available in:



I love the Robert Schuman Foundation's Letter

The Letter's Editorial Team :

Charles de Marcilly, Helen Levy ;
Rodolphe Baron, Angéline Garde, Emma Giraud,
Morgane Mounier, Joséphine Staron, Laura Zani

Editor-in-chief: Charles de Marcilly
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}](#)