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The European Union and the fight to counter terrorism

Author: Philippe Delivet



The deadly attacks of Paris (January and November 2015), Copenhagen (February 2015) and Brussels (March 2016) have highlighted the reality and extent of the jihadist threat in Europe. They also raise the issue of Europe's response to this threat. Mechanisms included in the treaties do not affect the exercise of responsibilities by the Member States themselves in terms of up keeping public order and protecting internal security (art 72 TFEU). But the Union must also work towards guaranteeing a high level of security particularly with coordination and cooperation measures between police and legal authorities (art 67 TFEU). Then the issue of Europe's "added-value" is raised in the battle that is firstly the responsibility of the Member States themselves.

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Foundation :

Permanent Atlas of the European Union (3rd edition)



The third edition of the Atlas of the European Union is a work of reference which presents the Union, its institutions, each of the 28 Member States and a new feature - their overseas territories - via their history, their culture and their reality. A must if you want to learn everything there is to know about Europe... [Read more](#)

Seminar on Migration



The Joseph Károlyi Foundation is organising a seminar in Hungary on 1st and 2nd April "Migration, immigration: What questions and what answers?" with the support of the French Institute of Budapest and the Robert Schuman Foundation amongst others... [Read more](#)

Election :

Presidential election in Austria



6.3 million Austrians are being called to ballot on 24th April to appoint their president of the Republic whose mandate lasts 6 years. Six people are running. According to the polls none of them are due to win the first round. A second round will be organised on 22nd May if this is the case... [Read more](#)

Counter/Terrorism :

Deadly attacks in Brussels



Several explosions took place in Brussels and its region on 22nd March. These led to some 35 deaths and 250 injured. Responsibility for the attack was claimed by Daesh... [Read more](#)

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Joint declaration on the Brussels attacks



On 22nd March the heads of State and government, as well as the representatives of the European institutions, made a joint declaration in the wake of the Brussels attacks... [Read more](#)

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Declaration by the Justice and Home Affairs Ministers



On 24th March the 28 Justice and Home Affairs Ministers expressed their solidarity with Belgium and reasserted their determination to counter terrorism... [Read more](#)

Trip by the French Prime Minister to Belgium



On 23rd March French Prime Minister Manuel Valls travelled to Brussels to meet the European Commission and his Belgian counterpart Charles Michel. He called for the adoption of the PNR and for the deployment of a European border guard corps... [Read more](#)

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John Kerry: "Je suis Bruxellois; ik ben Brussel"



On 25th March the American Secretary of State John Kerry travelled to Brussels to talk about US solidarity with Belgium following the attacks on 22nd March as well as their support in the fight to counter terrorism... [Read more](#)

Attack against the European mission in Mali foiled



The European Union's mission in Mali (EUTM) managed to repel an armed attack that took place on 21st March... [Read more](#)

Migration :

Commission: 54,000 places for Syrians from Turkey



Following the EU-Turkey agreement concluded on 18th March as part of the European Council, the European Commission proposed the relocation of 54,000 Syrians from Turkey on 21st March... [Read more](#)

Finland and Russia close the Arctic migrant route



On 23rd March Finland announced that it had signed an agreement with Russia to stop the crossing of their northern border to migrants who now no longer have access to the Schengen area via the Arctic route... [Read more](#)

Frontex pleads for more support for Greece



On 21st March Frontex asked the Schengen Area member states to dispatch 1500 police officers as well as 50 return and readmission experts to help Greece regarding the return of migrants to Turkey. On 23rd March only 396 policemen had been deployed... [Read more](#)

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HCR: the hotspots in Greece are turning into migrant "detention" centres



The UN High Commission for Refugees (HCR) said on 22nd March that the "hotspots" hosting migrants in Greece had become "detention centres" following the agreement between the EU and Turkey and as a result of this it decided to stop some of its activities in these places... [Read more](#)

Financial Crisis :

Unemployment up in France



According to figures published by the French Employment Ministry on 24th March the number of job seekers lay at 3,591,000 i.e. an increase of 1.1% (38,400 people) in February. Over a year the rise lies at 2.5%... [Read more](#)

Court of Justice :

Appointment of judges at the European Court of Justice



The Member States appointed 15 judges on 23rd March to the European Court of Justice. Eight of them were appointed as part of the renewal process, the remainder were appointments resulting from the reform of the court in 2015... [Read more](#)

ECB :

The ECB publishes public investment figures



In a press release on 21st March the European Central Bank published its statistics on public investment in the euro zone in January 2016... [Read more](#)

Analysis of the Economic and Macro-prudential policy



On 23rd and 24th March the European Central Bank published its first macro-prudential bulletin and its 2nd economic bulletin for 2016... [Read more](#)

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Germany :

The German budget will not accrue more debt



On 23rd March Germany presented a budgetary roadmap in view of 2020. It takes full advantage of a strong economic environment, improvements in its job market and low interest rates in the euro zone... [Read more](#)

Monthly report on the state of the German economy

The German Finance Ministry published its monthly report on 21st



March on the State of the country's economy... [Read more](#)

France :

The issues at stake in the TTIP negotiation



The French Economic, Social and Environmental Council delivered its recommendations on 22nd March regarding the transatlantic trade and investment partnership (TTIP)... [Read more](#)

Intervention by the governor of the Bank of France



On 22nd March François Villeroy de Galhau, the governor of the Bank of France advocated the appointment of a European Finance Minister and for the draft of a collective strategy... [Read more](#)

Poland :

OECD Economic study devoted to Poland



On 22nd March the OECD published an economic study devoted to Poland that must invest more in infrastructures and skills in order to improve its living standards... [Read more](#)

Czech Republic :

Meeting between the Czech Prime Minister and the French President



On 24th March the French President François Hollande hosted Czech Prime Minister Bohuslav Sobotka. They discussed the migratory crisis and called for the revival of investment in Europe in order to support growth and employment... [Read more](#)

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UK :

Adoption of the British 2016 budget



On 22nd March British MPs adopted the 2016 budget 310 votes in support 275 against presented to them by Finance Minister George Osborne - this came after an amendment in which a controversial issue had been deleted. Iain Duncan Smith, Employment Minister resigned in protest against the original budget... [Read more](#)

Slovakia :

The new Slovakian government



On 23rd March Robert Fico, head of the outgoing government was appointed Prime Minister by the President of the Republic Andrej Kiska. His coalition government comprises 14 ministers, two of whom are women, from his party SMER-SD (left), two centre-right parties (Most Hid and Siet) and the nationalist party (SNS)... [Read more](#)

Bosnia-Herzgovina :

Radovan Karadžić sentenced to 40 years in prison by the ICTY



On 24th March Radovan Karadžić was sentenced to 40 years in prison by the International Criminal Tribunal for former Yugoslavia. Mr Karadžić was accused of genocide and crimes against humanity as well as war crimes during the armed conflict in Bosnia-Herzegovina... [Read more](#)

Turkey :

Turkey and Human Rights



Turkey expressed its "discomfort" with several Western countries whose diplomats attended the trial on 25th March of two opposition journalists - an initiative that was severely criticised by President Recep Tayyip Erdogan... [Read more](#)

Ukraine :

Ukrainian pilot sentenced to 22 years in prison



On 22nd March the court in Donetsk sentenced Ukrainian pilot Nadiya Savchenko to 22 years in prison for "complicity to murder" two Russian journalists in June 2014. Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko as well as Amnesty International condemned the verdict... [Read more](#)

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The Ukrainian GDP collapses by 9.9% in 2015



Ukraine's GDP collapsed by 9.9% in 2015 after a contraction of at least 6.6% the previous year, announced the States Statistics Department on 21st March... [Read more](#)

Council of Europe :

Council of Europe: recommendations on local democracy in France



On 22nd March the Council of Europe adopted a recommendation regarding the state of local and regional democracy in France since the ratification of the European Charter for Local Autonomy in 2007... [Read more](#)

Eurostat :

EU current account in surplus



According to a press release by Eurostat on 21st March the EU recorded a surplus of 14.3 billion € in its current account in January 2016, which is down however by 33% in comparison with January 2015 (21.4 billion €)... [Read more](#)

Studies/Reports :

Cost of corruption in Europe



According to a study by the Rand Corporation for the European Parliament corruption costs the European Union between 179 and 990 billion € per year. Experts are suggesting the application of the "cooperation and verification" mechanism in some States - to which Romania and Bulgaria were subject prior to their accession, along with the creation of a European Prosecutor's post... [Read more](#)

EU Agricultural trade in surplus



According to a publication by the Commission on 21st March European agricultural trade figures were in surplus in January 2016 with exports at 9.3 billion € and imports at 9.2 billion €... [Read more](#)

Publication :

Never without Europe! Interviews with two convinced Europeans



Wolfgang Schäuble, the German Finance Minister and Michel Sapin his French counterpart published a book together called "Jamais sans l'Europe ! Entretiens croisés de deux Européens convaincus" with Nouveaux débats publics... [Read more](#)

Culture :

Rostropovich Festival

Moscow is hosting the sixth Rostropovich Music Festival until 5th April.



This year is devoted to the celebration of the 90th birthday of Galina Vishnevskaya, the cellist's muse... [Read more](#)

Tallinn Music Festival



Until 3rd April Tallinn is hosting a music festival one of the most important in Europe with many artists and original creations... [Read more](#)

Paris Art Fair



From 31st March to 3rd April Korea is the guest country at the Paris Art Fair at the Grand Palais which allows visitors a view of both modern and contemporary art... [Read more](#)

125th anniversary of the Museum of History of Art in Vienna



In 2016 Vienna's History of Art Museum will be celebrating its 125th anniversary. On this occasion it is running an exhibition on the various aspects of European festivities from the Renaissance to the French Revolution until 11th September... [Read more](#)

"Caillebotte, painter and gardener" exhibition in Giverny



Until 3rd July the Impressionism Museum in Giverny is running an exhibition on Gustave Caillebotte, famous for his paintings inspired by gardens... [Read more](#)

Rousseau's "Le Douanier" at the Orsay Museum



The Orsay Museum is hosting an exhibition until 17th July 'The Douanier Rousseau. Archaic Candour', devoted to the works of Henri Rousseau, an atypical, modern painter and source of inspiration for many 20th century artists... [Read more](#)

Agenda :



30th March 2016
Brussels
EU-India Summit

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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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