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The Letter in PDF format

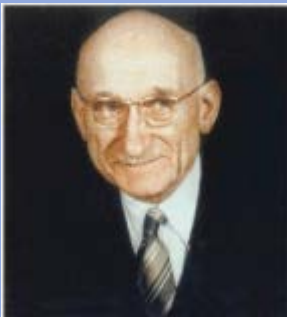
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9th May is Europe Day

Declaration of 9th May



The declaration of 9th May 1950 is believed to be the founding text of European integration. Delivered by Robert Schuman, the French Foreign Minister, in the Salon de l'Horloge at the Quai d'Orsay in Paris, this declaration, inspired by Jean Monnet, the first Planning Commissioner, lays out a European organisation that would be responsible for pooling the French and German production of coal and steel.

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Contents

Foundation : Publication - Ecorevolution **Migration** : Commission - Brenner - Bulgaria/Croatia - Hungary - UK - Refugees **Financial Crisis** : Forecasts - Greece - Hungary **Commission** : Crowdfunding - EU/USA **Council** : Eurogroup/Greece - EU-EEA **Diplomacy** : Japan **Court of Justice** : Tobacco **ECB** : Bank note **Germany** : Italy - Climate **Austria** : Resignation **Spain** : Dissolution **France** : Franco-German **Ireland** : Government **Poland** : Demonstration **Czech Republic** : Eastern Partnership **UK** : Elections **Turkey** : Resignation - ECHR **Vatican** : Charlemagne Prize **NATO** : Montenegro **Studies/Reports** : European Council - Germany - EIB - IMF **Publications** : EU-Canada **Culture** : Film/Cannes - Music/Vienna - Europe/Paris - Exhibition/Rome - Exhibition/Aix - Exhibition/Berlin - Exhibition/Paris

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

Foundation :

"Schuman Report on Europe, State of the Union 2016"



The 10th edition (7th in English) "Schuman Report on Europe, State of the Union 2016" has just been published and is now available on the Foundation's site and in digital form. Order your copy now!.. [Read more](#)

The new keys to success

On 10th and 11th May the 4th Ecorevolution is taking place in partnership with Le Point on the theme "the new keys to success". Two round tables will be devoted to Europe... [Read more](#)

Migration :

New measures to solve the migratory crisis



On 4th May the Commission put forward measures to help solve the migratory crisis with the implementation of a common European asylum regime that will be sustainable and fair. It suggested the establishment of a "solidarity contribution" of 250,000€ per personne for any country that refused to automatically take on asylum seekers in the EU, the lifting of the temporary controls on the internal borders and the liberalisation of visas for Turkish and Kosovar citizens... [Read more](#)

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

J-C Juncker qualifies the closing of the Austro-Italian border as a "political catastrophe"



On 7th may during an exclusive interview with the German media group Funke Mediengruppe, the President of the Commission Jean-Claude Juncker warned that the re-establishment of border controls to counter the influx of migrants on the Brenner Pass on the border between Italy and Austria would be a "political catastrophe" for Europe... [Read more](#)

Bulgaria and Croatia together for a European migratory policy



Bulgarian and Croatian Foreign Ministers, Daniel Mitov and Miro Kovac made a joint declaration on 3rd May regarding the European migratory policy in the Balkans. On 5th May the Bulgarian Prime Minister Boyko Borissov called on the countries of Eastern Europe to show more solidarity... [Read more](#)

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Hungarian Supreme Court allows a referendum on the relocation of refugees



On 3rd May the Hungarian Supreme Court formally allowed the government to organise a referendum on the European plan for the distribution of refugees in the EU's Member States... [Read more](#)

The UK will take in Syrian refugee children



The British government announced on 4th May that it was setting up an initiative to take in unaccompanied Syrian refugee children registered in Greece, Italy and France... [Read more](#)

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Asylum requests by unaccompanied children



In 2015 88,300 asylum seekers asking for international protection in the EU's Member States were deemed to be unaccompanied minors, said a Eurostat publication on 2nd May... [Read more](#)

Financial Crisis :

The European Commission's economic forecasts



On 3rd May the European Commission published its spring economic forecasts 2016. It notably forecasts a slight decrease in growth to 1.8% in the EU and to 1.6% in the euro zone in 2016... [Read more](#)

Adoption of tax reforms and retirement pensions



On 8th May the Greek parliament adopted reforms on retirement pensions and income tax that involve the reduction of the highest pensions and an increase in taxes on the middle and highest incomes... [Read more](#)

OECD study on the Hungarian economy



On 6th May the OECD published a study regarding the state of the Hungarian economy... [Read more](#)

Commission :

Crowdfunding as an alternative to financing businesses



On 3rd May the European Commission published a report on crowdfunding deemed vital in view of diversifying business financing sources in Europe and for an improved connection between savings and growth... [Read more](#)

Transatlantic trade agreement contested



Cecilia Malmström, European Trade Commissioner spoke on 2nd May to clarify some points in the TTIP negotiations. The French government said it was against the conclusion of an agreement as matters stood at present. Moreover the regular survey by DeutschlandTrend of the ARD radiophonic consortium revealed that a majority of Germans rejected the project (70%)... [Read more](#)

Council :

The basis of an agreement defined between Greece and its creditors



On 9th May an exceptional Eurogroup meeting took place in view of finding an agreement between Greece and its creditors. The Finance Ministers of the euro zone defined a package of measures that Greece is due to adopt as a condition for the validation of the first review of the ESM programme: a first package of measures equivalent to 3% of the GDP and a second one in the shape of a precautionary mechanism, if the goal of a budgetary surplus of 3.5% is not achieved in 2018. Regarding the country's debt the Eurogroup meeting enabled the definition of some main principles: facilitating Greece's access to the markets, smoothing the reimbursement profile, stimulating the country's adjustment process including after the end of the programme, and the promotion of flexibility in support of uncertain GDP and interest rates... [Read more](#)

New financial contribution mechanism



On 3rd May the European Union, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway agreed on a new financial contribution mechanism for the period 2014-2021... [Read more](#)

Diplomacy :

Meetings between the Japanese Prime Minister and European leaders



From 2nd to 7th May Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe met his European G7 counterparts (Angela Merkel, David Cameron, François Hollande and Matteo Renzi) in preparation for the G7 summit that will take place on 26th and 27th May in Japan. He also met his Belgian counterpart Charles Michel in Brussels as well as Jean-Claude Juncker and Donald Tusk... [Read more](#)

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Court of Justice :

The Court validates the Union's new directive on tobacco



On 4th May the Court of Justice declared the 2014 directive on tobacco products valid in a bid to protect health and meet obligations under the framework convention of the WTO to counter the use of tobacco... [Read more](#)

ECB :

The ECB announces the end of the 500€ note



On 4th May the European Central Bank decided to stop producing and distributing the 500€ bank note by the end of 2018 in a bid to counter illegal and fraudulent activities... [Read more](#)

Germany :

Defending the borders against the return of nationalism



On 5th May in Rome German Chancellor Angela Merkel called on Europe's main leaders to "defend the external borders" in order to prevent "a return of nationalism"... [Read more](#)

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Angel Merkel recommits to the climate



During the 49th meeting of the Asian Development Bank on 3rd May in Frankfurt the German government and the bank agreed to establish closer cooperation in terms of the climate... [Read more](#)

Austria :

Resignation of Austrian Chancellor Werner Faymann



Austrian Chancellor Werner Faymann, also leader of the Social Democratic Party SPÖ, resigned on 9th May from all of his posts... [Read more](#)

Spain :

Spain: dissolution of parliament and new elections



The King of Spain Felipe VI signed the dissolution of Parliament on 3rd May. The electoral campaign is therefore officially underway. The election will take place on 26th June next... [Read more](#)

France :

Franco-German initiatives in the Sahel



Jean-Marc Ayrault and Frank-Walter Steinmeier, the French and German Foreign Ministers, jointly visited Mali and Niger from 1st to 3rd May. On 4th May they took part in a UN meeting in Berlin on the situation in Syria... [Read more](#)

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Ireland :

New Irish government



Enda Kenny was re-elected as Prime Minister of Ireland on 6th May after his party Fine Gael reach agreement on 29th April with Fianna Fail and the independent MPs. He received the support of 59 MPs... [Read more](#)

Poland :

Demonstration in the face of a new Polish Constitution



On 7th May more than 250,000 people demonstrated in Warsaw against the government's measures with the watchword "we are and will remain in Europe". On 2nd May the head of the party in office, Jaroslaw Kaczynski declared that he wanted to modify the Constitution. Several opposition parties announced on 5th May that a "coalition" was being created to "defend the rule of law in Poland and its place in the European Union".. [Read more](#)

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Czech Republic :

Summit between the Visegrad Groups and the countries in the Eastern Partnership



On 3rd and 4th May the Foreign Affairs Ministers of the Visegrad Group and the Eastern Partnership met in Prague to establish a review and address the future... [Read more](#)

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UK :

Election results: new mayor of London



On 5th May the British were called to renew 2,743 town council seats in 124 local councils, MPs in the Scottish, Welsh and Northern Irish Assemblies and the Mayors of London, Bristol, Liverpool and Salford. Sadiq Khan, a Labour Party member was elected Mayor of London. In Scotland supporters of independence came out ahead with 63 seats out of 129... [Read more](#)

Turkey :

Turkey: resignation of the Prime Minister and refusal to reform



On 5th May Turkish Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu announced that he would not stand for re-election during the AKP party congress that convened on 22nd May. At the same time Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan refused to reform the anti-terrorist law. However this had been a request on the part of the EU under the agreement for the management of refugees and the granting of short-stay visas... [Read more](#)

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Turkey concerned by the ECHR



On 3rd May the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) condemned Turkey for not having investigated adequately into the murder of a Kurd political leader in 1994 in the east of the country... [Read more](#)

Vatican :

Award of the Charlemagne Prize to Pope Francis



On 6th May the Charlemagne Prize was awarded to Pope Francis. In a speech advocating opening he strongly recalled that "Europe was able to provide impetus to a new humanism founded on an ability to integrate, undertake dialogue and create," stressing that "creativity, genius and a capacity for rebirth and renewal are part of the soul of Europe.".. [Read more](#)

NATO :

Montenegro's membership of NATO would help its security



By the end of the month of May the Foreign Ministers of NATO's member countries will sign Montenegro's Accession Protocol... [Read more](#)

Studies/Reports :

Donald Tusk reviews the results of his first mandate



On 9th May the President of the European Council Donald Tusk published a report on the European Council's work between December 2014, when he entered office, and April 2016... [Read more](#)

Publication of the Destatis report on the state of Germany society



The German national statistics institute published its annual report on 3rd May on social issues in Germany with a particular focus on migrants... [Read more](#)

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EIB report in Africa, Caribbean, and the Pacific

On 4th May the EIB published its annual report on its work in Africa,

IMF report on the countries in Eastern and Central Europe



On 6th May the IMF published a report on the economic situation in Central, Eastern and South East Europe (CESEE) covering 22 countries... [Read more](#)

Publications :

Publication of the work "Un nouveau pont sur l'Atlantique"



The University of Quebec has published "Un nouveau pont sur l'Atlantique" under the management of Christian Deblock, Joël Lebullenger and Stéphane Paquin, which covers the negotiations for an economic and trade agreement between Canada and the EU... [Read more](#)

Culture :

Cannes Festival



The 69th Cannes Festival will take place from 11th to 22nd May with 21 films running in the competition. George Miller, an Australian producer will be chairing the jury... [Read more](#)

Vienna Festival



From 13th May to 26th June, Vienna is hosting classical music, opera and dance performances for its 65th festival... [Read more](#)

7th "Chantiers d'Europe"



From 11th May to 4th June the Théâtre de la Ville, Paris is hosting the 7th "Chantiers d'Europe" - a place to discover artists and groups who have come from small countries which are not very well represented on stage or in the TV studios and which bring a specific view of past, present and future Europe... [Read more](#)

The Macchiaioli in Rome



Until 4th September the Bramante Cloister in Rome is showing the most typical works of the Macchiaioli the biggest revolutionary Italian artistic movement of the 19th century... [Read more](#)

Turner and Colour



The Centre of Art Caumont in Aix-en-Provence is hosting some of Turner's paintings until 18th September. Turner was a major figure of English 19th century painting... [Read more](#)

The Qur'an unveiled at the Pergamon Museum



Until 24th July the Pergamon Museum is offering its public an introduction to the complex nature of the Qur'an through a selection of rarely exhibited objects... [Read more](#)

Exhibition on Charles Gleyre, the reformed Romantic



From 10th May to 11th September the Orsay Museum is hosting the first solo exhibition to take place in France devoted to Charles Gleyre. Placed under the sign of spleen and the ideal, the exhibition is an opportunity to delight once more in the illusions of academicism... [Read more](#)

Agenda :



9th May

Europe Day



9th-12th May

Strasbourg
Plenary Session of the European Parliament



9th May

Eurogroup Meeting



12th-13th May

Brussels
"Foreign Affairs" Council



17th May

Brussels
"Agriculture and Fisheries" Council

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