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The Letter in PDF format

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The Social Democratic Party in the lead in the polls in the Romanian parliamentary elections on 11th December next.

Author: Corinne Deloy



18,906, 721 Romanians are being called to vote to renew the two chambers of their Parliament: the chamber of Deputies (308 MPs) and the Senate (134 Senators) elected for four years. Romania has been governed for the last year by a government of technocrats. Since 17th November 2015 the President of the Republic Klaus Johannis appointed former Minister for Agriculture (2007-2009) and former European Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development (2010-2014) Dacian Ciolos as Prime Minister. The

latter put together a government that comprised independent experts only which was a first in the country.

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Elections :

Parliamentary elections in Romania on 11th December



On 11th December next the Romanians are being called to ballot to renew the two chambers of their parliament: the Chamber of Deputies (Camera deputatilor) comprising 208 members and the Senate (Senatul) comprising 134 Senators for a four year mandate. 6,500 people are officially standing for election. All of the political parties are counting on the fact that many people on their lists are newcomers... [Read more](#)

Foundation :

Audition of Jean-Claude Piris on the future of the European Union



On 16th November the National Assembly's Committee for European Affairs spoke with Jean-Claude Piris, former Director of the Council's Legal Service and member of the Foundation's Scientific Committee regarding the future of the European Union... [Read more](#)

Migration :

Senate report on the EU-Turkey Agreement of 18th March



The Senate published an information report "The EU-Turkey Agreement 18th March 2016: a weak, ambiguous and incomplete response to the migratory issue" regarding which the Foundation's Chair, Jean-Dominique Giuliani delivered his comments... [Read more](#)

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Integration Summit in Germany



German Chancellor Angela Merkel chaired the annual political meeting on refugee integration in Germany on 14th November. The main themes were participation in society and the feeling of belonging in an open society... [Read more](#)

Commission :

2017 Priorities of the European Semester



On 16th November the Commission presented its point of view on the economic and social priorities for 2017. It launched the 2017 round of economic governance, the European Semester, and confirmed the need to moved towards a more positive budgetary position for the euro zone... [Read more](#)

Security Union: second report on progress achieved



On 16th November the Commission presented its 2nd report on the progress made towards the introduction of a Security Union with notably the creation of a European travel information and authorisation system (ETIAS) to strengthen security checks of travellers exempted of visas... [Read more](#)

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Council :

Agreement on the 2017 Budget



On 17th November the European institutions came to agreement on the 2017 budget, which lies at 157.9 billion € in commitments and 134.5 billion € in payment credits. Work will be devoted to growth, agriculture and the migratory crisis... [Read more](#)

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Agreement on the limits of deep sea fishing captures 2017 and 2018



On 14th and 15th November the 28 European Fishing and Agriculture Ministers discussed the management of fishing stocks then assessed the proposals made by the Commission's working group to improve the position of farmers in the food supply chain. They also analysed free-trade agreements in the agricultural sector... [Read more](#)

Financial outlook and preparation for the European Council



On 15th and 16th November the 28 European Affairs Ministers made a mid-term assessment of the multiannual financial framework 2014-2020 and prepared the agenda of the European Council that is to take place in December... [Read more](#)

Towards a European Travel Authorisation and Information System



On 18th November the 28 Justice and Home Affairs Ministers welcomed the proposal for a European Travel Authorisation and Information System (ETIAS) and assessed the measures required to step up the fight to counter terrorism... [Read more](#)

46th Meeting of the Council of the European Economic Area



On 15th November during the 46th Council of the European Economic Area (EEA), ministers welcomed the benefits of the integration and cohesion policy between EEA Member States and the EU in a growing number of areas... [Read more](#)

Diplomacy :

Restricted international coalition group meeting in Berlin



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On 17th November 26 countries of the international coalition against the Islamic State addressed the liberation of Mosul in Iraq and Raqqa in Syria, stressing the increasing need for humanitarian assistance and the danger of terrorist attacks in other countries as IS loses ground...

2 billion € for Central African Republic



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On 17th November during an international conference for the Central African Republic the European Commission committed to disbursing 409 million €. In all 2.06 billion € will be devoted by the international community to establish peace, security and the country's economic recovery...

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Implementation of the European strategy in the areas of security and defence



On 14th and 15th November the 28 Foreign Affairs and the 28 Defence Ministers assessed the situation in Turkey and the neighbourhood, Iran and discussed cooperation with NATO and adopted a security and defence strategy... [Read more](#)

European Agencies :

Ariane5 launches 4 Galileo Satellites



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On 17th November four new Galileo satellites were launched into orbit from Kourou in French Guiana with the Ariane 5 rocket. A few hours later French astronaut Thomas Pesquet of the European Space Agency lifted off from Baikonour and travelled to join the International Space Station...

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Europol announces the dismantling of two trafficking networks



On 17th November the European agency Europol announced the dismantling of two trafficking networks: one of humans organised by a Chinese criminal gang towards Austria and a cybercrime and money laundering system organised out of Romania... [Read more](#)

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Germany :

Angela Merkel to stand again for the post of Chancellor



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On 20th November German Chancellor Angela Merkel announced during a press conference at the HQ of her party, the Christian-Democratic Union (CDU) that she would stand again for a further term as Chancellor in the general elections in September 2017...

Barack Obama visits Germany



American President Barack Obama met German Chancellor Angela Merkel in Berlin on 17th November for his last visit as head of State. They insisted on the shared values of Europe and the US. On 18th November they met French President Hollande, British Prime Minister Theresa May, Italian, Matteo Renzi and Spaniard, Mariano Rajoy... [Read more](#)

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Germany: visit by the Turkish Foreign Affairs Minister



The German Foreign Affairs Minister, Frank-Walter Steinmeier travelled to Turkey on 14th and 15th November. Many differences in opinion emerged, notably regarding the Turkish government's attitude towards its opponents, civil society and the freedom of the media... [Read more](#)

Estonia :

Juri Ratas asked to form a new government in Estonia



On 20th November Juri Ratas was asked to take office as Prime Minister in Estonia after the collapse of the government coalition. He is the chair of the Centre Party... [Read more](#)

France :

Further steps towards Franco-British arms cooperation



On 17th November Michael Fallon, the British Defence Minister announced in the 6th Defence Conference organised by the Franco-British Council that there would be a deepening in Franco-British relations in the area of armament, notably via the launch of two new centres of excellence in the UK for MBDA missiles... [Read more](#)

Deepening of Economic and Monetary Union



On 14th November the Senate published a report on phase I of the deepening of the Economic and Monetary Union drafted by Fabienne Keller and François Marc on behalf of the European Affairs Committee... [Read more](#)

Greece :

Barack Obama visits Greece



On 15th November American President Barack Obama travelled to Greece. He welcomed the recent economic progress made by Greece, its budgetary commitment to defence and lauded it for its role in the migratory crisis... [Read more](#)

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Greece - further reduction of the emergency liquidity ceiling



Following requests by the Bank of Greece, the ECB reduced the emergency liquidity ceiling by 0.2 billion € bringing it to 50.9 billion € until 8th December. This reduction bears witness to the improvement in the liquidity of the Greek banks... [Read more](#)

Ireland :

Irish business leaders advocate measures to counter the impact of the Brexit

On 14th November the Irish Business and Employers Confederation (IBEC), the organisation that represents Irish businesses published a report on the measures to take to protect the Irish economy from the



risks posed by the UK's exit of the European Union... [Read more](#)



Lithuania :

Saulius Skvernelis asked to form the government in Lithuania



On 15th November the President of the Republic of Lithuania, Dalia Grybauskaite asked the present Home Affairs Minister, Saulius Skvernelis to form the new coalition government following the general election... [Read more](#)



UK :

Brexit - study of what voters want



On 17th November NatCen, the biggest independent British polling institution published a report entitled "What do voters want from Brexit?". It seems that 90% want to retain access to the Single Market, whilst 70% deem that immigration should be controlled... [Read more](#)



Brexit - gap in the Scottish budget



On 14th November the IPPR Scotland delivered a report to the Scottish Finance Committee in which it forecasts that the national budget will be reduced by 330 million to £1.34 billion per year by 2019/2020 due to a reduction in economic growth and tax revenues as a result of the Brexit... [Read more](#)



Scotland and Wales join the legal battle



Scotland and Wales have been authorised by the Supreme Court to take part in the upcoming hearings on the need to consult British Parliament, or not, before article 50 of the TEU to leave the EU is triggered... [Read more](#)



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Sweden :

Sweden's Prime Minister recalls his country's support to Ukraine



During a meeting on 14th November with Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko, Swedish Prime Minister Stefan Löfven, recalled Sweden's support to Ukraine and expressed his concern about the situation of human rights in the Crimea... [Read more](#)



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Ukraine :

The giant dome protecting the Chernobyl power station set in place



On 14th November the construction of a giant sealed steel dome that will cover the sarcophagus of the reactor that suffered meltdown in 1986 was started, announced the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)... [Read more](#)



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The IMF asks for more progress from Kyiv in exchange for further aid



The IMF deemed on 18th November that Ukraine needed more time to fulfil the necessary conditions for the disbursement of a further tranche of financial aid that is expected by Kyiv... [Read more](#)



Eurostat :

Rise in inflation



According to Eurostat estimates published on 17th November, annual inflation rates in the euro zone and the EU rose to 0.5% in October 2016. A year ago it lay at 0% in the Union and at 0.1% in the euro zone... [Read more](#)

GDP up in Europe



In the third quarter of 2016 the GDP rose by 0.4% in the EU and by 0.3% in the euro zone in comparison with the previous quarter, said an estimation published by Eurostat on 15th November 2016... [Read more](#)

Surplus in international trade in the euro zone



According to data published by Eurostat on 15th November the export of goods from the euro zone to the rest of the world lay in surplus of 26.5 billion € in September 2016. The Union was in surplus by 13.3 billion € in terms of its current account and by 10.6 billion € regarding services said Eurostat on 18th November... [Read more](#)

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Eurobarometer :

Support to the EU stable



According to a "Parlemeter" published on 18th November a majority of Europeans think that being part of the EU is positive for their country (average 53% (-2% in comparison with 2015))... [Read more](#)

Studies/Reports :

Commission report on the Member States' tax systems



On 17th November published a report on the way the Member States' tax systems help to promote investment and employment, try to reduce fraud, tax avoidance and to reduce income inequalities... [Read more](#)

Report on farmers in the food supply chain



On 14th November the work group on agricultural markets recommended new European rules to remedy certain unfair trade practices and also to guarantee greater transparency of the market... [Read more](#)

Study of impact of future free-trade agreements on the agricultural sector



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On 16th November the Commission published the report on the impact of 12 future free-trade agreements on the agricultural sector. It stresses the potential that they open up for European agricultural products whilst highlighting the sensitive nature of specific sectors...

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Culture :

Exhibition "Under the Microscope. Gustave Courbet" in Oslo



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The exhibition "Under the Microscope. Gustave Courbet" is taking place until 5th February 2017 at the National Gallery in Oslo, Norway. This exhibition looks into the story behind the "Fisherman", a painting offered to the museum in 1947, and tries to solve the mystery regarding its authenticity...

Exhibition on Caravaggio in Rome



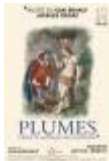
Until 19th February 2017 the villa Borghesa in Rome is hosting an exhibition on Caravaggio. It focuses on the development of the 16th century artist's work... [Read more](#)

Exhibition on José de Rivera at the Prado Museum



From 22nd November 2016 to 11th February 2017 the Prado Museum in Madrid is running an exhibition on José de Rivera, a Spanish painter and sculptor from the Baroque era in order to highlight the variety of his drawings and his technical skill in the execution of his work... [Read more](#)

Pre-Columbian America at the Quai Branly-Jacques Chirac Museum



From 22nd November to 29th January 2017 the symbolic feathers of Pre-Columbian America are being paid tribute at the Quai Branly-Jacques Chirac Museum in Paris. It is the first time that six pictures of feathers kept in France have been brought together... [Read more](#)

The London Design Museum runs the exhibition "Fear and Love: Reactions to a Complex World"



From 24th November to 23rd April 2017 the Design Museum in London is hosting the exhibition "Fear and Love: Reactions to a Complex World" to explore a spectrum of questions that define our times via the prism of design and new technologies... [Read more](#)

Tindirindis Festival in Vilnius




The international cartoon film festival Tindirindis is taking place in Vilnius, Lithuania during which several prizes will be awarded... [Read more](#)


International Film Festival Etiuda&Anima in Krakow



From 22nd to 27th November the 23rd international film festival, Etiuda&Anima will be taking place in Krakow. It is the oldest in Poland offering screenings of work by both students and professionals. "Dinosaurs" are awarded yearly to the best films... [Read more](#)

Agenda :

 21st and 22nd November
Brussels
Education, Youth, Culture and Sport Council

 21st and 24th November
Strasbourg
Plenary Session of the European Parliament

 24th November

24
Nov

Brussels
EU-Ukraine Summit

28
Nov

28th November
Brussels
"Foreign Affairs" Council

28
Nov

28th and 29th November
Brussels
"Competitiveness" Council

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