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The Letter in PDF format

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— I support the Robert Schuman Foundation —

The Foundation team is pleased to be back and wishes you a very happy New Year 2017!

Europeans and the Consequences of the Brexit

Authors: Fondation Robert Schuman, IFOP Institut français d'opinion publique



The Foundation ordered an exclusive survey from IFOP in November in five EU Member States (Germany, Spain, France, Italy, Poland) regarding how citizens perceived the effects and impact of the UK's exit from the EU.

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Front page! :

Europe's necessary strategic autonomy



In the new international context the Foundation's Chairman recall in an editorial on his site the need for Europe to be autonomously strategic...
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Foundation :

Review of Poland's membership of the European Union 13 years on



On 27th January the Robert Schuman Foundation is organising, together with the European Circle of Support for Polish Culture, a conference-debate on the results of Poland's membership of the EU. It will take place at the French Senate in Paris. It is obligatory to enrol...
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Hearing in the Senate over Europe's borders and the future of the Schengen Area

The Senate's Committee of Inquiry regarding Europe's borders, the control of flows of people and merchandise in Europe and the future of



the Schengen Area received Jean-Dominique Giuliani, the Foundation's Chairman on 3rd January... [Read more](#)

Migration :

The number of migrants arriving via the sea decreased in 2016.



According to a press release published on 6th January by Frontex the number of illegal immigrants arriving by sea in the Schengen Area totalled 364,000 out of a total of 503 700 in 2016, ie a reduction of 2/3 in comparison with 2015. It should be noted that arrivals have increased sharply in Italy. (+20%) and have decreased by 79% in Greece thanks to the agreement concluded with Turkey... [Read more](#)

Commission :

Adoption of a new plan to facilitate the cross-border movement of trains in Europe



On January 5th the European Commission adopted a new deployment plan for the European Railway Traffic Management System (ERTMS). The aim of this new plan is to offer greater guarantees to rail companies and to facilitate investment so that around 50% of the Europe's strategic rail network will be equipped by 2023... [Read more](#)

Erasmus is 30 years old



In 2017 the mobility programme Erasmus+ is celebrating its 30th anniversary. On this occasion the Commission has issued an information bulletin which covers the events organised across Europe to celebrate this anniversary throughout the year... [Read more](#)

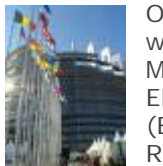
Parliament :

Priorities for 2017



On 4th January the European Parliament presented its priorities for 2017. MEPs want notably to work on a fairer distribution of asylum seekers, the fight to counter terrorism, the single digital market, the fight to counter tax fraud and the reduction of greenhouse gases... [Read more](#)

Seven candidates for the Presidency of the European Parliament



On 17th January the election of the President of the European Parliament will take place in Strasbourg. The 7 candidates running to take over from Martin Schulz are Italians Antonio Tajani (EPP), Gianni Pittella (S&D) and Eleonora (GUE/NGL), Belgians Guy Verhofstadt (ALDE) and Helga Stevens (ECR/N-VA), Briton Jean Lambert (the Greens) and Romanian Laurentiu Rebega (ENF)... [Read more](#)

Council :

New transparency rules on tax rulings



Since January 1st the Member States are obliged to exchange automatically information on all new cross-border tax rulings that they issue.. [Read more](#)

Malta to preside over the Council of the European Union until 30th June 2017



Since January 1st, Malta has been presiding over the rotating Council of the European Union. Its priorities are migration, security, Single Market, a more inclusive European society, the Brexit negotiations... [Read more](#)

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Diplomacy :

Entry into force of the agreement between the EU and Ecuador



On 1st January the free trade agreement signed between the EU and Ecuador entered into force. This completes the agreement established with Peru and Colombia... [Read more](#)

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European Agencies :

The hidden secrets of Orion's cloud



A nursery of stars lying 1350 light-years from earth has been photographed in detail by a telescope. The European Southern Observatory published a spectacular picture of the famous Orion cloud on 4th January. It was taken by VISTA, that is established in the Atacama desert in the north of Chile... [Read more](#)

Germany :

The redesign of its security services



On 3rd January in a column published in the daily Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung German Home Affairs Minister, Thomas de Maizière, laid out the major guidelines for the redesign of the security services... [Read more](#)

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Romania :

Parliament grants its confidence to the government



On 4th January the two chambers of the Romanian Parliament granted their confidence to the new government led by Sorin Grindeanu, 295 votes in support, 133 against. This government comprises 26 ministers including 8 women. 22 ministers are members of the Socialist Party and 4 of the ALDE (Alliance of Liberals and Democrats)... [Read more](#)

UK :

Resignation of British Ambassador to the EU



On 3rd January Ivan Rogers, British Ambassador to the EU handed in his resignation due to disagreements over the way the UK's exit of the European Union is to be managed. He was replaced by Tim Barrow, Political Director at the Foreign Office. who has already held office in Brussels on two occasions... [Read more](#)

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Nicola Sturgeon: a "soft Brexit" or a 2nd independence referendum



On 6th January Nicola Sturgeon, Scotland's First Minister declared during a speech on the BBC that a bid for independence by Scotland might be avoided if a "soft Brexit" were to be adopted by the UK... [Read more](#)

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Iceland :

Referendum in Iceland on the European Union?



Negotiations regarding the formation of a government in Iceland are about to be completed between the Independence Party, Reform and Radiant Future. The idea of a possible referendum on Iceland joining the EU might feature in their government programme... [Read more](#)

UN :

Antonio Guterres makes his first speech as Secretary General of the UN



In his first official speech as UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres called for the world to make "peace our absolute priority.".. [Read more](#)

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Eurostat :

Rise in inflation in the euro zone



According to an estimate published by Eurostat on 4th January the euro zone's annual inflation rate totalled 1.1% in December 2016 against a previous 0.6% a month earlier... [Read more](#)

Drop in Unemployment



According to estimates published by Eurostat on 9th January the unemployment rate totalled 8.3% in the EU and 9.8% in the euro zone in November 2016. This was one of the lowest rates recorded since 2009 for the Union and since July 2009 for the euro zone... [Read more](#)

Studies/Reports :

Report on the European Social Fund



On 5th January the European Commission presented an assessment report of the European Social Fund. Between 2007 and 2014 the FSE helped, 9.7 million Europeans to find a job and enabled 8.7 million Europeans to achieve a diploma or qualifications... [Read more](#)

Culture :

Dance Days in Berlin



From 5th to 15th January Berlin's "Tanztage" are taking place. This is an inevitable venue for the world of dance and choreography in the German capital. In this 26th edition audiences will be able to see in eight premieres and four revivals of past productions... [Read more](#)

Graphic Design Festival in Paris



From 11th January to 22nd February the festival of graphic design is back in Paris. With exhibitions at the Musée des Arts Décoratifs, as well as meetings and conferences, Paris will become the capital of graphic design... [Read more](#)

Exhibition on Giorgio de Chirico in Milan



From 12th January to 11th February the 29 arts in progress gallery of Milan is running an exhibition on Italian sculptor and painter Giorgio de Chirico, reviewing the work of this 20th century artist... [Read more](#)

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Barnett Newman Exhibition in Copenhagen



From 6th January to 17th April the Museum of Louisiana of Copenhagen is organising an exhibition devoted to Barnett Newman, one of the most important representatives of abstract Expressionism... [Read more](#)

Exhibition of the work of Amadeo de Souza-Cardoso in Lisbon



From 12th January to 26th February the Chiado Museum in Lisbon is organising an exhibition devoted to painter Amadeo de Souza-Cardoso for a retrospective of the 114 pieces of work on show as under the title of "Abstraccionismo" in 1916... [Read more](#)

Robert Rauschenberg at the Tate Modern in London

Until 2nd April the Tate Modern in London is running an exhibition devoted to Robert Rauschenberg who opened up new paths for art in the second half of the 20th century... [Read more](#)



Agenda :



16th January
Brussels
Foreign Affairs Council



16th to 19th January
Strasbourg
Plenary Session of the European Parliament

The Letter is also available in:



 I love the Robert Schuman Foundation's Letter

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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.

You no longer wish to receive our letters. {LINK}