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The Trump Presidency: what consequences will this have on Europe?

Author: Arnault Barichella



Whilst Donald Trump will take office on 20th January the Foundation has published an analysis of his vision of international politics, which can be divided into three poles. He is against free-trade in its present form, he is convinced that the USA has concluded "bad agreements" with their allies and he believes that he can achieve "better agreements" via bilateral negotiations with authoritarian leaders such as the Russian President rather than via cooperation with democratic allies or multilateral organisations such as NATO and the European Union. These positions constitute a threat. This is why it is vital for the European Union and its Member States to respond firmly to avoid the worst scenario.

[Read more](#)

Contents

Foundation : Poland - Survey **Migration** : Germany - Slovenia - Frontex - Austria
Commission : Digital - Services - Areva **Parliament** : Robotics - Oettinger
Council : Malta - Mali **Diplomacy** : USA-EU - Council **Germany** : Security - Mali - Budget - Growth **Bulgaria** : Party **Cyprus** : Reunification? **France** : Middle East - Cybersecurity **Ireland** : Resignation **Italy** : France **Luxembourg** : Merkel **UK** : UK-EU **Macedonia** : Government? **Iceland** : Government **NATO** : Poland **Eurostat** : Investments **Studies/Reports** : EU budget - ECB - World Bank - Davos - Demography **Culture** : Music/Hamburg - Exhibition/Basel - Art/Brussels - Art/London - Exhibition/Berlin - Film/Lithuania

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

Foundation :

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



On 27th January the Robert Schuman Foundation is organising a conference-debate at the French Senate in Paris with the "Cercle européen de soutien à la culture polonaise" regarding the results of Poland's membership of the European Union. It is obligatory to enrol... [Read more](#)

Europeans and the consequences of the Brexit



On 9th January the Foundation published an exclusive survey undertaken on its request by IFOP in November in five Member States of the European Union (Germany, Spain, France, Italy, Poland) on how citizens perceive the impact and consequences of the UK's exit of the EU... [Read more](#)

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Migration :

Germany: 280,000 new asylum seekers in 2016



According to an estimate by the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees, the number of asylum seekers entering Germany decreased in 2016 dropping from 890,000 in 2015 to 280,000 in 2016... [Read more](#)

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The Council of Europe concerned about asylum rules in Slovenia



In a letter addressed to the Slovenian Prime Minister on 11th January, the Council of Europe's Secretary General spoke of his concern about the draft law which will change entry and expulsion conditions for migrants in Slovenia... [Read more](#)

Frontex: creation of a new pool of experts on migrant returns



On 10th January the European border and coast guard agency, Frontex announced the creation of a pool of expert designed to help the Schengen Area State in returning illegal migrants to their countries of origin... [Read more](#)

Austria: asylum requests down by half in 2016



The number of asylum seekers in Austria dropped by half in 2016 but remains "at a high level" according to figures released by the Ministry for Home Affairs on 15th January. Some 42,100 people asked for asylum in Austria last year, ie 52% fewer than in 2015 at the peak of the wave of refugees which witnessed the request for asylum by 90,000 people in the country... [Read more](#)

Commission :

New stages on the path to the creation of a European data based economy



As part of its strategy for a Digital Single Market the European Commission suggested on 10th January some political and legal solutions that might free up the economy's potential based on data in the EU... [Read more](#)

A service economy that serves Europeans



On 10th January the Commission presented measures designed for businesses and professionals in order to facilitate the provision of services: a new electronic service card, guidelines for national reforms in terms of professional regulations, the improvement of project notifications of national law on services... [Read more](#)

The Commission gave the greenlight for the restructuring of Areva



On 10th January the European Commission concluded that France's project to give aid to Areva in the shape of a capital injection of 4.5 billion € is in line with Europe's rules in terms of State aid... [Read more](#)

Parliament :

Request for European rules on robots



On 12th January the Legal Affairs Committee at the European Parliament voted in support of a legislative initiative inviting the European Commission to suggest rules in the area of robotics... [Read more](#)

Approval of Gunther Oettinger in his new post at the Commission

Following the appointment of Gunther Oettinger as Commissioner for the Budget and responsible for "Human Resources", the three parliamentary committees responsible for his audition deemed that he is in a position to take over these two portfolio in a letter addressed to



the President of the European Parliament on 12th January... [Read more](#)

[Other link](#)

Council :

European Commission vision of Malta



On 11th January the President of the European Commission Jean-Claude Juncker visited La Valette with the College, to attend the official launch of the Maltese Presidency of the Council of the European Union... [Read more](#)

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Extension of the civil EUCAP Sahel Mali mission



On 11th January, the Council extended the mandate of the civil assistance and advisory mission of the domestic security forces in Mali. It also allocated a 29.7 million € budget to the mission until 14th January 2018... [Read more](#)

Diplomacy :

Donald Trump attacks the European Union



American President elect Donald Trump forecast in an interview in the daily newspapers Times and Bild that Brexit would be "a success" and announced that he wanted to conclude a trade agreement with the UK as quickly as possible. He also said he thought that Angela Merkel had committed a "catastrophic mistake" by opening her country to migrants and accused Germany of dominating Europe... [Read more](#)

Conclusions of the Foreign Affairs Ministers' Meeting



On 16th January the 28 Foreign Affairs Ministers discussed the future of Syria and said they supported the organisation of a conference on Syria and the region in the spring of 2017. Moreover they discussed the need for peace and a two-State solution for Israel and Palestine. They also repeated their support for the democratic transition of Lebanon... [Read more](#)

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Germany :

New measures in terms of domestic security



On 10th January, the German Minister for Home Affairs, Thomas de Maizière and Justice Minister Heiko Maas agreed on the need to introduce new security measures... [Read more](#)

[Other link](#)

More German soldiers in Mali



On 11th January the German government said it wanted to increase its investment in the UN's Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (UNMISMA). The government also decided to extend the mandate until the end of January 2018... [Read more](#)

Budgetary surplus in 2016



On 12th January the German Finance Minister presented the provisional budget results of 2016. For the third year running Germany has not had fallen into any new debt and has made a budgetary surplus of 6.2 billion € in 2016... [Read more](#)

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1.9% growth in 2016

The German economy is doing very well as seen by growth figures



published on 12th January with the GDP up by 1.9%... [Read more](#)

Bulgaria :

Creation of a new political party in Bulgaria



A new political party was created in Bulgaria as the general elections that are to take place in the spring draw closer in the spring of 2017. "Yes Bulgaria" aims to be against corruption and is anti-establishment. It is led by former Justice Minister, Hristo Ivanov... [Read more](#)

[Other link](#)

Cyprus :

Negotiations in view of reunification



After three days of talks from 9th to 11th January in Geneva negotiations over the reunification of Cyprus ended with an international conference under the aegis of the UN. A working group will be formed on 18th January... [Read more](#)

France :

Peace conference for the Middle East



On 15th January around 70 countries and international organisations met in Paris in a bid to revive the peace process between Israel and Palestine. They re-iterated their attachment to a two State solution... [Read more](#)

France steps up its cyber security



In an interview, French Defence Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian, said that France was as exposed to the dangers of cyberattacks as the USA. He also specified the means deployed by the country to remedy this situation... [Read more](#)

Ireland :

Northern Ireland: resignation of the Deputy First Minister



On 9th January Martin McGuinness, the Deputy First Minister of Northern Ireland and member of the nationalist Sinn Fein handed in his resignation due to tension with First Minister Arlene Foster. This departure will in all likelihood lead to early elections... [Read more](#)

[Other link](#)

Italy :

Paolo Gentiloni in France



On 10th January French President François Hollande hosted Italian Prime Minister Paolo Gentiloni for a working lunch. They discussed the priorities of European integration, including defence and security... [Read more](#)

[Other link](#)

Luxembourg :

Angela Merkel in Luxembourg and Belgium



On 12th January German Chancellor Angela Merkel travelled to Luxembourg and Belgium. With her Luxembourg and Belgian counterparts she discussed the main issues in European and international policy, notably regarding the future of the EU and the refugee crisis... [Read more](#)

UK :

Parliament wants the government to publish a "Whitepaper" on the Brexit

On 14th January the parliamentary committee responsible for the Brexit at the House of Commons published a report in which it says that it



wants Theresa May's government to publish a "whitepaper" detailing the exit process from the European Union... [Read more](#)

Macedonia :

Nikola Gruevski asked to form a new government



On 9th January former Prime Minister, member of the conservative party, VMRO-DPMNE, was asked to form a new government. He has 20 days to achieve the confidence of Parliament in which his party has 51 of the 120 seats... [Read more](#)

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Iceland :

New government coalition



On 10th January three Icelandic political parties (the Independence Party, Reform Party and Bright Future) formed a government led by Bjarni Benediktsson, Finance Minister since 2013, comprising 10 ministers, four of whom are women... [Read more](#)

NATO :

Arrival of American armed forces in the East of Europe



On 12th January more than 4000 American soldiers and heavy equipment were deployed to Poland under the strengthening of NATO's east flank in response to Russian military activity in the region. They will also be deployed to the Baltic States, Hungary, Romania and Bulgaria... [Read more](#)

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

Eurostat :

The EU is still the net investor in the rest of the world



According to figures published by Eurostat on 12th January the EU remains a net investor in the rest of the world with a balance of 1,000 billion €. Foreign Direct investment stocks held by the EU in the rest of world totalled 6,894 billion € at the end of 2015. Those held by the rest of the world in the EU totalled 5,842 billion €... [Read more](#)

Studies/Reports :

Advocating a "significant" reform of the European budget



On 12th January the work group chaired by Mario Monti spoke in support of a "significant reform" of the European budget. The report "advocating a significant reform" notably for Europe to have its own revenues and to avoid simply counting on direct contributions by the Member States... [Read more](#)

Report on the development of the monetary policy



On 12th January in Frankfurt/Main the ECB presented the report on recent economic and financial developments in the euro zone. Economic recovery continues at a moderate pace but has grown stronger. Financing conditions remain favourable thereby facilitating the payment of debt... [Read more](#)

Global Economic Growth Forecast



On 10th January the World Bank published its report "Global Economic Growth Forecast" in which it provides for a slight acceleration in world growth of 2.7% in 2017 (in contrast to 2.4% in 2016)... [Read more](#)

2017 report on Global Risks

On 11th January the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland

The number of children per woman in Europe is declining



According to a study by the French Demographic Institute 'INDED' published on 11th January the number of children per woman in Europe is declining... [Read more](#)

Culture :

Inauguration of the Hamburg Philharmonic



On 11th January the Elbphilharmonie of Hamburg was inaugurated during a concert devoted to German music. More than 2000 people, including Joachim Gauck and Angela Merkel attended this event... [Read more](#)

Exhibition devoted to Claude Monet in Basel



From 22nd January to 28th May on the occasion of its 20th anniversary the Beyeler Foundation, Basel is dedicating an exhibition to one of the greatest painters, Claude Monet... [Read more](#)

BRAFA art fair in Brussels



From 21st to 29th January the Tour & Taxis is hosting the BRAFA art fair in Brussels. This is one of the most prestigious art and antiques fairs in Europe offering a very wide variety of specialities from Ancient times to the 21st century... [Read more](#)

Art Fair London



From 18th to 22nd January the Business Design Centre in London is hosting the 29th art fair with more than 100 participating galleries presenting the work of major names in the contemporary art world... [Read more](#)

Exhibition 'Die Brücke' in Berlin



From 21st January to 3rd September an exhibition is taking place at the Brücke Museum in Berlin entitled "Die Brücke - Gemälde, Plastik, Zeichnungen und Druckgraphik". This exhibition comprising the most important canvasses from the German Expressionist movement "Die Brücke" is being organised to celebrate the museum's 50th anniversary... [Read more](#)

Short film Festival in Vilnius



From 18th to 22nd January an international short film festival will be taking place in Vilnius, Lithuania with work by directors from the world over... [Read more](#)

Agenda :



16th January

16
Jan

Brussels
Foreign Affairs Council

16
Jan

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

19
Jan

19th January
Frankfurt/Main
ECB Council of Governors

23
Jan

23rd January
Brussels
"Agriculture and Fisheries" Council

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The Letter's Editorial Team :

Charles de Marcilly, Helen Levy ;
Léa Degorre, François Frigot,
Lucas Mehler, Benjamin Penassou, Athina Reuter

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.

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