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The Letter in PDF format

The Foundation on  and 

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Returning meaning to the Common Agricultural Policy



Just as the European Commission has launched a consultation on the future of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) for the EU's future budgetary planning (post 2020), it seems appropriate to look into the reasons for the mistrust surrounding this policy, which is increasingly a mystery to any farmers and the population. We should

also consider the constraints weighing on the CAP before exploring ways that might, as meaning is given to it, lead to a return of confidence on the part of the Europeans in this policy.

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Elections :

General election in the Netherlands on 15th March



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On 15th March next 12.9 million Dutch citizens will be called to renew the 150 members of the lower house of parliament (Tweede Kamer). In all 28 parties will be taking part in the elections. The People's Party for Freedom and Democracy (VVD) of Prime Minister Mark Rutte and the Freedom Party (PVV) are running neck and neck in the polls... [Read](#)

Foundation :

Meetings between debt market and exchange professionals

Jean-Dominique Giuliani, Chairman of the Foundation, is taking part on 21st February in the 8th meeting of debt market and exchange professionals. He is speaking during the third round table "The



European Union and the United Kingdom: what needs to be negotiated? An overview of the issues at stake"... [Read more](#)

Commission :

444 million € investment in energy infrastructures



On 17th February the 28 EU Member States approved the Commission's proposals to invest 444 million € in major European energy infrastructure projects. The latter will help to achieve the Union's energy goals... [Read more](#)

Comitology: greater transparency and accountability



On 14th February the Commission proposed the modification of the regulation on comitology and measures aiming to increase transparency and accountability in the implementation procedures of European legislation... [Read more](#)

Parliament :

Visit by Austria President Alexander van der Bellen



On 14th February the Austrian President Alexander van der Bellen addressed European Members of Parliament. He stressed the success of European integration and called for a solution to be brought to the present challenges together; at the same time he repeated his support to the European project, "the idea of Europe is marvellous, it is unique and it is worth it"... [Read more](#)

Ratification of the EU-Canada trade agreement



On 15th February the economic and trade agreement between the EU and Canada which aims to stimulate the trade of goods and services as well as investment flows was adopted by MEPs, 408 votes in support 254 against and 33 abstentions. The agreement will temporarily come into force in April 2017... [Read more](#)

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Vision of the future of Europe



MEPs adopted three resolutions exploring future developments of the EU on 16th February. The first focuses on which might be done to take best advantage of the Lisbon Treaty. The second analyses the possibility of going beyond the present tools available to us. The third suggests greater rapprochement by the euro zone economies... [Read more](#)

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Speech by Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau



A "strong European Union is profitable to the whole world" deemed Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau on 16th February as he spoke to MEPs in support of the EU-Canada free-trade agreement (CETA) which was ratified on 15th February... [Read more](#)

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Council :

Meeting between Donald Tusk and Mike Pence



The USA are determined to "continue cooperation and the partnership with the EU" said American Vice-President Mike Pence on 20th February on the occasion of his first official visit to Brussels... [Read more](#)

"Education, Youth, Culture and Sports" Council



On 17th February the 28 Education Ministers discussed the procedures whereby education and training might help towards forming social cohesion and strengthening common European values... [Read more](#)

Mobility of online content



On 15th February the Council approved new rules to enable consumers who have paid for online services in their own country to access the same services when they travel to another Member State... [Read more](#)

Eurogroup Conclusions



On 20th February in Brussels the 19 Finance Ministers of the euro zone welcomed the convergence of Greece's positions with those of the institutions (ECB, IMF, European Commission and the European Stability Mechanism) which should lead to the launch of the country's third economic adjustment programme. They also looked at the Commission's economic forecast for 2017-2018... [Read more](#)

Conclusions of the Competitiveness Council



On 20th February the 28 Ministers responsible for Trade, Industry, Research and Innovation exchanged views on the new initiative in support of start-ups and scale-ups and also on cooperation in terms of consumer protection... [Read more](#)

ECB :

The ECB presents its annual accounts 2016



On 16th February the ECB's Board of Governors approved an audit of its 2016 accounts. The ECB recorded a net profit of 1.19 billion € against 1.08 in 2015 and net interest revenues of 1.648 billion € against 1.475 billion the previous year... [Read more](#)

European Agencies :

77th successful launch of Ariane 5



On 14th February the European Space Agency's (ESA) launcher Ariane 5 successfully lifted off from the space centre in Kourou in French Guyana, launching two telecommunications satellites, Sky Brasil 1 and Telkom-3S into orbit... [Read more](#)

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Germany :

Meeting of G20 Foreign Ministers



On 16th and 17th February the G20 Foreign Ministers stressed the importance of a stronger cooperation in terms of countering poverty and crisis and risk management (climate change, terrorism, migration, conflict etc...) The partnership with Africa was deemed primordial...

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Munich Security Conference



On 17th February during the Munich Security Conference German Defence Minister Ursula von der Leyen asked the USA not to "go it alone" with Russia whilst the "Europeans and the USA have a joint interest in finding a tension-free relationship with Russia..." [Read more](#)

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Germany, one of the five most innovative countries in the world

In its 10th annual report published on 15th February the panel of experts on research and innovation lauded the government's



innovation policy. Germany is one of the five most innovative countries in the world with 3% of the GDP being devoted to research and development... [Read more](#)

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France :

Report by the information committee on the consequences of the British referendum



French MPs want a short negotiation and a vote on the future relationship between the EU and the UK said the report by the information committee on the consequences of the British referendum, which was approved unanimously less one vote on 15th February...

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Meeting between Bernard Cazeneuve and Theresa May



On 17th February Theresa May hosted her French counterpart Bernard Cazeneuve in London. The British Prime Minister said that the UK would still be a strong ally for France after Brexit recalling notably that trade between the UK and France had made a surplus of 50 billion €...

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French Prime Minister Bernard Cazeneuve visits Berlin



On 13th February French Prime Minister Bernard Cazeneuve travelled to Berlin to meet Chancellor Angela Merkel. He indicated that Franco-German solidarity was vital more than ever before for the future of Europe... [Read more](#)

Ireland :

Enda Kenny's speech on Brexit



On 15th February Irish Prime Minister Enda Kenny spoke in support of a post-Brexit transition period, covering the time needed to rebuild a legal framework for a new relationship between the UK and the EU...

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Italy :

The OECD publishes a study on reform and growth in Italy



On 15th February the OECD published an Economic Study of Italy. Although structural reforms such as the Jobs Act helped it emerge from a long recession the country must reform the labour market, vocational training and improve the efficacy of its civil service and the business environment in order to strengthen its growth... [Read more](#)

Poland :

NGO open letter to the Commission asking for sanctions against Poland



On 16th February NGOs including Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International addressed an open letter to the European Commission in which they ask for sanctions to be taken against Poland deeming that the latter is undermining the rule of law... [Read more](#)

Romania :

Referendum on Corruption



Following the constant demonstrations across all of the country, the Romanian government accepted on 13th February to organise a referendum on corruption on the president's request and under popular pressure... [Read more](#)

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Visit by the Romanian Prime Minister in Brussels



On 17th February the Romanian Prime Minister Sorin Grindeau met with the President of the Council Donald Tusk in Brussels to discuss the priorities of the Romanian government from the points of view of economic growth and also the fight to counter corruption... [Read more](#)

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UK :

Tony Blair calls on the British to resist



On 17th February former Prime Minister Tony Blair called on Britons who want the UK to remain in the EU to resist and try to convince Brexit supporters to change their minds... [Read more](#)

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What will the environmental impact of the Brexit be?



On 14th February the British Parliament's Environment Sub-Committee published a report stressing the environmental impact of Brexit... [Read more](#)

Sweden :

Presentation of Foreign Policy Guidelines 2017



On 15th February the Swedish Foreign Minister Margot Wallström presented the direction the government wanted to take in terms of foreign policy in 2017 to the Riksdag (Parliament)... [Read more](#)

Council of Europe :

Call for the re-establishment of the freedom of expression in Turkey



On 15th February the Council of Europe's Commissioner for Human Rights, Nils Muiznieks called on the Turkish authorities to reform legislation in force and take new steps that aim both the guarantee the independence of the judicial system as well as the country's commitment to protecting the freedom of expression... [Read more](#)

NATO :

Strengthening NATO



The Defence Ministers of NATO's member countries, who met on 15th to 17th February approved the creation of a Regional Hub for the South, the next stages in the modernisation of NATO's command structure..... [Read more](#)

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WTO :

World Trade Outlook in the first quarter of 2017



The World Trade Outlook published on 14th February seems to suggest a moderate increase in pace in world trade in the first quarter of 2017... [Read more](#)

Eurostat :

International goods trade surplus



According to statistics published by Eurostat on 15th February, the EU recorded a international goods trade surplus of 20.9 billion € and the euro zone 28.1€ billion in December 2016... [Read more](#)

GDP rise



According to Eurostat estimates published on 14th February the GDP rose by 0.5% in the EU and by 0.4% in the euro zone in the 4th quarter of 2106 in comparison with the 3rd quarter (+1.8% and +1.7% respectively over one year)... [Read more](#)

Culture :

International Contemporary Art Fair in Madrid (ARCO)



From 22nd to 26th February the International Contemporary Art Fair (ARCO) is taking place in Madrid. Nearly 160 galleries from 30 different countries will be presenting the latest trends in contemporary art... [Read more](#)

International Cinema Festival Porto



From 24th February to 4th March the international cinema festival in Porto, "Fantasporto" runs a competition between Portuguese and other films from the world over - short and full feature. Conferences and exhibitions are also on the programme... [Read more](#)

Exhibition devoted to Venetian painting in Hamburg



From 24th February to 21st May the "Poetry of Venetian Painting" is taking place at the Hamburger Kunsthalle. Work by great Venetian artists such as Titian, Palma the Old and Lorenzo Lotto are on show... [Read more](#)

Journey to Edo Exhibition in Warsaw



From 25th February to 7th May the National Museum of Warsaw is organising an exhibition entitled "Journey to Edo" which allows visitors to explore the ukiyo-e woodblock prints from the collection of Jerzy Leskowicz... [Read more](#)

Rembrandt's Century



The Dutch masterpieces of the 17th century, part of the Thomas Kaplan collection, are on show at the Louvre in Paris from 22nd February to 22nd May, including the greatest collection of works by Rembrandt. Another exhibition devoted to the Golden Century is on show until 7th May at the Custodia Foundation... [Read more](#)

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Vermeer and the Masters of Genre Painting



The Louvre is creating an event as it puts on show 11 canvasses by the Dutch painter Johannes Vermeer from 22nd February to 22nd May for the first time in 50 years,, as part of an exhibition "Vermeer and the Masters of Genre Painting"... [Read more](#)

"Egon Schiele" at the Albertina of Vienna



As part of the commemoration celebrating the death of Egon Schiele in 1918, the Albertina in Vienna is showing all of the painter's career from 22nd February to 18th June... [Read more](#)

Exhibition Maarten Baas at the Groningen Museum



The Groninger Museum (Netherlands) is showing work by Dutch designer Maarten Baas in an exhibition entitled "Hide and Seek" until 24th September... [Read more](#)

Agenda :



20th February
Brussels
"Competitiveness" council
Brussels
Eurogroup



21st February
Brussels
Economic and Financial Affairs Council



27th February
Brussels
Transport, Telecommunications and Energy Council



28th February
Brussels
Environment Council

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