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## Businesses in Europe and the data economy

Author: Henri Thomé



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The market economy is changing and will change profoundly the business model of all activities. Hence we have to understand how to manage this raw material that data has become and how to regulate this new economy. The status of property is the focus of thought, the imperatives of competition and personal data protection likewise, whilst innovation in the supply of services and products will be a factor of economic development. Debate at European level has been launched.

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**Commission** : European Semester - Future/EU - Food **Parliament** : Budget  
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USA **ECB** : Investments **Germany** : Lithuania - Security - Surplus **Spain** : France  
**France** : Investments **Latvia** : EU-Canada **The Netherlands** : EU-Ukraine  
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### Elections :

#### General Elections in Bulgaria on 26th March



On 26th March the Bulgarians are being called to ballot to renew the 240 MPs in their Parliament. 12 parties and 9 coalitions are running in these elections. According to the most recent poll by Trend, the GERB is running neck and neck with the Socialist Party (BSP) with 29.7% and 28.7% respectively... [Read more](#)

### Financial Crisis :

#### The euro area's economic growth gathers pace



The growth of private activity of the euro area gathered pace in February in comparison with January said a first composite PMI index published on 21st February by the consultancy Markit... [Read more](#)

The GDP of the OECD area at 0.4% in the fourth quarter of 2016



According to a communication published by the OECD on 20th February the GDP of the OECD was slightly down in the fourth quarter of 2016, in comparison with 0.5% in the third quarter. This places it on equal footing with the euro area's GDP in the fourth quarter... [Read more](#)

#### Portugal reimburses half of the aid received



On 22nd February the IMF welcomed the economic and financial stabilisation of Portugal which succeeded in limiting its budgetary deficit to 2.1% of the GDP in 2016. On 20th February Portugal made a payment of 1.7 billion € to the IMF, reimbursing half of the aid it initially received... [Read more](#)

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#### Commission :

##### Assessment of the Member States' economic and social progress



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On 22nd February the European Commission published a report on the progress made by 27 Member States (except for Greece) towards the economic and social goals set in the Winter Package of the European Semester as well as the Budgetary Pact (TSCG) and the Italian debt...

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##### Speech by Jean-Claude Juncker on the future of Europe



On 24th February the President of the European Commission called on the Member States for unity and advocated for an answer to be given to the issue of knowing whether those in Europe who want to move forward more rapidly should be allowed to do so... [Read more](#)

##### Study of trade agreements and the food sector



On 27th February the European Commission communicated the results of an independent study of trade agreements and the food sector. It notes that trade agreements have helped stimulate agricultural exports and supported employment in the food sector... [Read more](#)

#### Parliament :

##### Infographics of spending and contributions to the European budget per Member State



On 24th February the European Parliament published an infographic which explains the spending and contribution made by each Member State to the European budget and how European funds are used in each country... [Read more](#)

#### Council :

##### Results of the Economy and Finance Ministers' meeting



On 21st February the 28 Economy and Finance Ministers adopted new rules to prevent tax evasion. They expressed their priorities for the EU's 2018 budget which should find a balance between budgetary consolidation and new investments... [Read more](#)

##### Conclusions of the Energy Council



The 28 ministers responsible for energy assessed the proposals put forward by the Commission on "clean energy for all Europeans" which has three main goals: energy efficacy, world leadership in renewable energies and fair treatment of consumers. The main goal is to transform the Union into a low carbon economy by 2030... [Read more](#)

##### Council: visas and sanctions



On 27th February the Council adopted new restrictive measures against North Korea and Belarus. It also adopted a regulation on the liberalisation of visas for Georgians travelling to the EU and a regulation

revising the mechanism suspending the existing visa liberalisation agreements... [Read more](#)

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## Diplomacy :

### Weimar Triangle



The French, German and Polish Finance Ministers examined the fight to counter the financing of terrorism and tax evasion as well as developments in view of the Brexit... [Read more](#)

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### Meeting with American Vice-President Mike Pence



The USA are determined to "continue cooperation and partnership with the EU" maintained the American Vice-President Mike Pence on 20th February on the occasion of his meeting with the President of the European Council and the President of the European Commission... [Read more](#)

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## ECB :

### Investments in the euro area



The European Central Bank (ECB) published its data showing that euro area investors are placing an increasing share of their money abroad, in spite of an economic improvement and the ECB's support... [Read more](#)

## Germany :

### Meeting with the Lithuanian Prime Minister



On 23rd February German Chancellor Angela Merkel met Lithuanian Prime Minister Saulius Skvernelis in Berlin to discuss the future of the European Union, energy issues and also the presence of the Bundeswehr in Lithuania as part of a NATO initiative... [Read more](#)

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### Franco-German letter in view of improving security in the EU



On 21st February the German and French Home Affairs Ministers put forward some Franco-German proposals in the shape of a joint letter, to improve security within the EU... [Read more](#)

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### Germany's government surplus at its highest since the reunification



According to figures published by Destatis on 23rd February, Germany registered a budgetary surplus of 23.7 billion € in 2016, the highest since the reunification in 1990. Economic growth lay at 0.4% in the fourth quarter of 2016... [Read more](#)

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## Spain :

### 25th Franco-Spanish Summit



On 20th February in Malaga the 25th Franco-Spanish Summit took place during which a joint declaration was adopted which sends out a message of unity, determination and firm commitment to the European project... [Read more](#)

## France :

### Franco-German call to control foreign investment more effectively



The French Economy Minister Michel Sapin and his German counterpart Brigitte Zypries are advocating a better control of foreign investments in the EU so as to ensure that "strategic economic branches" are not destabilised... [Read more](#)

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## Latvia :

### Latvian Parliament ratifies the EU-Canada Agreement



On 23rd February the Latvian Parliament ratified the free trade agreement between the EU and Canada. It is the first European State to do so... [Read more](#)

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**The Netherlands :**

**The Dutch Parliament ratifies the EU-Ukraine agreement**



The lower chamber of the Dutch parliament approved the compromise over the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement 89 votes to 55, achieved in Brussels by the Prime Minister Mark Rutte after the rejection of the text during a referendum in April... [Read more](#)

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**Poland :**

**Poland rejects Europe's criticism regarding the rule of law**



On 20th February in response to the European Commission, Poland deems that the declarations about a systemic threat being made to the rule of law is unfounded and that the changes brought to the functioning of the Constitutional Court are "in line with European standards.".. [Read more](#)

**UK :**

**David Davis acknowledges the importance of European workers for the UK**



On 21st February following his trips to the three Baltic countries, the Secretary of State responsible for the Brexit, David Davis maintained that the UK would not suddenly close its door on unskilled European workers... [Read more](#)

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**Ukraine :**

**18 million € for Ukraine**



The EU has announced that it is to provide an additional 18 million € in aid to Ukraine so that it can overcome the humanitarian in the east of the country... [Read more](#)

**WTO :**

**The WTO declares the Russian embargo against European pork illegal**



On 23rd February the WTO's Appellate Body confirmed that the Russian embargo on pork and other pig products decided upon in 2014 infringes the rules of international trade... [Read more](#)

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**Entry into force of the trade facilitation agreement**



On 22nd February the WTO's trade facilitation agreement came into force. It aims to simplify and clarify international import and export procedures, customs formalities and transit requirements... [Read more](#)

**Eurostat :**

**Euro area annual inflation rates up**



The EU's annual inflation rate lay at 1.7% in January 2017, against 1.2% in December 2016 and that of the euro area lay at 1.8% against 1.1% according to a Eurostat study published on 22nd February... [Read more](#)

**Studies/Reports :**

**Discovery of Seven Planets**



In a study published on 22nd February astronomers revealed that they have discovered a system of seven planets, which are around the size of the earth, rotating around a dwarf star. To do this they used ground and space telescopes, amongst which feature the Very Large Telescope

(VLT) at the European Southern Observatory... [Read more](#)

### The transfer of arms in the world has reached record levels since the Cold War



According to the report on the transfer of arms in the world by the International Peace Research Institute in Stockholm (SIPRI) published on 20th February the sales of arms increased by 8.4% in the world over the last 10 years... [Read more](#)

### Uncertainty weighs over world trade according to the World Bank



According to a study based on 18 countries and published by the World Bank on 21st February, uncertainty in terms of economic policy in 2016 might have reduced trade growth by 0.6% between 2015 and 2016, which represents around 75% of the difference between trade growth rates in 2015 and 2016... [Read more](#)

### Commisson report for healthier food in schools



On 22nd February the European Commission's centre of research and the Maltese presidency of the Council of the EU presented a technical report to help the Member States introduce healthier food into schools, notably as a part of the fight to counter obesity... [Read more](#)

## Culture :

### Songwriters Festival Belfast



From 1st to 5th March the Belfast-Nashville Songwriters Festival takes place bringing together more than 100 local and international folk music artists. 30 concerts are organised around the city... [Read more](#)

### Tuulikki Pietilä Exhibition Helsinki



From 28 February to 9th April the Ateneum Helsinki is showing 170 pieces of work by Tuulikki Pietilä, a Finnish post-war artist... [Read more](#)

### Exhibition Giovanni Boldini in Rome



The Complesso del Vittoriano in Rome is running an exhibition devoted to Giovanni Boldini, a grand Italian master of the "Belle Epoque" from 4th March to 16th July... [Read more](#)

### Exhibition devoted to the Bauhaus Motion in Berlin



An exhibition entitled "Bauhaus in Motion" is taking place until 5th March 2018 at the Bauhaus Archiv/Museum of Graphism in Berlin. On this occasion the various facets of this movement are explored... [Read more](#)

### Pissarro Exhibition at the Marmottan Museum Paris



The Marmottan Monet Museum is running the first monographic exhibition devoted to Camille Pissarro in the last 36 years. 75 works from museums around the world and private collections are on show to the public... [Read more](#)

### Documentary Festival in Thessaloniki

From 3rd to 12th March the documentary festival is taking place in Thessaloniki. This mainly involves politically engaged cinema and themes targeting social causes... [Read more](#)



### Art Up! Contemporary Art Fair in Lille



The contemporary art fair of Lille, Art Up! is taking place from 2nd to 5th March at the Grand Palais of Lille, and is hosting artists' works (painting, drawings, sculptures, photos) as well as publishers (videos, photos, books) who have come from all over France and Europe... [Read more](#)

### Agenda :



27th February  
Brussels  
Transport, Telecommunications and Energy Council



28th February  
Brussels  
Environment Council



3rd March  
Brussels  
"Employment, Social Policy" Council



6th March  
Brussels  
"Foreign Affairs" Council "Agriculture and Fisheries" Council

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### The Letter's Editorial Team :

Charles de Marcilly, Helen Levy ;  
Léa Degorre, François Frigot, Hanna Létang,  
Elise Mathevon, Athina Reuter, Lorène Weber

**Editor-in-chief: Charles de Marcilly**  
**Publishing Director: Pascale Joannin**

Contact/Suggestions  
[info@robert-schuman.eu](mailto:info@robert-schuman.eu)

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