

Wednesday 19th April 2017

issue 756

The Letter in PDF format

The Foundation on  and 

The foundation application available on [Appstore](#) and [Google Play](#)

— I support the Robert Schuman Foundation —

France and its European turmoil

Author: Jean-Dominique Giuliani



The electoral campaign in view of the French presidential election has witnessed the confrontation of 11 candidates. None of them are happy with the European Union. Four of them want to leave the Union directly. All of the others want to reform it to some degree or another. Has it become, as François Hollande suggested on 16th April on the commemoration of the battle of the Chemin des Dames, the "scapegoat of all of our relinquishments?" Or more simply has this revealed a French malaise, a kind of reflection that shows the French a deteriorated image of their national ambition? Or is it an easy derivative of increasingly evident anger, given the unexplained upheavals ongoing in science, economy, politics and therefore in society? There is something quite specific about French politics. This presidential election reveals all of its negative aspects. Could the election of a new president show us the positive sides and transform them into a new national impetus that is more favourable towards European engagement? Will France make a return to Europe. This is one of the issues at stake in this election.

[Read more](#)

Contents

Foundation : Europe/France - Schuman Report **Commission** : Hungary - Cohesion
Council : Iran - Mediterranean **ECB** : Annual Report **Germany** : Globalisation
Bulgaria : Government **Spain** : Declaration/Madrid **France** : Economy - Election -
Agriculture **Hungary** : University **Italy** : G7 - Budget - Energy **UK** : Election
Albania : Elections **Montenegro** : NATO **Moldova** : Aid/EU **Turkey** : Referendum **Council
of Europe** : Kosovo - ECHR **UN** : Syria **NATO** : Security - USA **OECD** : Employment -
Taxation **Migration** : Relocation - Italy - Hungary **Studies/Reports** : Greece/Tourism -
Brexit/Dysfunction - Justice - WHO **Publication** : Future/EU **Culture** : Jazz/Estonia -
Festival/Cambridge - Exhibition/Paris - Exhibition/Venice

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

Foundation :

"For a few stars more ... What European policy for France?" has been published



The Chairman of the Foundation, Jean-Dominique Giuliani has published "For a few stars more ... What European policy for France?" Just one week before the French presidential election he notes what the new president could and should do. Order your copy now!.. [Read more](#)

Order the "Schuman Report on Europe, the State of the Union 2017"

The 2017 edition of the "Schuman Report on Europe, the State of the Union



2017" has been published by Lignes de Repères in both French and English. You can find this book, which is vital for the comprehension of Europe in bookshops or on the Foundation's site. You will notably find an article on the French presidential election written by Christian Lequesne. Order your copy now!... [Read more](#)

Commission :

Assessment of the situation in Hungary



The European Commission is concerned about some of the controversial laws that have recently been passed in Hungary. On 12th April the European executive looked into the reforms as well as a project to "manage" the "foreign" funding of NGOs, which is against EU law... [Read more](#)

[Other link](#)

Low growth regions and European policy



On 11th April the Commission presented a report on the paths to follow for regions in the Union with low growth rates in order to support regional growth strategies thanks to the cohesion funds allocated by the Union to these regions... [Read more](#)

[Other link](#)

Council :

Extension of restrictive measures against Iran



On 11th April the Council extended its restrictive measures against Iran until 13th April 2018 in response to the country's serious infringement of Human Rights... [Read more](#)

Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean



On 11th April the Maltese Presidency concluded a temporary agreement with parliament so that the EU can take part in the partnership that aims to develop innovative solutions or the provision, sustainable management of water and the production of food in the Mediterranean region... [Read more](#)

ECB :

Annual report of the European Central Bank



On 10th April the ECB published its annual report. Mario Draghi stressed the economic uncertainty that marked the beginning of 2016 that declined at the start of the year, in spite of growing political uncertainty... [Read more](#)

Germany :

Merkel and the leaders of five multilateral organisations debate the challenges of globalisation



On 10th April in Berlin the German Chancellor Angela Merkel and the leaders of five multilateral organisations met to debate the challenges born of globalisation and the best way to rise to these... [Read more](#)

Bulgaria :

New Bulgarian government coalition



On 13th April Boyko Borissov, the former Prime Minister, head of the GERB which won the elections on 26th March announced that he had formed a government coalition with the nationalist parties of the Patriotic Front... [Read more](#)

[Other link](#)

Spain :

Madrid Declaration of the countries of the Southern European Union



On 10th April the countries of the southern European Union (France, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Greece, Malta and Cyprus) held their 3rd summit and signed the Madrid Declaration. They confirmed their continued will to cooperate in several areas and to defend the unity of the EU in the face of Brexit... [Read more](#)

[Other link](#)

France :

Stability Programme 2017-2020



On 12th April the French Finance Minister Michel Sapin presented the stability programme 2017-2020 which provides for a public deficit of 2.8% of the GDP in 2017. It will be communicated at the end of the month to the European Commission... [Read more](#)

[Other link](#)

Uncertainty just a week before the election



Just six days before the first round of the French presidential election on 23rd April Emmanuel Macron (credited with 24% to 22%) leads in three pre-election polls published on 17th April ahead or equal to Marine Le Pen (23% to 22%). Then come François Fillon (between 21% to 19.5%) and Jean-Luc Mélenchon (19.5% to 18%)... [Read more](#)

CAP 2020: MPs of four European countries join forces



On 11th April the Chairs of the European Affairs and Agricultural Committees of Ireland, Italy, France and Poland adopted a joint declaration aiming to strengthen the CAP and to influence upcoming negotiations on the CAP 2020... [Read more](#)

[Other link](#)

Hungary :

Massive protests in Budapest



On 10th April Hungarian President Janos Ader promulgated a law obliging foreign universities to have a campus in their country of origin. The day before between 60,000 and 80,000 demonstrators protested against this bill in Budapest... [Read more](#)

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

Italy :

Meeting of G7 Foreign Affairs Ministers



On 10th and 11th April the Foreign Affairs Ministers of the G7 acknowledged the need to adopt to a changing international environment, which are influencing their interests and security. They adopted the Declaration on Responsible States Behaviour in Cyberspace and endorsed the G7 Statement on Non-proliferation and Disarmament... [Read more](#)

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

Italy adopts a plan to reduce the budgetary deficit



On 11th April the Italian government adopted reforms that aim to reduce the country's deficit by 3.4 billion €, in line with the requirements of the European Commission which had asked Italy to review its 2017 budget... [Read more](#)

[Other link](#)

G7 Energy: no agreement on climate change



On 9th and 10th April during the G7 Energy Ministers meeting the US expressed its reticence about the commitments made by the G7 during the signature of the Paris Agreement. As a result of this a joint declaration was not adopted... [Read more](#)

UK :

Snap election on 8th June



British Prime Minister Theresa May called on 18th April for a snap election to take place on 8th June. To validate the organisation of the election the Prime Minister still has to win the approval of parliament by a two-thirds majority... [Read more](#)



Albania :

Elections and boycott in Albania



The Albanian parliament will vote to elect a new president of the Republic on 19th April, two months before the general elections. The opposition's boycott of these elections is also preventing the launch of judicial reform deemed to be vital at the start of negotiations to join the EU with Brussels... [Read more](#)



Montenegro :

Accession Protocol NATO



On 11th April Donald Trump signed the USA's ratification instrument for the Membership of Montenegro to NATO. This followed the vote on 28th March on the Senate's approval in support of the ratification... [Read more](#)



Moldova :

EU Financial Assistance of 100 million €



On 12th April the Council decided to provide macro-financial assistance to Moldova to a maximum total of 100 million €, 60 million of which will be loans and 40 million will take the shape of subsidies... [Read more](#)



Turkey :

Constitutional referendum in Turkey



During a referendum on 16th April the Turks approved by a short majority (51.4% of the vote) the constitutional reform put forward by President Erdogan thereby establishing a presidential regime. This vote weakens the country and takes it away from Europe... [Read more](#)



Council of Europe :

Justice, Social Cohesion and the freedom of the media remain major challenges in Kosovo



The Commissioner for Human Rights, Nils Muižnieks, published a memorandum on 10th April indicating that justice, social cohesion and the freedom of the media remain major challenges in Kosovo... [Read more](#)



Supervision of the Decisions of the European Court of Human Rights



In order to improve the transparency of the execution process of judgments of the European Court of Human Rights, the Department for the Execution of Judgments of the Council of Europe has published country factsheets... [Read more](#)



UN :

Russian veto on the resolution condemning the chemical attacks in Syria



On 12th April Russia vetoed a UN resolution condemning the chemical attacks in Syria perpetrated by the Assad regime... [Read more](#)



NATO :

Multilateral agreement to counter hybrid threats

On 11th April several EU Member States and also that of NATO (Germany, USA, Finland, France, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, UK, Sweden) signed a protocol agreement in Helsinki for the creation of a



"European Centre of Excellence for Countering Hybrid Threats"... [Read more](#)

[Other link](#)

Visit to Washington by Jens Stoltenberg



NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg, who was visiting the US on 12th April said he was pleased with the country's continued commitment to the Alliance... [Read more](#)

[Other link](#)

OECD :

Employment rate up in the fourth quarter



According to an OECD press release published on 13th April the employment rate in the OECD area was up to 67.2%. Regarding the euro area it lay at 65.7%, up by 0.2% in comparison with the third quarter... [Read more](#)

Reduction in tax rates on income tax in the OECD



According to an OECD report published on 11th April, tax rates on labour incomes of a average worker in the OECD countries continued to decline for a third consecutive year in 2016, totalling 36% of labour costs... [Read more](#)

[Other link](#)

Migration :

Emergency relocation and the protection of children



On 12th April the Commission adopted its 11th report on the progress of relocation and emergency resettlement programmes. An action plan for improved protection of child migrants was adopted by the Commission... [Read more](#)

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

Italy adoption of a plan to receive migrants better but in fewer numbers



On 12th April the Italian Parliament finally adopted a plan for the improved reception of asylum seekers but which is designed to facilitate expulsions and halt arrivals. The plan aims for a maximum distribution around the country with a goal of 2.5 asylum seekers for every 1000 inhabitants... [Read more](#)

[Other link](#)

The HCR requests the suspension of asylum seekers being sent to Hungary



On 10th April the High Commission for Refugees (HCR) asked the "countries of the EU to stop temporarily sending all asylum seekers to Hungary" notably due to a new Hungarian law that orders the detention of asylum seekers, which is worsening a situation that is already difficult for the refugees living in the country... [Read more](#)

Studies/Reports :

Greece supported economically by tourism



The World Travel and Tourism Council indicated in its report on Greece that the total contribution of the tourist sector represented some 18.6% of the Greek GDP in 2016 (32.8 billion €). The Greek economy and employment therefore largely rely on this sector... [Read more](#)

British report on the referendum on 23rd June 2016



On 12th April a report by the British House of Commons pointed to certain dysfunctions in the organisation of the referendum on the Brexit on 23rd June 2016. Foreign interference (China and Russia are under suspicion) might have influenced the vote negatively. The collapse of the Home Office's website is said to have prevented tens of thousands of citizens from registering to vote on electoral sites... [Read more](#)

[Other link](#)

EU Justice Dashboard



On 10th April the Commission published its annual Justice Dashboard. This document aims to help national authorities improve their justice system by providing comparative data... [Read more](#)

[Other link](#)

More than two billion people use contaminated drinking water



According to a WHO report published on 13th April nearly 2 billion people in the world use contaminated drinking water... [Read more](#)

Publication :

How the United States of Europe can save France



Patrice Franceschi has published "Combattre!" with the Martinière publishing house - his work explains how the United States of Europe can save France... [Read more](#)

Culture :

Jazzkaar Festival in Estonia



From 21st to 30th April Estonia will be following the jazz beat with many concerts organised as part of the Jazzkaar Festival... [Read more](#)

Cambridge Literary Festival



The city of Cambridge is hosting the literary festival until 23rd April with meetings, thematic workshops on the art of reading and writing and the promotion of literature with some major names from the literary world and translation in participation... [Read more](#)

"Picasso Primitif" at the Quai Branly



The Quai Branly-Jacques Chirac Museum is running an exhibition until 23rd July showing the works of Picasso and his close links to the art of Africa, the Antipodes, Americas and Asia... [Read more](#)

Treasures from the Wreck of the Unbelievable - Damien Hirst



Damien Hirst

Damien Hirst is running an exhibition at the Palazzo Grassi and at the Punta della Dogana of Venice showing a major artistic project until 3rd December under the title of Treasures from the Wreck of the Unbelievable... [Read more](#)

Agenda :

21

21st-23rd April

Washington DC

Spring Session of the IMF and the World Bank

Apr



23rd April
France
Presidential election (1st round)

The Letter is also available in:



I love the Robert Schuman Foundation's Letter

The Letter's Editorial Team :

Charles de Marcilly, Helen Levy ;
Laurent Boulay, Hanna Létang, Béatrice Manole,
Elise Mathevon, Lorène Weber.

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.

You no longer wish to receive our letters. [{LINK}](#)