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issue 757

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Emmanuel Macron will face Marine Le Pen in the second round of the French Presidential election on 7th May next.

Author: Corinne Deloy



The first round of the French Presidential election took place on 23rd April. Emmanuel Macron (En Marche) came out ahead with 23.75% of the vote, ahead of the Front National candidate Marine Le Pen (21.53% of the vote). They will face each other in the second round that will take place on 7th May next.

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Foundation :

"For a few stars more ... Which European Policy for France?" has been published



The Chairman of the Foundation, Jean-Dominique Giuliani has published "For a few stars more... which European Policy for France?" An enlightening read one day after the first round of the French Presidential election regarding what the new president might be able to achieve... [Read more](#)

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



The "Schuman Report on the State of the Union 2017" published by Lignes de Repères in French and English, provides a view for a better understanding of the stakes and challenges faced by Europe. Available in bookshops or on the Foundation's site you will notably find an article on the Brexit written by Jean-Claude Piris. Order your copy now!.. [Read more](#)

Defending Europe to defend true sovereignty



Thierry Chopin, the Foundation's Studies Director has published a study showing that the themes at the heart of the presidential campaign in France all present a dimension which is as much European as it is national... [Read more](#)

The French and Europe



For the 60th anniversary of the treaties of Rome, the Foundation, the Figaro and IFOP carried out a survey regarding the French population's feeling about Europe... [Read more](#)

Financial Crisis :

Growth forecasts



Recovery in the euro zone remains modest as it faces the political uncertainty created by Brexit and upcoming elections estimated the IMF on 18th April which revised its 2017 growth forecasts upwards and left its 2018 forecast unchanged. World growth forecasts total 3.5% this year and 3.6% next year... [Read more](#)

Greek budgetary surplus of 3.9%



On 21st April Athens said that it had made a primary budgetary surplus of 3.9% in comparison with its GDP in 2016. Greece has made significant progress since its deficit totalled 2.3% in 2015... [Read more](#)

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Commission :

Initiative in support of the sustainable development of the blue economy in the Western Mediterranean



On 19th April the Commission launched an initiative for the sustainable development of the blue economy in the Western Mediterranean... [Read more](#)

6th report on progress made towards Security Union



On 19th April the Commission published its 6th report on the progress made in the introduction of a real and effective Security Union... [Read more](#)

Electronic certification system for organic products

On 18th April the Commission announced that a new electronic



certification system enabling greater control of organic product imports was entering into force on 19th April thereby making the EU a world leader in the area of the traceability and collation of reliable data on the trade of these products... [Read more](#)

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Parliament :

Antonio Tajani in London



The President of the European Parliament Antonio Tajani met British Prime Minister Ms May in London on 20th April notably to discuss the free movement of European citizens. "The priority is to defend citizens' rights," he declared... [Read more](#)

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Diplomacy :

7th strategic dialogue between the European Union and China



The High Representative Federica Mogherini advocated in Beijing on 20th April greater cooperation with China in response to "protectionism" and "confrontation" at a time when the American administration is challenging several pillars of multilateralism... [Read more](#)

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Federica Mogherini in India



On 21st April the High Representative Federica Mogherini spoke with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and notably of the partnership between India and the European Union... [Read more](#)

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Germany :

Inauguration of the Hannover Fair



On 23rd April Chancellor Angela Merkel inaugurated the Hannover Fair with Polish Prime Minister Beata Szydlo. This is the biggest industrial technology fair in the world. Ms Merkel gave a speech in support of free-trade... [Read more](#)

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Bulgaria :

Election of the leader of the National Assembly and the government coalition



On 19th April Dimitar Glavchev, a member of the GERB which won the most recent general elections in Bulgaria was elected leader of the Bulgarian Assembly. Moreover the government coalition led by Boyko Borissov (GERB) was approved, granting a place to the Patriotic Front (a coalition of nationalist parties) within the government... [Read more](#)

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Spain :

180 million € for Spain's digital economy



On 21st April the Spanish government announced that it was providing 180 million € to boost the country's digital economy. 100 million are devoted to broad band and 80 to the funding of R&D projects... [Read more](#)

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Estonia :

Strengthening NATO troop presence in Estonia

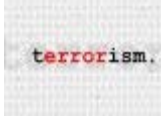


On 20th April the President of the Estonian Parliament Eiki Nestor inaugurated the entry into service of new NATO troops who arrived on the military airbase of Tapa. He said he was pleased with this strengthened allied force which is helping to cover the Alliance's eastern flank... [Read more](#)

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France :

Attack on the Champs-Élysées in Paris



On 21st April a shooting took place on the Champs-Élysées in Paris. A policeman was killed, two other policemen and one woman were injured. The attacker was shot dead. Islamic State claimed responsibility for the attack... [Read more](#)

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Italy :

Donald Trump defends Europe as he speaks to the Italian Prime Minister



On 20th April during a press conference with the Italian Prime Minister Paolo Gentiloni, the President of the USA, Donald Trump declared that it was "very important" to have a "strong Europe". He also maintained that the USA "would help it to be strong" and that this "would benefit everyone.".. [Read more](#)

The Netherlands :

Meeting between the Irish, Danish and Dutch Prime Ministers



On 20th April the Irish, Danish and Dutch Prime Ministers met in the Hague to discuss their joint positions regarding European issues. They notably discussed the Brexit and particularly their trade relations with the UK... [Read more](#)

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UK :

Parliament approves the snap election on 8th June



On 18th April British Prime Minister Theresa May announced a snap election that is to take place on 8th June. On 19th April the House of Commons approved the organisation of the election 522 votes against 13... [Read more](#)

Turkey :

Commemoration of the 102nd anniversary of the Armenian genocide 1915



24th April 1915 marked the beginning of a massacre that cost the lives of more than one million Armenians, who were murdered in Constantinople. Demonstrations and events are organised yearly to mark this official date... [Read more](#)

Ukraine :

Meeting between Theresa May and Petro Poroshenko



On 19th April British Prime Minister Theresa May hosted Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko. She recalled that the UK was aware of the Russian threat in Ukraine since the annexation of Crimea and emphasised the importance of maintaining sanctions against Russia... [Read more](#)

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The ICJ rejects Ukraine's request to condemn Russia



On 19th April the International Court of Justice did not condemn Russia for its support of separatist rebels as Ukraine had wished, due to a lack of evidence. However the ICJ did draw up some clear recommendations regarding Russia's interference, notably regarding the Tatars of Crimea... [Read more](#)

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Migration :

A world pact on migrations (IOM)

On 18th April William Lacy Swing, the IOM's Director General recalled the need to establish a World Pact for safe, orderly, legal migration



stating that man had succeeded in organising the free-movement of goods and capital and that world governance of migration would be to the benefit of all... [Read more](#)

Council of Europe :

What is the strength of the institutional balance of power in Europe?



The Secretary General of the Council of Europe published his 2017 report on 20th April regarding the state of democracy, human rights and the rule of law in Europe, notably raising the issue of populism on the continent... [Read more](#)

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The Council of Europe issues a warning about the situation of journalists



On 20th April the Council of Europe published a study indicating the situations experienced by many journalists in Europe, who are vulnerable to interference in their work, extending to violence in different shapes and forms... [Read more](#)

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GRECO report on Romania



On 18th April the organisation that counters corruption within the Council of Europe said it was concerned about the use of emergency procedures (and non parliamentary) to modify legislation in Romania. The report however welcomed the progress made regarding the criminalisation of corruption and the transparency of the financing of political parties... [Read more](#)

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Report on prison violence in the UK



On 19th April the anti-torture committee at the Council of Europe delivered an alarming report on prison violence in the UK... [Read more](#)

Eurostat :

Annual inflation rate slightly down



According to a Eurostat study published on 19th April the EU's annual inflation rate lay at 1.6% in March 2017 against 2% in February. That of the euro zone lay at 1.5% in March 2017 against 2% in February also... [Read more](#)

International goods trade surplus



According to a study published on 19th April by Eurostat the euro zone's international goods trade surplus totalled 17.8 billion euro in February 2017, that of the EU lay at 1.7 billion euro... [Read more](#)

Studies/Reports :

The most attractive countries in the world for investors



The A.T. Kearney consultancy published its annual Foreign Direct Investment Index 2017. The USA lies first, followed by Germany... [Read more](#)

The Netherlands, the most globalised country



According to the globalisation index of the KOF Research centre published on 20th April the degree of globalisation progressed in 2014 in contrast with 2013 and that there had been a clear development since 2007. The Netherlands are the most globalised, followed by Ireland and Belgium... [Read more](#)

Culture :

Literature festival Galway



Until 30th April the town of Galway, Ireland is hosting the annual "Cúirt" literature festival with readings, debates, signing sessions and writing workshops... [Read more](#)

Cheltenham Jazz Festival



From 26th April to May 1st the town of Cheltenham will be hosting its annual jazz festival with concerts performed by artists of world renown, but also by the best emerging musicians... [Read more](#)

goEast Festival - Wiesbaden



The town Wiesbaden (Germany) is turned into the marketplace of the cinema of Central and Eastern Europe with the screening of 140 films, documentaries and short-films between 26th April and 2nd May... [Read more](#)

Celtic and Gaelic Festival



From 27th April to May 1st a Celtic and Gaelic cultural festival, the "Feile na Bealtaine" will be taking place on the Dingle Peninsula, Ireland... [Read more](#)

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Exhibition of the Hispanic Treasures of America



The Prado Museum of Madrid is hosting an exhibition until 9th October with 200 works of art that have been lent by the museum and library of the Hispanic Society to promote the Hispanic culture and art in the USA... [Read more](#)

Art Cologne



Art Cologne, the grand contemporary art fair, brings together many gallery owners from 26th to 29th April in Cologne... [Read more](#)

Paris Tokyo Exhibition at the Orangerie in Paris



The Orangerie Museum in Paris is running an exhibition until 21st August entitled Tokyo-Paris, notably featuring the masterpieces of the Bridgestone Museum in Tokyo and the collection of the Ishibashi Foundation... [Read more](#)

Agenda :



25th April 2017
Luxembourg
General Affairs Council (Cohesion)



27th April 2017
Luxembourg
General Affairs Council (Article 50)
Frankfurt
ECB Council of Governors



29th April 2017
Extraordinary European Council Meeting (Article 50)

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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.

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