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The Letter in PDF format

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Declaration of 9 may



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Front page! :

9th May - it's Europe Day



On 9th May we shall be celebrating the 67th anniversary of the Robert Schuman Declaration, in reference to 9th May 1950, when Robert Schuman the then French Foreign Affairs Minister launched the construction of the European Community. On this occasion, everywhere across Europe, we shall be celebrating Europe Day. Many European towns and regions are organising all kinds of festivities (concerts, conferences, visits, exhibitions etc ...). Find an event near you. Read Robert Schuman's works. Test your knowledge of Europe... [Read more](#)

Foundation :

"For a few stars more ... Which European policy for France?"

The Chairman of the Foundation, Jean-Dominique Giuliani has published



"Pour quelques étoiles de plus... Quelle politique européenne pour la France ?". An enlightening read after the French Presidential election in order to understand what the new president, Emmanuel Macron, might do... [Read more](#)

What new chapter for France and Europe?



Jean-Dominique Giuliani, Chairman of the Foundation and Jean-Daniel Levy, Director of the Opinion-Political Department at Harris Interactive Institute, will be exchanging views during a debate moderated by Marc Mossé, Director for EU Government Affairs Microsoft on 10th May in Brussels - the focus will be on the political situation in France just after the presidential election... [Read more](#)

The end of the eurosceptic lie



In an editorial on his site Jean-Dominique Giuliani, interprets the election of Emmanuel Macron as President of the French Republic as point marking the end of eurosceptic lies... [Read more](#)

The "Schuman Report on Europe, State of the Union 2017" available in paper and digital version



"The Robert Schuman on the State of the Union" 2017 published by Lignes de Repères in French and English provides a better understanding of European challenges and issues. It is available in bookshops and on the Foundation's site and also in digital version... [Read more](#)

Commission :

Recommendation on the withdrawal procedure of the UK from the European Union



On 3rd May the European Commission addressed a recommendation to the Council in view of the launch of negotiations in virtue of article 50 with the UK... [Read more](#)

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Towards simpler and more effective derivatives rules



On 4th May the European Commission put forward targeted reforms designed to improve the functioning of the derivatives market in the European Union... [Read more](#)

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New measures to improve the respect of the rules and real functioning of the Single Market



On 2nd May measures were adopted to enable private parties and businesses to regulate their administrative formalities on line, whether this is in their own country or when they are working, living or doing business in another EU country... [Read more](#)

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Anti-trust practices: the Commission accepts Amazon's commitments



On 4th May the European Commission adopted a decision making the commitments made by Amazon legally binding. The commitments address the Commission's preliminary competition concerns relating to a number of clauses in Amazon's distribution agreements with e-book publishers in Europe... [Read more](#)

Schengen: the Commission suggests ending border controls in November



On 2nd May the European Commission suggested that the exceptional dispensations granted since 2015 to European countries that face high influx of migrants are brought to an end in November as far as internal border controls in Schengen are concerned... [Read more](#)

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Visa Waiver: the Commission dismisses reprisals against the USA and Canada



On 2nd May the Commission responded to the Parliament's resolution inviting it to adopt a delegated act that aimed to suspend the visa waiver granted to American and Canadian citizens. Deeming that there had been significant progress it rejected the Parliament's proposal, suggesting that it would be counter-productive in transatlantic relations... [Read more](#)

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Jordan and the EU open up new trade and economic opportunities



On 4th May the European Union and Jordan stepped up their close partnership during a joint high level meeting organised to promote trade, business and investment development possibilities in Jordan... [Read more](#)

Council :

Agreement on new measures to counter Chinese dumping



The 28 Member States agreed on 3rd May regarding new anti-dumping measures drafted in November by the European executive that mainly target but do not name China and its low cost exports... [Read more](#)

Diplomacy :

Strengthened partnership with Africa



On 4th May the Commission and the High Representative established the political priorities of a strengthened partnership with Africa as part of the EU-Africa strategy... [Read more](#)

Council of the European Union/Africa-Caribbean-Pacific



On 4th and 5th May the EU-ACP Council of Ministers focused on the sustainable development programme on the horizon of 2030, climate change, cooperation for the financing of development and trade cooperation... [Read more](#)

Germany :

Meeting between Angela Merkel and Vladimir Putin



On 2nd May German Chancellor Angela Merkel met Russian President Vladimir Putin in Sochi. During this first visit to Russia since 2015 she emphasised the preparation of the G20 Summit in Hamburg on 7th and 8th July and also international issues, including the Ukrainian and Chechnya... [Read more](#)

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Business 20 meeting in support of free-trade



The Chair of Business 20 (B20), Jürgen Herhaus, declared on 3rd May that "employers are calling on the G20 to influence globalisation with greater courage." The B20 wants the G20 to state clearly that they are in support of free-trade... [Read more](#)

The CDU comes out ahead in the election in the Land of Schleswig-Holstein



5.9%... [Read more](#)

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Bulgaria :

New Bulgarian government led by Boyko Borissov



On 4th May the Bulgarian Parliament approved 133 votes in support 100 against the third government to be led by Boyko Borissov (GERB). This government includes 20 ministers five of whom are women and 4 ministers are from the three nationalist parties represented in Parliament... [Read more](#)

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Denmark :

Denmark is no longer a full member of Europol



EUROPOL

Since May 1st Denmark is no longer full member of Europol, the date when the European police agency's new mandate (rejected by the Danes in a referendum in 2015) entered into force. Denmark now enjoys observer status and signed a cooperation agreement with the agency in order to take part in information sharing and protection of access to its police databases... [Read more](#)

France :

Launch of Ariane



On 4th May Ariane 5 launched two Brazilian and Korean telecommunications satellites into orbit... [Read more](#)

Czech Republic :

The Prime Minister withdraws his resignation and wants to dismiss Andrej Babis



On 2nd May Czech Prime Minister Bohuslav Sobotka announced his resignation. But on 5th he indicated that he would not in fact hand in his resignation and instead aims to dismiss Andrej Babis, the leader of ANO, who is notably suspected of tax fraud, of his function as Minister of Finance... [Read more](#)

Romania :

The law is unrelenting regarding convicted political leaders



On 4th May the Romanian Constitutional Court upheld its ban on convicted political leaders from entering government. The nine judges of the Court have over the past few months rejected a decision regarding this sensitive issue, to the backdrop of strong turnout by the Romanians in the fight to counter corruption... [Read more](#)

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UK :

British parliament dissolved



On 3rd May the British Parliament was dissolved according to the law, i.e. 25 working days before the snap election on 8th June next. British Prime Minister Theresa May went to Buckingham Palace to ask Queen Elizabeth permission to dissolve parliament... [Read more](#)

Sweden :

Sweden ends systematic ID checks on its borders



On 2nd May Sweden announced the end of systematic ID control on its border with Denmark. These controls were initially introduced in January 2016 to stem the influx of refugees. At the same time the government decided to strengthen police presence and customs staff to monitor this border... [Read more](#)

Council of Europe :

The Council of Europe adopts a new convention for the protection of cultural goods



On 3rd May the Council of Europe adopted a new convention that aims to prevent and counter the illegal trafficking and destruction of cultural goods as part of the work by the Organisation for the fight to counter terrorism and organised crime... [Read more](#)

Public radiobroadcasting services under threat in Europe



On 2nd May the Council of Europe published a report notably showing that in the countries in which public radiobroadcasting companies are appreciated by the population and which have the necessary sources, "rightwing extremism and corruption are less developed and the freedom of the press is doing a great deal better.".. [Read more](#)

Eurostat :

GDP up both in the EU and in the euro zone



According to a Eurostat study dated 3rd May the GDP is up by 0.5% in the euro zone and by 0.4% in the EU, ie 1.7% and 1.9% respectively in comparison with the first quarter of 2016... [Read more](#)

Eurobarometer :

Europeans support the EU's roles in terms of humanitarian crisis management



According to a Eurobarometer survey dated 3rd May 2017 88% of those interviewed thought it important for the European Union to finance emergency humanitarian aid. And more than half (56%) thought that their State did not have the means to face the most recent humanitarian crises... [Read more](#)

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Studies/Reports :

Labour shortages looming in Central and Eastern Europe



According to a study by Coface published on 2nd May labour shortages (qualified staffs shortages) in Central and Eastern Europe may impede growth in the long term. These countries are refusing to accept immigrants but birthrates remain low (1.3 children per women) and emigration has been high since 1990 (20 million people)... [Read more](#)

Publication of the report on European policy



On 4th May the 10th annual report devoted to European Policy has just been adopted by the government. This report aims to "make European files of the past year accessible to the public, in subjects that are of specific interest for Luxembourg.".. [Read more](#)

Culture :

House of European History



Since May 6th the "House of European History" has been open to the public in Brussels on the initiative of the European Parliament. This

museum is devoted to the past but also to the future and offers a chronological, transnational vision of "European integration"... [Read more](#)

Gerhard Richer in Prague



The National Gallery of Prague is hosting the biggest retrospective of Gerhard Richter's work ever organised in Central and Eastern Europe until 3rd September. It is showing several dozen works by the artist including photographic paintings, portraits, landscapes, realist and abstract works in the Kinsky Palace and the Saint-Agnes Convent... [Read more](#)

Opening of the 57th International Art Biennale in Venice



The 57th edition of the Venice Biennale, otherwise known as "Viva Arte Viva" is opening its doors from 13th May to 26th November. On the programme there are art and architecture exhibitions, cinema, dance, music, theatre and the presentation of some archives... [Read more](#)

Nordic Media Festival in Bergen



From 10th to 12th May the town of Bergen in Norway is hosting the "Nordiske Mediedager" - a Nordic media festival which calls for thought, discussions and debate regarding new media trends for professionals, students and the general public... [Read more](#)

Jazz in Saint-Germain-des-Près



The Jazz festival of Saint-Germain-des-Paris is putting on many concerts from 11th to 21st May but also exhibitions devoted to this musical genre... [Read more](#)

International Book Fair Prague



From 11th to 14th May Prague is hosting "Book World", its international book fair that brings together more than 600 exhibitors from around 20 countries. Debates and signings with authors, reading sessions and workshops are all on the programme... [Read more](#)

Agenda :



9th May
Europe Day





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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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