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The Letter in PDF format

The Foundation on



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"The British General Election will be decided more on domestic issues rather than the Brexit"

Author: Pauline Schnapper



"The British general elections will be decided on domestic issues rather than on the Brexit."

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Elections :

Joseph Muscat's Labour Party wins the general elections in Malta



Outgoing Prime Minister Joseph Muscat's Labour Party (MLP) came out ahead in the snap election that took place on 3rd June in Malta. With 55.04% of the vote he beat his main rival, the National Party (PN) led by Simon Busuttil, who won 43.68% of the vote... [Read more](#)

Foundation :

"Profiling the European Union in Times of Change"



Jean-Dominique Giuliani, the Foundation's Chairman, is speaking on 9th June at a conference organised by the Konrad-Adenauer Foundation in Lisbon entitled "Profiling the European Union in Times of Change".. [Read more](#)

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



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

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



The Foundation's Chairman, Jean-Dominique Giuliani has published "Pour quelques étoiles de plus... Quelle politique européenne pour la France ?" An enlightening read after the first weeks in office for the new head of the French State who clearly shows his determination to encourage resolutely European action... [Read more](#)

Conference on the French elections in Brussels



On 7th June, together with the Hanns Seidel Foundation, the Robert Schuman Foundation is organising a debate on the result of the elections in France and the consequences of this for the EU with Pascale Joannin, the Foundation's General Manager in attendance... [Read more](#)

Commission :

Project to deepen the economic and monetary Union



On 31st May the European Commission presented his thoughts on the future of the Economic and Monetary Union in three areas: financial union, more integrated economic and fiscal union and the enhancement of democratic legitimacy of the euro zone's institutions... [Read more](#)

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The Commission proposes its draft 2018 budget



On 30th May the Commission presented its draft 2018 budget which lies at 161 billion euro in commitments in view of fostering the creation of a greater number of jobs, particularly for young people and to stimulate growth and strategic investments... [Read more](#)

Progress on the digital single market



On 29th May the Commission, the Council and the Parliament came to an agreement on the Wifi4eu project that is due to establish free Wifi in all public places in local communities... [Read more](#)

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Support to the European capital market



On 30th May the Commission, the Council and the Parliament agreed to support the securitisation market in order to improve access to loans for households and businesses and to diversify investment opportunities... [Read more](#)

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Initiatives for Youth and Education



On 30th May the Commission adopted new initiatives focusing on education. It notably adopted a proposal on the follow-up to be given to diplomas to help Member States collate information on the potential outlets for their courses of study... [Read more](#)

Modernising European mobility and transport

On 31st May the European Commission took measures in view of modernising European mobility and transport, the aim being to help the sector remain competitive whilst guaranteeing a socially fair transition



toward clean energy and digitalisation... [Read more](#)

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Parliament :

VAT reduction on e-books



In a resolution dated 31st May MEPS adopted the European Commission's proposal, 590 votes in support, 8 against, providing Member States with the opportunity of applying a reduced VAT rate on e-books, thereby aligning this with the VAT set on printed matter... [Read more](#)

Further support to development



The EU's new global development policy, which aims to respond to problems linked to climate change, migration and security was adopted by MEPs on June 1st... [Read more](#)

5G Internet connectivity for growth, competitiveness and cohesion



On June 1st MEPs approved a resolution 516 votes in support, 65 against, in support of greater cooperation between Member States in terms of the development of 5G... [Read more](#)

Council :

Conservation of Atlantic Tunas: integration into European Law



On 31st May the Council agreed with the European Parliament to integrate measures adopted by the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas into EU law... [Read more](#)

Conclusions of the Competitiveness Council



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On 30th May the 28 Ministers responsible for Competitiveness adopted the conclusions on the European strategy for space, industrial policy, professional mobility, corporate tax evasion, the reform of the rules regarding type-approval and market surveillance for motor vehicles...

Diplomacy :

EU-China Summit



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On 1st and 2nd June the President of the European Council Donald Tusk, the President of the European Commission, Jean-Claude Juncker and Chinese Prime Minister Li Keqiang took part in the 19th bilateral EU-China summit. There was no joint press release but both sides have tightened dialogue over competition... [Read more](#)

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Relations with India



Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi travelled to Europe and met German Chancellor Angela Merkel, followed by Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy and French President Emmanuel Macron... [Read more](#)

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European response to the US withdrawal from the Paris Agreement



In a joint declaration the French President, the German Chancellor and the President of the Italian Council responded to the US President D. Trump's decision to withdraw from the Paris Climate Agreement. They declared that they were sorry at the decision and repeated that the Agreement was irreversible and could not be renegotiated... [Read more](#)

Germany :**Meeting between the German Chancellor and the Chinese Prime Minister**

On 31st May German Chancellor Angela Merkel hosted her Chinese counterpart Li Keqiang. This was Mr Li's third visit to Germany since his entry into office in 2013. On this occasion China repeated its commitments regarding the climate... [Read more](#)

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Spain :**Summit between Spain and Portugal**

On 29th May Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy hosted his Portuguese counterpart Antonio Costa in Salamanca. The two men discussed cross-border cooperation and energy interconnection... [Read more](#)

France :**Meeting between Emmanuel Macron and Vladimir Putin**

On 29th May French President Emmanuel Macron hosted his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin for the very first at the Versailles Palace. They had a frank, direct dialogue on all issues (Ukraine, Syria etc ...).. [Read more](#)

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Ireland :**Leo Varadkar, leader of Fine Gael**

38 year-old Leo Varadkar, was appointed head of the Irish party Fine Gael on 2nd June with 60% of the vote against his rival Simon Coveney. He will take over from Enda Kenny as Prime Minister in ten days' time... [Read more](#)

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Italy :**Meeting Justin Trudeau and Paolo Gentiloni**

On 30th May Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau met his Italian counterpart Paolo Gentiloni in Rome. The two leaders explored the means possible to tighten bilateral relations between Canada and Italy. Mr. Trudeau then went to the Vatican... [Read more](#)

Lithuania :**Lithuania is building a fence on its border with the enclave Kaliningrad**

On 5th June, to a backdrop of high tension with Moscow, Lithuania started building a fence along its border with the highly militarised Russian enclave of Kaliningrad, to strengthen national security and to prevent contraband... [Read more](#)

The Netherlands :**EU-Ukraine association agreement approved by the Senate in the Netherlands**

On 30th May the Netherlands' Senate approved the compromise on the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement. The Netherlands was the only country not yet to have signed the agreement... [Read more](#)

UK :**Publication of guidelines for the Brexit negotiations**

On 29th May the European Commission published guidelines on the negotiations with the UK regarding the issue of rights of the Union's citizens and of British citizens and regarding the issue of financial regulation... [Read more](#)

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Terrorist attack in London



On 3rd June a terrorist attack, the responsibility of which was claimed by IS, took place in London, on London Bridge and in Borough Market. The present number of deaths is 7 with 48 injured, all of different nationalities. The international community, particularly the European leaders, expressed their support to the British and re-asserted their commitment in the fight to counter terrorism... [Read more](#)

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Slovakia :

Slovakian Mr Lajcak elected next president of the UN General Assembly



Slovakian Miroslav Lajcak was elected as the next President of the UN's General Assembly on 31st May. His priorities are: placing priority on people, the prevention of and mediation in support of sustainable peace, migration and the ongoing World Migration Pact process, the climate and Human Rights... [Read more](#)

Macedonia :

New Prime Minister in Macedonia



The Macedonian Parliament elected Zoran Zaev as Prime minister on 31st May - with the support of his party and those representing the Albanian minority. This new government was established 6 months after the general elections... [Read more](#)

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Montenegro :

Montenegro becomes NATO's 29th country



On 5th June Montenegro became NATO's 29th country. This is the first NATO enlargement since Albania and Croatia's accession in 2009... [Read more](#)

Serbia :

Investiture of the new Serb President



Former Serb Prime Minister Aleksandar Vucic was officially invested as president of Serbia on 31st May. With a score of 56% he won the presidential election on 2nd April... [Read more](#)

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Migration :

Right to residence in the Union



On 30th May Yves Bot, the Advocate General of the ECJ deemed that " a non-EU national may benefit from a right of residence in the Member State in which his EU citizen family member resided before acquiring the nationality of that Member State and developing a family life there... [Read more](#)

New Swiss law on asylum



Nils Muižnieks, the Human Rights Commissioner at the Council of Europe said he was pleased with the progress made regarding the new asylum law in Switzerland... [Read more](#)

Eurostat :

EU/China Trade Relations



According to a Eurostat study released on 1st June China is the EU's second trade partner after the US (15% of European exports in 2016 against 10% in 2006 and 20% of European imports against 14% in 2006)... [Read more](#)

Unemployment and inflation down



According to a Eurostat study published on 31st May unemployment lay at 9.8% in the EU and 9.3% in April 2017 in the euro zone, down in comparison with the figures recorded in April 2016. The annual inflation rate in the euro zone has been estimated at 1.4% in May against 1.9% in April 2017... [Read more](#)

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Eurostat annual report on Social Europe



On 5th June Eurostat published its annual report regarding the monitoring of Social Europe in view of the goals of the Europe 2020 Strategy. No progress has been made since 2010 in terms of reducing inequalities... [Read more](#)

Studies/Reports :

WTO's 2017 Report



On 31st May the WTO published its annual report in which it "reviews a year marked by the entry into force of the Trade Facilitation Agreement and an important amendment to the WTO's intellectual property agreement... [Read more](#)

The fight to counter capital laundering and the funding of terrorism in 2016



On 30th May MONEYVAL, the body at the Council of Europe responsible for the fight to counter capital laundering and the financing of terrorism published its annual report 2016... [Read more](#)

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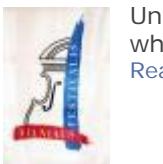
Culture :

Cartoon film festival Animafest in Zagreb



Until 10th June the cartoon film festival Animafest is taking place in Zagreb. Created in 1972 it screens films of extremely different styles for both adults and as well as children... [Read more](#)

Vilnius Music Festival



Until 22nd June the 20th Vilnius Music Festival is taking place in Lithuania which is reputed for its musical programme (from classical to jazz music)... [Read more](#)

Rock Festival on the Isle of Wight



From 8th to 11th June, the Isle of Wight is launching the season of "England Rocks" festivals with pop and rock concerts... [Read more](#)

Sweden Rock Festival



From 7th to 10th June the biggest Swedish rock festival will be taking place in Sölvesborg. All kinds of rock music will be played there and over 70 groups and artists have been invited... [Read more](#)

International tango festival in Lisbon

Discover the magic of tango in Lisbon, as part of the International



Festival from 7th to 11th June. This festival offers a splendid panel of artists, an orchestra - Tango of Buenos Aires and renowned international teachers for shows and astounding workshops... [Read more](#)

European media are concerned about the revision of the ePrivacy directive



In an open letter addressed to the Council and the European Parliament, around thirty editors from the European press said they wanted a revision of the draft directive regarding personal data. This future directive would offer each internet user the possibility of deciding, on his first connection, whether to accept cookies or not...

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Derain, Balthus, Giacometti at the Museum of Modern Art in Paris



Until 29th October the Museum of Modern Art in Paris is running a unique exhibition exploring the friendship between three major artists of the 20th century: André Derain, Balthus and Alberto Giacometti... [Read more](#)

Giacometti at the Tate Modern



The Tate Modern in London is hosting more than 250 works of sculptor and painter Alberto Giacometti until 10th September... [Read more](#)

Agenda :



8th June

Tallinn
ECB Governors' Council
UK
General Elections



8th and 9th June

Luxembourg
"Justice and Internal Affairs" Council
Luxembourg
"Transport, Telecommunications and Energy" Council



11th June

France
General Election (1st Round)



12th June

Luxembourg
"Agriculture and Fisheries" Council

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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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