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The Letter in PDF format

The Foundation on



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We have reached a crucial moment for European Defence



The Foundation publishes an exclusive interview with Jorge DOMECQ, executive director of the European Defense Agency (EDA). He discusses recent developments and dynamics of common security and the challenges of Brexit, cyber security, and maritime surveillance.

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Front page! :

End of roaming fees in the European Union



On 15th June Europeans using their mobile phone in another Member State will no longer more extra costs, but the same price as if they were in their own country. It is the end of roaming fees - a step forward for the citizens of Europe... [Read more](#)

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Goodbye to Anglo-Saxon Hegemony?



Jean-Dominique Giuliani published an editorial in which he reflects on the decline of Anglo-Saxon leadership in international affairs... [Read more](#)

Elections :

Victory for the "République en Marche!" in the French General Election



The République en Marche (LREM) easily won the general election in France. In the second round of voting on 18th June LREM won 43.06% of the vote and 306 seats, ie the absolute majority (289 seats). Its partner, MoDem won 6.06% of the vote and 42 seats. The Republicans (LR) won 22.23% of the vote and 113 seats (-81). Their allies of the Democrat and Independent Union (UDI) won 3.04% of the vote and 17 seats. The Front National (FN) won 8.75% of the vote and 8 seats (+6). France Unbowed (LFI) won 4.86% of the vote and 17 seats. The Communist Party (PCF) won 1.20% of the vote and 10 seats. The Socialist Party (PS) with 5.68% of the vote and 29 seats (-251) suffered the worst defeat in its entire history. Turnout was also the lowest ever recorded: 42.64% of the electorate went to ballot... [Read more](#)

Foundation :

Read the article about the Brexit in the Schuman Report on Europe, State of the Union 2017



Whilst negotiations opened on 19th June between the EU and the UK over the country's exit of the EU, the Foundation invites you to read the article by Jean-Claude Piris. The "Schuman Report on the State of the Union" 2017 published by Lignes de Repères in French and English offers many interesting articles. Order your copy on line now!.. [Read more](#)

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Financial Crisis :

3rd aid plan for Greece



On 15th June the 19 Finance Ministers of the Eurogroup came to agreement over the sustainability of the Greek public debt. 8.5 billion € were granted to the Greek authorities for the third rescue plan. The IMF gave its "Agreement of Principle"... [Read more](#)

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GDP growth in the first quarter 2017



On 15th June the OECD published data regarding the G20 countries' GDP. Growth totalled 3.4% in the first quarter... [Read more](#)

Commission :

The Commission celebrates Erasmus's 30th birthday



On 13th June the European Union celebrated 30 years of its programme of study periods of abroad "Erasmus" from which 9 million people have already benefited. On this occasion the Commission will also launch a new mobile app Erasmus+ to facilitate administrative procedures, sharing integration advice, improving linguistic competences... [Read more](#)

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Four report on progress in terms of migration



On 13th June the Commission presented four reports on migration to stabilise migratory flows and to improve the management of the external borders. On 14th June it also launched infringement procedures against Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic for not having respected their legal obligations... [Read more](#)

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Brexit: Brussels addresses compensation

On 13th June the European Commission proposed new rules that might lead to the transfer towards the European continent of some of



London's financial activities after the Brexit to the greatest disappointment of the City... [Read more](#)

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New horizons in the European drone industry



On 16th June SESAR (Single European Sky Air Research), which was asked by the Commission to develop a new generation system for the management of air traffic unveiled a blueprint of a concept that aims to make the use of drones in low-level airspace safe, secure and environment friendly... [Read more](#)

Parliament :

Assessment of progress in the Western Balkans



In a resolution adopted on 14th June MEPs welcomed the improvement in relations between Belgrade and Pristina as well as the progress made in the adoption of EU law... [Read more](#)

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Reductions in differences between men and women's pensions



On 14th June MEPs adopted a resolution to reduce the 38% difference between men and women's retirement pensions... [Read more](#)

Reduction of carbon emissions and new energy scale



On 13th June MEPs gave the greenlight for a new, stricter energy scale that will be introduced at the end of 2019 at the earliest. On 14th June they adopted a report in support of new rules to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to guarantee the respect of the Paris Agreement... [Read more](#)

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Council :

Conclusions of the European Foreign Affairs Ministers Meeting



On 19th June the Foreign Affairs Ministers extended the restrictive measures adopted in response to the illegal annexation of Crimea and Sebastopol by Russia until 23rd June 2018. They approved the introduction of a framework for a diplomatic response to cyber attacks and to counter terrorism... [Read more](#)

Jont meeting between the European and American Justice Ministers



On 16th June in Valletta a meeting between the US Department of Justice and the European Home Affairs Ministers took place. They repeated that they wanted to cooperate to rise to joint security challenges... [Read more](#)

Financial assistance for Moldova



On 15th June the Council came to an agreement with the European Parliament regarding financial assistance for Moldova. 100 million € will be granted for the stabilisation of the economy and for structural reform... [Read more](#)

Conclusions of the "Economic and Financial Affairs" Council



On 16th June the Economy and Finance Ministers ended procedures targeting Croatia and Portugal for the excessive deficit, they adopted economic and fiscal recommendations per country for 2017 and discussed the reduction of risk in the banking industry... [Read more](#)

Conclusions of the European Environment Ministers



On 19th June the Environment Ministers gave their conclusions regarding the EU's action plan for the environment, the population and the economy. They also reiterated their support for the Paris Agreement, which they deem non-negotiable, and the Union's attachment to the fight to counter global warming... [Read more](#)

Conclusions of the "Employment, social policy, healthcare and consumer" Council



On 16th June the Employment and Healthcare Ministers debated the revision of the posted workers directive and discussed carcinogenic agents that workers are exposed to as well as child obesity... [Read more](#)

Court of Justice :

The free provision of services does not apply between Gibraltar and the UK



According to an ECJ decision dated 13th June service provision undertaken by operators in Gibraltar and provided to people in the UK are deemed as service provision taking place in one and the same Member State although the Court confirms that Gibraltar is not part of the UK... [Read more](#)

Germany :

Passing of Helmut Kohl, former German Chancellor



German Chancellor for 16 years from 1982 to 1998 and craftsman of the German reunification, Helmut Kohl passed away on 16th June aged 87. Tributes were made to him from around the world... [Read more](#)

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G20: developing investment in Africa



On 12th, 13th and 14th June, several African leaders travelled to Berlin since Germany wanted to take the opportunity of its presidency of the G20 to attract investments towards Africa, a necessary state to reduce migration towards Europe... [Read more](#)

Denmark :

New strategy for new challenges



On 14th June the Danish Development and Foreign Affairs Ministers announced the introduction of a new strategy linked amongst other things to migration, defence, to the future of the EU, to globalisation, thereby responding to the challenges of a "very different world just three or four years ago"... [Read more](#)

Spain :

Meeting between Mariano Rajoy and Emmanuel Macron



On 16th June the Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy met with French President Emmanuel Macron to discuss bilateral relations, the fight to counter terrorism, Brexit and the European Council of 22nd and 23rd June... [Read more](#)

France :

European Working Method



On 14th June during the Council of Ministers the French government presented the European working method. There is no longer a public field of action without a European dimension. It is at Union level that vital negotiations for the country will be undertaken, therefore demanding permanent political commitment on the part of each minister... [Read more](#)

International aeronautics and space show at the Bourget



Until 25th June the 52nd International Aeronautics and Space Show is taking place at the Bourget Exhibition Centre. It brings together industrial players from the around the world focusing on technological innovations. The first four days of the show are reserved for professionals followed by three days for the general public... [Read more](#)

Ireland :

Leo Varadkar, Irish Prime Minister



On 14th June following the resignation of Enda Kenny at the end of May Leo Varadkar became Taoiseach of the Republic of Ireland after a vote by the Irish Parliament and having taken over as leader of the party Fine Gael. He promised to form "a government that is neither on the right or the left"... [Read more](#)

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Romania :

Resignations of Romanian Ministers



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During a meeting on 14th June the Romanian Social Democratic Party decided to withdraw its support from the government in office due to the poor implementation of the programme. Following the resignation of the ministers Prime Minister Sorin Grindeanu, refused to follow suite. A motion of no confidence was delivered for 21st June... [Read more](#)

UK :

Meeting between Emmanuel Macron and Theresa May



On 13th June French President Emmanuel Macron hosted British Prime Minister Theresa May. During their joint press conference they announced a joint action plan to strengthen the fight to combat terrorism and communicated about the Brexit... [Read more](#)

The Scottish and Welsh governments write to David Davis



On 15th June the governments of Scotland and Wales addressed a joint letter to the Secretary of State for the Brexit, David Davis asking to be represented in the negotiations with the EU. They notably ask for regular meetings of the "Joint Ministerial Committee" between the British government and the decentralised governments of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland... [Read more](#)

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Launch of negotiations over the Brexit



On 19th June negotiations over the Brexit officially started. The EU and the UK agreed on priorities and the Brexit negotiation calendar, after the first meeting between the negotiators from both sides in Brussels. Negotiations will take place in monthly sessions, between 17th July and 9th October next in working groups that will address citizens rights, the financial agreement and "other issues that arise due to the separation".. [Read more](#)

Macedonia :**Macedonia hopes to relaunch EU negotiations**

Following a visit to Brussels on 12th June where he met Johannes Hahn, the European Enlargement and European Neighbourhood Policy Commissioner, Macedonian Prime Minister Zoran Zayev said he wanted to continue negotiations regarding joining the EU... [Read more](#)

Russia :**Austria and Germany denounce American sanctions against Nordstream2**

Further sanctions approved on 15th June by the American Senate against Moscow are not to the taste of the German Foreign Affairs Minister since they target European companies that are to participate in the gas pipeline project Nordstream2. In a joint press release with the Austrian Chancellor Christian Kern, Sigmar Gabriel notes that if these sanctions are successful, the European companies involved in certain energy projects would have to pay fines... [Read more](#)

Ukraine :**Visa free travel for Ukrainians as of 11th June**

On 12th June the visa exemption for Ukrainians who want to travel for a short stay in the EU became applicable. All Ukrainians with a biometric passport will be able to travel to an EU State for up to 90 days maximum over an 180 day period... [Read more](#)

Council of Europe :**The European Union signs the Istanbul Convention at the Council of Europe**

On 13th June the European Union signed the Convention on the Prevention against violence perpetrated against women and domestic violence (Istanbul Convention) of the Council of Europe... [Read more](#)

Turkey: not compliant with the Council of Europe's anti-corruption recommendations

The Council of Europe's anti-corruption group (GRECO) published an interim compliance report on 12th June on Turkey. This report focuses on the country's compliance with the 17 recommendations adopted in March 2010 regarding "incrimination" and the "transparency in the financing of politics" which overall is still "insufficient"... [Read more](#)

Eurostat :**Annual inflation rate slightly down**

According to a Eurostat study on 16th June the EU's annual inflation rate lay at 1.6% and that of the euro zone at 1.4% in May 2017... [Read more](#)

Surplus of 17.9 billion € in the euro zone's international goods trade

According to a Eurostat study published on 15th June the export of goods from the euro zone to the rest of the world lay at 167.7 billion €. Imports from the rest of the world lay at 149.8 billion €. The euro zone recorded a surplus of 17.9 billion € in April 2017... [Read more](#)

Studies/Reports :**New outlook for the labour market**

Digital economy and society in the EU



On 16th June Eurostat published "Digital Economy and Society in the EU". The publication is divided in four parts: "Profile of digital society and businesses", "E-commerce", "Internet Security and the Cloud" as well as "What is the Digital Single Market about"?.. [Read more](#)

Cohesion Policy



The Council of European Municipalities and Regions and the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions are calling to secure the regional policy budget, that is under threat in the context of the Brexit and have put forward recommendations regarding the Cohesion Policy post-2020... [Read more](#)

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Culture :

Glastonbury Festival



From 21st to 25th June the town of Glastonbury is hosting its historic festival - founded in 1970 and which brings together various types of music and the performing arts such as dance, comedy, theatre, circus, cabaret etc ... More than 170,000 visitors are expected to attend... [Read more](#)

Lent Festival at Maribor



From 23rd June to 1st July, the Lent Festival will be the venue for many types of music that will echo in the hearts of all of those who go to Slovenia for this event... [Read more](#)

Music Festival in France



On 21st June France will be transformed with its annual music festival, as it pays tribute to the first day of the summer. The streets and public places in France will be transformed for a day and one night into concert halls. The programmes can be found in the regional press and information in the town halls... [Read more](#)

Cézanne's portraits at the Orsay Museum in Paris



Until 24th September the Orsay Museum in Paris is running an exhibition of Paul Cézanne's portraits in a show that tries to explore this particular aspect of the artist's work... [Read more](#)

Agenda :



19th June 2017
Luxembourg
"Environment" Council

Luxembourg
"Foreign Affairs" Council

 20th June 2017
Luxembourg
"General Affairs" Council
Luxembourg
"General Affairs" Council (Article 50)

 22nd June 2017
Frankfurt/Main
ECB General Council

 22nd and 23rd June 2017
Brussels
European Council

 26th June 2017
Luxembourg
"Transport, Telecommunications and Energy" Council

The Letter is also available in:



 I love the Robert Schuman Foundation's Letter

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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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