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The Letter in PDF format

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## The upcoming G20: what issues are at stake?

Author: Jean-Paul Betbèze



Jean-Paul Betbèze, economist and member of the Foundation's Scientific Committee lays out the issues at stake in the upcoming G20 Summit on 7th and 8th July in Hamburg.

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### Contents

**Foundation** : EU/State - France/Europe - Defence **Commission** : Google - EU/Budget - Security - Anti-laundering **Diplomacy** : Russia **ECB** : Confidence **Germany** : G20 - Helmut Kohl **Cyprus** : Negotiations/UN **Croatia** : Schengen **France** : Simone Veil - Public Finances - Reform/Employment - Visit/Estonia **Romania** : Government **UK** : Government - Citizenship - Scotland **Slovenia** : Croatia **Serbia** : Government **Ukraine** : France **Council of Europe** : Fight/Corruption **NATO** : Future **Migration** : Asylum - Solidarity **Eurostat** : Inflation - Unemployment **Eurobarometer** : Cohesion **Studies/Reports** : Citizenship **Culture** : Aix/Festival - Avignon/Festival - Festival/Llangollen - EXIT/Festival - Hungary/Festival - Exhibition/Madrid - Exhibition/Paris - Verona/Festival

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

### Foundation :

#### Schuman Report on Europe, State of the Union 2017



The "Schuman Report on Europe, State of the Union 2017" published by Lignes de Repères in French and English offers many interesting articles on European current affairs. Order your copy on line now!.. [Read more](#)

#### "Pour quelques étoiles de plus... Quelle politique européenne pour la France ?"

Chairman of the Foundation, Jean-Dominique Giuliani has published "Pour quelques étoiles de plus... Quelle politique européenne pour la France ?" (For a few stars more ... which European policy for France?) An enlightening read at a time when the French President E. Macron will be speaking to the



French parliament and also meeting his G20 counterparts... [Read more](#)

#### European Defence: a new start?



On 5th July the Foundation's Chairman, Jean-Dominique Giuliani is taking part in a seminar organised IHEDN and Egmont in Brussels on "European Defence: a new start?".. [Read more](#)

#### Commission :

##### The Commission fines Google 2.42 billion €



On 27th June the Commission fined Google 2.42 billion € for infringing the Union's competition rules. Google abused its dominant position on the search engine market by granting illegal advantage to another of its products - its price comparison service... [Read more](#)

##### Imbalance forecast for the European budget



Due to Brexit and further spending (such as on European defence), up to 20 billion € per year might be missing from the EU's budget. According to Günther Oettinger, the European Commissioner responsible for budgetary issues "the departure of the UK alone leaves us with a deficit of a minimum 10 billion € per year in revenues.".. [Read more](#)

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

##### New measures to prevent radicalisation and cyber threats



On 29th June the European Commission presented the 8th report on progress made in terms of introducing a truly, effective security union and called to speed up work undertaken to strengthen the security of European citizens... [Read more](#)

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##### Money laundering and the financing of terrorism



On 26th June the fourth anti-money laundering directive entered into force. As it tightens the present rules it will make the fight to counter money laundering and the financing of terrorism more effective... [Read more](#)

[Other link](#)

#### Diplomacy :

##### Russia: the EU extends economic sanctions by six months



On 28th June the Council extended economic sanctions targeting specific sectors of the Russian economy until 31st January 2018... [Read more](#)

#### ECB :

##### The Eurosystem's consolidated financial situation



The European Central Bank (ECB) published the consolidated financial situation of the Eurosystem on 27th June. Moreover the President Mario Draghi indicated that confidence was returning to Europe... [Read more](#)

## Germany :

## Preparation of the G20



On 29th June European leaders re-asserted their commitment in support of the climate and free-trade in a warning to Donald Trump in the run up to the G20 summit that promises to particularly tumultuous... [Read more](#)

Other link

## Tribute to Helmut Kohl



On 1st July, several government heads of state met in Strasbourg to pay their last respects to Helmut Kohl, German Chancellor from 1982 to 1998, the father of German reunification.

Other link | Other link

## Cyprus :

## Negotiations over the reunification of Cyprus start again



On 28th June negotiations over Cyprus started "constructively" deemed Espen Barth Eide, the UN's special envoy for Cyprus. The UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres joined discussions on 30th June... [Read more](#)

Other link

## Croatia :

## Croatia enters the Schengen Information System



On 27th June the police and security services of Croatia gained access to the Schengen Information System, with the aim of improving the country's effectiveness in terms of European police cooperation. Prime Minister Andrej Plenkovic welcomed this important step for Croatia... [Read more](#)

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## France :

## Passing of Simone Veil



Simone Veil passed away on 30th June aged 89. The first President of the European Parliament by direct universal suffrage from 1979 to 1982, she was the inspiration behind the Veil Bill which ensured the decriminalisation of abortion. She embodied - in her own way - the three major moments in the history of the 20th century: the Shoah, women's emancipation and European hope... [Read more](#)

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## The situation and outlook for public finances in France



The French public deficit is due to total 3.2% of the GDP in 2017 according to the French Court of Auditors following inadequate management by the previous government... [Read more](#)

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## The reform of the labour market in France



On 28th June the French government presented the main outline of the reform of the labour code taking on board future changes in the world of work that make in-depth renovation of the French social model necessary "whilst retaining the fundamental elements" of this... [Read more](#)

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## Trip by French Prime Minister to Estonia



On 28th June the French Prime Minister, Edouard Philippe made his first official trip abroad travelling to Estonia, which since 1st July is ensuring the rotating presidency of the Council of the European Union... [Read more](#)

## Romania :

### New Romanian government



The new government of Romanian Prime Minister Mihai Tudose was approved on 29th June by Parliament. It comprises 28 members six of whom are women... [Read more](#)

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## UK :

### Theresa May just manages to win the confidence vote



On 29th June MPs in the House of Commons adopted 323 votes in support against 309 the legislative programme put forward by Theresa May - confidence that was only just won (14 votes), thanks to an agreement signed with the Northern Irish Unionists (DUP) on 26th June. Moreover the British government accepted to provide financial support of £1 billion to Northern Ireland... [Read more](#)

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### The rights of Europeans living in the UK



On 26th June British Prime Minister Theresa May declared that at the moment of Brexit in March 2019 European citizens "living in the UK for five years will be given the permanent resident status" and will be "treated as British citizens as far as healthcare, education, services and retirement pensions are concerned..." [Read more](#)

### Scotland: project for a second referendum postponed



Scottish Prime Minister Nicolas Sturgeon announced on 27th June that the decision regarding the organisation of a further referendum on independence would be postponed until the autumn of 2018 after negotiations regarding the Brexit... [Read more](#)

## Slovenia :

### International justice grants Slovenia access to international waters



On 29th June the Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague granted Slovenia access to international waters in its dispute with Croatia over the issue... [Read more](#)

## Serbia :

### The government of Serb Prime Minister Ana Brnabic approved in by Parliament



The Serb parliament confirmed Ana Brnabic as Prime Minister on 29th June, which is an historic decision. Her government of 22 members including 5 women won the support of 157 MPs against 55... [Read more](#)

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## Ukraine :

### Meeting between Emmanuel Macron and Petro Poroshenko



On Monday 26th June the Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko met with French President Emmanuel Macron to review the situation in Ukraine. President Macron again insisted on the fact that France did not acknowledge the annexation of Crimea by Russia... [Read more](#)

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## Council of Europe :

### Promotion of integrity in governance to counter political corruption



By adopting a resolution on 27th June the Parliamentary Assembly at the Council of Europe invites governments to step up their fight to counter corruption by promoting integrity and transparency in public life at all levels... [Read more](#)

## NATO :

### Meeting of Defence Ministers



On 29th June NATO's Defence Ministers decided to increase their presence in Afghanistan, to strengthen NATO and EU cooperation and to share the costs linked to security and the fight to counter terrorism more fairly... [Read more](#)

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## Migration :

### Agreement on the European Agency for Asylum regulation



On 28th June the Maltese presidency of the Council and the European Parliament came to a political agreement on the twelve chapters of the regulation governing the European Union's Agency for Asylum... [Read more](#)

### NGO Code of Conduct



The Italian, French and German Ministers for Home Affairs want to "develop a code of conduct for NGO's" which are rescuing migrants in the Mediterranean and "strengthen support to the Libyan coast-guards" they said on 3rd July... [Read more](#)

## Eurostat :

### The euro zone's annual inflation rate down to 1.3%



The euro zone's annual inflation rate is estimated at 1.3% in June 2017, against 1.4% in May according to a Eurostat dispatch published on 30th June... [Read more](#)

### Unemployment stable in May at 7.8% in the EU and at 9.3% in the euro zone



The unemployment rate in the EU lay at 7.8%, a stable figure in comparison with April. This is the lowest rate recorded since December 2008. In the euro zone it lies at 9.3%, its lowest rate since March 2009, announced Eurostat on 3rd July... [Read more](#)

## Eurobarometer :

### Knowledge and perceptions of the EU's regional policy



On 29th June the Commission published a Eurobarometer survey on "Raising awareness and citizens' perception of the EU's regional policy". It indicated that nearly 80% of the EU's citizens believe in the positive impact of projects funded by the EU in their town or region... [Read more](#)

## Studies/Reports :

### European "Citizenship, Security and Defence" Prize



The European "Citizenship, Security and Defence" Prize aims to reward particularly remarkable work in support of the development of European citizenship, as well as European awareness of security and defence. The deadline for applications is set for 30th September... [Read more](#)

## Culture :

### Aix-en-Provence Festival



Until 22nd July the lyrical music festival is taking place in Aix-en-Provence which is opening with a contemporary production - a daring wager in this temple of Mozart, Joël Pommerat's "Pinocchio", which has been set to music by the Belgian composer Philippe Boesmans... [Read more](#)

### Avignon Festival



From 6th to 26th July the 71st Avignon Festival is taking place - this is one of the biggest international contemporary arts events. Avignon turns into a theatre-town, hosting more than 130,000 visitors. On the programme: around thirty performances, lectures, exhibitions, films and debates... [Read more](#)

### International Eisteddfod music festival



From 3rd to 9th July, the town of Llangollen is hosting the "Eisteddfod" an international Welsh dance and music festival that was first held in 1947. 4000 artists from over 50 countries will be performing and 50,000 visitors are expected... [Read more](#)

### EXIT Festival in Serbia



From 5th to 9th July the EXIT music festival is taking place in the Petrovaradin fortress in Novi Sad, Serbia... [Read more](#)

### Balaton Sound Festival



The Balaton Sound, one of the biggest electronic music festivals in Europe will be taking place from 5th to 9th July on the shores of Lake Balaton in Hungary... [Read more](#)

### Venetian Renaissance at the Thyssen-Bornemisza Museum in Madrid



Until 24th September the Thyssen-Bornemisza Museum in Madrid is paying tribute to the Venetian paintings of the 16th century as its shows the masterpieces of Renaissance artists like Titian, Tintoretto, Veronese and Lotto... [Read more](#)

### Mozart at the Opera Museum in Paris



Until 24th September the National Library of France (BNF) is showing the works of Mozart in a beautiful exhibition at the Garnier Opera, via programmes, costumes, press cuttings and photos of scenes from the 19th century to modern times... [Read more](#)

### Verona Arena Festival

Until 30th August the arenas of Verona will be hosting their prestigious opera festival. The Arenas are offering works by Verdi (Aida or Rigoletto) and Puccini (Mme Butterfly and Tosca) with a tribute being





made to Placido Domingo on 21st July... [Read more](#)

#### Agenda :



1st July-31st December  
Estonia  
Presidency of the Council



3rd - 6th July  
Strasbourg  
Plenary session of the European Parliament



7th to 8th July  
Hamburg  
G20 Summit



10th July  
Brussels  
Eurogroup Meeting

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