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Systemic Threats to the Rule of Law in Poland: Between Action and Procrastination*

Authors: Laurent Pech, Sébastien Platon



In light of the continued refusal by the Polish authorities to admit, even the very right to scrutiny by the Union or of any problem in terms of the rule of law, this study describes the procedure provided for by article 7 §1 TEU and the repeated warnings by the Commission and the Parliament indicating that there was a systemic threat to the rule of law in Poland. In the authors' opinion it is time that all players in the EU take stock of the problem and act accordingly.

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Front page! :

Integration by Example



How can Europe be rebooted? Jean-Dominique Giuliani, the Foundation's Chairman suggests that integration can be achieved by example, in true Europe spirit - which would be the best means to rise above the divisions and provide real answers to the present challenges... [Read more](#)

Elections :

Borut Pahor, re-elected President of Slovenia

Outgoing President of Slovenia, Borut Pahor won the second round of



the presidential election on 12th November with 52.93% of the vote against the mayor of Kamnik, Marjan Šarec, who won 47.7% in an election marked by high abstention (turnout was only 41.73%). The head of State will start his second five year mandate on 23rd

December next... [Read more](#)



Foundation :

Europe, a women's continent



Pascale Joannin, the Foundation's General Manager is giving a conference on 14th November at the headquarters of ARRI in Paris on the theme: "Europe, a women's continent.." [Read more](#)



Future EU-UK partnership



In an analysis published for the initiative "UK in a Changing Europe" Jean-Claude Piris, a member of the Foundation's Scientific Committee offers food for thought regarding the future partnership between the EU and the UK... [Read more](#)



EU maritime area map



The "Fondation de la Mer" published together with the Robert Schuman Foundation, the map of the EU's maritime areas. How many European islands do you know that lie at the other end of the earth?.. [Read more](#)



Commission :

The European Union raises its growth forecasts in 2017 and 2018



On 9th November the European Commission raised its growth forecasts for 2017 and 2018, confident in the strength of economic recovery in spite of the uncertainties linked to Brexit. "The European economy is on the right path to grow this year at its fastest pace in ten years", with growth due to reach 2.3% in the Union and 2.2% in the euro zone in 2017 and 2.1% in 2018, commented the Commission which in May was counting on 1.7% in 2017 and 1.8% in 2018. The European executive delivered its first forecast for 2019 counting on growth of 1.9%... [Read more](#)



Improving military mobility



On 10th November the European Commission and the European Union's Diplomatic Service (EEAS) put forward several ideas to improve military mobility in the European Union... [Read more](#)



Fishing quota proposals for 2018



On 7th November the Commission presented its proposal for fish captures in the Atlantic and the North Sea for 2018. It proposes to increase or maintain 53 fishing quotas and to reduce 25. The Commission's proposal is based on independent scientific opinions provided by the International Council for the Exploration of the Seas

(ICES)... [Read more](#)



Meeting on the future of Europe with religious leaders



On 7th November the Commission hosted religious leaders from all over Europe. Discussions focused on the theme of an effective Union based on values. This meeting is part of a regular dialogue framework with the Churches, religious communities and philosophical and non-

confessional organisations provided for in article 17 of the Lisbon Treaty... [Read more](#)

End of the 6th round of negotiations between the Union and the UK



The 6th round of negotiations between the EU and the UK ended on 10th November without any significant progress being made. Indeed many disagreements remain over three key points. The Union has given the UK two weeks to clarify its commitments over the terms of their divorce, making one condition if it is to commit to the start of trade negotiations in December that London has been requesting in preparation for the post-Brexit period... [Read more](#)

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Council :

Extension of the European Funds for Strategic Investments



On 8th November the Council validated the extension of the European Funds for Strategic Investments (EFSI). This follows an "improvement in investment conditions in Europe", that has been observed by the Council. Parliament still has to approve this new regulation... [Read more](#)

Ministers discuss VAT and the Capital Markets Union



On 7th November the 28 Finance Ministers discussed the proposals aiming to reform the rules in terms of VAT, so that e-commerce and on-line businesses have better support. They also addressed the strengthening of financial surveillance in view of reach a Capital Markets Union by 2019... [Read more](#)

Meeting of the EU's Military Committee



The Military Committee met in Brussels on 6th and 7th November to discuss the Union's overall strategy in terms of security and defence, notably regarding the Permanent Structured Cooperation but also the EU-NATO cooperation, the fight to counter terrorism and the prevention of radicalisation... [Read more](#)

Conclusions of the Trade Council



The 28 Ministers responsible for trade studied progress that has been made in trade negotiations with Mexico, MERCOSUR and Japan. They discussed priorities as part of the negotiations in view of preparing the 11th WTO ministerial conference that will take place from 11th to 13th Décembre in Buenos Aires in Argentina... [Read more](#)

Diplomacy :

Adoption of common defence package



On 13th November 23 Member States signed a Defence Pact (PESCO) in response to pressure that is being placed on the armies on the continent. France and Germany have been promoted this permanent structured cooperation that comes in response to Brexit and the American wish to reduce its military budget devoted to Europe... [Read more](#)

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Ministerial meeting between the European Union and Central Asia



The Foreign Ministers of Central Asia met on 10th November in Uzbekistan, with the High Representative of the Union and the Commission's Vice President. They called for a new European strategy for Central Asia by the end of 2019... [Read more](#)

Sanctions against Venezuela, modernisation of the trade agreement with Chile

The Foreign Ministers adopted sanctions on 13th November - including an embargo on arms - against Venezuela, with the aim of encouraging



the government led by President Nicolas Maduro to start dialogue with the opposition. They also adopted a negotiation mandate to modernise the agreement with Chile... [Read more](#)

European Agencies :

Meeting regarding space issues



A meeting took place in Tallinn on 7th November regarding the exploration of space. Ministers notably discussed the Earth Observation programme by the Copernicus satellites and geolocation system satellites Galileo that aim to define the future work of ESA in the decade following 2020... [Read more](#)

Germany :

Visit to France by the President of the German Federal Republic



As part of the inauguration of the Franco-German Museum of Hartmannswillerkopf in Colmar the President of the Federal Republic of Germany Frank-Walter Steinmeier travelled to France on the eve of 11th November to meet his counterpart Emmanuel Macron. In a joint declaration the two heads of State advocated the strengthening of the Franco-German friendship and new impetus for Europe... [Read more](#)

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Report by the German Council of Economic Experts for 2017/2018



The German Council of Economic Experts delivered its annual report on 8th November for 2017/2018 to German Chancellor Angela Merkel. The GDP growth rate is estimated at 2% in 2017 and 2.2% in 2018 which is higher than the potential growth rate of 1.4%. For the euro zone the GDP is due to growth by 2.3% in 2017 and by 2.1% in 2018... [Read more](#)

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Bulgaria :

Meeting between Boyko Borissov and Jean-Claude Juncker



During his meeting with Bulgarian Prime Minister Boyko Borissov on 8th November European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker provided his support for Bulgaria to become a member of the euro zone. They discussed the six monthly presidency of the Council that will start on 1st January... [Read more](#)

Spain :

Cancellation of the declaration of independence of Catalonia



On 8th November the Spanish Constitutional Court cancelled the declaration of independence of Catalonia that it had suspended on 31st October after an appeal was lodged by the Spanish government. The region's independence was unilaterally proclaimed on 27th October at the Parliament of Catalonia... [Read more](#)

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France :

Inauguration of the Louvre Abu Dhabi



The President of the French Republic travelled on 9th November to Dubai, Abu Dhabi and to the United Arab Emirates notably to inaugurate the branch of the Louvre Museum there. The head of State also visited the French naval base at Abu Dhabi and met his Highness Sheikh Mohammed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi... [Read more](#)

Foreign Trade: France in deficit by 4.7 billion €

On 8th November customs and excise published the results of France's foreign trade for the month of September - the deficit grew by 500 million € in August to a total of 4.7 billion €... [Read more](#)



Ireland :

Ireland supports a 5 year transition period



In an interview Irish Foreign Minister Simon Conveney advocated a minimum 5 year transition period after Brexit. Deeming that an EU-UK agreement concluded within a year's time is unrealistic, he believes that a longer transition period has to be provided for to enable SME's to prepare better... [Read more](#)

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Portugal :

Web Summit in Portugal



The Web Summit that took place in Lisbonne from 6th to 9th November is the biggest conference in the world on the theme of new technologies. The European Union was represented by Margrethe Vestager, the European Commissioner for Competition, who re-iterated the importance of competition given the monopoly of the giants of the

Web... [Read more](#)

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Romania :

The head of the party in office under prosecution by the Romanian anti-corruption court



The head of the Romanian Social Democrats (PSD), Liviu Dragnea is suspected of abuse of power and forgery in a case that focuses amongst other things on the use of European funds, announced the Anti-Corruption Court on 13th November. He is suspected of having embezzled funds that were meant for infrastructure projects whilst he was head of the Departmental Council of Teleorman (South) between 2000 and 2012. The DNA said that it referred matters to the European anti-fraud office in September 2016... [Read more](#)

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UK :

Resignation of the International Development Minister



Priti Patel, the International Development Minister presented her resignation to the British Prime Minister on 8th November. Following meetings with Israeli political leaders including Prime Minister Benyamin Netanyahu without the British government being informed, nor using the official channels Ms Patel was obliged to resign. Penny Morduant will take over from her... [Read more](#)

UN :

Audrey Azoulay appointed Director General of UNESCO



On 10th November Audrey Azoulay was appointed Director General of UNESCO. She was put forward on 13th October by the members of the organisation's Executive Council in succession to Irina Bokova, the outgoing Secretary General. Audrey Azoulay is the 11th Director General of the UNESCO and the second woman to occupy this post. She will take office on 15th November... [Read more](#)

NATO :

Meeting of NATO Defence Ministers



The Defence Ministers of the NATO countries met on 8th and 9th November in Brussels. The Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg developed the project for a Command Structure for the Atlantic to ensure maritime security as well as a reform of the command to strengthen NATO's logistical function and to facilitate the movement of the Alliance's troops in Europe... [Read more](#)

Studies/Reports :

Reports on Trade Agreements



On 9th November the European Union published a report on the application of trade agreements in which it takes part. The conclusion of these agreements has led to a sharp rise in the main European export areas to Mexico (+416% since 2000) or South Korea (+59% since 2011). The agricultural and automotive sectors are the main beneficiaries... [Read more](#)

Education and training remain a challenge in Europe



On 9th November the European Commission published its follow-up report on education and training. The latter indicates that national educational systems are more efficient and inclusive. However original socio-economic environments define more than ever the level of studies achieved by students... [Read more](#)

Culture :

Film Festival Stockholm



The International Film Festival is taking place in Stockholm until 19th November. More than 200 films from around 70 countries are being screened. Focus will be placed on the diversity of modern cinema... [Read more](#)

European Scanorama Festival in Lithuania



The Scanorama Festival is taking place until 26th November in four towns in Lithuania - Vilnius, Kaunas, Klaipeda and Siaulai. This festival is focused on the Nordic and Baltic cinema... [Read more](#)

International Film Festival in Bratislava



The town of Bratislava, Slovakia is hosting its international film festival until 16th November. Many films of different nationalities will be screened as well as there being exhibition, shows and a variety of concerts... [Read more](#)

Luci d'Artista in Salerno



The Festival of Light Luci d'Artista is taking place in Salerno until January 21st 2018. Organised with the support of the EU this event is a vast open nocturnal exhibition during which luminous works of art are on show in the streets and parks of Salerno... [Read more](#)

Marie Curie - a woman at the Pantheon



On the occasion of the 150th anniversary of the birth of physicist and chemist Marie Curie, the Pantheon is paying tribute to her with an exhibition devoted to her. Until 4th March 2018 the public can discover the private and professional universe of the first woman to enter the Pantheon, via archives, documents of the time, as well as personal and scientific objects... [Read more](#)

Rodin-Rilke-Hofmannsthal



As part of the 100th anniversary of the death of Rodin, the Berlin Alte Nationalgalerie is running an exhibition, from 17th November 2017 to 18th March 2018 on the bronze statue "Man and his Genius". This sculpture is closely linked to the works of two major writers: Rainer Maria Rilke, who helped spread Rodin's fame in Germany and Hugo von Hofmannsthal, who owned this statue, which was a great source of inspiration to

him... [Read more](#)

The Galileo revolution, when art meets science



From 18th November 2017 to 18th March 2018 the Monti di Pieta of Padua Palace is running an exhibition devoted to Galileo Galilei who was a humanist and academic, physicist, astronomer, philosopher, doctor and mathematician. Via the astronomer's ancient instruments, manuscripts and texts that Galileo wrote himself, famous works of art created using water colours and sketches, the exhibition shows how this genius succeeded in creating unity between the arts and science... [Read more](#)

Agenda :



13th November
Brussels
"Foreign Affairs Defence" Council



13th to 16th November
Strasbourg
European Parliament Plenary Session



14th November
Manila
EU-ASEAN Summit



15th November
Brussels
"General Affairs" Council (Cohesion)



17th November
Brussels
"Economic-Finance" Council (budget)
Göteborg, Sweden
Social Summit for Employment and Fair Growth



20th November
Brussels
"General Affairs" Council



20th and 21st November
Brussels
"Education, Youth, Culture and Sport" Council

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