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THE HERALD

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EU Ministers of Agriculture and Fisheries meet in Luxembourg today to examine proposals aimed at improving the collection and use of data in the fisheries sector and the conservation of fishery resources. They are also to be briefed on the implementation of measures in support of European farmers.



UKRAINE PRIME MINISTER ARSENIY YATSENYUK TO RESIGN

BBC.COM

The Ukrainian Prime Minister, Arseniy Yatsenyuk, has announced he will resign next week, blaming politicians' failure to enact "real changes".

Mr Yatsenyuk, in office since former pro-Russian President Viktor Yanukovich was ousted in February 2014, said he would inform parliament on Tuesday.

The current President, Petro Poroshenko, asked him to quit in February, saying he had lost support. His government has been accused of inaction and corruption.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has threatened to withhold aid money if it does not carry out reforms.

Parliamentary Speaker Volodymyr Groysman has been nominated by Mr Poroshenko's party to replace Mr Yatsenyuk.

Announcing his resignation on Twitter, Mr Yatsenyuk called for the formation of a new government immediately to prevent "destabilization of [the] executive branch during a war".

The government in Kiev is signed up to an uneasy truce with pro-Russian rebels in two of Ukraine's eastern regions, with frequent ceasefire violations reported.



G7 FOREIGN MINISTERS MEET IN HIROSHIMA AMID NUCLEAR SAFETY CONCERNS

DW.DE



The G7 foreign ministers have begun talks in the Japanese city of Hiroshima, with John Kerry becoming the first US secretary of state to visit the atom-bombed city. Terrorism, nuclear disarmament and maritime security are among the topics that the foreign ministers of the Group of Seven industrialized nations are discussing in the western Japanese city on the first of two days of meetings on Sunday.

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EU TO DISCUSS IMPOSING VISAS ON US TRAVELLERS

EUOBSERVER.COM



A European Commission spokeswoman on Friday in Brussels confirmed the EU will, this week, hold first talks on imposing visas on US travellers because the US imposes visas on five EU states. She said the commission is obliged to go ahead under an existing law on "visa reciprocity."

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MACEDONIA USES TEAR GAS AND RUBBER BULLETS AGAINST MIGRANTS

REUTERS.COM

Dozens of migrants and refugees were wounded on Sunday when Macedonian police fired tear gas and rubber bullets at crowds on the Greek side of the border. More than 10,000 migrants and refugees have been stranded at the Greek border outpost of Idomeni since February after a cascade of border shutdowns across the Balkans closed off their route to central and western Europe. An earlier attempt by a large group of migrants to cross the border fence had resulted in the confrontation, a Macedonian official said.

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MIKL-LEITNER STEPS DOWN IN JOB SWAP

THELOCAL.AT

According to reports in Austrian media, Johanna Mikl-Leitner, the interior minister whose pronouncements on the nation's treatment of the migration issue have been widely criticized, is to take a new position as deputy governor of the province of Lower Austria. The current deputy governor, Wolfgang Sobotka, a member of the same conservative Austrian People's Party (ÖVP), will step into her position as interior minister.

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TORY MPS TO LAUNCH ATTACK ON PRO-EU 'PROPOGANDA' LEAFLET

TELEGRAPH.CO.UK

Scores of Conservative MPs will openly criticise David Cameron in the House of Commons on Monday over his decision to spend £9.3 million of public money on a "propaganda" pro-EU leaflet. Between 30 and 50 Tory rebels are considering supporting an amendment tabled by Sir Bill Cash demanding an increase in the amount the Leave campaign can spend ahead of the referendum.

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SPAIN FIRES AMBASSADOR TO BELGIUM

POLITICO.EU

Spain dismissed its ambassador to Belgium for inadequate representation, absenteeism and a poor morale at the mission. Ambassador Ignacio Jesus Matellanes Martinez has been relieved of his duties for making no contact with the Belgian government during his appointment in March 2012 and abusing authority "through fear, threat and confrontation," Spanish newspaper El País reported on Saturday.

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EU AND MERCOSUR AGREE TO ADVANCE TRADE TALKS

EUROPA.EU

The EU and Mercosur will exchange market access offers in the second week of May, following a meeting held in Brussels by EU Trade Commissioner Cecilia Malmström and Rodolfo Nin Novoa, Foreign Minister of Uruguay, which currently holds the rotating presidency of the Latin American trading bloc Mercosur. This exchange will specify the ways to increase mutual openness to each other's goods and services, including in public tenders. The meeting also resulted in the adoption of a roadmap for talks.

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THE AGENDA

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EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

- 17:00 the **plenary session** starts in Strasbourg. On the final draft agenda: Resumption of session and order of business, International Roma Day - Council and Commission statements followed by one round of political group speakers, Annual reports 2012-2013 on subsidiarity and proportionality (report by **Sajjad Karim**, ECR). Short presentations of the following reports: Regulatory Fitness and Performance Programme (report by **Sylvia-Yvonne Kaufmann**, S&D), Towards improved single market regulation (report by **Anneleen Van Bossuyt**, ECR), Learning EU at school (report by **Damian Draghici**, S&D), Erasmus+ and other tools to foster mobility in vocational education and training (report by **Ernest Maragall**, Greens/EFA), The EU role in the framework of international financial, monetary and regulatory institutions and bodies (report by **Sylvie Goulard**, ALDE), Small-scale coastal fishing in regions dependent on fishing (report by **Ruža Tomaši**, ECR), United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea: fisheries aspects (report by **Norica Nicolai**, ALDE), External dimension of the CFP, including fisheries agreements (report by **Linnéa Engström**, Greens/EFA). One-minute speeches (Rule 163).
- 19:00 **Committee on Budgets**. On the agenda: Draft Amending Budget No 1/ 2016 : New instrument to provide emergency support within the Union (vote on the draft report by **José Manuel Fernandes**, EPP), Estimates of revenue and expenditure for the financial year 2017 - Section I - European Parliament (vote on the draft report by **Indrek Tarand**, Greens/EFA) (LOW - N1.3).
- 19:00 **Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs**. On the agenda: Financial Assistance Working Group (FAWG) - discussion with **Valdis Dombrovskis**, Vice-President in charge of Euro & Social Dialogue and **Pierre Moscovici**, Commissioner for Economic and Financial Affairs, Taxation and Customs (LOW - R3.1).
- 19:00 **Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs**. On the agenda: European Border and Coast Guard (rapporteur **Artis Pabriks**, EPP) - discussion with the Council Presidency, Commission, **Wojciech Wiewiorowski**, Assistant European Data Protection Supervisor and **Fabrice Leggeri**, Executive Director of Frontex (WIC - 200). **Committee on**

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

- 10:00 the **Agriculture and Fisheries Council** meets in Luxembourg. The Commission is invited to inform ministers of the latest developments concerning agriculture sectors facing particular difficulties. These include the pig meat, dairy and fruit and vegetable sectors. It will also provide information on the implementation of measures listed in the presidency conclusions on market situation and support measures, agreed on 14 March. These measures aim to improve the situation of European farmers. Ministers will exchange views on a regulation to improve the conservation of fishery resources and the protection of marine ecosystems. The Council will also receive an update of discussions on a regulation to improve the collection and use of data in the fisheries sector.
- An **Informal meeting of Ministers responsible for Energy** takes place in Scheepvaartmuseum in Amsterdam today. The energy ministers will discuss regional cooperation on a revised market model for electricity.

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

- On Friday, the European Commission announced **€122.5 million for Ethiopia** to address the immediate needs of people affected by the worsening humanitarian situation caused by one of the most severe extreme El Niño weather phenomenon on record. This new support aims to combine a humanitarian response and early recovery assistance with initiatives that address the root causes of fragility and vulnerability.
- The European Investment Fund signed **two new SME financing agreements in Italy**: one with Banco Popolare, and one with Banca Popolare di Bari. Together these agreements will provide a further EUR 400 million in finance

to innovative SMEs in Italy over the next two years.

- The European Commission has **relieved Deutsche Bahn ahead of schedule from commitments** made binding in December 2013, as several competitors have now entered the German railway traction current market, thereby addressing the Commission's competition concerns.
- **The European Commission has opened an in-depth probe** to verify whether **debt write-offs by the Romanian State and continued supplies by State-owned enterprises in favour of Oltchim**, despite the company's deteriorating financial situation, were in line with EU state aid rules.
- The European Commission has approved under the EU Merger Regulation the **acquisition of ENI Hungaria Zrt. and ENI Slovenija družba za trženje z naftnimi derivati, d.o.o. by MOL Hungarian Oil and Gas Plc.**

TODAY CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS



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(63)



Guy VERHOFSTADT
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