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THE HERALD

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MEPs debate and vote today on new powers for Europol. These would allow the agency to set up specialised units more easily so that it can respond faster to emerging threats. They would also set clear rules for centres, such as the European Counter Terrorism Centre that started on 1 January 2016. In some cases Europol would also be allowed to exchange information with private companies.



COUNTRIES FLASH 'YELLOW CARD' AT EU CHANGES TO CROSS- BORDER WORK RULES

POLITICO.EU

A group of EU countries claimed Tuesday they had enough support to try to derail a European Commission proposal to ease wage differences between local workers and those sent abroad in the bloc.

According to several European diplomats, the national parliaments of 11 countries, including Poland, Denmark, the Czech Republic and Slovakia, have enough votes under EU rules to trigger the "yellow card" procedure against the Commission's revised new text on so-called "posted workers."

It would be only the third time the yellow card procedure has been used since it was set up under the Treaty of Lisbon. The tool gives parliaments the ability to hold up adoption of draft legislation if they consider it is aimed at something better handled at national or local level. If enough national parliaments choose to use the procedure, the Commission is required to review the text.

In March, the Commission presented a proposed revision of the EU's 1996 directive on posted workers, who are sent by employers to work temporarily in another country.

Under existing law, these workers are covered by social security rules in their country of origin, which means employers can hire workers for a lower wage in countries where welfare costs are high. But the final draft of the revised directive attempts to clarify employment conditions for posted workers and gives more detail on paying workers the minimum wage in the country to which they are posted. Instead of "minimum wage," according to the text, workers are entitled to "remuneration necessary for the protection of workers."

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FRENCH PM TO USE SPECIAL POWERS TO BYPASS PARLIAMENT ON LABOUR REFORM

FRANCE24.COM



France's government announced Tuesday that it would empower Prime Minister Manuel Valls to bypass parliament and push through controversial labour reforms by decree despite widespread public demonstrations against the bill. The decision follows weeks of protests against the proposed reform, which among other changes seeks to make hiring and firing easier for companies.

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PODEMOS SEALS DEAL WITH COMMUNIST GROUP TO RUN TOGETHER

ELPAIS.COM



Podemos and the leftist federation United Left (IU), which includes the Spanish Communist Party, republicans, greens and feminists, will run together in the fresh general election of June 26. On Monday, both groups sealed "a preliminary electoral agreement" that they will now put to their supporters for approval.

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EU REFERENDUM: BCC SAYS BUSINESSES BACK REMAIN BUT GAP NARROWS

BBC.COM

The majority of business people plan to vote for the UK to remain in the EU but the gap with those wanting to leave has narrowed, a survey suggests. The British Chambers of Commerce said 54% of 2,200 members it surveyed in April said they would vote Remain, down from 60% in February's survey. In contrast, 37% said they would vote to leave, up from 30% two months ago. Almost all of those surveyed - 90% - said they were unlikely to change their opinion ahead of the 23 June vote.

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ACTING AUSTRIAN CHANCELLOR DECLINES TO RULE OUT SNAP ELECTION

REUTERS.COM

Austria's acting Chancellor Reinhold Mitterlehner did not rule out a snap parliamentary election after Werner Faymann quit as head of the government, but said on Tuesday he expected to reach agreement in coalition talks with the Social Democrats. "We are not interested in early elections per se," Mitterlehner, who heads the conservative People's Party, told a news conference after a weekly cabinet meeting.

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GREEK 'PLAN B' REPORTED, IF EU-TURKEY DEAL COLLAPSES

EURACTIV.COM

A German tabloid reported that the EU was considering giving the billions it promised to Turkey to Greece instead, in case the deal agreed with Ankara to stem the refugee flows collapses. On Monday, Bild reported that several Greek islands in the Aegean are being turned into central registration sites for stranded refugees, and that ships will no longer take refugees to the Greek mainland in order to stop the uncontrolled flow of migrants into the EU.

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TENSIONS HIGH AT GREECE'S MIGRANT, REFUGEE CAMPS

EKATHIMERINI.COM

Police used tear gas to stop clashes between rival groups of rock-throwing Pakistani and Afghan migrants in the sprawling border camp at Idomeni in northern Greece on Tuesday, as incidents of violence along ethnic lines proliferate and protests at camps across the country have become a daily reality.

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MINISTER SCHULTZ LAUNCHES INTERNATIONAL DELTA COALITION

GOVERNMENT.NL

Minister Schultz van Haegen of Infrastructure and the Environment officially kicked off the International Delta Coalition. The governments of the Netherlands, Bangladesh, Colombia, Egypt, France, Myanmar, Indonesia, Japan, Mozambique, the Philippines, South Korea and Vietnam are joining forces to prevent floods and render urban deltas resilient against climate change. The Delta Coalition was launched during the Adaptation Futures climate conference in Rotterdam.

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THE AGENDA

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EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

• 9:00 **the plenary session continues in Strasbourg**. On the agenda: DEBATES: EU Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (Europol) (recommendation for second reading by **Agustín Díaz de Mera García Consuegra**, EPP), Entry and residence of third-country nationals for the purposes of research, studies, training, volunteering, pupil exchange and au pairing (recommendation for second reading by **Cecilia Wikström**, ALDE). 12:00 VOTES followed by explanations of votes: Exemptions for commodity dealers (report by **Sander Loones**, ECR), EU Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (Europol) (recommendation for second reading by **Agustín Díaz de Mera García Consuegra**, EPP), Entry and residence of third-country nationals for the purposes of research, studies, training, volunteering, pupil exchange and au pairing (recommendation for second reading by **Cecilia Wikström**, ALDE), Motions for resolutions - Acceleration of implementation of cohesion policy. 15:00 DEBATES: Decision adopted on the Common European Asylum System reform - Commission statement, Restoring a fully functioning Schengen system - Council and Commission statements, Turkey's progress in fulfilling the requirements of the Visa liberalisation roadmap - Council and Commission statements, Mandatory automatic exchange of information in the field of taxation (report by **Dariusz Rosati**, EPP), Tackling inequalities in order to boost inclusive and sustainable economic growth in the EU - oral question, Mandatory indication of the country of origin or place of provenance for certain foods - oral question, Hydroelectric sector in Europe - Commission statement.

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

• The European Investment Fund signed **three deals with Greek intermediary banks and funds to provide €150 million of additional investment to very small, small and medium-sized companies in Greece**. Each deal is backed by European Commission programmes. The COSME agreement with Diorama Investments will trigger investments of more than €125 million to SMEs. The EaSI agreement with Cooperative Bank of Karditsa will cover a loan portfolio of €5 million for over 300 micro-borrowers targeting mainly farmers, young unemployed borrowers, cooperatives and social enterprises, as well as micro businesses active in the green economy. The European Fund for Strategic Investments-backed InnovFin deal with ProCredit group is the first EFSI deal to be signed in Greece and it will provide €20 million to innovative SMEs.

• The European Commission opened an **in-depth investigation on a proposal of the German telecoms regulator to allow Deutsche Telekom** to upgrade its network with vectoring technology. This phase is necessary because of the high complexity of the subject and the impact the upgrade would have for the decades to come.

GENERAL COURT OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

• The General Court confirmed that the proposed European citizens' initiative intended to promote the development of geographical areas populated by national minorities cannot be registered. The Court ruled that the proposed initiative seeks to define regions that may benefit from the cohesion policy of the EU, without respecting the Member States' internal administrative borders (T-529/13).

WHO WHEN WHERE

• **Adaptation Futures 2016 Conference** continues in Rotterdam.

• 9:00 the European Commission (DG Connect) and the EPP eHealth project host a **stakeholder workshop to explore how to make better use of EU funded innovation procurement in the healthcare sector** (European Commission, 25 Avenue de Beaulieu, Brussels).

• Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility,

Marianne Thyssen, is on official visit in Washington DC, United States.

TODAY CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS



Nirj DEVA
ECR
(68)



Brice HORTEFEUX
EPP
(58)