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THE HERALD

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Today EU Ministers of Foreign Affairs meet in Brussels to discuss Iran, in particular the areas of re-engagement and the bilateral agenda. They are also to address the Middle East peace process and examine the latest developments in Libya and relations with Russia.



MERKEL'S CDU PARTY LOSES TWO OF THREE REGIONS: EXIT POLLS

THELOCAL.DE

German Chancellor Angela Merkel's Christian Democrats suffered a defeat in two of three states in regional polls Sunday, exit polls showed, while the populist AfD captured seats in all three amid a stunning surge of support.

Exit polls published as voting closed at 1700 GMT showed the CDU scoring a historic low of 27.5 percent in stronghold Baden-Wuerttemberg, behind the Greens.

The anti-migrant AfD meanwhile obtained double-digit scores in all three, garnering as much as 23 percent of the vote in the eastern state of Saxony-Anhalt.

The elections are the biggest since a record influx of refugees to Germany, and are largely billed as a referendum on Merkel's decision to open the country's doors to people fleeing war.

"These elections are very important... as they will serve as a litmus test for the government's disputed policy" on refugees, Duesseldorf University political scientist Jens Walther told AFP ahead of the polls.

Surveys in the run-up to the vote showed that support for the CDU and its junior coalition partner Social Democratic Party (SPD) dropping while the populist Alternative for Germany (AfD) was steadily gaining momentum and expected to record a surge in backing in all three states.



BUDGET 2016: GEORGE OSBORNE TO UNVEIL £4BN IN SPENDING CUTS

TELEGRAPH.CO.UK



Britain faces a fresh round of government spending cuts after George Osborne, the Chancellor, warned the UK must "act now or pay later" in the face of global economic uncertainty.



FRANCE SAYS EU COULD IMPOSE SANCTIONS OVER IRAN MISSILE TESTS

REUTERS.COM



The European Union could impose sanctions on Iran over its recent ballistic missile tests, France's foreign minister said on Sunday.

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OBAMA TO VISIT LONDON IN BID TO KEEP UK IN THE EU

REUTERS.COM

U.S. President Barack Obama will come to London in April and urge British voters to back continued membership of the European Union, The Independent on Sunday newspaper reported.

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MIGRANT COSTS TO EXCEED 600 MILLION EUROS, SAYS GREEK CENTRAL BANK

EKATHIMERINI.COM

The cost of managing the migrant crisis in Greece will exceed a previous estimate of 600 million euros (\$670 million) as more and more refugees are forced to remain in the country, Bank of Greece Governor Yannis Stournaras said on Sunday.

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TAKE THE EU-TURKEY MIGRATION DEAL BACK TO THE DRAWING BOARD, EU LEADERS URGED

ECRGROUP.EU

This week EU leaders will meet to finalise an agreement with Turkey aimed at stemming the flow of migrants along the Balkan route. European Conservatives and Reformists group home affairs spokesman Timothy Kirkhope MEP has written to all 28 EU leaders and the Presidents of the European Council and Commission urging a rethink of the agreement.

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ECR CHIEF BACKS BREXIT

EURACTIV.COM

Britain's most senior Conservative MEP has said he will vote for the UK to leave the European Union at the 23 June referendum. Syed Kamall is the leader of the European Conservatives and Reformists group, the third largest in the European Parliament, and a MEP for London.

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GEORGE OSBORNE: TURKEY EU MEMBERSHIP 'NOT ON THE CARDS'

BBC.COM

Turkey becoming a member of the EU is not "on the cards" any time soon, UK Chancellor George Osborne has said. Talks on Turkey's bid for EU integration are being sped up as part of a deal which would see the country help to tackle Europe's migrant crisis.

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14 MARCH, 2016

THE AGENDA

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EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

- 15:00 **Committee on Development**. The agenda includes: Jointly with the LIBE: Proposed Council Regulation on the provision of emergency support within the Union - debate with **Christos Stylianides**, European Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management. 16.00 A new forward-looking and innovative future strategy on trade and investment (exchange of views on amendments, rapporteur **Jan Zahradil**, ECR) (ASP - 3G-3).
- 15:00 **Special Committee on Tax Rulings and Other Measures Similar in Nature or Effect (TAXE 2)**. On the agenda: Discussion with representatives of **Guernsey and Jersey** (ASP - 3E-2).
- 15:00 **Committee on International Trade**. The agenda includes: EU-Canada Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement - discussion with Jean-Luc Demarty, Director General DG Trade, Commission, Discussion with the Commission on the TTIP follow-up report (PSH - 1A002).
- 15:00 **Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection**. The agenda includes: Discussion with **Jyrki Katainen**, Vice-President responsible for Jobs, Growth, Investment and Competitiveness, Non-Tariff Barriers in the Single Market (consideration of compromise amendments, rapporteur **Daniel Dalton**, ECR) (JAN - 6Q2).
- 15:00 **Committee on Transport and Tourism**. The agenda includes: Euro-Mediterranean Aviation Agreement between the EU and Israel (consideration of draft report by **Dieter-Lebrecht Koch**, PPE) (JAN - 4Q2).
- 15:00 **Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development**. The agenda includes: Workshop on "Effects of the structural changes on EU farming: How to better support the European model of agriculture of the XXI century with the CAP?", Exchange of views with the European Commission (DG SANTE) on the fraudulent practices in the marketing of honey (PSH - 3C050).
- 15:00 **Committee on Culture and Education**. The agenda includes: Refugees: Social inclusion and integration into the labour market (consideration of draft opinion by **Silvia Costa**, S&D) (ASP - 1G3).
- 15:00 **Committee on Legal Affairs**. The agenda includes: Hearing on the protection of vulnerable adults: a cross-border perspective, Accountability and Remedy Project - debate with **Lene Wendland**, representative of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Control of the acquisition and possession of weapons (rapporteur **Vicky Ford**, ECR) (ASP - 5E-2).
- 15:00 **Committee on Constitutional Affairs**. The agenda includes: Hearing on e-Democracy in the European Union: potential and challenges (PSH - 4B001).
- 15:00 **Committee on Petitions**. The agenda includes: Protecting the best interest of the child (across borders) in Europe - vote on motion for a resolution (JAN - 4Q1).

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

- 10:00 **the Agriculture and Fisheries Council** takes place in Brussels. Ministers will discuss the current difficulties faced in several agricultural sectors, including the pig meat, dairy and fruit and vegetables sectors (Justus Lipsius building, Brussels).
- 10:00 **the Foreign Affairs Council** meets in Brussels. The Council will discuss relations with Russia. It will also discuss Iran, the Middle East peace process and examine the latest developments in Libya (Justus Lipsius building, Brussels).

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

- On Friday Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management **Christos Stylianides** met with the Greek Prime Minister **Alexis Tsipras** in Athens, to reaffirm the European Commission's full partnership and solidarity with Greece in addressing the humanitarian needs of refugees stranded in the country.
- On Friday EU Commissioner for International Development, **Neven Mimica**, pledged **new EU development funding to Cuba** on a visit to the country. The funding is part of an overall €50 million in development cooperation funds for Cuba to be provided over the period 2014-2020.

WHO WHEN WHERE

- A three-day 'European Police College (CEPOL): Financial investigation' starts in Amsterdam. This edition of the regular conference of CEPOL, the European Policy College, will focus on financial investigation (Europe Building, Amsterdam).

TODAY CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS



Hans-Olaf HENKEL
ECR
(76)



Philippe LAMBERTS
Greens/EFA
(53)



Iuliu WINKLER
EPP
(52)