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FORGOTTEN MIGRANTS AT RISK IN GREECE, SAYS AMNESTY

EUOBSERVER.COM

While the focus is now on making the EU-Turkey migrant-swap deal work, the 46,000 people stranded in Greece must not be forgotten, Amnesty International has warned.

The NGO said in a report on Monday that Greece lacked decent reception facilities and conditions were inadequate in many of the 31 temporary accommodation sites set up to host the refugees.

The temporary sites, set up with EU assistance, have a reported maximum capacity of 33,640 but are hosting many more people. They have no heating, few showers or other sanitary facilities.

Thousands are staying at makeshift camps in Idomeni at the border with Macedonia, and at the Piraeus port in Athens.

Basic humanitarian services are insufficient to cope with the high number of refugees, with volunteers and NGOs trying to fill in the gaps, said Amnesty.

At Idomeni, between 11,000 and 13,000 people are estimated to be stranded in what Amnesty described as "appalling" conditions, with people sleeping on the cold ground and no access to bathrooms.

Reporting from the Elliniko temporary accommodation site, set up at an unused airport in Athens, Amnesty said all 1,400 refugees and migrants were staying on the first floor of the departure hall with no privacy, using blankets to sleep on the floor. There were 10 showers.



EU Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Defence meet today to examine the EU's regional strategy against Daesh, in particular regarding Syria and Iraq. They are also to discuss how to counter hybrid threats in order to foster the EU and its partner countries resilience.



OSBORNE DEFENDS TREASURY'S GLOOMY EU EXIT FORECAST

BBC.COM



Chancellor George Osborne has defended claims an EU exit would cost households an average £4,300 a year - after Leave campaigners said it was "absurd". A Treasury analysis says the UK economy would be 6% smaller if it left the EU than it would otherwise be by 2030.

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PUTIN AND POROSHENKO DISCUSS POSSIBLE PRISONER SWAP

DW.COM



The Kremlin says the fate of a Ukrainian pilot jailed in Russia and two Russians tried in Ukraine have been discussed by both leaders. Poroshenko has previously mooted a prisoner swap.

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€ NEXT ECB PRESIDENT MUST BE GERMAN, MERKEL'S BAVARIAN ALLIES SAY

REUTERS.COM

The next European Central Bank president should come from Germany, German conservative politicians said on Monday, ramping up pressure on what they see as too much free-spending by the ECB and not enough rigour.

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€ MISSION CHIEFS ON WAY BACK TO ATHENS FOR BAILOUT TALKS, SAYS COMMISSION

EKATHIMERINI.COM

The mission chiefs of Greece's lenders are set to resume talks in Athens after progress made in recent days towards concluding a review of Greek reforms, the European Commission said on Monday.

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🏛️ NO HOPE FOR HOLLANDE IF HE STANDS FOR RE-ELECTION, POLL FINDS

FRANCE24.COM

Unpopular French President François Hollande will fail to make it past the first round in 2017's presidential election in most realistic scenarios, according to an opinion poll published Monday.

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🏛️ ORBAN WILL TOUR EU CAPITALS WITH 'SCHENGEN 2.0' PLAN

EURACTIV.COM

Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán will tour EU capitals to push for a 10-point plan for the protection of EU's external borders and free movement within the community, dubbed 'Schengen 2.0'.

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€ MANUEL VALLS BACKS MAJOR REFORM OF FRENCH WELFARE SYSTEM

IRISHTIMES.COM

Prime minister Manuel Valls yesterday gave his support to a dramatic reform of France's incomprehensible social welfare system, which would eventually transform 10 different types of welfare payments into a single "common base coverage" of €400 per month, with top-ups for some recipients.

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THE AGENDA

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EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

- 9:00 **Committee on Foreign Affairs**. The agenda includes: **Peace Support Operations** - EU engagement with the UN and the African Union (adoption of amendments, rapporteur: **Geoffrey van Orden**, ECR). 15:00 Public hearing: EU strategic communication to counteract propaganda against it by third parties (JAN - 2Q2).
- 9:00 **Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs**. The agenda includes: Empowering the national competition authorities to be more effective enforcers of the EU competition rules - Public hearing with ECON committee and European Commission (JAN - 4Q2).
- 9:00 **Committee on Employment and Social Affairs**. The agenda includes: The **Single Market Strategy** (adoption of draft opinion by **Ulrike Trebesius**, ECR), How best to harness the job creation potential of small and medium sized enterprises? (consideration of draft report by **Zdzisław Krasnodebski**, ECR) (PSH - 1A002).
- 9:00 **Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety**. The agenda includes: Discussion with **Miguel Arias Cañete**, Commissioner for Climate Action and Energy, as part of structured dialogue, Discussion with the European Commission on the outcome of the cumulative costs assessment in the area of chemical industry (PSH - 3C050).
- 9:00 **Committee on Regional Development**. The agenda includes: Cohesion Policy and Research and Innovation Strategies for Smart Specialisation (vote on a draft resolution by **Ramón Luis Valcárcel Siso**, EPP) (JAN - 6Q2).
- 9:00 **Committee on Fisheries**. The agenda includes: Discussion with **Karmenu Vella**, Commissioner for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries. 15:30 Public hearing on Mediterranean: state of fish stocks and strategies to adopt to preserve them, and the socio-economic situation of the fisheries sector (ASP - 1G2).
- 9:00 **Committee on Culture and Education**. The agenda includes: Follow-up of the Strategic framework for European cooperation in education and training (ET2020) (adoption of draft report by **Zdzisław Krasnodebski**, ECR) (ASP - 3G2).
- 9:00 **Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality**. The agenda includes: Implementation of the Directive 2011/36/EU of 5 April 2011 on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and protecting its victims from a gender perspective (vote on draft report by **Catherine Bearder**, ALDE) (JAN - 4Q1).
- 9:00 **Committee on Petitions**. The agenda includes: Structured dialogue with the Commission - discussion with **Frans Timmermans**, First Vice-President and Commissioner responsible for Better Regulation, Interinstitutional Relations, the Rule of Law and the Charter of Fundamental Rights (ASP - 1G3).
- 15:00 **Committee of Inquiry into Emission Measurements in the Automotive Sector**. On the agenda: Hearing of **Delilah Al-Khudhairi**, Director, Joint Research Center, Hearing of **Vicente Franco**, researcher, International Council of Clean (JAN - 6Q2).
- 10:30 President of the European Parliament **Martin Schultz** will meet **Roger Nkodo Dang**, President of the Pan African Parliament (PSH - Salon Protocolaire A)

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

- 10:00 **Foreign Affairs - Defence Council** takes place in Luxembourg. Ministers will discuss how to counter hybrid threats to increase the resilience of the EU and its partner countries. Vice-President of the Commission **Federica Mogherini** will chair the meeting.
- 12:30 **Informal meeting of Ministers of Social Affairs and Employment** holds on. The agenda includes labour mobility, the European Pillar of Social Rights and the

platform for combating undeclared work (Scheepvaartmuseum, Amsterdam).

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

- The Commission and the **World Bank Group** signed a **Framework Agreement** on Friday, 15 April 2016, to further their cooperation on the implementation of development projects across the globe. This agreement sets the terms under which the World Bank will disburse EU budget money on development projects on the ground.
- Following the deadly earthquake, which caused multiple casualties and left many injured in **Ecuador**, the Commission has taken immediate steps to provide **coordinated European support to the relief efforts**.

WHO WHEN WHERE

- 9:30 **'2016 Road transport conference'** holds on Brussels. The conference will gather representatives from Member States, Members of the European Parliament and key stakeholders for a day of intensive discussions and workshops to discuss the planned road initiatives as announced in the 2016 Commission work programme (Charlemagne building).

TODAY CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS



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