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EU Finance ministers meet in Brussels today to agree its position on the draft anti tax avoidance directive, which aims to address some of the most common aggressive tax planning practices.



TURKEY COULD BLOCK EU DEAL OVER VISAS

BBC.COM

Turkey's parliament will block a deal reached with the EU on migrants if Turks do not gain visa-free access to the bloc, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has warned.

The EU says Turkey still needs to meet certain conditions, including changes to its terror laws, something Ankara has refused to do.

The agreement aimed at halting the mass movement of people into Europe. Mr Erdogan has also said funds promised by the EU have not yet been released.

There are growing signs the aim of visa-free travel for Turks by the end of this month will not be met.

German chancellor, Angela Merkel, who met with Mr Erdogan on Monday, said there may not be enough time for it to be completed.

Turkey has repeatedly warned that the whole deal will collapse if this demand is not fulfilled.

"If that is not what will happen... no decision and no law in the framework of the readmission agreement will come out of the parliament of the Turkish Republic," Mr Erdogan said at the close of the World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul.

Under the EU-Turkey agreement, migrants who have arrived illegally in Greece since 20 March are to be sent back to Turkey if they do not apply for asylum or if their claim is rejected.

For each Syrian migrant returned to Turkey, the EU is to take in another Syrian who has made a legitimate request.



EUROZONE HAILS 'BREAKTHROUGH' WITH GREECE, IMF DEBT DEAL

EKATHIMERINI.COM



The euro zone gave Greece its firmest offer yet of debt relief in what finance ministers called a breakthrough deal that won a commitment from the IMF finally to return to taking part in the bailout for Athens.

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RISKS TO EURO ZONE FINANCIAL STABILITY HAVE INCREASED, ECB WARNS

REUTERS.COM



Risks to the euro zone's financial health have increased over the past six months, with a new bout of market turmoil and weak profits for banks and insurers emerging as the key sources of potential trouble, the European Central Bank said on Tuesday.

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DAVID CAMERON: RIGHTS OF UK CITIZENS IN EU 'UNCERTAIN' AFTER BREXIT

POLITICO.EU

Prime Minister David Cameron said that British citizens living elsewhere within the EU may lose some of their rights if the U.K. left the bloc after the June 23 referendum, the Guardian reports.

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POLICE RAID GOOGLE FRANCE HQ IN HUGE TAX DODGING INQUIRY

RFI.FR

Paris police raided the headquarters of Google in France on Tuesday as part of an investigation into tax fraud that has been running since 2011. And the BNP-Paribas bank has decided to close its subsidiaries in the Cayman Islands tax haven, a left-wing group claimed.

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POLAND VOWS SOLUTION TO JUDICIAL CRISIS

EUOBSERVER.COM

Polish prime minister Beata Szydlo has said that she has found ways to end the country's judicial crisis, in a move that has stopped the European Commission from publishing a critical report rule of law in the country.

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IMF URGES FRANCE TO DEEPEN JOB REFORMS

THELOCAL.FR

France's economy is recovering too slowly to attack high unemployment, the International Monetary Fund warned Tuesday, urging the country to go beyond its already hotly contested job market reforms.

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AUDITORS SLAM COMMISSION FOR INEFFICIENT RAILWAY FUNDING

EURACTIV.COM

A new report from the European Court of Auditors says €28 billion in EU funds didn't do enough to boost the share of freight shipped on railways—instead, that figure dropped despite beefed up investments.

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25 MAY, 2016

THE AGENDA

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EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

• 15:00 **the plenary session starts in Brussels**. On the final draft agenda: DEBATES: Resumption of session, Formal sitting - address by His Majesty **King Willem-Alexander of the Netherlands**, Order of business, Decision adopted on the **Digital Single Market package** - Commission statement, Preparation of **the G7 Summit** - Council and Commission statements, **Transatlantic data flows** - Council and Commission statements, Deployment of cross-border e-identification tools and online services - Commission statement. JOINT DEBATE: Putting citizens at the heart of the Energy Union and tackling energy poverty: Delivering a new deal for energy consumers (rapporteur **Theresa Griffin**, S&D), Tackling energy poverty as part of the Energy Union - Commission statement, Short presentations of the following reports: Poverty: a gender perspective (rapporteur **Maria Arena**, S&D), Non-tariff barriers in the Single Market (rapporteur **Daniel Dalton**, ECR), Virtual currencies (rapporteur **Jakob von Weizsäcker**, S&D), One-minute speeches (Rule 163).

• 19:00 **Committee on Regional Development**. On the agenda: Discussion with **Valdis Dombrovskis**, Vice-President of the European Commission for the Euro and Social Dialogue, on the Commission proposal to establish a Structural Reform Support Programme 2017-2020 (JAN - 4Q1).

• The Commission's **proposal for an EU anti-tax avoidance directive** was welcomed by Parliament's **Economic and Monetary Affairs Committee** in a resolution voted on Tuesday. MEPs nonetheless advocated stricter limits on deductions for interest payments and an effective corporate tax rate of 15%.

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

• 10:00 The **Economic and Financial Affairs Council** takes place in Brussels. The Council will be called on to agree its position on the draft anti tax avoidance directive, which aims to address some of the most common aggressive tax planning practices (Justus Lipsius Building).

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

• The Commission awarded €25 million in emergency funding to the **European Asylum Support Office** to enhance its capacity to further support the Greek authorities. These additional resources will be used to support the implementation of the EU-Turkey Statement and the EU emergency relocation scheme.

• **The European Investment Fund** and **Estonian financial group AS LHV Pank** have signed a guarantee agreement aimed at supporting micro-enterprises in Estonia under the EU Programme for Employment and Social Innovation.

• The Commission yesterday published a report detailing the progress achieved during the 13th round of talks for a **trade agreement with the United States**, which took place in April 2016, together with its proposal on regulatory cooperation in pharmaceuticals, submitted to the US during this round.

WHO WHEN WHERE

• 9:00 The **Global carbon market fair and conference** starts in Germany. The three-day event will bring representatives together from a wide array of sectors including that of the EIB (Cologne, Germany).

• 12:00 a two-day **4th EU Electromobility Stakeholder Forum** starts in Brussels. A range of electrifying topics will be covered from urban design opportunities, multimodal and interoperable charging infrastructure, operational impact of electric vehicles right through to results achieved so far. (Pullman Hotel, Brussels).

• **'Prevent crashes, reduce injuries, save lives'** takes place in Den Haag. This road safety event is a joint venture involving the European Transport Safety Council, the Forum of European Road Safety Research Institutes, and the Dutch Institute for Road Safety Research (Den Haag, The Netherlands).

• Commissioners **Carlos Moedas** and **Margrethe Vestager** delivers a speech at the conference **"Regulation4Innovation"**, in Brussels.

TODAY CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS



Franz OBERMAYR
ENF
(64)



Milan ZVER
EPP
(54)



Fulvio MARTUSCIELLO
EPP
(48)