



New Direction

the foundation for european reform

THE HERALD

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The plenary session starts in Brussels today at 15:00.



PLANS FOR THURSDAY EUROGROUP DROPPED, TSIPRAS SET TO ASK FOR SPECIAL EU SUMMIT

EKATHIMERINI.COM

Greece and its lenders were unable on Tuesday to reach an agreement on how to line up 3.6 billion euros in contingent austerity measures, leading to plans for an extra meeting of eurozone finance ministers on Thursday being dropped.

A spokesman for Eurogroup President Jeroen Dijsselbloem confirmed on Tuesday night that there would be no meeting this week to rubber-stamp an agreement between Athens and the institutions and conclude the first review of the third Greek bailout program.

"More time needed," tweeted Michel Reijns. "Meeting of first review, contingency package and debt at later stage," he added, without suggesting when eurozone finance ministers might meet to discuss Greece.

Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras is expected to call European Council President Donald Tusk today to ask for an extraordinary EU leaders' summit to discuss the Greek program as the SYRIZA leader feels that Athens has met its bailout commitments and that the lenders' side is standing in the way of an agreement.

Greek government sources said earlier that the details of an initial 5.4-billion-euro package of tax hikes and pension cuts had been finalized. However, the standby measures, which total 2 percent of GDP, proved to be a stumbling block.



SOCIALIST CHIEF ADMITS NEW ELECTIONS INEVITABLE

ELPAIS.COM



After meeting with Spain's King Felipe VI on Tuesday afternoon, as part of the last round of talks with politicians before new elections will have to be called, Socialist Party leader Pedro Sánchez announced that he had told the king that he will not have enough support to win a second investiture vote in Congress.

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NEW SLOVAK GOVERNMENT WINS CONFIDENCE VOTE IN PARLIAMENT

REUTERS.COM



Slovakia's newly formed government won a parliamentary confidence vote on Tuesday as the legislature approved its programme manifesto including a relaxation of budget targets and moderate cuts in taxes for companies and small businessmen. The cabinet, led by Prime Minister Robert Fico, is made up by four centre-left and centre-right parties, an arrangement forced by an inconclusive March election.

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€ LUFTHANSA SLASHES 895 FLIGHTS OVER STRIKE

DW.DE

Six German airports will face strikes on Wednesday, with Europe's largest airline Lufthansa warning that almost 900 flights will be cancelled. The strikes are set to hit Frankfurt, Munich, Düsseldorf, Cologne-Bonn, Dortmund and Hanover airports as service workers' union Verdi enters a battle with the government over pay rises for the public sector. Lufthansa's plan to cancel 895 flights - 60 percent of its usual services - will hit a total of 87,000 passengers.

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GOVERNMENT DEFEATED AGAIN IN LORDS OVER CHILD REFUGEES

BBC.COM

The government has been defeated again in the House of Lords over calls to take in child refugees from Europe. A new amendment to the Immigration Bill from Labour's Lord Dubs was backed by 279 votes to 172. It would force ministers to arrange the relocation of children who have made it to Europe into the UK, with the total number to be decided by the government. The government has warned against encouraging people to place children in the hands of traffickers.

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JUNIOR DOCTORS' STRIKE: HOSPITALS 'HOPING PATIENTS STAY AWAY'

EKATHIMERINI.COM

Hospitals are hoping less urgent patients once again stay away as junior doctors in England take part in their second all-out strike later in protest about the imposition of a new contract. Medics will walk out of both emergency and routine care from 08:00 to 17:00 BST following Tuesday's stoppage. Hospitals reported they had coped well during that walkout with some saying they were quieter than normal.

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EU PROPOSES NEW APPROACH TO BETTER SUPPORT DISPLACED PEOPLE

EUROPA.EU

The European Commission set out a new strategic vision regarding how its external action can best support refugees and displaced people in long lasting crises. The aim of this new approach, outlined in the Communication "Lives in Dignity: from Aid-dependence to Self-reliance", is to prevent refugees and displaced people relying only on emergency humanitarian type assistance. It looks at ways to help them become more self-reliant in the countries where they reside

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NEW DIRECTION LAUNCH: NEXT GENERATION TELECOM POLICY AND THE DIGITAL SINGLE MARKET

EUROPEANREFORM.ORG

In the latest New Direction report on the Digital Single Market, renowned Internet policy expert, Roslyn Layton PhD provides policy recommendations for the EU's 2020 Digital economy strategy.

Location: Renaissance Hotel, Rue de Parnasse 19, Brussels.

Wednesday, 27 April 2016, 17:00.

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27 APRIL, 2016

THE AGENDA

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EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

• 15:00 **the plenary session starts in Brussels.** On the final draft agenda: Resumption of session and order of business, European Investment Bank annual report 2014 (report by **Georgi Pirinski**, S&D). Joint debate - Discharge 2014 (53 reports): Discharge 2014: EU general budget - European Commission and Executive Agencies (report by **Martina Dlabajová**, ALDE), Discharge 2014: Court of Auditors' special reports in the context of the 2014 Commission discharge (report by **Martina Dlabajová**, ALDE), Discharge 2014: 8th, 9th, 10th and 11th EDFs (report by **Claudia Schmidt**, EPP), Discharge 2014: EU general budget - European Parliament (report by **Markus Pieper**, EPP), Discharge 2014: EU general budget - European Council and Council (report by **Ryszard Czarnecki**, ECR), Discharge 2014: EU general budget - Court of Justice (report by **Anders Primdahl Vistisen**, ECR), Discharge 2014: EU general budget - European Court of Auditors (report by **Ryszard Czarnecki**, ECR), Discharge 2014: EU general budget - European Economic and Social Committee (report by **Anders Primdahl Vistisen**, ECR), Discharge 2014: EU general budget - Committee of the Regions (report by **Monica Macovei**, ECR), Discharge 2014: EU general budget - European External Action Service (report by **Ryszard Czarnecki**, ECR), Discharge 2014: EU general budget - European Ombudsman (report by **Ryszard Czarnecki**, ECR), Discharge 2014: EU general budget - European Data Protection Supervisor (report by **Monica Macovei**, ECR), Discharge 2014: Performance, financial management and control of EU agencies (report by **Derek Vaughan**, S&D), Discharge 2014: Agency for Cooperation of Energy Regulators (ACER) (report by **Derek Vaughan**, S&D), Discharge 2014: Office of the Body of European Regulators for Electronic Communications (BEREC Office) (report by **Derek Vaughan**, S&D), Discharge 2014: Translation Centre for the Bodies of the European Union (CdT) (report by **Derek Vaughan**, S&D), Discharge 2014: European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (Cedefop) (report by **Derek Vaughan**, S&D), Discharge 2014: European Police College (CEPOL) (report by **Derek Vaughan**, S&D), Discharge 2014: European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) (report by **Derek Vaughan**, S&D), Discharge 2014: European Asylum Support Office (EASO) (report by **Derek Vaughan**, S&D), Discharge 2014: European Banking Authority (EBA) (report by **Derek Vaughan**, S&D), Discharge 2014: European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) (report by **Derek Vaughan**, S&D), Discharge 2014: European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) (report by **Derek Vaughan**, S&D), Discharge 2014: European Environment Agency (EEA) (report by **Derek Vaughan**, S&D), Discharge 2014: European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA) (report by **Derek Vaughan**, S&D), Discharge 2014: European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) (report by **Derek Vaughan**, S&D), Discharge 2014: European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) (report by **Derek Vaughan**, S&D), Discharge 2014: European Insurance and Occupational Pensions Authority (EIOPA) (report by **Derek Vaughan**, S&D), Discharge 2014: European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) (report by **Derek Vaughan**, S&D), Discharge 2014: European Medicines Agency (EMA) (report by **Derek Vaughan**, S&D), Discharge 2014: European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) (report by **Derek Vaughan**, S&D), Discharge 2014: European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) (report by **Derek Vaughan**, S&D), Discharge 2014: European Union Agency for Network and Information Security (ENISA) (report by **Derek Vaughan**, S&D), Discharge 2014: European Railway Agency (ERA) (report by **Derek Vaughan**, S&D), Discharge 2014: European Securities and Markets Authority (ESMA) (report by **Derek Vaughan**, S&D), Discharge 2014: European Training Foundation (ETF) (report by **Derek Vaughan**, S&D), Discharge 2014: European Agency for the operational management of large-scale IT systems in the area of freedom, security and justice (EU-LISA) (report by **Derek Vaughan**, S&D), Discharge 2014: European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (EU-OSHA) (report by **Derek Vaughan**, S&D), Discharge 2014: Euratom Supply Agency (ESA) (report by **Derek Vaughan**, S&D), Discharge 2014: European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions (Eurofound) (report by **Derek Vaughan**, S&D), Discharge 2014: The European Union's Judicial Cooperation Unit (Eurojust) (report by **Derek Vaughan**, S&D), Discharge 2014: European Police Office (Europol) (report by **Derek Vaughan**, S&D), Discharge 2014: European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) (report by **Derek Vaughan**, S&D), Discharge 2014:

European Agency for the Management of Operational Cooperation at the External Borders of the Member States of the European Union (Frontex) (report by **Derek Vaughan**, S&D), Discharge 2014: European GNSS Agency (GSA) (report by **Derek Vaughan**, S&D), Discharge 2014: ARTEMIS Joint Undertaking (report by **Marian-Jean Marinescu**, EPP), Discharge 2014: Clean Sky Joint Undertaking (report by **Marian-Jean Marinescu**, EPP), Discharge 2014: ECSEL Joint Undertaking (report by **Marian-Jean Marinescu**, EPP), Discharge 2014: ENIAC Joint Undertaking (report by **Marian-Jean Marinescu**, EPP), Discharge 2014: Fuel Cells and Hydrogen Joint Undertaking (report by **Marian-Jean Marinescu**, EPP), Discharge 2014: Innovative Medicines Initiative 2 Joint Undertaking (IMI) (report by **Marian-Jean Marinescu**, EPP), Discharge 2014: Joint Undertaking for ITER and the Development of Fusion Energy (report by **Marian-Jean Marinescu**, EPP), Attacks on hospitals and schools as violations of international humanitarian law - oral question, Attacks on hospitals and schools as violations of international humanitarian law, Public access to documents for the years 2014-2015 (report by **Laura Ferrara**, EFDD), Protecting the best interest of the child (across borders) in Europe - oral questions. Short presentations of the following reports: Women domestic workers and carers in the EU (report by **Kostadinka Kuneva**, GUE/NGL), Gender equality and empowering women in the digital age (report **Terry Reintke**, Greens/EFA). One-minute speeches (Rule 163).

• **President Schulz** will meet Chairman of **Georgia's Parliament David Usupashvili**, **Maronite Patriarch of Antioch Cardinal Béchara Boutros Raï** and **Albania's President Bujar Nishani** today

TODAY CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS



Viviane REDING
EPP
(65)



Jussi HALLA-AHO
EPP
(45)