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the foundation for european reform

THE HERALD

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David Cameron has hailed Labour's Sadiq Khan as "a proud Muslim" and "a proud Brit" as he shared a platform with the London Mayor at an EU Remain rally. They were launching a Britain Stronger In Europe battle bus and pledge card.



GLITCH IN BAILOUT TALKS FUELS FEARS OF DELAY IN LOAN DISBURSEMENT

EKATHIMERINI.COM

There was fresh concern on Monday that there could be further delays in the disbursement of much-needed bailout money to Greece owing to a disagreement between Athens and its creditors, who have demanded changes to prior actions passed in Parliament earlier this month.

European Union officials on Monday appeared to dismiss Greece's refusal to implement some of these changes, saying that these are issues that have already been agreed with the Greek government.

The country's lenders had given the green light for the disbursement of a tranche of 10.3 billion euros last week, on the condition the government made amendments to recent legislation it passed on pension, bad loans and privatizations.

However, Finance Minister Euclid Tsakalotos had informed the European Commission representative and the International Monetary Fund in a letter last week that their demands could not be met, neither could Athens fulfill the demands enshrined in the bailout deal signed last summer to privatize ADMIE, the country's grid operator, and to freeze the wages of essential services, like those of the coast guard and police.

Greece desperately needs the new bailout money to pay state arrears as well as debt repayments to the IMF and ECB in the coming weeks. There were reports on Monday that the government is planning to submit its own amendments on Wednesday to Parliament. If the disagreement between Greece and its creditors persists, then it is likely it will be discussed at the Euro Working Group on Thursday.

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MIGRANTS RESCUED OFF LEFKADA ON GREECE- ITALY SEA ROUTE

THELOCAL.DK



Greek rescuers have picked up 29 migrants at sea off the western island of Lefkada as they headed for Italy. It is the first time migrants have been rescued trying to cross from Greece to Italy since Greece's land border with Macedonia was closed in March. The migrants, whose nationalities remain unknown, were found adrift in the Ionian Sea on Sunday.

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WATCHDOG OPENS INQUIRY INTO COMMISSION ADVISERS

EURACTIV.COM



Emily O'Reilly opened an investigation into how the EU executive hires special advisers for commissioners. The Ombudsman said she received multiple complaints about the European Commission's advisers, and will start looking at how the executive checks to make sure the external consultants don't have conflicts of interest. Commissioners currently have around 40 special advisers between them.

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€ BRUSSELS URGES MORE CARING FOR SHARING ECONOMY

FT.COM

Brussels is to call on EU governments not to ban or limit services such as Uber and Airbnb, in a bid to head off a regulatory onslaught from national authorities on the “sharing economy” in Europe. The European Commission will this week set out guidelines to harmonise the often wildly different treatment faced by businesses trying to shake up sectors ranging from accommodation to transport across the 28-country bloc.

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★ JEAN-CLAUDE JUNCKER'S RUSSIA TRIP RAISES RED FLAGS

POLITICO.EU

European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker faces growing resistance from the U.S., some European countries – and even among his own staff – to a trip to Russia next month. Their fear is that Juncker's visit will strengthen Russian President Vladimir Putin's position right before a crucial decision on renewing economic sanctions against Moscow. Juncker plans to attend a major international conference in St. Petersburg – an annual gathering that is often described as Putin's version of the Forum in Davos.

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🏛️ HUNGARY REINFORCES FENCE ON SERBIAN BORDER

EUOBSERVER.COM

Hungary said Monday it had begun reinforcing its anti-migrant fence on the Serbian border after more people started arriving following the evacuation of the Idomeni camp on the Greece-Macedonia frontier. The daily number of illegal entries had risen from 70-90 to 100-150 since Idomeni was evacuated, a government official said.

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★ DON'T ADOPT ARMENIA GENOCIDE BILL, TURKEY WARNS BERLIN

THELOCAL.ES

Turkey on Monday strongly warned the German parliament against adopting a resolution recognising the mass killings of Armenians under the Ottoman Empire as genocide, saying it could have repercussions for bilateral ties. The German lower house of parliament is set to vote on Thursday on the resolution over the two years of slaughter from 1915, which carries the contested word “genocide” throughout the text.

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€ THERE IS NO BASIS FOR POLAND TO BE PENALISED: POLISH FM

THENEWS.PL

Dialogue over the Constitutional Tribunal is ongoing, so there is still no reason for Poland to be penalised, Polish Foreign Minister Witold Waszczykowski said on Monday. Asked whether the EC was likely to pass such a report, the Minister said: “We hope that the Commission will take some time to reflect [upon its actions] and halt this procedure.”

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THE AGENDA

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EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

- 15:00 **President Schulz** meets **Elhadj As Sy**, Secretary General of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and **Werner Kerschbaum**, Secretary General of the Austrian Federation of Red Cross.

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

- 9:30 the **Education, Youth, Culture and Sports Council** resumes with culture and audiovisual items. The Council is expected to adopt conclusions on the role of Europeana for the digital access, visibility and use of cultural heritage. Subsequently, the Commission will present its proposal for revising the Audiovisual Media Services Directive. Ministers will then be able to discuss the AVMS proposal in general and address one of the aspects of the AVMS directive in particular, namely the promotion of crossborder circulation of European audiovisual content. Sport-related issues will be dealt with in the afternoon, starting at 14:00. During this session the Council is due to adopt conclusions on enhancing integrity, transparency and good governance in major sport events. It will also include a public debate on the role of governments in improving governance in sport. The sport session will be followed by the 'structured dialogue' meeting between representatives of the sports movement (IOC, EOC, FIFA and UEFA), all EU sport ministers and Commissioner Navracsics. They will address the issue of good governance in relation to major sport events.
- An **informal meeting of agriculture ministers** on the future of the Common Agricultural Policy continues in Amsterdam.

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

- The Commission adopted **new rules on how it selects the advisory expert groups which provide external expertise** to help inform the policy-making process. The Decision provides a single set of rules and principles aimed at increasing transparency, avoiding conflicts of interest and ensuring a balanced representation of interests. The new rules are binding on all Commission departments.

WHO WHEN WHERE

- High Representative / Vice-President **Federica Mogherini** continues her visit of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia today.
- Commissioner **Avramopoulos** is in Lisbon to launch the 2016 European Drugs Report produced by the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA).
- The European Commission appointed **Jochen Pöttgen** and **Alain Dumort** as the new Heads of the European Commission's Regional Offices in Bonn, Germany, and in Marseille, France respectively. They will take up their duties on 1 June 2016.