



New  
Direction

the foundation for european reform

# THE HERALD

[newdirectionfoundation.org](http://newdirectionfoundation.org) follow us @europeanreform



Iceland's prime minister Sigmundur Gunnlaugsson has resigned - the first major casualty of the leaked Panama Papers that have shone a spotlight on offshore finance.



## DUTCH GET SECOND CHANCE TO SNUB EU

POLITICO.EU

Referendums make the Dutch establishment nervous. Eleven years ago, the country rejected plans to give the EU greater powers through a European Constitution, embarrassing the government and forcing a rethink in Brussels.

History could repeat itself Wednesday.

When Dutch voters go to the polls to decide whether the EU should work more closely with Ukraine, the stakes will not be as high as they were in 2005. But the government wants desperately to avoid a No vote. It would be awkward coming as the Netherlands holds the rotating presidency of the Council of Ministers. And it could help fuel the Euroskeptical movement across Europe.

For many, this is not a referendum on an EU-Ukraine "association agreement," as the treaty to strengthen economic and political ties is known. It's a vote on the EU and on the Dutch government itself.

Geert Wilders, the controversial leader of the far-right Freedom Party, launched a campaign in March called EUKRAINEE - a combination of EU, Ukraine and Nee (the Dutch word for no).

"This referendum is about more than just the agreement between the EU and Ukraine. It is a chance for the Netherlands to show a counter-message. A vote against the deal equals a vote against [Prime Minister Mark] Rutte and the Brussels elite," says a statement on the Freedom Party's website.



## GREECE HALTS DEPORTATIONS TO TURKEY

BBC.COM



Greece paused deportations of migrants to Turkey on Tuesday, a day after the first boats took back 202 people under a controversial EU plan to cut off a migrant route to Europe.



## EU PRESSURES POLAND OVER COURT CHANGES

FT.COM



The EU sent its top problem-solver to Warsaw on Tuesday as Brussels sought to increase diplomatic pressure on the Polish government to back down in an increasingly bitter four-month constitutional crisis.

[READ MORE](#)

[READ MORE](#)

[READ MORE](#)





## PANAMA PAPERS: CAMERON 'DOES NOT GAIN FROM OFFSHORE FUNDS'

BBC.COM

Downing Street has said David Cameron, his wife and children do not benefit from offshore funds after questions about his family's tax affairs. No 10 was forced to issue a statement after Labour called for an inquiry into Britons linked to tax haven allegations - including Mr Cameron's family.

[READ MORE](#)



## EUROZONE LENDER SAYS GREEK REFORMS REVIEW MAY END IN APRIL

EKATHIMERINI.COM

International lenders may finish their review of Greek reforms, needed to unblock further credit to Athens and start debt relief negotiations by the end of April or early May, the head of the eurozone bailout fund, Klaus Regling, said on Tuesday.

[READ MORE](#)



## GERMANY'S MERKEL SAYS GREECE CAN'T HAVE DEBT HAIRCUT IN EURO ZONE

REUTERS.COM

Chancellor Angela Merkel said on Tuesday that a debt haircut for Greece was not possible so long it remains in the euro zone, adding that Germany wanted a quick conclusion of a bailout review.

[READ MORE](#)



## FAR-RIGHT LEADER'S AIDES NAMED IN PANAMA PAPERS SCANDAL

RFI.FR

Aides to French far-right leader Marine Le Pen put in place a "sophisticated offshore system" to hide money, Le Monde newspaper reported on Tuesday in the latest disclosure from the Panama Papers.

[READ MORE](#)



## VOLUME OF RETAIL TRADE UP BY 0.2% IN EURO AREA

EUROPA.EU

In February 2016 compared with January 2016, the seasonally adjusted volume of retail trade increased by 0.2% in the euro area (EA19) and fell by 0.1% in the EU28, according to estimates from Eurostat. In January retail trade rose by 0.3% in the euro area and by 0.7% in the EU28.

[READ MORE](#)



New  
Direction  
the foundation for european reform



New  
Direction

the foundation for european reform

6 APRIL, 2016

# THE AGENDA

[newdirectionfoundation.org](http://newdirectionfoundation.org) follow us @europeanreform

## EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

- 10:00 ECR MEP **Joachim Starbatty** co-hosts a **hearing on the Euro**, with opening remarks by ECR Vice-President **Hans-Olaf Henkel** and speakers from think tanks, universities, and MEPs from several political groups (ASP – 1AE2).
- 16:30 President of the European parliament **Martin Schulz** will meet **Irina Bokova**, Director-General of UNESCO (PSH, Salon Protocolaire A).

## EUROPEAN COMMISSION

- Today, the Commission and the **African Union Commission** hold their **annual College-to-College meeting** in Africa's political capital in Addis Ababa. This annual meeting is the biggest EU-Africa political meeting of the year. Discussions will focus on key themes such as migration, peace, security and sustainable growth, as well as other policy areas enshrined in the **Joint EU-Africa Strategy**.
- Yesterday, the Commission announced a €52 million humanitarian aid package aimed specifically at **educational projects for children in emergency situations in 2016**. The package reflects the Commission's prior commitment to allocate 4% of its humanitarian aid budget to education.
- During a **visit to Sudan** yesterday, EU Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development, **Neven Mimica** discussed increased EU cooperation with Sudan on issues of common interest.
- The Commission will invest over €7.5 million to **boost innovation and create jobs in the marine and maritime sectors**. Innovation in sectors like aquaculture, biotechnology or ocean energy is vital for the blue economy to thrive, as recognised by the Commission's Communication on Innovation in the Blue Economy.

## COURT OF JUSTICE OF THE EU

- The Court ruled that **the execution of a European arrest warrant must be deferred** if there is a real risk of inhuman or degrading treatment because of the conditions of detention of the person concerned in the Member State where the warrant was issued. If the existence of that risk cannot be discounted within a reasonable period, the authority responsible for the execution of the warrant must decide whether the surrender procedure should be brought to an end (C-404/15 and C-659/15 PPU).

## WHO WHEN WHERE

- 9:30 The European Political Strategy Centre is hosting a High level Conference **'Europe as an Investment Destination'**. Focusing on the key priority of the Juncker Commission, this event will explore how **the Investment Plan for Europe** and **the European Fund for Strategic Investments** contribute to Europe's economic recovery while driving innovation, technology and skills.
- 11:00 EEST **'Second meeting of eu-LISA with the Heads of Diplomatic Missions'** takes place in Estonia. The European agency for the operational management of large-scale IT systems in the area of freedom, security and justice (EU-LISA) will hold a meeting with the Heads of Diplomatic Missions in Estonia (EU-LISA headquarters, Tallinn).

- 14:30 a two-day **'2nd meeting of the European Migration Forum'** organised by the European Commission and European Economic and Social Committee starts in Brussels. This Forum is a platform for dialogue on the EU migration, asylum and integration (JDE building, Atrium).

- The informal working groups **'Urban Development Group'** and **'Network of Territorial Cohesion Contact Points'** will meet today and tomorrow to discuss development and collaboration between cities and regions in various policy fields. The working groups consist of experts from the EU member states, partner countries and European stakeholders such as the Committee of the Regions (Europe Building).

- **5G architecture workshop** takes place in Brussels. The Commission and the European 5G Infrastructure Public Private Partnership invite non-5G PPP projects and relevant initiatives to attend this workshop and contribute to the European debate on 5G architectures (Albert Borschette Conference Centre).

## TODAY CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS



**Jaromír ŠTETINA**  
EPP  
(73)



**Jo LEINEN**  
S&D  
(68)