



EUROPEAN UNION

Delegation of the European Union to the Council of Europe

Weekly media report of developments in the Council of Europe

02 - 06 February 2015

RUSSIA

Voting rights? ft. Anne Brasseur, President, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

02/02/2015 - Russia Today

The suspension of Russia's voting rights at PACE for a second time has prompted Moscow to consider withdrawing from the Council of Europe. And with the Ukraine crisis escalating and the body count rising, neither side can afford to sever cooperation. What has been gained by the marginalization of a major stakeholder in the Ukraine conflict, and what avenues for moving forward has PACE left Russia after removing its voice?

<http://rt.com/shows/worlds-apart-oksana-boyko/228303-voting-rights-pace-russia/>

Council of Europe exit to cut Russia away from Europe

05/02/2015 - The Moscow Times

As Moscow considers cutting ties with the Council of Europe, much hangs in the balance: from the rights of ordinary Russians, to the future of regional relations, to the fate of the death penalty.

<http://www.themoscowtimes.com/news/article/council-of-europe-exit-to-cut-russia-away-from-europe/515449.html>

Angry over being denied voting rights, Russia says PACE mission can't visit Savchenko

03/02/2015 – Unian

Chairman of the International Affairs Committee of the Russian State Duma Alexey Pushkov has said Moscow will maintain contact only with countries that voted against maintaining sanctions on the Russian delegation in the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe.

<http://www.unian.info/society/1039622-angry-over-being-denied-voting-rights-russia-says-pace-mission-cant-visit-savchenko.html>

Russia to challenge European court appeal on Bolotnaya riot sentences

03/02/2015 - ITAR TASS

"Russia's government asks the ECHR in its memorandum to turn down an appeal against the court verdict handed down on defendants in the Bolotnaya disorder case," lawyer Dmitry Agranovsky said.

<http://itar-tass.com/en/russia/775107>

UKRAINE

Head of Venice Commission advises Poroshenko to suspend lustration and improve anti-corruption law

03/02/2015 - UNIAN

Ukraine should suspend its lustration of government and make improvements to the law on clearing corrupt officials out of government, President of the Venice Commission Gianni Buquicchio said on Tuesday.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1039817-head-of-venice-commission-advises-poroshenko-to-suspend-lustration-and-improve-lustration-law.html>

Poroshenko: Never before Ukraine's PACE delegation demonstrated such unity as now

03/02/2015 - Kyiv Post

Ukrainian President has met with the Ukrainian delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and congratulated the parliamentarians on the important parliamentary and diplomatic victory in favour of Ukraine.

<https://www.kyivpost.com/content/ukraine/poroshenko-never-before-ukraines-pace-delegation-demonstrated-such-unity-as-now-379320.html>

TERRORISM

Reynders sur la lutte contre le terrorisme : «Nous pouvons faire mieux»

03/02/2015 - Le Soir

Le ministre belge des Affaires étrangères, Didier Reynders, a une nouvelle fois plaidé lundi en faveur d'un renforcement de la coopération européenne et internationale dans la lutte contre le terrorisme et l'extrémisme, annonçant la tenue d'une conférence ministérielle en mai sur le sujet à Bruxelles.

<http://www.lesoir.be/774741/article/actualite/belgique/politique/2015-02-02/reynders-sur-lutte-contre-terrorisme-nous-pouvons-faire-mieux>

HUMAN RIGHTS

Council of Europe urges EU to take more responsibility for Syrian refugees

04/02/2015 - Sputnik News

European countries should step up admission of refugees from Syria, which is approaching the fifth year of its devastating civil war, the Council of Europe's commissioner for human rights Nils Muiznieks said Tuesday.

<http://sputniknews.com/europe/20150203/1017715619.html>

ECHR

Perinçek may deny but Turkey should not

04/02/2015 - Today's Zaman

Last week's hearing at the ECHR is the latest episode in a long, drawn-out legal battle over freedom of speech and the right to deny the Armenian genocide.

http://www.todayszaman.com/columnist/joost-lagendijk/perincek-may-deny-but-turkey-should-not_371623.html

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