



EUROPEAN UNION

Delegation of the European Union to the Council of Europe

Weekly media report of developments in the Council of Europe

16 - 20 February 2015

UKRAINE

[PACE President urges parties to Ukrainian conflict to open escape corridor](#)

18/02/2015 - ITAR TASS

Anne Brasseur, the president of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), on Wednesday issued a statement with regard to the continued fighting in southeastern Ukraine, including the town of Debaltsevo where the forces of the self-proclaimed Donetsk People's Republic have encircled a large grouping of Ukrainian Army and 'national guard' units.

[Minister Pavlo Klimkin met PACE rapporteur Christina Zelenkova](#)

18/02/2015 - Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine

Minister Pavlo Klimkin said that the implementation of the Minsk agreements was only the first step towards the resolution of the situation. He stressed on the need to continue international pressure on the Russian Federation in order to stop its aggression against Ukraine and return Russia back on a track of compliance with international law.

HUMAN RIGHTS

[The Council of Europe asks France to respect asylum seekers' rights](#)

18/02/2015 - The European Post

In a [recent report](#), the Commission for Human Rights of the Council of Europe denounces French approach to migrants. With racism, xenophobia and far right parties raising everywhere in Europe, "there is an urgent need to combat this in a sustained and systematic manner," said Nils Muižnieks, the Commissioner for Human Rights.

[Freedom of expression in EU jeopardized after shootings](#)

17/02/2015 - Sputnik News

Secretary General of the Council of Europe claims that freedom of expression in Europe is under threat after weekend's shootings in Copenhagen.

[Mass surveillance warning after European terror attacks](#)

18/02/2015 - The Guardian

Human rights watchdog says counter-terrorism proposals such as encryption ban suggest 'little has been learned from Snowden affair.'

[CIA torture report: European Court of Human Rights confirms Poland hosted 'secret jail'](#)

18/02/2015 - International Business Times

The European Court of Human Rights rejected on 17 February, 2015, an appeal by Poland to review its ruling that the country had hosted a secret CIA jail where at least two men were detained.

TERRORISM

[Secretary General joins White House summit to counter violent extremism](#)

18/02/2015 - Council of Europe

Travelling to Washington for the Whitehouse Summit on Countering Violent Extremism, Secretary General Thorbjørn Jagland will today join leaders, stakeholders and opinion formers in the global fight against terrorism. Speaking on the importance of education in combatting radicalisation, the Secretary General will argue that 'we must now be absolutely confident in promoting our shared, democratic values to the next generation'.

[Secretary General condemns desecration of Jewish graves vandalised in Sarre-Union](#)

16/02/2015 - Council of Europe

In a statement on Monday, the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, Thorbjørn Jagland, condemned the desecration of Jewish graves in Sarre-Union: "I join the French government and President Hollande in condemning this barbaric act of anti-Semitism. Anti-Semitism is on the rise not only in France, but across Europe. We cannot allow our Jewish citizens to be driven out of Europe again by hate and racism. Political leaders, governments and Europe's institutions must do everything possible to stop this dangerous trend", he said.

AZERBAIJAN

[Rapporteurs of the Monitoring Committee travel to Baku](#)

16/02/2015 - Contact

The rapporteurs of PACE Monitoring Committee - Tadeusz Iwinski and Pedro Agramunt will visit Azerbaijan in early March. According to sources in the Council of Europe, the speakers will conduct regular monitoring of the implementation of Azerbaijan's commitments to the Council of Europe.

[Venice Commission conference due in Baku](#)

17/02/2015 - Azernews

The Constitutional Court of Azerbaijan and the Venice Commission of the Council of Europe will discuss the ways to strengthen the cooperation.

[Azerbaijan 'silencing critics' by detaining activists](#)

17/02/2015 - Euro Times

For over 6 months, a locale of Emin Huseynov, a distinguished tellurian rights campaigner, were unknown, until a Swiss broadcaster SRF pennyless a news final week that a country's embassy in Baku had been sheltering him given Aug 2014.

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