



EUROPEAN UNION

Delegation of the European Union to the Council of Europe

Weekly media report of developments in the Council of Europe

16 - 20 March 2015

RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT

[Thorbjørn Jagland: Ukraine has a lot on its plate, and Europe is here to help](#)

16/03/2015 - Kyiv Post

Restoring peace and stability in conflict-torn Ukraine has been on everyone's mind for over a year now. Safeguarding Ukraine's territorial integrity is a fundamental principle for me. And it is completely unacceptable that borders in today's Europe are changed with the use of military force.

[Even if Russia is aggressor, Ukraine must adhere to Minsk Agreements](#)

18/03/2015 - Kyiv Post

PACE rapporteur on the political consequences of the crisis in Ukraine Kristyna Zelenkova has written a report note on the results of her visit to Ukraine on Feb. 15-18, 2015. During her visit, she visited Kyiv and a number of cities in eastern Ukraine, including Sloviansk, Kramatorsk and Severodonetsk.

[Poroshenko invites Council of Europe to join Constitutional Commission's work](#)

18/03/2015 - Ukrinform

Ukraine is interested in the participation of experts of the Venice Commission in the work of the Constitutional Commission that was recently launched. Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko said this during a meeting with Secretary General of the Council of Europe Thorbjørn Jagland, the presidential press service reported.

[Poroshenko asks Jagland to help Ukraine with release of hostages](#)

18/03/2015 - Interfax

Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko has asked the Secretary General of the Council of Europe Thorbjørn Jagland to help Ukraine with the release of all the Ukrainian hostages, especially MP Nadia Savchenko and film director Oleh Sentsov, who are being held in Russia.

[European Human Rights Court orders Russia to give explanations to Ukraine's claim against Crimea's annexation by March 25](#)

18/03/2015 - Ukrainian News

The European Court of Human Rights has ordered Russia to give explanations to Ukraine's claim against Crimea's annexation by March 25, Minister of Justice Pavlo Petrenko said at a news briefing. "Ukraine's application to the European Court of Human Rights is being processed, and Russia shall provide its explanation by late March. Of course, it will try to drag out the term," the minister noted.

[PACE report highlights Russian orchestration of east Ukraine conflict](#)

18/03/2015 - Ukraine Today

Russia is heavily involved in the conflict in east Ukraine. That's according to the rapporteur of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe Kristýna Zelenkova, based on records of her visit to Ukraine last February.

[Savchenko appeals against refusal to let her go to PACE session](#)

18/03/2015 - RAPS

Ukrainian pilot Nadezhda Savchenko has filed with the Moscow City Court an appeal challenging the investigative officer's refusal to let her attend a PACE session, attorney Nikolai Polozov told RAPS on Tuesday.

TERRORISM

[L'APCE condamne fermement l'attaque terroriste à Tunis](#)

18/03/2015 - Assemblée parlementaire

«Il ne saurait y avoir de justification au terrorisme. Je condamne dans les termes les plus vifs ceux qui veulent, par la violence et la peur, menacer la paix et la stabilité. Pour répondre à l'extrémisme, il faut rendre nos démocraties plus fortes. J'exprime notre plein soutien aux autorités tunisiennes en ce moment difficile».

[Blocage de sites jihadistes: inquiétude du Conseil de l'Europe](#)

19/03/2015 - Notre Temps

Le récent blocage de cinq sites jihadistes par le gouvernement français fait peser des "risques" pour la liberté d'expression, s'est inquiété jeudi le commissaire aux droits de l'Homme du Conseil de l'Europe, Nils Muiznieks.

[Council of Europe rights chief 'worried' by French bill](#)

19/03/2015 - Deutsche Welle

Europe's rights body has criticized French anti-terror efforts. The government wants to give intelligence services legal backing to vacuum up metadata in the hope of preventing an imminent terror attack.

HUMAN RIGHTS

[Human rights in Armenia: the Muižnieks report](#)

18/03/2015 - Osservatorio balcani e caucaso

Nils Muižnieks, Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe, made public on 10 March his report on the state of human rights in Armenia.

[Nils Muižnieks intervenes on Intigam Aliyev European Court case](#)

19/03/2015 - Human Rights Europe

Muižnieks declares that the case is “an illustration of a serious and systemic human rights problem in Azerbaijan, where critical voices are often subject to reprisals and judicially harassed.”

[Lithuania urged to implement ECHR rulings on sex change and ousted president](#)

16/03/2015 - DELFI News

Lithuania's representative at the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) Karolina Bubnytė has urged state institutions to focus its efforts on the implementation of the court's rulings on sex change surgeries and the right for ousted president Rolandas Paksas to run for elections.

[UK rights watchdog attacks Tory policy to quit European human rights court](#)

20/03/2015 - The Guardian

The government's human rights watchdog has attacked Conservative party proposals to repeal the Human Rights Act and withdraw from the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg.

PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

[L'ordre du jour de la session de printemps \(des 20-24 avril\) de l'Assemblée parlementaire du Conseil de l'Europe \(APCE\) a été rendu public](#)

19/03/2015 - AzerTac

La session débutera par l'intervention du président de l'APCE, l'ordre du jour sera confirmé, l'activité du Bureau et des commissions permanentes sera discutée.

[More than 3,000 Europeans in Syria conflict](#)

18/03/2015 - Human Rights Europe

Some 3,400 Europeans have taken part in the conflict in Syria, according to the Parliamentary Assembly's Political Affairs Committee. At its [16 March Paris meeting](#), members learned that more than 16,000 non-Europeans, from 90 countries, are also part of the violence in the country.

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