



EUROPEAN UNION
Delegation of the European Union to the Council of Europe

Weekly Media Report of developments related to the Council of Europe **10 – 14 August 2015**

Turkey

Turkish FM, PACE president condemn terrorism, urge easing of tensions

13/08 – The Hurriyet Daily News

Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu and the president of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), Anne Brasseur, have condemned terrorism and violent extremism, stressing the need to continue combating it.

UN, PACE condemn PKK terrorist attacks

12/08 – Daily Sabah

The U.N. and Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) on Monday condemned the terrorist attacks by the PKK in Şırnak province that left four police officers and a soldier dead along with two separate assaults on the U.S. Consulate building and a police station in Istanbul.

Turkey: Jagland urges end to violence to save peace process

10/08 – Human Rights Europe

Rising tensions in Turkey are endangering national peace and stability, Secretary General Thorbjørn Jagland warned today. “The recent increase of violence in Turkey which has resulted in the deaths of civilians, soldiers and police officers is very worrying,” he declared. “I call on all in Turkey to refrain from violent actions and reactions.”

Moldova

Bring Moldova Back From the Brink by Thorbjørn Jagland

10/08 – The New York Times

The Republic of Moldova — a tiny country of just 3.5 million people — is at risk of becoming Europe’s next security crisis, with potential consequences far beyond its borders.



Azerbaijan

Azerbaijan: PACE President outraged at sentences for Leyla and Arif Yunus

13/08 – Parliamentary Assembly

“I am shocked and outraged by the sentencing of Leyla and Arif Yunus for eight-and-a-half and seven years of imprisonment, respectively,” said Anne Brasseur, the President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE). “The Council of Europe has repeatedly urged the authorities to stop the unprecedented crackdown on civil society – including reprisals and judicial harassment of human rights defenders and independent media – and address human rights problems in the country,” she said.

Azerbaijan criticised for jailing activist couple

13/08 – The Guardian

Leyla Yunus was given an eight-and-a-half year sentence while her husband, Arif, was jailed for seven years on charges denounced as politically motivated. A court in Azerbaijan has sentenced a prominent rights activist couple to hefty jail terms on charges denounced as politically motivated.

Secretary General of EC: Case of Yunus couple should be investigated by ECHR

13/08 – Armen Press

Secretary General of the European Council Thorbjørn Jagland will request from the Azerbaijani authorities the full details of the judgment and the evidence presented against the defendants Leyla and Arif Yunus.

'Azerbaijan is turning into a dictatorship – we shouldn't fall for its caviar diplomacy'

13/08 – The Guardian

For more than a decade Azerbaijan has made shameless use of caviar diplomacy to charm European governments, its most important oil and gas clients. In return Europe has turned a blind eye to Azerbaijan's human rights violations. In the name of Leyla and Arif Yunus and all Azerbaijani democracy campaigners, the climate of impunity must end now.

Azerbaijani government taking all measures on investigation of journalist's death

11/08 – Trend News Agency

The Azerbaijani President's Aide for Public and Political Affairs Ali Hasanov has commented on the Council of Europe Secretary General Thorbjørn Jagland's statement on the death of Rasim Aliyev, an employee of Ann.az website. “President Ilham Aliyev is deeply concerned about the death of the journalist and rates this incident as a threat to the freedom of speech and information, free activity of the mass media in the country,” said Hasanov.



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Foreign Ministry responded to Jagland's statement about journalist's murder

11/08 – Azer Daily

Statement by the Secretary General of the Council of Europe Thorbjørn Jagland in connection with the death of an Azerbaijani journalist, Rasim Aliyev aims to politicise this criminal case, said today head of the press service of the Azerbaijani Foreign Ministry Hikmet Hajiyev, Trend reports.

Secretary General Thorbjørn Jagland condemns attack on Azerbaijani journalist Rasim Aliyev

10/08 – Council of Europe

“I am shocked by the murder of Rasim Aliyev, Chairman of the Institute for Reporters Safety and Freedom. It is a very worrying sign that the safety of journalists in the country is deteriorating further. I call on the Azerbaijani authorities to fully and promptly investigate this murder and to bring the perpetrators to justice. This tragic event should serve as a last reminder to the authorities and society as whole that the country cannot continue like this: all must re-engage, and all must be done, to restore internal dialogue and trust between civil society and the authorities”, he said.

Georgia

CoE body seeks full application of transparency advice

11/08 – Pan European Networks

The anti-corruption body of the Council of Europe (CoE), has published a report on how Georgia has been implementing its previous recommendations on criminalisation of corruption offences and on transparency of party funding. The new compliance report by the Group of States Against Corruption (GRECO), says that to date, Georgia has satisfactorily implemented eight out of a total of 15 recommendations given in 2011.

Ukraine

Ukraine's Reforms: Running in circles

12/08 – New Eastern Europe

The Secretary General of the Council of Europe Thorbjørn Jagland said: “I welcome the constitutional amendments regarding decentralisation adopted [June 26] by the constitutional commission of Ukraine. The amendments are in line with the recommendations of the Council of Europe's constitutional experts, the Venice Commission.”



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Estonia

[Luik: Kohver hearing a show trial and sentence will be long](#)

13/08 – Estonian Public Broadcasting

Former Estonian ambassador to Moscow, Jüri Luik, said the trial of kidnapped Estonian security official Eston Kohver is just for show and he is likely to receive a long sentence. The Pskov court is expected to make a ruling on August 19.