



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

Weekly Media Report of developments related to the Council of Europe **31 –04 August/September 2015**

PACE

[PACE President concerned about repressions in Azerbaijan](#)

03/09 – Armen Press

The President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), Anne Brasseur, expressed her concerns over the decision of the court to imprison the Azerbaijani journalist, employee of Azerbaijan's office of "Radio Liberty", Khadija Ismailova. "Armenpress" reports that the Azerbaijani Contact.az website informs about this. "I have already expressed serious doubts on several occasions about the credibility of the charges against her. Today's sentence is manifestly disproportionate and raises serious concerns, given the systemic problems with the lack of independence of the judiciary and fairness of trials in Azerbaijan," mentioned Brasseur.

[PACE observers to come to Ukraine's elections on October 25](#)

01/09 – Ukrinform

The joint delegation of the Parliamentary Assembly and the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe will observe the local elections in Ukraine, scheduled for October 25. The decision was made on Monday, August 31, at the meeting of the PACE Bureau in Paris, head of the Ukrainian delegation Volodymyr Aryev said to an Ukrinform correspondent.



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Azerbaijan

[Azerbaijan's Khadija Ismayilova: 'You can only silence me by killing me'](#)

02/09 – Deutsche Welle

A number of governments and human rights organizations have called on Azerbaijan to explain the imprisonment of a prominent journalist in the country. Her former editor told DW she won't be silenced - even behind bars. "The trial raised fundamental questions on the impartiality of the court and the legality of the accusation, as witnessed by the international monitors," said EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini.

[Verdict against Khadija Ismayilova is Azerbaijan authorities' revenge against critics](#)

02/09 – Panorama

The Secretary General of the Council of Europe Thorbjørn Jagland also condemned the verdict in the case of Khadija Ismayilova. "As he has done regarding the convictions of Leyla and Arif Yunus, Secretary General Jagland will request from the Azerbaijani authorities the full details of the judgment and the evidence presented against Khadija Ismayilova," his spokesperson said in a statement. "The Council of Europe reiterates its concerns about the systemic deficiencies in the Azerbaijani judicial system and the worrying trend of increasing cases against human rights defenders and journalists, which has a chilling effect on freedom of expression in the country."

[OSCE Representative and Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights condemn sentencing of journalist Khadija Ismayilova in Azerbaijan](#)

01/09 – OSCE

The OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, Dunja Mijatović, and the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights, Nils Muižnieks, today condemned the sentencing of Azerbaijani journalist Khadija Ismayilova. "The charges brought against Ismayilova, and the trial, are unjust; they constitute yet another clear signal that the authorities are continuing to silence critical voices in Azerbaijan," Mijatović said. "I reiterate my call on the government in Azerbaijan to stop targeting journalists."

Ukraine

[The Council of Europe congratulated Ukraine on the start of amending the Constitution](#)

01/09 – JoInfo

Secretary General of the Council of Europe Thorbjørn Jagland congratulated Ukraine with the adoption in the Verkhovna Rada in the first reading of the draft amendments to the Constitution in terms of decentralization. According to Jagland, he also hopes that the process of reform "will continue and will yield positive results in the near future."



Migration

[New EU proposal to relocate 160,000 asylum seekers](#)

03/09 – EU Observer

The European Commission plans to redistribute 160,000 asylum seekers arriving in Greece, Italy, and Hungary among other member states. The latest plan will be unveiled on Wednesday (9 September) by European Commission president Jean-Claude Juncker, reports The Wall Street Journal. Juncker is also set to announce rules on quickly repatriating people from Western Balkan countries who claim asylum in EU states.

[EU's Mogherini sees military action against migrant smugglers within weeks](#)

03/09 – News Asia

EU foreign affairs head Federica Mogherini said on Thursday (Sep 3) the bloc could step up action against people smugglers in the Mediterranean within weeks, seizing and destroying boats to break up their networks.

The EU launched a first, intelligence gathering phase of its EU NavFor Med operation in July and Mogherini said she had told bloc defence ministers meeting in Luxembourg that it had met all its objectives.

[The answer to the refugee crisis? A return to European ideals](#)

02/09 – Open Democracy

The refugee crisis is symbolic of the political crisis in Europe. To avoid systemic collapse, Europe must return to solidarity and protecting those fleeing war and persecution. For many years European countries have been warned about the inadequacy of their immigration and asylum systems. Now, with increased refugee arrivals and more frequent tragedies, this system is showing all its weaknesses. The cause of this collapse is not, however, the arrival of refugees in Europe. The real reason is political.

[Refugee Crisis Shakes EU to the Core](#)

02/09 – Sputnik

The EU is fighting for balance between its obligations to refugees and public hostility towards immigration. Member States have squabbled all summer over how to respond to the escalating numbers of refugees and asylum seekers arriving on European shores and the numbers dying in the process. EU governments have so far rejected proposed relocation quotas, while the deteriorating situation across Europe continues and is captured on camera for the world to see.



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Respect Migrants' Rights, European Human Rights Court Orders

01/09 – The Wall Street Journal

European governments have to ensure that migrants' human rights are respected—including by providing adequate reception facilities and examining asylum cases individually—even in times of large-scale arrivals, the continent's human rights court ruled Tuesday.

New EU migrant plans ready next week – Avramopoulos

01/09 – Reuters

The EU executive will outline new plans next week to share out refugees across European states as well as to speed deportations of unwanted migrants, the 28-nation bloc's migration commissioner said on Tuesday. Dimitris Avramopoulos told Reuters that new EU systems for processing asylum claims in Italy, Greece and possibly Hungary could involve detaining those rejected until they return home, as European governments strain to balance obligations to provide refuge with hostility among the public to mass immigration.

Migrant crisis: EU calls emergency talks

31/08 – BBC News

The European Union has announced emergency talks on 14 September to deal with the escalating migration crisis. Austria has begun expanding checks on lorries near its eastern borders, after Europe was shocked by the discovery of 71 dead migrants in a lorry near the border with Hungary.

'We will never turn away those who need protection': EU commissioner

31/08 – The SunDaily

Europe "will never turn away those who need protection," said Frans Timmermans, vice-president of the EU Commission, during a visit to the northern French port of Calais on Monday. He also said Brussels would provide an additional €5 million (RM23.49 million) to help France manage the thousands of migrants and refugees living in squalid conditions around Calais, hoping to reach Britain.