



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

Weekly Media Report of developments related to the Council of Europe

21 - 25 September 2015

The Weekly Media Report gives an overview of recent developments in international media. Please note that the Report does not constitute a formal communication, does not represent the official position of the Delegation and does not commit the European Union in any way.

Ce rapport donne un aperçu des développements récents dans les médias internationaux. Ce rapport n'est pas une communication formelle, ne représente pas la position officielle de la Délégation et n'engage en aucun cas l'Union Européenne.

Migration

[European leaders seek refugee deal with Turkey](#)

20/09 - Politico

Europe's leaders, unnerved by the caustic tone between capitals over quotas, are redoubling efforts to address the refugee issue at what many see as the source: Turkey. Germany, Italy and France have led a behind-the-scenes push in recent days to strike a deal with Ankara to improve conditions for the 2.2 million Syrian refugees living in Turkey. The issue is expected to top the agenda when EU leaders meet at an emergency summit Wednesday on the refugee crisis.

[European refugee crisis risks creating generation of stateless children](#)

21/09 – Mail online / Thomson Reuters Foundation

The European refugee crisis could risk creating a new generation of stateless children unless countries close gaps in their nationality laws, experts said on Monday. The warning came as the European Network on Statelessness (ENS) launched a campaign to stop children growing up stateless in Europe where an estimated 600,000 people have no nationality. Stateless children are denied the basic rights most people take for granted, leaving them vulnerable to exploitation. They often live in destitution without access to education and health services.



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EU quota plan forced through against eastern European states' wishes

23/09 – The Telegraph

EU interior ministers approve by a "large majority" a plan to relocate 120,000 refugees around the bloc after overriding fierce opposition from central and eastern European countries. A European Union plan to relocate tens of thousands of refugees from Italy and Greece to elsewhere on the continent has been forced through against the wishes of four eastern European states. In a highly divisive move that risks splitting the continent, Jean-Claude Juncker's quota scheme was approved by interior ministers despite the objections of the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Romania and Hungary, the Czech interior minister said on Twitter. Finland abstained.

Migrant crisis: EU to boost aid to agencies

24/09 – BBC

European Union leaders have pledged another €1bn (£700m, \$1.1bn) to help UN agencies support Syrian refugees in the Middle East, as part of renewed efforts to tackle the EU's migrant crisis. More help will be extended to Syria's neighbours, where millions have fled since the country's conflict began. The leaders also agreed on strengthening EU external borders. European Council President Donald Tusk warned that "greatest tide of refugees and migrants is yet to come".

PACE

Council of Europe: Parliamentary Assembly on migration, asylum, health

24/09 SIR/Italy

A joint debate on the humanitarian and political response to the migration and refugee crisis in Europe, on the challenges for countries of transit, and on the urgent need for a real European asylum system - with the intervention of the President of the Italian Chamber of Deputies Laura Boldrini (29 September). This will be the main highlight of the Autumn Session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) that will take place in Strasbourg from 28 September to 2 October 2015. On the opening day, Monday, there will be the award ceremony for the 2015 Václav Havel Human Rights Prize.



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Armenia

[EU and Council of Europe launch new project in Armenia](#)

23/09 – News.am / Armenia

The EU and Council of Europe (CoE) are launching a new project called “Supporting the criminal justice reform and combating ill-treatment and impunity in Armenia”, aiming at strengthening the implementation of European human rights standards in Armenia. The official launch takes place on 30 September. The new project should improve legislation on criminal matters, and institutional mechanisms for combating ill-treatment in line with European human rights standards.

Azerbaijan

[Azerbaijan: statement by the pre-electoral delegation](#)

23/09 – Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

A pre-electoral delegation from the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) visited Baku on 21 and 22 September 2015 to assess the pre-election process and the preparations for the parliamentary elections to be held in Azerbaijan on 1 November 2015. The delegation welcomed the openness of the Azerbaijani authorities and the invitation being extended to a large number of international organisations to observe the forthcoming parliamentary elections, including long-term observers from OSCE/ODIHR.

Belarus

[Election 2015. Harstedt: OSCE, Council of Europe's invitation to observe Belarus' president election is a good sign](#)

22/09 - BelTA/Belarus

Belarus' invitation of the OSCE and the Council of Europe to observe the presidential election in the country is a good sign, Vice President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE PA) Kent Harstedt said as he met with Vice Speaker of the House of Representatives of the National Assembly of Belarus Viktor Guminsky on 22 September, BelTA has learned.



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Ukraine

[Petro Poroshenko: Why Ukraine Needs to Give Power to Its Regions](#)

23/09 – *Newsweek*

Ukraine's parliamentary vote on August 31 in favor of the law on amendments to the constitution on decentralization of powers showed the world that our country has many responsible politicians with a strategic and democratic vision. However, the events outside Parliament that followed the vote were supremely painful – three servicemen fell victims to a failed attempt to destabilize the state. I feel truly disgusted that someone could use the deepest sorrows of my fellow citizens to their political advantage.

Human Rights

[First minister attacks Tory plan to repeal human rights](#)

23/09 – *The Times*

Nicola Sturgeon will launch a stinging attack on the UK government's approach to human rights today, warning that David Cameron's plan to repeal the Human Rights Act will "diminish the UK's reputation" across the world. Deliberately opening up a new front in the SNP's offensive against the Conservative government in London, Ms Sturgeon will use a keynote speech in Glasgow this morning to focus on the UK administration's human rights plans.

GRECO

[Party funding law to go to plenum next month](#)

23/09 – *CyprusMail*

The new Political Parties Law (PPL), aimed at boosting transparency in party funding, is finally set to go the House plenum for a vote next month. The government bill, into which the parties have inserted several amendments, purports to make anonymous donations to parties a thing of the past. Individuals or legal entities may donate up to €50,000 a year. By March 31 of each year, the parties will hand over to the Commissioner of the Political Parties' Register – a function administered by the permanent secretary of the interior ministry – a list of the persons who made donations of €500 and above.

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