



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

Weekly Media Report of developments related to the Council of Europe 2 - 6 November 2015

The Weekly Media Report gives an overview of recent news 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 de nouvelles récentes 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.

Turkey

[Turkish election campaign unfair, say international monitors](#)

02/11 – The Guardian / UK

Violence against opposition parties and their premises, arrests and crackdown on press freedom hindered ability to campaign freely, report says. International observers of Turkey's parliamentary elections have criticised the climate of violence and fear that preceded the vote, saying the security environment, arrests of opposition activists and stifling of press freedoms combined to make the campaign unfair. The Turkish president, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, has said he deserved respect from the whole world following Sunday's result. But the international election observation mission that monitored the polls expressed serious concerns at a press conference in Ankara on Monday. "This campaign was unfair and characterised by too much violence and fear," said Andreas Gross, the Swiss head of the mission representing the parliamentary assembly of the Council of Europe (Pace).



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Azerbaijan

[Azerbaijan ruling party wins majority, observers raise concerns](#)

02/11 - Deutsche Welle/Germany

The ruling party in Azerbaijan has won a comfortable majority in the country's parliament. The weekend election, which was boycotted by the major opposition parties, went ahead in a 'calm and peaceful' manner. A delegation from the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe's election observer mission (PACE) released a statement Monday saying Sunday's vote went ahead peacefully. Voter turnout was recorded at 55.7 percent. "The voting process was observed to be adequate and generally in line with international standards," the 28-member delegation said, adding they did not observe any "major or systemic" violations of the country's election code. The mission did report observing "minor ballot stuffing" at some polling stations, but could not establish who was responsible for it.

CommHR

[Ukraine Rapped Over Conditions in War-Torn East](#)

03/11 - The Wall Street Journal/international

Council of Europe says people denied key services, assistance. Ukrainian authorities are failing to meet the basic needs of millions of people from the country's conflict-ridden east, a report said Tuesday, with those living in the region unable to access key services, facing major constraints on free movement and vulnerable to graft. The report, published Tuesday by Nils Muiznieks, Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe, also raps separatist forces in the region for hindering access to humanitarian aid. The Council of Europe is an international organization with 47 member governments, including Ukraine and Russia, that promotes democracy and human rights.

[Child labour in Europe: a challenge to be tackled, not ignored](#)

03/11 - The Conversation/UK

Today a vast number of children – defined as anyone under 18 by the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child – work in Europe. There could be as many as 7.5 million children working for pay, profit or family gain across the continent. The socioeconomic crisis that began in 2008 has made the problem worse: trade unions, the media and UNICEF have all reported that an increasing number of children are dropping out of school to take care of siblings or serve as farm labourers, shop assistants, or join local mafias – working as panhandlers, prostitutes or drug dealers. The Council of Europe's Commissioner for Human Rights, Nils Muiznieks, has highlighted that the austerity measures in several European countries have had a direct impact on child labour, especially in hazardous occupations such as agriculture and construction.



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The International Advisory Panel

[Ukraine's inquiry into Odessa fire 'not independent'](#)

04/11 - BBC/UK

The Council of Europe has criticised Ukrainian authorities for their investigation into a May 2014 fire in Odessa that killed more than 40 people. It said that the investigation had lacked "institutional and practical independence". The fire occurred amid violent clashes between pro-Russian protesters and Ukrainian government supporters. Anti-government protesters had barricaded themselves in a trade union building. Both sides were reported to have been throwing petrol bombs. Given Odessa's police were accused of complicity in mass disorder at the time, the investigation should have been carried out by a body independent of the interior ministry, a panel appointed by the council said in its report.

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