



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

Weekly Media Report of developments related to the Council of Europe

15 - 19 February 2016

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.

Secretary General / Attack in Turkey

[Ankara: Secretary General condemns deadly attack](#)

18/02- Council of Europe

Thorbjørn Jagland, Secretary General of the Council of Europe, last night condemned the car bomb attack which killed at least 28 people and injured more than 60 in the centre of Ankara, close to the Parliament and military headquarters. "I am deeply saddened by the news of yet another deadly attack in Turkey," he said, expressing his hope that the perpetrators would be swiftly brought to justice. The Secretary General conveyed his condolences to the government and people of Turkey. "Our thoughts are with the many people who are mourning and suffering as a result of these horrific terrorist attacks," he said. "At the Council of Europe we stand in solidarity and sorrow today with our member state Turkey."



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Commissioner for Human Rights / Roma people

[Balkans Told to Stop Forcible Evicting Roma](#)

18/02 – Balkan Insight / International

The Council of Europe has told Albania, Serbia and Bulgaria not to forcibly evict Roma families from camps without offering adequate alternative shelter first. The Council of Europe's Human Rights Commissioner Nils Muiznieks has three Balkan governments for evicting Roma families from camps while not offering them any alternative accommodation. He has criticized seven of the 47 members of the organization for forcible evictions of Roma and Egyptian communities over the last few years, urging them to respect their commitments to human rights. Muiznieks sent letters to three Balkan countries, Albania, Bulgaria and Serbia, along with France, Hungary, Italy and Sweden.

Italy

[Italy senate delays vote on gay unions bill amid mounting obstacles](#)

17/02- Europe Online / Germany

A vote in Italy's upper chamber of parliament on a controversial proposal to legalize gay unions was put off by a week Wednesday, in response to mounting obstacles to the passage of the bill. Catholic-oriented Italy is the last Western European nation with no legislation on same-sex partnerships. It has been urged to change the status quo by both its constitutional court and the European Court of Human Rights. "We decided to take a week's time to properly discuss what to do," Andrea Marcucci, a senator from the ruling Democratic Party (PD), said after his party's proposal for a postponement was approved by other political groups.

France

[France: l'état d'urgence prolongé jusqu'à fin mai](#)

16/02 – RTFB / Belgium

Le Parlement français a approuvé mardi, par un très large vote de l'Assemblée, la prolongation jusqu'à fin mai de l'état d'urgence en France, instauré après les attentats du 13 novembre, alors que le gouvernement prédit "d'autres attaques d'ampleur" en Europe. Une semaine après un vote massif du Sénat, les députés ont adopté par 212 voix contre 31 la prolongation jusqu'au 26 mai de ce régime d'exception mis en place après les attaques de Paris qui ont fait 130 morts et des centaines de blessés. L'état d'urgence est soutenu par la majorité de la classe politique française, et quatre Français sur cinq étaient favorables à une nouvelle prolongation de trois mois, selon un récent sondage. Il est en revanche critiqué par le Conseil de l'Europe, qui a regretté des abus de la police, ainsi que par une partie du monde du droit et des associations, notamment la Ligue des droits de l'Homme.



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