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The 23rd EU-Ukraine Summit in a time of change

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The EU-Ukraine summit, which takes place on 12 October in Kiev, 30 years after the country's independence, could be an opportunity to reflect on how to overcome the difficulties, such as the increasing pressure from Russia and the refusal of Europe and the United States to respond to its expectations. For the European Union, this means clarifying its position towards its eastern neighbour.

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Front page! :

Inconvenient Law



The Polish Constitutional Court has challenged the competence of the European Court of Justice and the primacy of European law, while some people in the run-up to the French presidential election are advocating a "constitutional shield" or the primacy of national law over European law. The European treaties, which are freely agreed, nevertheless strengthen individual and collective rights, recalls Jean-Dominique Giuliani... [Read more](#)

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Elections :

Results of the Czech general election



The centre-right Spolu (Together) coalition came out on top in the Czech parliamentary elections of 8-9 October, with 27.79% of the vote and 71 seats, ahead of the ANO movement of outgoing Prime Minister Andrej Babis (27.12% and 72 seats), and the Pirates and Mayors coalition (15.62% and 37 seats). Spolu and the Pirates and Mayors coalition have a majority of 108 seats out of 200, but negotiations for the formation of a government have been delayed by the state of health of President Milos Zeman, 77, who was hospitalised on 10 October... [Read more](#)

Foundation :

Economy and Security: bringing Europeans closer together?



On 7 October, the Finnish Institute of International Affairs (FIIA) organised a hybrid conference in Helsinki in partnership with the Foundation in preparation for the French Presidency of the Council of the European Union. The Chairman and the Managing Director of the Foundation, Jean-Dominique Giuliani and Pascale Joannin, debated with the economist Päivi Puonti and the researcher Niklas Helwig about the recovery in Europe and the defence and security policy. The debate is available online... [Read more](#)

The Schuman Report on Europe, State of the Union 2021



You have not yet had the opportunity to read the 2021 edition of the "Schuman Report on Europe, the State of the Union", a reference work published by Marie B.? You can still do so. It is available in hard copy in bookshops and on our website, as well as in digital form... [Read more](#)

The Permanent Atlas of the European Union is available



This autumn, the new edition of the 'Permanent Atlas of the European Union' published by Marie B. is a worthwhile read. This book reflects the latest political and economic changes in the European Union and its Member States. Through more than 50 maps, texts and thematic sheets, the Atlas synthesises the essential history and political and statistical realities of the Union. It is available in paper form in bookshops and on our website, and in digital form... [Read more](#)

European Recovery Plans: figures and priorities



In response to the economic and social consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic, the EU has set up a €672.5 billion recovery fund, called the Recovery and Resilience Facility, for Member States in the shape of grants and loans. 22 plans have been approved by the Commission so far, including those of Finland and Estonia on 4 October, and 18 countries have already received the planned pre-financing. The Commission has so far not approved the Hungarian and Polish plans due to breaches of the rule of law. The Foundation provides you with an interactive map of the plans country by country, to see the amounts, timetables and priorities... [Read more](#)

Map of Health Measures and Travel Conditions in Europe



The province of Valencia in Spain lifted restrictions on the number of people that can be admitted and the opening hours of bars and restaurants on 9 October. In Italy, since 11 October, cinemas and theatres have been able to accommodate the public at full capacity, and discotheques have partially reopened. The health pass will become compulsory for all employees from 15 October. In Belgium, on 15 October, the health pass will be introduced in bars, restaurants and cultural venues in Brussels. To follow the development of the situation and to understand the conditions of entry into the different Member States of the Union, the Foundation offers you a complete map of the measures in place. An indispensable, regularly updated resource... [Read more](#)

Belarus: chronology of a revolution in progress

In a resolution adopted on 7 October, the European Parliament calls for the regime of Alexander Lukashenko to be brought before the International Court of Justice for crimes committed against the peaceful population of Belarus. It also condemns the use of migrants at the border with the European Union. To follow the crisis triggered by the rigged presidential election of August 2020, the Foundation provides a chronology of events and links to European reactions and initiatives... [Read more](#)

Commission :

European Strategy to counter anti-Semitism

On 5 October, the Commission presented a European strategy to combat anti-Semitism. It calls on Member States to strengthen cooperation with digital actors to prevent all forms of anti-Semitism and to preserve the memory of the Shoah. It also



calls for better protection of public spaces and for more research and education on anti-Semitism... [Read more](#)

Support Measures to Agriculture



On 6 October the Commission adopted support measures for the wine and fruit and vegetable sectors. In a context of recovery from the crisis and meteorological instability, the Commission authorised Member States to extend the subsidies put in place in 2020 to support producers... [Read more](#)

Parliament :

Request for the creation of a European disability card



On 7 October, MEPs called for the introduction of a European disability card. They want to harmonise the status of people with disabilities in the European Union, to ensure their accessibility to public services and the digital world. They want to strengthen the fight against violence and harassment, especially concerning discrimination in employment... [Read more](#)

Recovery of fish stocks in the Mediterranean



On 6 October, the Parliament called on the Commission to adopt concrete legislative measures concerning the recovery process of fish stocks in the Mediterranean Sea, and on Member States to adopt rules to reduce the impact of economic activities on the recovery of fish stocks... [Read more](#)

Resolution on relations with the USA



In a resolution adopted on 6 October, MEPs stressed the strategic need for the EU to be independent of the US in defence and economic relations, but also the need for better coordination with the US on China. In particular, they suggest the creation of a Transatlantic Political Council to establish systematic consultation and coordination on foreign and security policy... [Read more](#)

Resolution on cyberdefence



On 7 October, MEPs called for greater coordination between Member States on cyber defence. They call for the establishment of a joint cyber security unit to share information between institutions. They want more collaboration with NATO in implementing sanctions against hostile actors threatening Euro-Atlantic security... [Read more](#)

Resolution on the use of artificial intelligence



In a resolution voted on 6 October, MEPs recalled the irrevocable nature of fundamental rights in the use of artificial intelligence by the police. They call for a ban on systematic surveillance of citizens and express concern about discrimination caused by identification systems. They call on governments to apply transparent algorithms while guaranteeing remedies... [Read more](#)

Resolution on the Arctic



MEPs on 7 October warned Member States of the need to preserve the Arctic, particularly through sustainable and peaceful development. Parliament recommends respecting the Paris Agreements so as to limit the consequences of climate change in the region. Parliament is concerned about military and commercial projects initiated by Russia and China, which undermine the objective of keeping the Arctic out of global geopolitical tensions... [Read more](#)

Meeting of Young Europeans

Between 3,000 and 4,000 young Europeans met on 8 and 9 October in the European Parliament in Strasbourg and online to discuss the future of Europe. This meeting of



young Europeans (EYE) was part of the Conference on the Future of Europe and aimed to share ideas on Europe. Debates on the environment, democracy and human rights led to proposals that will be presented at the Conference on the Future of Europe... [Read more](#)



Council :

Meeting of Justice and Interior Ministers



On 7 and 8 October, ministers adopted the Blue Card Directive on the conditions of entry and residence of highly qualified third-country workers in the EU. They discussed the screening and detention of migrants at borders, different migration routes and the situation in Afghanistan. They discussed procedural rights in relation to the pre-trial detention regime, the follow-up to the establishment of the European Public Prosecutor's Office, and the protection of journalists... [Read more](#)



Meeting of Economy and Finance Ministers



On 5 October, the Ministers of Economy and Finance took stock of the implementation of the SURE regulation to support employment in countries affected by the pandemic. They approved the Maltese recovery plan, adopted conclusions on financing the climate transition and reiterated their commitment to using financial instruments to achieve the objectives of the Paris Agreement... [Read more](#)



Adoption of the amendment to the Aarhus Regulation



On 5 and 6 October, the Parliament and the Council adopted the amendment to the regulation on the application of the Aarhus Convention, which guarantees access to information and justice in environmental matters. This amendment, which had been agreed between the two institutions, aims to strengthen the rights of citizens when they are directly affected by administrative acts that affect the environment... [Read more](#)



Meeting of Development Ministers



In a video conference on 11 October, the Development Ministers discussed the situation in Afghanistan. They agreed to provide the Afghan people with concrete humanitarian aid to support the population, including through the provision of essential goods and services... [Read more](#)



Diplomacy :

EU-Western Balkans Summit



At a summit with the Western Balkan countries on 6 October, EU leaders reiterated that EU enlargement to the countries of the region remains conditional on "credible reforms" and the Union's ability to integrate new members. They presented a €30 billion economic and investment plan and called for better cooperation, notably on managing migration flows, hybrid threats and the fight against organised crime... [Read more](#)



Launch of negotiations with the UK on Gibraltar



On 5 October, the Council approved the launch of negotiations between the European Union and the United Kingdom on Gibraltar. As the British enclave in Spanish territory is not covered by the Trade and Cooperation Treaty concluded with the UK in 2020, the Commission has a mandate to negotiate a "broad and balanced agreement"... [Read more](#)



ECB :

Podcast on Inflation



In its latest podcast, released on 6 October, the European Central Bank looks at the causes of the current rise in inflation and analyses the trends impacting on prices... [Read more](#)



Germany :

Meeting with Mario Draghi



During a visit to Rome, German Chancellor Angela Merkel met with Pope Francis and Italian Prime Minister Mario Draghi. The two heads of government discussed the future role of the EU, European security policy, in particular with regard to Libya, as well as climate protection... [Read more](#)

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Austria :

Resignation of Chancellor Sebastian Kurz



On 9 October, Austrian Chancellor Sebastian Kurz announced his resignation following the opening of a corruption investigation against him and the People's Party (ÖVP) he leads for cases dating from 2016 and 2018. He explained that he wanted to preserve the existing government coalition between the ÖVP and the Greens. However, he announced that he would remain the leader of the party and the majority parliamentary group in the Nationalrat, the lower house of parliament. On 11 October, President Alexander von der Bellen appointed Alexander Schallenberg (ÖVP) as Chancellor. A. Schallenberg was previously Minister of Foreign Affairs... [Read more](#)

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France :

New Summit with Africa



An Africa-France summit was held in Montpellier on 8 October, in an unprecedented format, without an African head of state but with representatives of civil society. During a dialogue with young people from Africa and France, French President Emmanuel Macron announced the establishment of a €30 million fund to support democracy over three years and the creation of a House of African Worlds and Diasporas... [Read more](#)

Poland :

Challenge to the primacy of European law



On 7 October, the Polish Constitutional Court ruled that the Treaty on European Union is partly incompatible with the Constitution, thus challenging the primacy of European law and rejecting the competence of the Court of Justice of the European Union with regard to judicial reforms. In a press release, the European Commission recalled that "Union law takes precedence over national law" and that all judgments of the Court of Justice are binding on the Member States. It assured that it "will not hesitate" to use its powers to enforce EU law... [Read more](#)

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Romania :

Vote of no confidence in the government



The Romanian government led by Prime Minister Florin Citu (PNL) lost a vote of confidence in Parliament on 5 October. The motion was supported by the Social Democratic Party (PSD), the far-right AUR party, as well as the USR+ liberals, former members of the coalition. On 11 October, President Klaus Iohannis appointed USR leader Dacian Ciolos to try to form a new government... [Read more](#)

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OECD :

Agreement on Global Corporate Tax



An agreement on global taxation was reached on 8 October by 136 countries and jurisdictions under the auspices of the OECD. The text provides for the introduction, from 2023, of a minimum tax rate of 15% on the profits of multinational companies when they exceed 750 million €. In addition, the tax on the excess profits of the largest companies will be redistributed among the countries in which they operate... [Read more](#)

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Council of Europe :

Joint declaration against the death penalty

On the occasion of the European and World Day against the Death Penalty, the European Union and the Council of Europe reiterated their commitment to fight discrimination against women, who are more frequently sentenced to death than men for offences related to sexual morality, such as adultery. In addition, French President Emmanuel Macron announced that he would relaunch the fight for the universal



abolition of the death penalty on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of its abolition in France... [Read more](#)

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Report on corruption in Slovenia



The Council of Europe's Group of States against Corruption (GRECO) published its compliance report on Slovenia on 5 October. While the group had addressed some 15 recommendations to the Slovenian state in 2018, it notes that these have not been addressed. GRECO has given Slovenia 18 months to submit to the Council of Europe the progress made in implementing the recommendations... [Read more](#)

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Studies/Reports :

Report on Banking Union



MEPs adopted their annual report on banking union on 7 October. They note the success of Bulgaria and Croatia's entry into the union. However, they point out the lack of parity in the management of financial banking services, recall the importance of protecting consumer rights, and ask the Commission to consider harmonising bank insolvency procedures... [Read more](#)

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Culture :

Nobel Prize



The Nobel Prize in Physics was awarded on 5 October to the German Klaus Hasselmann, the Italian Giorgio Parisi, and the Japanese-American Syukuro Manabe for their contribution to the understanding of complex physical systems on the theory of disordered materials and the physical modelling of climate. On 6 October, the Nobel Prize in Chemistry was awarded to Benjamin List of Germany and David W.C. MacMillan of the United States for the development of a new and precise tool for molecular construction, organocatalysis. On 11 October, the Nobel Prize in Economics was awarded to Canadian David Card, American Joshua Angrist and Dutch-American Guido Imbens for their work on the labour market... [Read more](#)

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A memorial museum in Poland for those deported to Siberia



A memorial museum opened in Bialystok on 17 September to preserve the memory of the 330,000 Poles deported to the Siberian gulags during the Second World War... [Read more](#)

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The Ancient Ideal in Athens



The Museum of Cycladic Art in Athens is hosting an archaeological exhibition until 16 January 2022 focusing on the notion of "kallos", which means "beautiful" and "good" in Greek. 300 pieces from 52 museums illustrate the philosophical concept of "kallos" as the embodiment of an ideal in the daily life of ancient Greece.. [Read more](#)

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Bill Viola in Helsinki



Until 27 February 2022, the Amos Rex Underground Museum in Helsinki is hosting the exhibition "Bill Viola: Inner Journey", a well-known figure in video art. In the exhibition, Bill Viola seeks to take visitors on a journey of discovery into questions of human existence in video works... [Read more](#)

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Goya at the Beyeler Foundation

The Fondation Beyeler in Basel is holding an exhibition of around 70 paintings and over 100 drawings and prints by Francisco de Goya. The fascination of Goya's work lies in the irreducible contradiction between his mastery of courtly portraiture and his modernism. This duality is expressed through the representation of the drama that plays out between reason and folly, dreams and nightmares... [Read more](#)

Renaissance Portraits in Amsterdam



Until 16 January 2022, the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam presents "Remember Me", an exhibition of over 100 Renaissance portraits by the greatest painters. The exhibition shows the diversity of approaches to portraiture, depending on the style of the painter or the wishes of the sitter... [Read more](#)

David Hockney in Brussels



Until 23 January 2022, the Palais des Beaux-Arts in Brussels is hosting a David Hockney retrospective, 'Works from the Tate Collection, 1954-2017', as well as the exhibition 'L'arrivée du printemps, Normandie, 2020', which brings together colourful paintings made in France during the first confinement... [Read more](#)

Soutine and De Kooning in Paris



Until 10 January 2022, the Musée de l'Orangerie in Paris is hosting around 40 pieces of work by Chaim Soutine and Willem de Kooning. This exhibition opens a dialogue into the impact made by Soutine's tormented painting on the work of the American abstract expressionist painter... [Read more](#)

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Frieze Art Fair



From 13 to 17 October, the Frieze art fair will be held in London. The event, which welcomes 260 international galleries, aims to be both rooted in the past and at the forefront of contemporary art. Nearly 6,000 works of art are on display, from antiquity to modern art... [Read more](#)

Napoleon's Bicentenary :

Gallery of the Illustrious in Santiago de Chile



The Pontifical Catholic University of Chile, in Santiago, is hosting an exhibition until 28 October that covers three centuries of French actions in Chile and, in particular, the presence of soldiers of the Imperial Army who arrived in South America after the fall of Napoleon, and their descendants... [Read more](#)

"Napoleon l'oeuvre civile" Exhibition



On the occasion of the bicentenary of the death of Napoleon I, the theme of "Napoleon's civil work" will be honoured in the city of Thionville throughout the autumn of 2021. As a tribute to the period of the Empire, the city will be hosting several events such as exhibitions, conferences and concerts by the Republican Guard... [Read more](#)

Exhibition "L'esprit des lieux" at Fontainebleau



Until 2 November, the Salle des fêtes of the Théâtre municipal de Fontainebleau is hosting an exhibition by photographers Annabelle Matter and Alexis Gerard, who have travelled the world to discover and immortalise emblematic or lesser-known places of the Napoleonic era... [Read more](#)

Agenda :

11 & 12 October 2021

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Luxembourg
Agriculture and Fisheries Council

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Oct

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Oct

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Oct

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