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The Letter in PDF format

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EU Space policy: an underestimated success

Author: Massimiliano Salini



Often overshadowed by the Erasmus programme, the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) or the single market, space policy is the only one that manages a truly European infrastructure. With a new programme and new governance, it will be at the forefront of the revival of the European Union's economy.

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Elections :

Dual general and presidential election in Bulgaria on 14 November



Bulgarians are being called to the ballot box on 14 and 21 November to elect their President of the Republic. Incumbent President Rumen Radev, who is running on a ticket with his vice-president, Iliana Iotova, is the favourite but will have difficulty winning in the first round.

November 14 is also the third legislative election of the year, after elections in April and July failed to produce a governing majority. The GERB party of former Prime Minister Boïko Borissov is expected to come out on top. The campaign is marked by the emergence of a new movement, Pursue Change... [Read more](#)

Foundation :

Towards a more united Europe



As part of the preparations for the French Presidency of the Council of the Union and the Conference on the Future of Europe, the Romanian European Institute is organising a videoconference on 20th October on the initiative of the Robert Schuman Foundation on how the Member States can move forward together in terms of foreign policy, strategic priorities and economic policy... [Read more](#)

Green Deal, Fit for 55, Next Generation EU ... Let's make the transition, let's mobilise



the Union!

Pascale Joannin participated on October 12 in a roundtable discussion on the energy transition in the European Union, organised during the Rencontres du Développement Durable, co-organised by the Open Diplomacy Institute and CentraleSupélec. The recording of the discussion 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 of the European Union is available



This autumn, the new edition of the 'Permanent Atlas of the European Union' published by Marie B. is well worth reading. This book reflects the latest political and economic changes in the European Union and its Member States. With more than 50 maps, texts and thematic sheets, the Atlas summarises 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 form of grants and loans. 22 plans have been approved by the Commission so far, and 19 countries have already received the planned pre-financing, including Slovakia on 13 October. The Commission has so far not approved the Hungarian and Polish plans due to infringements of the rule of law. The Foundation offers you an interactive map of the plans country by country, to know the amounts, the timetables and the priorities... [Read more](#)

Belarus: chronology of a revolution in progress

To cope with the influx of migrants organised by the Belarusian regime, Poland is considering building a barrier on its border equipped with surveillance devices. On 17 October, the French ambassador to Belarus had to leave the country, after being expelled by the regime. To follow the crisis triggered by the rigged presidential election of August 2020 and the repression of the democratic opposition, the Foundation offers you a chronology of events and links to European responses and initiatives... [Read more](#)

Map of Health Measures and Travel Conditions in Europe



Since 14 October, restaurants, cinemas and sports halls in Bulgaria can only be opened at full capacity if everyone is vaccinated, while in Greece bars and restaurants can be opened at full capacity for those vaccinated or recovered from Covid-19. The health pass came into force in Brussels on 15 October for bars, restaurants and cultural venues. To follow the development of the situation and to understand the conditions of entry in the different EU Member States, the Foundation offers you a complete map of the measures in place. An indispensable, regularly updated resource... [Read more](#)

Commission :

First emission of green bonds



On 12 October, the Commission issued the first €12 billion of green bonds under the NextGenerationEU plan. The Commission plans to raise €250 billion in green bonds by 2026 to finance green and sustainable investments through Member States' recovery plans... [Read more](#)

Support measures to counter the rising prices of energy



To address rising global energy prices, the Commission urged Member States on 13 October to take targeted short-term measures such as aid to businesses and individuals, tax deductions and temporary deferral of bill payments. In the long term, the Commission recommends that Member States invest in renewable energy to increase independence from fossil fuels and price stability... [Read more](#)

Proposal to relax the application of the Northern Ireland Protocol



On 13 October, the Commission put forward proposals to adapt the application of the Northern Ireland Protocol included in the UK's withdrawal agreement. It suggests reducing administrative and customs controls to facilitate the transfer of goods between Great Britain and Northern Ireland. It also wants to strengthen the dialogue with Northern Ireland and ensure the supply of medicines from Great Britain... [Read more](#)

Parliament :

Fourth session of the European Citizens' Panel



The fourth and final citizens' panel of the Conference on the Future of Europe was held in Strasbourg from 15 to 17 October, on the theme of Europe in the world and migration. The citizens' recommendations from the four thematic panels organised since mid-September will be debated by the Parliament in December. All Europeans can contribute to the debates on the conference platform... [Read more](#)

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The Pegasus Project awarded the Daphne Caruana Galizia Prize



The Daphne Caruana Galizia Prize for Journalism was awarded on 14 October to the journalists of the Pegasus project run by the Forbidden Stories collective, whose mission it is to continue the investigations of journalists who have been killed, imprisoned or threatened. Their investigation revealed the surveillance of dozens of journalists and politicians by the Pegasus spy software developed by an Israeli company. The prize, named after a murdered Maltese journalist and awarded by the European Parliament for the first time, aims to reward journalists who defend the values and principles of the EU... [Read more](#)

Council :

Agriculture and Fisheries Council



The Agriculture and Fisheries Ministers, meeting on 11 and 12 October, reached an agreement on fishing quotas in the Baltic Sea for 2022. They discussed fishing authorisations in Norwegian and British waters and prepared the EU's position for the next International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT). The Ministers discussed the implementation of the CAP for the period 2023-2027, as well as the importance of providing better information to consumers on the origin of products... [Read more](#)

Employment and Social Policy Council



The Ministers for Employment and Social Affairs stressed on 15 October the need to step up action at European and national level to strengthen safety and health at work. They also discussed the future of the European Semester and the consequences of an ageing population on the functioning of labour markets. They adopted conclusions on gender mainstreaming in the preparation of the EU budget... [Read more](#)

Meeting of Health Ministers



On 12 October, the Health Ministers spoke out in favour of strengthening the Health Union. They stressed the importance of strengthening the Union's autonomy in the medical field, notably through more local production of medicines. The Ministers also discussed the role of the new Emergency Response and Preparedness Authority (HERA) and the importance of vaccination... [Read more](#)

Meeting of Telecommunications Ministers

The Telecommunications Ministers discussed the draft regulation on artificial intelligence on 14 October. Further discussions will clarify the implementation of the



regulation... [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. The €1 billion in aid was announced on 12 October at a G20 meeting... [Read more](#)

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Diplomacy :

EU-Ukraine Summit



At the 23rd EU-Ukraine summit in Kiev on 12 October, EU representatives discussed political and economic cooperation with Ukraine. They signed three agreements on air transport, research and innovation, and culture. The summit was also an opportunity for the EU to reiterate its support for Ukraine's independence and respect for its territorial integrity... [Read more](#)

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Strategy for the Arctic



On 13 October, the Commission presented its proposals for European action in the Arctic, based on a commitment to peaceful, sustainable and prosperous engagement in the region. As the Arctic is the region most seriously affected by climate change, the Commission emphasises the need for international cooperation to address the economic, social and political consequences of the environmental crisis. The Commission is also considering opening a representation office in Greenland... [Read more](#)

Meeting of Foreign Affairs Ministers



On 18 October, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs discussed the strengthening of the European Union's presence in the Gulf States and its humanitarian presence in Afghanistan. They confirmed the need to safeguard respect for fundamental rights and democracy in the EU's Eastern Partnership countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine and Belarus) and in Nicaragua. The Ministers agreed on the continuation of humanitarian aid to Ethiopia. Finally, the meeting reaffirmed the EU's support for the restoration of political stability in Bosnia and Herzegovina... [Read more](#)

Launch of operation EUTM Mozambique



On 15 October, the Council launched the operation EUTM Mozambique to restore security in Cabo Delgado province. The two-year mission will deploy 140 troops. Its objective is to help strengthen the military capacity of the Mozambican armed forces, in particular through military training as well as the protection of civilians and the fight against terrorism... [Read more](#)

European Agencies :

Verena Ross appointed Chair of the ESMA



German Verena Ross was appointed as the new Chair of the European Securities and Markets Authority (ESMA) by the Council on 15 October. Previously the Authority's Director General, she will take up her post on 1 November for a five-year term, renewable once... [Read more](#)

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Germany :

Preliminary Agreement for the formation of a coalition



On 15 October, the Social Democratic Party (SPD), the Liberal Democratic Party (FDP) and the Greens published the result of their preliminary discussions on forming a government coalition in Germany. The text allows the start of formal negotiations between the three parties for a government agreement... [Read more](#)

Estonia :**Investiture of the new President**

On 11 October, Alar Karis was sworn in as President of the Republic of Estonia after winning the presidential election on 31 August... [Read more](#)

France :**Investment Plan for 2030**

On 12 October, French President Emmanuel Macron presented the France 2030 plan, a €30 billion investment plan over ten years. It sets out ten priority objectives to create "the technological champions of tomorrow", reindustrialise France and support the ecological and digital transition by 2030. The production of low-carbon aircraft, small ergonomic nuclear power plants and the exploration of space are among these objectives... [Read more](#)

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Norway :**New government**

The new Norwegian government, led by Jonas Gahr Stere, took office on 14 October. This coalition between the Labour Party and the Centre Party, which was formed after the elections of 13 September, has 18 ministers, including 10 women... [Read more](#)

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Council of Europe :**Report on the implementation of the Istanbul Convention in Slovenia**

On 12 October, GREVIO, the Council of Europe organisation responsible for monitoring the implementation of the Istanbul Convention on Combating Violence against Women, published its evaluation report on Slovenia. It notes significant improvements in the legal and political spheres. However, it stresses that action must be taken against all forms of violence, not only domestic violence... [Read more](#)

G20 :**Meeting of Finance Ministers**

The G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors, meeting on 13 October, pledged to avoid "any premature withdrawal" of support for the economy that would damage the recovery, while monitoring inflation risks. They also gave their support to the agreement reached at the OECD on global corporate taxation... [Read more](#)

Meeting on the situation in Afghanistan

The leaders of the G20 countries met virtually on 12 October to discuss the situation in Afghanistan. They called on the Afghan authorities to ensure the deployment of humanitarian aid in the context of the economic crisis and the maintenance of the UN presence there. They also reiterated that safeguarding access to education for Afghan children is a central issue. On this occasion, the European Union announced €1 billion in aid to the country... [Read more](#)

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Meeting of Ministers for Trade

The G20 Trade Ministers, meeting on 12 October in Sorrento, Italy, discussed the link between trade and health, fisheries subsidy negotiations, digital trade, the participation of SMEs in global trade, transparency of government subsidies in the economy and WTO reform... [Read more](#)

IMF :**Economic Forecasts**

The IMF presented its economic forecasts on 12 October at its annual meeting in Washington. It anticipates world growth of 5.9% in 2021 and 4.9% in 2022 but



stresses the risk of strong divergences between countries. For the euro zone, it forecasts growth of 5% in 2021 and 4.3% in 2022... [Read more](#)

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Eurostat :

Euro zone trade deficit



The European Union recorded a deficit of €5 billion in international trade in goods in August 2021, and the euro area a surplus of €4.8 billion, according to figures published by Eurostat on 15 October. Eurozone exports up 18.2% compared to August 2020... [Read more](#)

Culture :

Stockholm Jazz Festival



Until 24 October, the Stockholm Jazz Festival is taking place at over 60 venues across Sweden... [Read more](#)

International Fair of Contemporary Art in Paris



From 21 to 24 October, the 2021 edition of the International Contemporary Art Fair (FIAC) in Paris will be taking place. A panorama of current contemporary art can be discovered in the ephemeral Grand Palais as well as through temporary installations in various emblematic places in the French capital... [Read more](#)

Titian's vision of women



Until 16 January 2022, the Kunsthistorisches Museum in Vienna is presenting an exhibition entitled "Titian's Vision of Women: Beauty, Love, Poetry" on the representation of women in Renaissance Venice, particularly those painted by Titian and his contemporaries... [Read more](#)

30th anniversary of the Irish Museum of Modern Art



The Irish Museum of Modern Art in Dublin is celebrating its 30th anniversary with an exhibition entitled "The Narrow Gate of Here and Now", which traces the history of art through successive thematic presentations... [Read more](#)

Art Brut on show in Rome



The SIC12 Art studio in Rome opened its doors on 25 September with the exhibition "À Deux. Art Brut in the Giacosa-Ferraiuolo Collection", which is structured around three thematic areas: the desire for the self, the desire for the other, and the desire to be someone else... [Read more](#)

Photos by Michael Schmidt in Madrid



Until 22 February 2022, the Reina Sofía Museum in Madrid is hosting the first retrospective of German photographer Michael Schmidt since his death in 2014. Through 350 portraits, landscapes, still lifes and cityscapes, the exhibition traces part of Germany's history from the end of the Second World War to the fall of the Wall and reunification... [Read more](#)

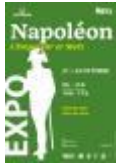
Konrad Mägi Retrospective in Finland



Until 23 January 2022, the Espoo Museum of Modern Art in Finland is presenting a retrospective of the Estonian painter Konrad Mägi (1878-1925). Around 150 works are on display, highlighting the artist's singularity and his interest in colour work... [Read more](#)

Napoleon's Bicentenary :

Napoleon and Metz



From 21 to 24 October, the Metz City Hall is hosting a free exhibition on Napoleon Bonaparte and his links with the city. Conferences and various events relating to the memory of the Emperor are organised around the exhibition... [Read more](#)

Napoleon, the Revolution and the Catalans



The Delegation of the Government of Catalonia in France, in partnership with the Institut Ramon Llull, is organising a conference in Paris on 20 October on Napoleon and Catalonia, with Antoni Gelonch, author of the book "Napoleó, la Revolució i els catalans"... [Read more](#)

Agenda :



18 October
Luxembourg
Foreign Affairs Council



18-21 October 2021
Strasbourg
Plenary Session of the European Parliament



19 October 2021
Luxembourg
General Affairs Council



20 October 2020
Brussels
Tripartite Social Summit



21-22 October 2021
Brussels
European Council

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