

#### A glance at:

- **The Bratislava Summit**

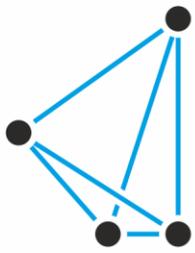
On the 16<sup>th</sup> of September, the 27 Heads of State and Government met in Bratislava to discuss the future of the European Union (EU), the Roadmap indicating the agenda in discussion is provided below, as are President Tusk's remarks on the Summit. The European United Left/Nordic Green Left Parliamentary Group expressed its disappointment in the lack of decisive action coming out of the Summit, the Socialists & Democrats call for action from the European Council in support of what has been said during the latter, the Greens call for collaboration amongst European leaders. Following the Summit, the Visegrad countries made a joint Statement underlining several key changes the EU should undertake and that the countries focus on promoting. Striking amongst the proposals is the "flexible solidarity" concerning migration, that would enable member States to decide themselves the kind and level of commitment to adopt, based on their experience and potential. This new tool seems to have received quite a positive response by Germany and other western nations.

Links:

- [Bratislava declaration and Roadmap](#)
- [President Tusk's remarks on the Summit](#)
- [GUENGL: Bratislava Summit fails to provide a viable vision for Europe](#)
- [S&D: we need to see if EU council can turn words into action](#)
- [GREENS: european leaders must show they are willing and able to work together](#)
- [V4 joint statement](#)
- [Flexible solidarity becomes new tool in response to refugee crisis](#)

- **The UNGA 71 and Side Events**

13/09 marked the opening of the 71<sup>st</sup> Regular Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA 71). The list of the high-level meetings that took place during this session is included below, the first of which was the Summit for Refugees and Migrants (19/09) with the aim of bringing countries together to achieve a more coordinated approach. Both President Tusk's remarks and address to the latter, where he assured the EU's unity and resolution in tackling the problem are enclosed below. The same message was sent by the President in occasion of the leaders' summit on the global refugee crisis, organized by President Obama on the margins of the UNGA 71. A similar remark underlining the EU's commitment to finding a solution through shared responsibility and cooperation in external action was expressed by the High-Representative Federica Mogherini at a side event on migrants and refugees. On the occasion of the UNGA 71, Slovak Minister of Foreign Affairs Miroslav Lajčák illustrated the concept of "flexible solidarity" by announcing that Slovakia will offer 550 state scholarships to young people, but it will not grant them asylum.



Links:

- [UNGA 71 meetings](#)
- [President Tusk's Remarks \(UNGA\)](#); [President Tusk's address at the UNGA 71](#)
- [President Tusk's Remarks \(leaders' summit\)](#)
- [High-representative Mogherini's Remarks](#)
- [Flexible Solidarity: Slovakia gives 550 scholarships to refugees](#)

- **The European Parliament's next plenary session: 3-6 October 2016, Strasbourg**

Links:

- [3-6 October Plenary session](#)

## Monitored Policy Areas:

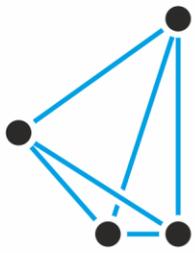
### 1. Security and Foreign Policy

- **News**

Following the Bratislava Summit, France (closely followed by Germany) leads the campaign in support of a European Union (EU) Defence Union and, in particular, the creation of a military headquarters. Also the Liberals and Democrats Group (ALDE) and the European Defence Agency (EDA) promote the latter, both calling on leaders to support the project. On the other hand, the British defence minister Michael Fallon has said UK would veto the creation of EU military capabilities so long as it remains a member of the bloc. In the meantime, an informal meeting of the EU Defence Ministers along with NATO Secretary General, Jens Stoltenberg, took place in Bratislava on 27/09. In this occasion, the High Representative discussed the future steps of the European Defence Union and the forwarding of the collaboration between the EU and NATO with all 28 EU members, UK included.

A Summit to discuss Migration along the Balkan Route was organized on the 24/09, featuring the Heads of Government of Austria, Albania, Bulgaria, Germany, Greece, Croatia, FYROM, Serbia, Slovenia, Hungary, the President of the European Council, the European Commissioner for Migration and the Interior Minister of Romania. Hungary proposed that Europe set up a refugee city on the coast of Libya where asylum requests from African refugees could be processed. President Tusk's remarks, stating that "*the Western Balkan route of irregular migration is closed for good*" are enclosed below.

Following President Schulz's visit to London and meeting with Prime Minister Theresa May, the leader of the opposition Jeremy Corbyn and the Mayor of London Sadiq Khan, the President gave a lecture at the European Institute of the London School of



Economics (23/09) on the future relation between the EU, assuring that the two would “*part ways but to stay close, working together*”.

Links:

For the European Defence Union:

- ✓ [France leading the campaign for EU military HQ](#)
- ✓ [ALDE Leader calls on leaders to support Defence Union proposal](#)
- ✓ [EDA Chief executive calls for action to boost defence industry and R&T](#)

Against the European Defence Union:

- ✗ [UK to veto EU 'defence union'](#)
- [Remarks by the High Representative at a joint doorstep with NATO Secretary General](#)
- [Remarks by the High Representative at a joint press conference with Slovak Minister of Defence](#)
- <https://www.bka.gv.at/DocView.axd?CobId=63785> (Vienna Summit on migration programme)
- [Balkan route leaders meet in Vienna to tackle migration crisis](#)
- [President Tusk's remarks on Vienna Summit on migration along the Balkan Route](#)
- [The EU and the UK- parting ways but working together](#)

## • Legislative Developments

The European Commission (EC) announces emergency funding to Bulgaria to support its border and migration management, the total amount would add up to €108 million (16/09).

The European Council, by common accord of the EC President, appointed Julian King as new commissioner for Security Union (19/9).

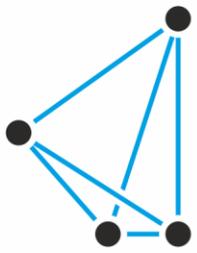
The European Council has adopted a legal framework that will render it possible for the EU to apply sanctions autonomously to ISIL/Da'esh and Al-Qaida (20/09).

Links:

- [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_IP-16-3088\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-16-3088_en.htm)
- [Appointment Security union commissioner](#)
- [Legal framework for sanctions to ISIL/Da'esh and Al-Qaida](#)

## • Publications

The European Parliament think tank published a study on the Common Security and Defence Policy which assesses its rapid developments throughout the years and the increasing importance of the latter in the wake of the Security developments and subsequent calls from the Member States of a greater EU role in providing Security. The same think tank produced a note offering links to commentaries, studies and reports of major international think tanks on the topic of “the EU and the Western Balkans”, focusing in particular on EU enlargement and the migration issues in the region (26/09).



Links:

- [Common Security and Defence Policy](#)
- [The EU and Western Balkans](#)

- **Events coming up:**

Wednesday, 6/10: Extraordinary meeting of the Committee on Foreign Affairs; [Draft Agenda](#)

## 2. Economic Issues

- **News**

The President of the European Central Bank Mario Draghi spoke to the Economic and Monetary Affairs Committee members on Monday (26/09) about EU economy following UK Brexit, stating that the euro area economy showed resilience to global and political uncertainty, although the recovery is expected to continue at a slower pace than the one predicted in June.

On Monday (26/09) the European Commission Vice-President for Energy Union Maroš Šefčovič was in Bratislava to sign a deal between the European Investment Fund and ČSOB bank that will provide EUR 135 million in new loans to small and medium sized companies in Slovakia. Under the first deal, a COSME guarantee will allow ČSOB to provide EUR 100 million of loans to more than 5,800 small enterprises in Slovakia over the next 3 years.

Links:

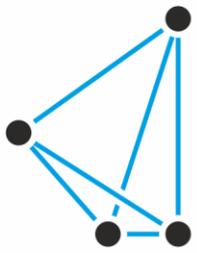
- [Euro Area economy showed resilience after UK referendum](#)
- [First EFSI deals in Slovakia as EIF and CSOB agree €135 million support for Slovak SMEs](#)
- [First COSME guarantee agreement in Slovakia: €100 million for SMEs](#)

- **Publications**

The Bruegel think tank has published a study on the causes of the decline of yields on European sovereign bonds, which have reached an all-time low in 2016. The same phenomenon is not only characteristic of the euro area, but has also been observed in the United States, the United Kingdom, Switzerland and Japan (26/09).

Links:

- [Low long-term rates: bond bubble or symptom of secular stagnation?](#)



- **Events coming up:**

Monday, 3/10: Extraordinary joint meeting of the Committee on Regional Development and the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs; [Draft agenda](#)

Wednesday, 12/10 and Thursday, 13/10: Meetings of the Committee on Budgetary Control; <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/cont/home.html>

Wednesday, 12/10 and Thursday 13/10: Meetings of the Committee on International Trade; <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/inta/home.html>

### 3. Energy Issues

- **News**

The European Parliament is pressing for the Paris climate agreement (COP21) to be ratified by the EU as soon as possible: The first step is a vote by the environment committee followed by a vote during the plenary session on 3-6 October for the final confirmation. A timely EU ratification would send a strong signal and highlight the leadership of the EU and its member states and their continuing efforts to address climate change at an international level, states the environment Committee chair Giovanni La Via.

Links:

- [Paris Climate Agreement: "we are working to secure a swift entry into force"](#)

- **Publications**

The European Council published the consolidated and updated version of the Treaty establishing the European Atomic Agency Community (23/09).

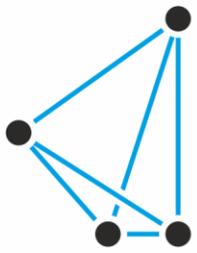
The European Parliament think tank produced a note on the EU environmental policies, enclosing links to all major international think tanks' commentaries, studies and reports on the subject (20/09).

Links:

- [EURATOM Treaty](#)
- [EU environmental policies \\_ what think tanks are thinking](#)

- **Events coming up:**

Wednesday, 12/10 and Thursday ,13/10: meetings of the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy; <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/itre/home.html>



#### 4. Digital Agenda

- **News**

MEPs negotiated the terms of the safeguards regarding roaming charges, the main concern of companies being that consumers would buy SIM cards in the country with the lowest charges, if limitless time and volume of roaming were imposed. The Commission aims to adopt the final rules by 15 December so that it is still in time for the end of roaming charges on 15 June 2017 (27/09).

More than 750 European researchers, investors and policy makers gathered in Bratislava (28-29/09) to discuss the creation of a Digital Single Market in the EU. During the latter, the Scaleup Manifesto was presented to Commissioner Oettinger by the European Community in response to the recent challenge issued by the Commissioner to stakeholders in March 2016 to inform him on what could be better done to help start-ups scale up in Europe. The Digital Champions (ambassadors for the Digital Agenda, appointed by their Members States) issued a statement during the assembly, declaring that they will “*strive to help every European citizen and business to reap the full benefits from the innovative, efficient and inclusive digital Europe*”.

Links:

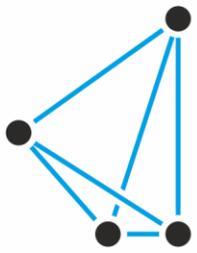
- [MEPS negotiate safeguards to prevent abuse](#)
- [Digital assembly in Bratislava](#)
- [Launch of the Scaleup Manifesto](#)
- [Digital Champions Bratislava statement on eGovernment](#)

- **Legislative developments**

The European Commission launched two sets of calls for proposals of Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) endowed with more than €28 million (20/09). The following day (21/09), the EC discussed on a revised draft of the rules to avoid abuses of the end of roaming charges set for June 2017, providing a solid safeguard mechanism against abuses without limiting the use of mobile devices abroad in terms of timing or volume, which the EC has agreed should remain limitless. Said draft rules, published the 26/09 are enclosed below. The latter will then be examined by the Members States and BEREC (Body of European Regulators in Electronic Communications) for feedback.

Links:

- [European commission's calls for proposals](#)
- [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_IP-16-3111\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-16-3111_en.htm)
- <https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/news/roaming-fair-use-rules-commission-services-submit-draft> (draft rules)



- **Publications**

The European Parliament released a briefing on Big Data and the challenges it is facing in the EU institutions, amongst which are the related privacy issues it entails, 'data ownership' principles that determine who shares in the rights associated with big data, data localisation requirements that may unjustifiably interfere with the 'free flow of data', labour shortages of skilled data workers and data-aware managers, and the risk of marginalising those who do not make extensive use of information and communication technologies.

Links:

- [Big Data and data analytics](#)

## 5. EU Funding

- **News**

Call for Proposals for a Pilot Project for developing the use of new technologies and digital tools in education

Links:

- <https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/news/call-proposals-pilot-project-developing-use-new-technologies-and-digital-tools-education>



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