

**Date and Time:** Tuesday 19 January 2021 12:22:00 CET

**Job Number:** 134390820

**Documents (30)**

1. with [*unexpected clarity;For months, EU experts have been fine-tuning a European strategy towards rival China. The focus is on protecting the EU's own infrastructure from Beijing's expansionism.*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:5VNM-GH01-F10G-K3TC-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** european unionOREuOReuro\* OR European\*

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2nd [*panel discussion on agricultural policy*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:5VNM-GH01-F10G-K376-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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3. the [*little ones are being wiped out;the power of Google, the incompetence of politics: a conversation with Cory Doctorow about the sense and, above all, the nonsense of the planned EU reform of copyright law.*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:5VNM-GH01-F10G-K3TS-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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4 [*CHINA AND THE EU;Overdue Strategy*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:5VNM-GH01-F10G-K49V-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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5 [*Brexit votes leave their mark*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:5VNM-GH01-F10G-K3WJ-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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6. [*briefly reported;Orbán sets conditions*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:5VNM-GH01-F10G-K4BD-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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7. [*monetary policy;freedom for central bankers*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:5VNM-GH01-F10G-K3VY-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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8 [*No Headline In Original*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:5VNM-GH01-F10G-K3TB-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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9 [*FORUM;Democracy as compromise;There are a number of inconsistent proposals on copyright reform.*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:5VNM-GH01-F10G-K3W3-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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10th [*Slovak Civil Rights Activist Leads*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:5VNM-GH01-F10G-K496-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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11. [*SHORTLY REPORTED;Vote uncertain*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:5VNM-GH01-F10G-K3T3-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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12. [*UKRAINE;Seriously*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:5VST-WW41-F10G-K4F8-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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| News | Fonti: Süddeutsche Zeitung,BILD Bund; Sequenza temporale: apr 02, 2019 Fino a apr 02, 2019 |

13[*, "Frustration with Berlin is growing";The former US ambassador to Nato, Nicholas Burns, sees the alliance in a serious crisis. He calls on Germany to take responsibility*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:5VST-WW41-F10G-K4F9-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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14th [*Pulse of Europe strikes in Erding;Representatives of the European Movement found local group*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:5VST-WW41-F10G-K3WN-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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15 [*With bulging self-confidence;The Hungarian ruling party Fidesz is positioning itself for the European elections: The focus is on migration*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:5VST-WW41-F10G-K4G8-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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16 [*PERSONNEL FROM THE HANOVER FAIR;Digital European*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:5VST-WW41-F10G-K4J4-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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| News | Fonti: Süddeutsche Zeitung,BILD Bund; Sequenza temporale: apr 02, 2019 Fino a apr 02, 2019 |

17 The [*Sphinx should finally talk;It is not only in Brussels that the Brexit chaos has almost exhausted patience with the British. Berlin wants to avert a hard exit, but Paris shows little inclination to prolong the drama - also because the European elections are approaching.*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:5VST-WW41-F10G-K4FG-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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| News | Fonti: Süddeutsche Zeitung,BILD Bund; Sequenza temporale: apr 02, 2019 Fino a apr 02, 2019 |

18 [*EU calls for clarity on Brexit plans;House of Commons seeks way out of political deadlock*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:5VST-WW41-F10G-K4DG-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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19 [*Brexit hurts Easyjet's business;British budget airline warns of weaker summer demand impacting ticket prices*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:5VST-WW41-F10G-K4JN-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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[*Diplomatic twin;For one month, Germany presides over the UN Security Council. During his visit to New York, Foreign Minister Heiko Maas is rarely seen without his colleague from Paris. The demonstrative solidarity with France is also a warning signal to the Americans.*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:5VST-WW41-F10G-K4FB-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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21 [*No majority for Brexit plan;House of Commons fails to find way out of deadlock*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:5VST-WW41-F10G-K4M5-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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| News | Fonti: Süddeutsche Zeitung,BILD Bund; Sequenza temporale: apr 02, 2019 Fino a apr 02, 2019 |

22nd [*end of the jokes;Volodymyr Selensky is ahead in Ukraine - despite all the tricks of the previous incumbent Petro Poroshenko*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:5VST-WW41-F10G-K4FW-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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23 [*Less is more; ÖDP politician calls for more sustainable management in Europe*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:5VST-WW41-F10G-K3S9-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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24. [*housing like in Vienna;Left Party demands more social buildings against the high rents*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:5VST-WW41-F10G-K4FR-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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| News | Fonti: Süddeutsche Zeitung,BILD Bund; Sequenza temporale: apr 02, 2019 Fino a apr 02, 2019 |

25 [*Dampener for Erdo&gbreve;an;Although the president's party wins the most votes in the Turkish local electionsBut in Ankara the AKP loses power, even Istanbul could go to the opposition*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:5VST-WW41-F10G-K4D7-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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| News | Fonti: Süddeutsche Zeitung,BILD Bund; Sequenza temporale: apr 02, 2019 Fino a apr 02, 2019 |

26th [*,,What Romania dares to do';EU debates Bucharest's plans to legalise corruption. Justice Commissioner threatens with all available means*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:5VX1-FX81-JDHD-W0HF-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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27 [*FOREIGN;The future after Brexit*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:5VX1-FX81-JDHD-W0HX-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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| News | Fonti: Süddeutsche Zeitung,BILD Bund; Sequenza temporale: apr 17, 2019 Fino a apr 17, 2019 |

28th [*First Aid for Notre-Dame;Already on the day after the devastating fire, initiatives for the reconstruction of the Paris cathedral start, 600 million euros in donations have been pledged. Experts assume that the basic structure of the church will hold. The cause of the fire is still unclear*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:5VX1-FX81-JDHD-W0G3-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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29 [*European election campaign with Martin Schulz*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:5VX1-FX81-JDHD-W0T0-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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30 [*Schäuble warns against lecturing Eastern Europe*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:5VX8-9SC1-JBK9-24CH-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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[***With unexpected clarity; for months the EUexperts have been working on a European strategy towards its rival China. The focus is on protecting its own infrastructure from Beijing's expansionist drive.***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5VNM-GH01-F10G-K3TC-00000-00&context=)

Süddeutsche Zeitung

Monday 18 March 2019

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**Section:** Politics; Munich; Bavaria; Germany; p. 7

**Length:** 1010 words

**Byline:** MATTHIAS KOLB

**Body**

**Brussels -** The decisive word is already on the first page. China, as the ***EU Commission states*** in a new paper, is not only a cooperation partner in the fight against climate change and an economic competitor for ***Europe,*** but also a "system rival" that promotes "alternative governance models". Translated into normal language, this means: Beijing is working to promote its autocratic system of governance worldwide as an alternative to liberal democracy and has no interest in a strong ***EU***.

For months, experts from the Commission and the ***European*** External Action Service had been reviewing relations with China in order to revise their strategy. The 'Joint Communication' is eleven pages long and has been very well received in Brussels. A high-ranking ***EU diplomat*** describes it as "extraordinarily well done" and praises its "unexpected clarity".

Because Beijing's share of world trade has climbed to 19 percent and goods worth more than a billion ***euros*** pass back and forth between the ***EU*** and China every day, many politicians and entrepreneurs have long shied away from criticism. The ***EU is*** showing "much more maturity and self-confidence", says Lucrezia Poggetti of the Merics Institute in Berlin. The time of naivety is over," says a delighted Reinhard Bütikofer, a Green ***MEP.*** On 9 April, the ***EU-China summit will*** take place in Brussels. The time until then could be decisive in laying the groundwork for a more realistic approach to China.

On Monday, the ***EU foreign ministers*** will discuss the paper for two hours. The China debate was also supposed to play a central role at the summit of heads of state and government at the end of the week. Now Brexit has thrown the plans into turmoil, but ***EU diplomats*** assure that China must be discussed: "This discussion is not an intermission filler, but has been overdue for years.

There are plenty of topics: the trade war between the USA and China, the ***EU***'s most important business partners, continues to rage, and in the debate about the Huawei corporation and 5G mobile networks, the ***EU members are at*** odds. The Commission's position is clear. "A common ***EU*** approach to the security of 5G networks is needed to protect against potential serious impacts on the security of critical digital infrastructures," reads one proposal.

The ten measures named in the "Joint Communication" are as ambitious as they are balanced: Three of them call on Beijing to become more active at the international level - for example in climate protection or in preserving the nuclear agreement with Iran. As a permanent member of the UN Security Council, China should do more to guarantee peace and security, development and the protection of human rights. The ***EU Commission*** clearly states that the human rights situation in China has been deteriorating for years. The message to Beijing is: Where there are common interests and you play by the rules, we are partners.

The remaining measures relentlessly expose the ***EU***'s weaknesses, and the Commission wants to close the 'gaps in ***EU law***' as soon as possible. While China often denies or makes it difficult for ***European*** companies to enter its market, the ***EU*** has opened up to companies that are state-owned or benefit from subsidies. By the end of 2019, we will identify how to eliminate the distorting effects of foreign state ownership," says Jyrki Katainen, Vice-President of the ***European Commission***. More attention will be paid to reciprocity in tendering and procurement.

Expert Lucrezia Poggetti praises the proposals: China will not develop into a free market economy. So it's not just about free trade, but above all about fairness'. The Commission wants the ***EU states to*** cooperate on future technologies such as artificial intelligence. In the case of foreign direct investments, it should be checked whether they are security-relevant; in addition, there need to be strict controls on the export of goods such as robots or satellites that can be used both for civilian and military purposes. The ideas fit with the position just adopted by the ***EU Parliament***, which sees China's "increasing technological presence in the ***EU***" as a security threat. Reinhard Bütikofer hopes that ***Europe will*** realise: "We don't have to complain, because we are not powerless and we can do something. The Green expects 'controversial' discussions on the adoption of the Commission's report at the summit, because not everyone sees Beijing as a rival. Hungary and Greece, where China bought the port of Piraeus, have repeatedly vetoed ***EU criticism of*** Beijing's foreign policy and human rights record. Thus, the restriction of the unanimity principle is being discussed internally.

***EU diplomats are*** looking to Italy with concern: driven by an undersecretary of state of the Five Star Movement, the government plans to sign a declaration of intent to join China's prestigious 'New Silk Road' project during President Xi Jinping's state visit on Friday. This step would have a signal effect, says expert Lucrezia Poggetti: Italy is a founding member of the ***EU***, the third largest economy in the ***Eurozone*** and a member of the G7.

The promise of cheap loans for infrastructure has so far attracted only eleven ***EU members*** from Eastern Europe, which together with five Balkan states and Beijing form the "16 plus 1" group. Their summit will take place in April, and Brussels sees a need for action here as well. Perhaps we have overestimated Russia's role in the Balkans and underestimated China's influence,' enlargement commissioner Johannes Hahn told the *Financial Times*. If the ***EU*** wants to stand up to China, it must be quick and invest money.

**Some of the demanded measures mercilessly expose the weaknesses of the *EU***

**Graphic**

China should continue to grow, Chinese Prime Minister Li Keqiang recently announced. The ***EU*** is looking for a stance on this. Photo: Thomas Peter/Reuters

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject: *EUROPEAN UNION*** (91%); POLITICS (90%); INSTITUTIONS OF THE ***EUROPEAN*** UNION (89%); POLITICAL DEBATES (89%); PUBLIC POLICY (89%); ALLIANCES & PARTNERSHIPS (77%); FOREIGN RELATIONS (77%); INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS (77%); ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION (77%); UNITED NATIONS (77%); ECONOMIC NEWS (77%); FOREIGN AFFAIRS & DIPLOMATIC SERVICES (76%); DIPLOMATIC SERVICES (76%); HEADS OF STATE & GOVERNMENT (76%); TRADE CONFLICTS (73%); BREXIT (72%); CLIMATE CHANGE (72%); DEFENCE POLICY & MILITARY POLICY (69%); INTERNATIONAL TRADE (68%).

**Organization: *EUROPEAN*** UNION (58%)

**Industry:** 5G (89%); DEFENCE & MILITARY POLICY (69%); WIRELESS NETWORKS (60%); MOBILE COMMUNICATION (60%)

**Geographic:** BEIJING, CHINA (94%); BRUSSELS, BELGIUM (90%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (95%); BRUSSELS CAPITAL REGION (93%); ***EUROPE (***91%); BELGIUM (90%); CHINA (90%); EAST ASIA (58%); IRAN (57%).

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[***Panel discussion on agricultural policy***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5VNM-GH01-F10G-K376-00000-00&context=)

Süddeutsche Zeitung

Monday 18 March 2019

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**Section:** Dachau; Dachau; p. 7

**Length:** 154 words

**Byline:** SZ

**Body**

**Dachau** - This year, the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) will be renegotiated for the next seven years. Insect mortality, over-fertilisation or agricultural subsidies are always controversial. Within the framework of the CAP, the ***European Union*** allocates funds amounting to 58 billion ***euros*** annually. These are enormous sums, yet more and more small farms are giving up. Anton Kreitmair, President of the Upper Bavarian District and Chairman of the Bavarian Farmers' Association, Christian Rehmer, Head of Agricultural Policy at BUND e.V., and Gisela Sengl, Member of the Green Party in the Bavarian State Parliament, will discuss the question on Wednesday, 3 April: They will discuss what consumers want, how the CAP affects Bavaria and where a ***European*** solution is needed. The discussion will take place at 7 pm in the 'Drei Rosen' inn in Dachau. Helmut Paschlau will moderate on the panel.

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject:** AGRICULTURAL SUBVENTIONS (90%); PUBLIC POLICY (90%); GERMAN POLITICAL PARTIES (78%); ***EUROPEAN UNION (78%)***; POLITICAL PARTIES (78%); STATE SUBVENTIONS & FUNDING (78%); GERMAN COUNTRIES (71%)

**Organization: *EUROPEAN*** UNION (52%)

**Industry:** AGRICULTURE (90%); AGRICULTURE (90%); FARMERS (73%)

**Geographic: *EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (79%); BAVARIA, GERMANY (74%); ***EUROPE*** (93%)

**Load-Date:** March 18, 2019

**End of Document**

[***The little ones are being wiped out; The power of Google, the incompetence of politics: A conversation with Cory Doctorow about the sense and above all the nonsense of the planned EUcopyright reform***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5VNM-GH01-F10G-K3TS-00000-00&context=)

Süddeutsche Zeitung

Monday 18 March 2019

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**Section:** Feature article; Munich; Bavaria; p. 9

**Length:** 1669 words

**Byline:** INTERVIEW: JANNIS BRÜHL

**Highlight:** Copyright and digital loneliness Central topics at the digital festival South by Southwest

**Body**

The 47-year-old Canadian writer Cory Doctorow is the best-known face of the US civil rights organisation Electronic Frontier Foundation, which campaigns to liberalise copyright law. On the sidelines of the tech conference South by Southwest in Austin, Doctorow spoke about the dispute over ***EU*** copyright ***reform.*** A new directive is to oblige platforms such as Google to obtain licences for all protected works that their users want to upload. Critics warn that the rules would oblige platforms to use so-called upload filters that scan every contribution and block it in case of doubt even before it is uploaded.

**SZ: *Europe is* arguing about a reform of copyright. Are you satisfied with the final version of the draft agreed by the Commission, the Council and the Parliament's negotiators?**

Cory Doctorow: I'm surprised that the authors didn't at least try to look like they were listening to people. There was a fear that only a few US companies would have the resources to implement the rules and that the reform would simply wipe out small and medium-sized ***European*** companies. Now they have written in a rule that puts the full burden of regulation on all companies if they are more than three years old.

**What does this mean for start-ups?**

If their pitch to investors is: 'Once we're three years old, we need 100 million dollars to build an upload filter', they probably won't get any money from them. Moreover, this expensive obligation is triggered at a limit of ten million ***euros in*** turnover. This means that the first millions a company earns will be eaten up by the high costs. These are cliffs from which start-ups will fall.

**But platforms like Instagram, Facebook and Youtube generate their revenues primarily from third-party content. Shouldn't they pay for it?**

If we think that Google is not paying its fair share, but at the same time take all ***European*** companies out of the competition, then in ten years it will be even more difficult to negotiate distributions with Google.

**You lead the small companies. Let's get specific: who from *Europe* can even keep up?**

Seznam is a Czech search engine that is serious competition for Google in the country. In Bulgaria, a photo-sharing website that has nothing to do with Instagram is very popular. There are start-ups in ***Europe that*** work well in their niche, but are endangered by the planned rules - as are all the small ones to come. I was just at the stand of Moo, a print and media start-up from London. After the reform, if someone sends them an image to print on a business card, they would have to know in advance if it infringes copyright. Moo is doing well so far, but I doubt they have tens of millions of ***euros to*** build such filters.

**What does the reform mean from a global perspective?**

Take a look at the impact of the General Data Protection Regulation: Non-European companies now either exclude European users from their websites or they follow ***European*** data protection rules themselves. As someone who doesn't live in ***Europe,*** I even appreciate that, but: ***Europe*** can export good tech policies, but also bad ones. Imagine a conversation on Facebook or Twitter where something an American posts cannot be seen in ***Europe*** because it triggers a filter. A conversation is then no longer possible when people from both continents participate. So the company either has to branch out into 'Facebook USA' and 'Facebook ***Europe***' or use the ***European*** filter. The latter is more likely. This would be like people today who don't live in China but use the Chinese app Wechat: They can't write anything the Politburo doesn't want them to. Anyone who has a service with a focus on ***Europe*** will have to submit to ***European*** rules.

**And how should authors and artists get their money?**

We could introduce flat-rate licences, by law. For each play of a song or video, the platforms would then pay an amount to the artists, no matter what kind of contract they have with their label. (A *regulation with flat-rate licences for Germany has meanwhile also been proposed by the CDU; editor's note.* )

**How is this supposed to work?**

We can create an inalienable right to compensation for blanket use of a work. Then it doesn't matter what a musician's contract with a label says. Universal or Warner can't get their hands on the money. It flows directly from the platform to the artist.

**But wouldn't this also require some kind of detection mechanism similar to the filters that could now result from the *EU reform?***

Only in the form of spot checks. We already do it with other things. If you go to a club here in Austin on the pub street and someone sings a song, they don't need a licence and no one records it anywhere. It's done with statistically meaningful samples.

**For this, they think of an organisation like Gema in Germany ...**

Exactly. But a corresponding organisation should not be run like a 19th century guild, but like a 21st century data analysis company: transparent balance sheets, transparent algorithms. And a supervisory body that is not hijacked by a few big players. One can also stipulate: No one who has worked for a music label is allowed to work for that company for the next ten years. After all, it is a de facto supervisor, and supervisors should not come from the industry.

**And the *EU reform is* not suitable for this purpose?**

No, instead we build something cumbersome like one of those what-happens-then machines: a spring makes dominoes fall over, then a dart flies at a balloon and so on. Transferred to the reform: first we hold Google liable, then we hope that they pay more money to Bertelsmann, and then we hope that Bertelsmann gives more money to its authors. We could pass a law instead: Google must give more money to the authors and Bertelsmann. Such a rule could scale with the number of users: If you are a small company with one millionth of the number of users of Google, you also pay only one millionth. And if you double your number of users, your payments double. You can take that into account in your business plan. And then everybody negotiates on the same level as Google.

**The reason for the whole debate is the power of the big IT platforms. Are we all doomed to powerlessness?**

The labels can't push Google around because there is only one relevant search engine. If an obligation for upload filters costs hundreds of millions of ***euros***, then Margrethe Vestager, the ***EU Commissioner*** for Competition, can no longer split Google into ten parts, because Google would then say: Our individual parts would be too small to still filter for copyright. The more obligations we impose on these companies, the more we turn them into enforcers of public duties. We should cut them down to size. We have reached the point that in Silicon Valley, the areas around Google, Amazon, Facebook and Apple are called the 'kill zone': you should not invest in any of the fields in which one of the corporations invests. We need to get rid of the 'kill zone' so that more companies and business models develop.

**Why is copyright so complicated in the digital age? Is there a technical reason?**

The original sin is this: We developed copyright as a regulation of the entertainment industry. If you had a printing press, you could make a book and you had to abide by copyright. Today we all make thousands of copies before breakfast, just by clicking the mouse. Everything that happens on the internet involves copying data. But that doesn't make us parts of the entertainment industry.

**So we simply have to accept certain forms of copying and publishing the works of others?**

We need to answer the question: Is copyright the right tool to put someone in their place who steals your photo and puts it on their Tinder profile? Or for students who plagiarise work? Even with software: if you say to Microsoft 'We'll extend your right to your code for ten years', they won't hire a single new programmer. If you shorten the period, they don't fire anyone either. To squeeze all things that involve copying into the framework that is actually there for the entertainment industry is just muddled. As someone who depends on negotiating with publishers, film studios and media conglomerates for a living, I don't want confused rules. But we talk too much about what the rules say instead of who they apply to.

**Which people are you thinking of?**

I live in Burbank, California. Nearby is the Harry Potter theme park. It's based on a licensing agreement between Warner and Universal. They talked to each other and made a copyright deal. But my neighbour's daughter, who writes Harry Potter fan fiction, can't make a rule that's nuanced and technical enough to work for Warner and Universal. So either we make rules so simple that twelve-year-olds can't break them - but then professionals can't work with them. Or we tell all the twelve-year-olds in the world: from the second you become creative, you are criminals.

**A spring makes stones fall over, then a dart flies at a balloon'.**

**The areas around Google, Amazon, Facebook and Apple are called the kill zone.**

**Graphic**

Cory Doctorow, born 1971, is a Canadian science fiction author, journalist and co-owner of the blog Boing-Boing. He publishes his books under a Creative Commons licence. Photo: picture allianz

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject:** COPYRIGHT LAW (92%); ***EUROPEAN UNION (90%);*** WRITERS (90%); COPYRIGHT (90%); PUBLIC POLICY (90%); SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED ENTERPRISES (89%); ONLINE SOCIAL NETWORKS (89%); START-UP COMPANIES (89%); CIVIL RIGHTS (78%); INTERVIEWS (78%); COMPANY TURNOVER (78%); ***EU DATA PROTECTION REGULATIONS (***76%); POLITICS (76%); COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT (74%).

**Company:** GOOGLE INC (58%); FACEBOOK INC (53%)

**Organisation:** ELECTRONIC FRONTIER FOUNDATION (84%); ***EUROPEAN*** UNION (57%)

**Ticker:** FB (NASDAQ) (53%)

**Industry:** NAICS519130 INTERNET PUBLISHING & BROADCASTING & WEB SEARCH PORTALS (58%); INTERNET & WWW (90%); WRITERS (90%); WEBSITES & WEB PORTALS (90%); INTERNET SEARCH PORTALS (89%); INTERNET SOCIAL NETWORKS (89%); ***EU DATA PROTECTION REGULATIONS*** (76%); INTERNET SEARCH ENGINES (76%)

**Geographic:** AUSTIN, TX, USA (73%); LONDON, ENGLAND (57%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (92%); ***EUROPE*** (92%); CANADA (73%); CZECH REPUBLIC (73%); BULGARIA (58%).

**Load-Date:** March 23, 2019

**End of Document**

[***CHINA AND THE EUOverdue strategy***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5VNM-GH01-F10G-K49V-00000-00&context=)

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**Section:** Opinion page; Editorial; Munich; Bavaria; Germany; p. 4

**Length:** 571 words

**Byline:** BY CHRISTOPH GIESEN

**Body**

Change through trade: For decades, this has been a leitmotif of German and ***European*** foreign policy. In China, this strategy has failed. Although the People's Republic has opened up economically in the past 40 years and has risen from one of the poorest countries in the world to the second largest economy in the world, a free, democratic society has not emerged in China. The question today more than ever is: Who will convert whom in the future?

When the heads of state and government of the ***European*** Union meet in Brussels this week, apart from the inevitable Brexit debate, an 'exchange of views on the whole relationship with China' will also be on the agenda. And that is high time.

The ***EU*** and China have become rivals. Chinese companies are pushing into ***Europe***, buying their way in, encouraged by their state. Beijing is preparing to take its model to the world. There is the new Silk Road, the favourite project of state and party leader Xi Jinping. The infrastructure programme secures billions in orders, especially for Chinese companies, and drives entire countries first into financial, then into political dependence on Beijing. China is also creating its own structures: in ***Europe,*** the "16 + 1" mechanism. Eleven Eastern European ***EU members participate in*** it, as do five Balkan states. The seventeenth member is the People's Republic itself. Once a year, a pompous summit is organised, and Beijing promises cheap loans - for infrastructure projects.

The Chinese leadership has understood very well how the ***EU*** works and how to divide ***Europeans.*** Instead of making representations to Brussels, Beijing's emissaries approach individual member states directly. And those who don't respond have to prepare themselves for frosty relations, like Sweden these days, in the dispute over its citizen, the bookseller Gui Minhai, who is in prison in China.

It is good that the ***Europeans*** now want to find a common line. And it is good that the ***EU is*** not foaming at the mouth like US President Donald Trump, who has tweeted the world to the brink of a ruinous trade war. One can and should cooperate with China, but the rules for doing so must be sharpened.

Take public tenders, for example: Chinese companies can currently bid in ***Europe***, they are allowed to build roads, airports and power plants. The other way round is almost impossible. Beijing has not joined the World Trade Organisation's Government Procurement Agreement. If China does not open up, ***Europe*** will also have to close itself off to Chinese companies to a certain extent.

The solution: Companies from countries that have not ratified the WTO rules should no longer be allowed to bid. In the case of company takeovers, too, the origin of the money should be closely scrutinised in future. Is it a private company? Or is it a company that is operating on behalf of the state with subsidies? If necessary, the ***EU Commission*** should intervene by not approving a purchase. Together, ***Europe*** is strong, because China needs the ***EU*** as a market for its products. The members just have to recognise this strength - and act united.

**Those who do not spurt must prepare for frosty relations**

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject:** FOREIGN RELATIONS (90%); ***EUROPEAN UNION (90%);*** INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS (90%); POLITICS (90%); PUBLIC POLICY (90%); INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORGANISATIONS (89%); HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT (89%); FOREIGN POLICY (78%); DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (78%); TRADE CONFLICTS (78%); ***EUROPEAN*** UNION INSTITUTIONS (78%); POLITICAL PARTIES (77%); CORPORATE TAKEOVERS (76%); POLITICAL DEBATES (76%); PRESIDENTS (76%); TENDERS (73%); BREXIT (73%); US PRESIDENTS (70%); PROCUREMENT (68%); BUSINESS ACQUISITIONS (68%); GOVERNMENT GRANTS & FUNDING (67%); UNITED NATIONS ORGANISATIONS (60%)

**Organization: *EUROPEAN*** UNION (83%)

**Industry:** TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE (72%); ROADS & HIGHWAYS (67%)

**Person:** XI JINPING (79%); DONALD TRUMP (77%)

**Geographic:** BEIJING, CHINA (94%); BRUSSELS, BELGIUM (73%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (96%); BRUSSELS CAPITAL REGION (92%); ***EUROPE (***94%); CHINA (90%); EAST ASIA (90%); BELGIUM (88%); NORTH AMERICA (79%); SWEDEN (79%); EASTERN EUROPE (78%).

**Load-Date:** March 18, 2019

**End of Document**

[***Brexit votes leave traces***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5VNM-GH01-F10G-K3WJ-00000-00&context=)

Süddeutsche Zeitung

Monday 18 March 2019

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**Section:** Economy; Munich; Bavaria; Germany; p. 20

**Length:** 144 words

**Byline:** CIKR

**Body**

The marathon vote in the British House of Commons last week clearly left its mark on the pound sterling. The exchange rate of the currency fluctuated strongly and is only likely to calm down again when there is more clarity on the Brexit issue. Despite the many votes, an unregulated exit of Great Britain from the ***European*** Union (***EU***) is still possible. Uncertainty in the economy is therefore high, and investment decisions are mostly on hold. Investors on the foreign exchange market are therefore looking forward to the Bank of England's (BoE) interest rate decision this week. Since the Brexit referendum in June 2016, the pound has lost more than ten percent of its value against the ***euro***, but has recently recovered slightly.

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject:** CURRENCIES (91%); BREXIT (90%); POUND STERLING (90%); ***EUROPEAN UNION (90%);*** CENTRAL BANKS (90%); BRITISH PARLIAMENT (78%); LEGISLATIVE BODIES (78%); INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORGANISATIONS (78%); ECONOMY & ECONOMIC INDICATORS (78%); ECONOMIC NEWS (78%); CURRENCY MARKETS (77%); BUSINESS NEWS (73%)

**Company:** BANK OF ENGLAND (52%)

**Industry:** NAICS521110 MONETARY AUTHORITIES - CENTRAL BANK (52%); SIC6011 FEDERAL RESERVE BANKS (52%); CURRENCIES (91%); BRITISH PUND (90%); CENTRAL BANKS (90%); EXCHANGE MARKETS (77%)

**Geographic: *EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (90%); UNITED KINGDOM (90%); ENGLAND (73%); ***EUROPE (***58%)

**Load-Date:** March 23, 2019

**End of Document**

[***BRIEFLY MENTIONED; Orbán sets conditions***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5VNM-GH01-F10G-K4BD-00000-00&context=)

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Monday 18 March 2019

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**Section:** Politics; Munich; Bavaria; Germany; p. 6

**Length:** 140 words

**Byline:** DPA

**Body**

**Budapest -** A few days before the possible expulsion of his Fidesz party from the ***European*** People's Party (EPP), Hungary's Prime Minister Viktor Orbán has put forward conditions for remaining in the conservative party family. It is only worthwhile for Fidesz to remain in the EPP as long as it does not completely side with the pro-migration side," Orbán's chancellery minister Antal Rogan said on Sunday. In addition, he said, border protection should be removed from the ***European*** Commission's sphere of competence and handed over to the nation states. The Council of ***EU Interior Ministers*** should be given all decision-making powers on migration issues and half of the member states' border protection costs should be covered by the ***EU budget.***

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject: *EUROPEAN UNION*** (90%); POLITICS (90%); POLITICAL PARTIES (90%); PUBLIC POLICY (90%); HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT (78%); STATE BUDGETS (78%); BORDER CONTROLS (75%); INSTITUTIONS OF THE ***EUROPEAN*** UNION (69%)

**Industry:** STATE BUDGETS (78%)

**Person:** VIKTOR ORBAN (79%)

**Geographic:** BUDAPEST, HUNGARY (73%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (93%); ***EUROPE (***88%); HUNGARY (79%)

**Load-Date:** March 18, 2019

**End of Document**

[***MONEY POLICY; Freedom for Central Bankers***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5VNM-GH01-F10G-K3VY-00000-00&context=)

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**Section:** Economy; Munich; Bavaria; Germany; p. 17

**Length:** 780 words

**Byline:** BY CLAUS HULVERSCHEIDT

**Body**

Among all the obscenities that central bankers have had to listen to in recent years, Wolfgang Schäuble's attack on Mario Draghi in 2016 is one of the most scurrilous. The head of the ***European*** Central Bank (ECB), Schäuble said at the time, was partly to blame for the rise of the AfD because he had provided the right-wing lunatics with an identity-forming theme in the form of the alleged expropriation of German savers. The statement can hardly be surpassed in terms of dumb populism and is not a whit better than all the insults that Donald Trump has been hurling at Draghi's US counterpart Jerome Powell for months.

Because, as we know, it was not the ECB that failed to combat the ***euro crisis***, it was the then Federal Finance Minister Schäuble and his ***European*** counterparts: they watched the room fire bickering until the whole house was in flames - and then berated the fire brigade for the damage caused by the extinguishing water.

One can argue for a long time whether the nimbus of inviolability that central bankers in Germany still enjoyed 20 years ago was appropriate for a democracy. Conversely, however, this democracy will undoubtedly be damaged if the monetary guardians are now also swept along by the global wave of populism and hindered in their work. Central banks must be able to act free of political pressure in order to fulfil their task of ensuring stable prices and the highest possible employment. This does not mean that central bankers should not be criticised - for example, for not seeing the 2008 financial crisis coming. But they must be independent in the exercise of their core mandate.

The problem is that the role of central banks has fundamentally changed in the course of the financial and ***euro crises.*** Because politicians in the USA and ***Europe have*** still not managed to implement some of the necessary reforms, central bankers have mutated into top crisis managers - with the consequence that their supposedly purely technical work, oriented towards economic data and abstract models, suddenly raises highly political questions: What influence does monetary policy have on the economy? At what conditions can states finance themselves? Why don't elected technocrats decide which reforms governments must implement? How is social wealth distributed?

The blurring of boundaries offers populists of all stripes the chance to storm another state institution and expand their arsenal of scapegoats. Trump, who is an autocrat at heart, is attacking the Fed for not willingly supporting his debt-financed straw-fire policy. And in ***Europe,*** the AfD, for example, is using the widespread prejudice of many citizens against Italians to agitate against the supposed light-footed brother at the head of the ECB. The fact that Powell and Draghi have not buckled so far cannot be credited highly enough to them - especially when one considers how many supposed political and economic giants have turned out to be muzzlers in the USA, for example: All of them have long since approached the once mocked president only on their knees. Powell and Draghi are thus suitable role models in dark times. Yes, one could even get the idea that it would make sense to transfer other important policy areas besides monetary policy to independent authorities in order to protect them from the grip of populists. But that would be too short-sighted, because democracy would destroy itself: Anti-liberalism cannot be fought with anti-liberalism.

Instead, the central banks must take themselves out of the firing line and return to their core mandate: the fight against inflation and deflation, the supervision of large banks, the prevention of speculative bubbles, passive economic support. Draghi should take his cue from Powell and his predecessor Janet Yellen, who maintained their course of monetary policy normalisation also because they did not believe they had to save the world on their own. The active promotion of the economy, the elimination of regulatory deficiencies, the liquidation of ailing banks and the defence of the currency and the currency area are not among the duties of monetary policy. They are original tasks of general economic policy, which must be reserved for elected representatives of the people and for whose non-fulfilment these elected representatives of the people should again answer to themselves. People's representatives like Wolfgang Schäuble.

**Central bankers must be independent in the exercise of their mandate**

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject:** CENTRAL BANKS (91%); MONETARY POLICY (90%); ECONOMIC POLICY (90%); PUBLIC POLICY (90%); ***EURO CRISIS (***89%); EURO (78%); ***EUROPEAN UNION (78%);*** ECONOMIC NEWS (78%); ECONOMIC CRISIS (78%); ECONOMIC SITUATION (78%); ECONOMIC INDICATORS (75%); FIRES (73%); LEADERS (72%); ***EUROPEAN*** UNION INSTITUTIONS (72%); HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT (72%); PRESIDENTS OF STATE (72%).

**Company: *EUROPEAN*** CENTRAL BANK (84%)

**Industry:** CENTRAL BANKS (91%); MONEY POLICY (90%); ***EURO CRISIS (***89%); ***EURO*** (78%)

**Person:** MARIO DRAGHI (94%); WOLFGANG SCHÄUBLE (93%); DONALD TRUMP (79%)

**Geographic: *EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (93%); ***EUROPE*** (94%); GERMANY (59%)

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**End of Document**

[***No Headline In Original***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5VNM-GH01-F10G-K3TB-00000-00&context=)

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**Section:** Politics; Bavaria; Germany; p. 7

**Length:** 1065 words

**Byline:** BY SILKE BIGALKE AND FLORIAN HASSEL

**Body**

**Expensive conquest**

**The annexation of the peninsula is not only controversial, but also an economic disaster for Moscow**

For decades, Andrei Klimenko has pondered how best to promote the economy of Crimea. Today, the 59-year-old engineer is racking his brains over 'how we Ukrainians can best destroy the economy of Crimea'. Klimenko is helped in this by his local knowledge. For decades, as an economic advisor in Yalta, he designed concepts for ports or infrastructure development. When Russia annexed Crimea five years ago, Klimenko fled. Since then, he has been documenting Crimean events with the information service Black Sea News and making suggestions on 'how we can drive up the costs for the occupiers'.

The Ukrainians have succeeded well. Crimea used to make surpluses - today Moscow has to pay almost two-thirds of Crimea's budget, plus billions for infrastructure. After Ukraine cut off electricity supplies, the Kremlin had to lay new lines and build power plants. This alone cost Moscow a good billion dollars," says Klimenko. The new bridge across the Kerch Strait: more than three billion ***euros***. Officially, Moscow plans to invest about eleven billion ***euros in*** infrastructure and tourism in Crimea, spread over the period from 2015 to the end of 2022. Klimenko, however, considers many of Moscow's statements to be embellished: for example, the alleged six million Crimean tourists annually. In 2017, only 1.5 million guests came.

And that is by no means all. According to political scientist Yevgeniya Goryunova, the costs for the 600,000 pensioners among the 2.3 million Crimean inhabitants amount to around 5.4 billion ***euros*** over the last four years. Crimea is now the most expensive region in Russia for the Kremlin - it costs it even more than the Caucasus," says Klimenko.

In addition to the direct costs of the annexation, there are the ***EU*** and US sanctions against Russian companies, officials and businessmen and billion-dollar damage claims. Crimea is not the only reason for the sanctions and it is difficult to measure how much they actually affect Russia. The Bloomberg economic agency overestimated that Russia's economy is ten per cent smaller today than one could have expected before the conflict in Crimea and eastern Ukraine. Certainly, Russia is also suffering from the lower oil price. Nevertheless, Bloomberg estimates that the sanctions have cost Moscow up to six percent in economic output over the past four years. Klimenko calculates the losses at up to 20 billion ***euros***. Every year.

In addition, the value of the rouble has fallen: the five rouble coins with the Crimean bridge, which Russia's central bank minted to mark the anniversary, would have been worth more than eleven cents before the Crimean annexation - today it is less than seven cents. The weak rouble helps companies that export goods against dollars but pay in roubles at home. Russia's population, however, suffers because they continue to receive wages and pensions in roubles, of course.

Russia has by no means paid the bill for Crimea: The Kremlin expropriated around 4,000 Ukrainian companies in Crimea, and the largest of them have already sued Russia in international arbitration courts for billions in compensation. The first decisions were all against Moscow.

For the ex-diplomat from Kiev, Bohdan Jaremenko, none of this goes far enough. Since Moscow's aggression in the Sea of Azov at the latest, it is time for new sanctions: against Russian ports on the Black Sea, for example. Or against Russian airlines that let their planes fly to Crimea and on to ***EU countries*** or the USA despite sanctions," says Jeremenko. Many of these planes are leased - Airbus and Boeing could terminate the leasing contracts. But so far, such ideas have found no resonance in Washington, Brussels or Berlin.

It is also questionable when and how arbitration rulings, which Moscow often does not recognise, will be implemented. The Ukrainian gas company Naftogaz sued Russia for five billion dollars in damages because of the expropriation in Crimea. An arbitration court in The Hague has now ruled in favour of the Ukrainians - the amount of the

Compensation is still to be determined. In case Moscow refuses to pay, Ukraine could have Russian property seized abroad. But ex-diplomat Yaremenko is sceptical. ***Europe will*** still depend on Russian natural gas for the next 20 to 30 years. Many countries will be reluctant to seize Gazprom property.

Yaremenko is also unhappy with Kiev. Sure, it may take decades to win back Crimea - but for that we first need a strategy. Five years after the occupation, we have no law, no document, not even a real discussion on this.' When Yaremenko recently sat as an expert with Yulia Tymoshenko and other candidates on a TV channel during the current presidential election campaign, 'in two hours of broadcasting, no candidate brought up the subject of Crimea,' he says.

This is understandable from the candidate's point of view: In view of Russia's military superiority, the only option is a policy of economic pinpricks. Even that is not without risk. Since Ukraine closed the Kherson Canal after the occupation, which brought water from the Dnieper River over 400 kilometres to Crimea, 85 percent of the water previously consumed there is missing, Russia's National Security Advisor Nikolai Patrushev noted in summer 2017.

Today, Crimea still has enough drinking water, but far too little for agriculture and industry. Theoretically, Russia could set up plants to desalinate seawater. But Russia's former deputy energy minister Vladimir Milov estimated the cost of this at at least five billion dollars. Putin's former economic adviser Andrei Illarionov warned that Russia could conquer more parts of Ukraine to secure Crimea's water supply. "The danger is undoubtedly there," says analyst Klimenko, "all the more so as Putin continues to push ahead with the militarisation of Crimea".

**Expropriated companies have sued Russia in arbitration courts**

**In the face of Russia's superiority, Ukraine is left with only the policy of pinpricks**

**Classification**

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**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject:** EMBARGOES & SANCTIONS (89%); ECONOMY & ECONOMIC INDICATORS (89%); POLITICAL SCIENCE (79%); ECONOMIC NEWS (78%); ***EUROPEAN UNION*** (74%); ANNIVERSARIES (74%); LAWSUITS (74%); CENTRAL BANKS (73%); OIL & GAS PRICES (69%)

**Industry:** CENTRAL BANKS (73%); OIL AND GAS PRICES (69%); BRIDGES & TUNNELS (67%)

**Geographic:** MOSCOW, RUSSIAN FEDERATION (94%); UKRAINE (92%); RUSSIAN FEDERATION (90%)

**Load-Date:** March 19, 2019

**End of Document**

[***FORUM; Democracy as compromise; There are a number of inconsistent proposals on copyright reform.***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5VNM-GH01-F10G-K3W3-00000-00&context=)

Süddeutsche Zeitung

Monday 18 March 2019

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**Section:** Economy; Forum; Munich; Bavaria; Germany; p. 18

**Length:** 1086 words

**Byline:** By Steffen J. Roth

**Body**

There are years of discussions behind closed doors, and in the end, legislative proposals emerge that leave one rubbing one's eyes in bewilderment. The protagonists act mysteriously and affirm that their plans are appropriate, fair, balanced and without alternative. Mind you, without making an effort to provide comprehensible arguments and answer concrete questions from the critics.

It is probably not so much that the politicians do not know the areas of life concerned from their own experience or that they systematically privilege certain partial interests. Rather, it is to be assumed that a mixture of the most diverse interests, which is hardly manageable from the outside, has to be reconciled. Democracy as the art of compromise sometimes leads to logically inconsistent proposals that cannot be understood without knowing the underlying skirmish of complicated exchange processes. You give in to me on a detail that I find particularly important, and in return I grudgingly agree to this detail, even though I think it is wrong.

This is how one must explain the upcoming ***EU copyright reform.*** After all, the responsible Federal Minister of Justice, Katarina Barley (SPD), has approved the current version, although she herself is clearly against it. After all, Digital Minister Dorothee Bär (CSU) was also unable to dissuade her colleagues from this decision, although she too is against upload filters. And after all, the federal government has thus violated its own coalition agreement, in which it rejects upload filters as "disproportionate".

Without explaining themselves, established politicians are risking their credibility and the trust of the public with such behaviour. Juso leader Kevin Kühnert fears, with good reason, that politicians are now facing "a huge community that believes that only techies sit in parliaments and governments". It is even worse when such an inexplicable bill is tried to be pushed through by belittling the critics and ignoring factual arguments. Thus, some protagonists dare to deny the sheer existence of the protesting people ('all just bots') or their own capacity for judgement ('seduced children and youths'). The lead campaigner for copyright reform, Axel Voss (CDU), even quite offensively sells the public for fools. He claims that the excitement is due to fake news, because the term 'upload filter' is not even in the text of the law. Yet no expert doubts that Article 13 leads to the use of upload filters.

Protests against upload filters are rightly stirring. The fear is not only that countless small platform and service providers will discontinue their services and diversity will be lost. Secondly, there are fears that content that is actually permissible will be blocked en masse. Because even detection software developed with large sums of money is miles away from being able to strike a balance between the protection of copyright and freedom of expression. For example, quotations, parodies and insignificant accessories are of course still allowed, but the filters cannot recognise these facts as such. Thirdly, the complete coverage of all uploads requires the establishment of a technical infrastructure that could also be used for political censorship at any time. Fourthly, the Federal Data Protection Commissioner Ulrich Kelber, among others, shares the fear that upload filters entail considerable data protection problems.

There is a fifth, specifically economic reason why citizens concerned about competition should also think about Article 13 of the ***EU copyright reform.*** The fact that the digital platform economy is dominated by a few corporations is largely due to the peculiarities of the business conducted by Google, Amazon, Facebook and others. The prevailing network effects mean that once a critical mass of users is reached, self-reinforcing growth effects occur, as the networks become more and more attractive for each individual user as the total number of users increases. Due to these phenomena, we encounter an oligopoly structure in the world of the platform economy that worries many competition watchdogs.

Thanks to the relatively low initial investment required for operation, there are still countless small niche providers on the internet. They have a hard time becoming commercially successful without an adequate financial cushion. Nevertheless, this diversity exists, even if it is only out of hobby. The obligation to use recognition software changes this situation. Both the establishment of the most comprehensive licensing possible and the development of powerful recognition software, including the necessary database, are impossible for smaller companies to afford.

In practice, they will therefore be dependent in future on using the recognition software of the internet giants. With the ***EU copyright reform,*** Google and Co. will be given a means by which they can decide in future which platforms and service providers can operate on the internet at all and which cannot. If Google and Co. decide to allow their recognition software to be used, they will be able to skim off large shares of the possible commercial success of the small providers through licence fees. If all content, including metadata, has to be passed on to the operators of the upload filters for the purpose of filtering, another point is added: the additional data treasures thus tapped not only endanger data protection, but also enable the corporations, which already appear overpowering, to gain further colossal advantages in the creation of big data and its commercial exploitation.

In the medium term, the intended effect, namely the strengthening of newspaper publishers, the film and music industries vis-à-vis the internet giants, will be very modest compared to the strengthening of the internet giants vis-à-vis existing and future competitors on the internet that is accepted at the same time.

**Critics fear that content that is actually permissible will be blocked en masse**

**Graphic**

Dr. Steffen J. Roth is Director and CEO of the Institute for Economic Policy at the University of Cologne. Photo: oh

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject:** GERMAN POLITICAL PARTIES (90%); LEGISLATION (90%); POLITICS (90%); POLITICAL PARTIES (90%); COPYRIGHT (90%); COPYRIGHT LAW (90%); DATA PROTECTION LEGISLATION (78%); FAKE NEWS (78%); LEGISLATIVE BODIES (78%); PUBLIC POLICY (78%); PROTESTS & DEMONSTRATIONS (77%); CENSORSHIP (74%); PERMITS (73%); FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION (72%); YOUTH (61%); CHILDREN (50%)

**Industry:** DATA PROTECTION LAW (78%); COMPUTER SOFTWARE (60%)

**Load-Date:** March 23, 2019

**End of Document**

[***Slovakian civil rights activist leads***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5VNM-GH01-F10G-K496-00000-00&context=)

Süddeutsche Zeitung

Monday 18 March 2019

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**Section:** Politics; Munich; Bavaria; Germany; p. 1

**Length:** 89 words

**Byline:** SZ

**Body**

**Bratislava** - In the Slovak presidential elections, lawyer Zuzana &Ccaron;aputová won the most votes in the first round with 40.5 per cent. &Ccaron;aputová became known for her commitment to civil rights and protesting the murder of investigative journalist Ján Kuciak. She will run in the run-off election on 30 March against ***EU Vice-President*** Maroš Šef&ccaron;ovi&ccaron;, who got 18.66 per cent.

**Page 6**

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject:** ELECTIONS (90%); VOTERS & ELECTIONS (90%); CITIZENS' RIGHTS (88%); PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS (88%); ELECTIONS & ELECTION COMPLAINTS (88%)

**Geographic:** BRATISLAVA, SLOVAK REPUBLIC (58%); SLOVAKIA (90%)

**Load-Date:** March 18, 2019

**End of Document**

[***SHORTLY REPORTED; vote uncertain***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5VNM-GH01-F10G-K3T3-00000-00&context=)

Süddeutsche Zeitung

Monday 18 March 2019

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**Section:** Politics; Munich; Bavaria; Germany; p. 6

**Length:** 120 words

**Byline:** AFP

**Body**

**London -** British Prime Minister Theresa May could cancel the hitherto planned third vote on the Brexit treaty, according to government members. The government would only put the treaty to a vote again if there were signs of agreement, finance minister Philip Hammond told the BBC on Sunday. So far, May had announced that she would hold another vote on the withdrawal treaty, which had previously been rejected twice by parliament, until the ***EU summit on*** Thursday. Trade Minister Liam Fox told Sky News that another vote would be "hard to justify if you knew you were going to lose".

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject:** POLITICS (90%); PRIME MINISTERS (90%); HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT (90%); BREXIT (88%); ***EUROPEAN UNION*** (73%); BRITISH PRIME MINISTERS (72%); TALKS & MEETINGS (72%); INTERNATIONAL GOVERNMENTAL TALKS (72%)

**Person:** THERESA MAY (79%)

**Geographic:** LONDON, ENGLAND (58%); UNITED KINGDOM (58%)

**Load-Date:** March 18, 2019

**End of Document**

[***UKRAINE; Seriously***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5VST-WW41-F10G-K4F8-00000-00&context=)

Süddeutsche Zeitung

Tuesday 2 April 2019

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**Section:** Opinion page; Editorial; Munich; Bavaria; Germany; p. 4

**Length:** 837 words

**Byline:** BY FRANK NIENHUYSEN

**Body**

It was a clear statement, emblazoned on a parapet in the centre of Kiev, in black and white, in printed letters: "GOODBYE, LENIN! HELLO, ***EUROPEAN*** UNION!!! Full of exuberance, the poster was put up in that still bloodless phase at the end of 2013, when many Ukrainians thought that the time of nepotism and corruption could now end, that the rallies would accelerate the path towards the West. Part one has come to pass; six years later, Ukraine has said goodbye to the former revolutionary leader, many monuments to Lenin have long since been taken down. But "Hello, ***European Union***"? This path is taking much longer than many Ukrainians had hoped.

All the protagonists in the presidential election have made it clear that they have decided resolutely and irreversibly in favour of the Western course. But the result of the first round of voting is quite sobering, and with it the prospect of the run-off election in three weeks. Incumbent Petro Poroshenko, it must be said with 16 percent of all votes, has fallen out of favour with most Ukrainians. The reason is clear: corruption is an omnipresent evil, as in many Eastern European countries in transition. Reform of the judiciary has been severely slowed down and is nowhere near advanced enough for courts at all levels to work transparently and independently. And the influence of oligarchs remains immense. Many Ukrainians feel left behind because they do not have to look far, namely to Poland, to see how differently their neighbours have developed over the past two decades.

Poroshenko has a credibility problem. This has made the miraculous rise of Volodymyr Selensky possible - a comedian who mimes a president on television and has seemingly effortlessly made the transition from fiction to reality. His fight against the Ukrainian political establishment reflects resignation because of the many grievances in the country, but also a radical desire to show the established leadership a way forward: an end to corruption, towards a functioning constitutional state. Now Ukrainians have to choose between a president who has lost almost 40 percentage points and a comedian who first has to learn serious political work. A lot of mistrust against a lot of scepticism - the outlook could be better for such a decisive duel.

Ukraine has already experienced some volatility in the past 15 years, revolutionary frenzy, political intrigue, the trauma of the conflict in the east of the country and the annexation of Crimea by Russia. Now it needs at least internal stability, which will be the mandate for the winner of the soon to be held run-off election. Hard enough, but possible.

Ukraine's room for manoeuvre is narrowly limited. In terms of security policy, Russia has many means at its disposal to prevent Nato membership, as desired by Poroshenko, or at least to make it considerably more difficult. But whether Ukraine creates more prosperity depends less on security policy than on how determined the country is to reform. The ***European Union***, linked to Ukraine by an association agreement, can be an important support in this, even if the ***EU***'s appeal has been greater before.

For many states that want to finally shed their communist past, membership in the ***European*** Union is further away than it was ten or 15 years ago. This often paralyses the zeal for reform. The neighbouring Republic of Moldova had to suffer when the ***EU,*** frustrated by the standstill, stopped a money transfer. If Ukraine wants to move closer to ***Europe***, it needs a clear course towards transparency, the rule of law and an independent judiciary.

That can be worthwhile. Despite all the calamities, interest from foreign investors has increased in 2018. The economy has grown again, the International Monetary Fund is ready for loans. Ukraine is a large, strategically important country; the fact that it was able to negotiate visa-free travel for ***EU*** countries shows the potential that ***Europeans*** also see in a rapprochement.

For the presidential candidates, this means that both have to change if they want to lead the country successfully. Poroshenko's seemingly absurd success with his comedic rival may have revealed the seriousness of the situation. Selensky, on the other hand, cannot pull the country out of poverty with smugness alone. After all, this is what makes Ukraine very different from other authoritarian states from the bankrupt Soviet Union: a critical civil society has established itself. And who will become the country's president on 21 April is far from a foregone conclusion. Poroshenko and Selensky will have to fight hard for the majority.

**The rise of comedian Selensky shows voters' anger at the political elite**

**Classification**

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**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject:** CORRUPTION (90%); ***EUROPEAN UNION*** (89%); INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORGANISATIONS (89%); VOTERS & ELECTIONS (88%); PUBLIC POLICY (75%); LEGISLATION (71%); ELECTIONS & ELECTION COMPLAINTS (69%)

**Organization: *EUROPEAN*** UNION (58%)

**Person:** PETRO POROSHENKO (93%)

**Geographic:** KIEV,UKRAINE (79%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (92%); UKRAINE (96%); ***EUROPE (***92%); EASTERN EUROPE (79%); POLAND (79%); RUSSIAN FEDERATION (73%)

**Load-Date:** April 2, 2019

**End of Document**

[***'Frustration with Berlin is growing'; The former US ambassador to Nato, Nicholas Burns, sees the alliance in a serious crisis. He calls on Germany to take responsibility***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5VST-WW41-F10G-K4F9-00000-00&context=)

Süddeutsche Zeitung

Tuesday 2 April 2019

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**Section:** Politics; Munich; Bavaria; Germany; p. 5

**Length:** 1190 words

**Byline:** INTERVIEW: MATTHIAS KOLB  
  
MATI

**Body**

When Nato celebrates the 70th anniversary of its founding on Wednesday, it will be a special day for Harvard professor Nicholas Burns. He was US ambassador to Nato from 2001 to 2005, before becoming undersecretary of state at the State Department. With Douglas Lute, Washington's representative in Brussels until 2017, he spent months examining the state of Nato.

**SZ: Nato was founded four years after the end of the Second World War, and instead of twelve members there are 29. Why do you talk about an 'alliance in crisis'?**

Nicholas Burns: We believe strongly in NATO and know its record. It was very successful in defending Germany in the Cold War and making reunification possible. Nato has brought freedom and security to Central and Eastern Europe - together with the ***EU***. The former Warsaw Pact states are now protected from Russian intimidation; Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania even from Russian domination. We speak of an 'alliance in crisis' because for the first time in 70 years there is a US president who does not support and lead Nato out of conviction.

**Trump has called them "obsolete".**

His attitude towards Nato is ambivalent at best and he regards the ***EU*** as an adversary. That worries us. The second crisis factor is Germany. You have to invest two per cent of the gross domestic product in defence - not 1.23 or 1.37 per cent. The third factor is Russia's hybrid warfare. In the conventional military sense, Nato is much stronger, so Moscow is diverting to intelligence operations, cyber attacks and using social media to influence elections. The fact that all these challenges are occurring at the same time makes the situation so difficult - and we are ill-equipped. This also applies to the last point: a common stance is needed towards China, the second military superpower of the 21st century.

**Belgium or Italy do not reach the two-percent target either, why is Berlin so much in the spotlight?**

Germany is the cornerstone in ***Europe's*** architecture, without which there is no stability. It is the most powerful and economically strongest country in the ***EU***. What I say may sound controversial in Germany: Chancellor Angela Merkel continues to be admired by Democrats and Republicans. Many see her as the embodiment of Western values. She stands up to Putin, unlike Trump. Merkel is the moral leader of the West, but that is in jeopardy because her government is not increasing defence spending in the face of threats from Russia. If Germany fails as a role model, others will not follow.

**The SPD is likely to counter that Germany invests a lot in development aid.**

That is very honourable, but I refuse to include these sums. This is comparing apples and oranges; NATO is about defence. However, I would argue that expenditure on intelligence services or the development of cyber capabilities should be included in the two-percent criterion. Germany has a lot to offer here that is currently being left out. Investments in roads or railways should also be included, because they are important for military mobility.

**Has the patience of the US with Berlin slowly come to an end?**

I was just asked about transatlantic relations in the House of Representatives in Washington. There are still many friends of Germany here, but frustration with Berlin is growing. Germany is not getting involved enough, unlike Poland, France or the UK.

**You call on NATO members not to ignore the erosion of democracy in partner states Hungary, Poland and Turkey. Why is the rule of law important for a military alliance?**

NATO is also a political alliance! The second sentence of Washington's founding treaty has invoked 'democracy, liberty of the person and the rule of law' since 1949. This must not be brushed aside. So far, NATO has no mechanism to deal with authoritarian governments. The fear of division is great. We want to commission an independent organisation like Freedom House to review the state of democracy in all Nato countries. Sinners like Viktor Orbán should be punished and not receive infrastructure funds.

**US Secretary of State Pompeo will address the rise of China at the meeting. Why is this an issue for Nato?**

It is true that Nato is geographically limited to ***Europe*** and North America. Nato must engage with China, which is not only a trading partner and important in the fight against climate change, but also invests in ***European*** infrastructure through the Belt and Road Initiative. ***EU states***, above all, must not leave the ports to an autocratic government that uses its telecom companies to spy on ***European*** citizens and companies.

**The ports are necessary to bring military equipment from the USA to *Europe in* the 'rapid reinforcement concept'.**

Exactly, which is why northern Germany is just as enormously important as Piraeus in Greece or Italy's ports. That is why Rome's entry into Beijing's Silk Road initiative is so critical. We also need to be vigilant about China because in the next two decades warfare and military technology will be revolutionised by the use of artificial intelligence, robotics and quantum computers. Beijing is making enormous progress, so Nato members need to invest more.

**Is NATO structurally well positioned?**

I would like the Secretary General to have more power to run the organisation like a CEO and to be able to schedule meetings more quickly. The debate is like in the ***EU***: at the moment, unanimity is always needed. Of course, this should remain the case for decisions on war and peace, but for political issues, a three-quarters majority is enough.

**NATO must engage with China' - also because of the Belt and Road Initiative**

**Partner exercises**

Jens Stoltenberg has exciting days ahead of him: the NATO Secretary General will meet US President Trump at the White House on Tuesday. The next day he will give a speech to the US Congress, and on Thursday the meeting of foreign ministers will take place to mark Nato's 70th anniversary. Before his departure, Stoltenberg announced in Brussels a stronger Nato commitment to security in the Black Sea. Following the escalation between Ukraine and Russia, it was to be decided to intensify the training of the Ukrainian and Georgian coast guards. More port visits by NATO ships, joint exercises and an increased exchange of information are planned. Georgia and Ukraine are Nato partners, while Black Sea neighbours Turkey, Bulgaria and Romania are members of the Alliance. Stoltenberg expects Trump to raise the issues of burden sharing and military budgets - and welcomes this debate: "NATO is a strong alliance. To remain that, it must be a fair alliance.'

**Graphic**

Nicholas Burns, 63, is now a professor of practical diplomacy and international relations at Harvard University's Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs. He calls for a common Nato stance on China. Photo: AP

On mission for NATO: The supply ship FGS Bonn (left) leaves the port of the Turkish city of Izmir under escort in 2016. Photo: Markus Schreiber/AP

**Classification**

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**Journal Code:** SZ

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**Company:** ALLIANZ SE (92%)

**Ticker:** ALV (FRA) (92%); ALV (BIT) (92%)

**Industry:** NAICS524126 DIRECT PROPERTY & CASUALTY INSURANCE CARRIERS (92%); NAICS524113 DIRECT LIFE INSURANCE CARRIERS (92%); NAICS523920 PORTFOLIO MANAGEMENT (92%); INFORMATION WARfare (89%); SOCIAL MEDIA (72%); DEFENCE ISSUES (69%).

**Person:** ANGELA MERKEL (92%); VLADIMIR PUTIN (79%)

**Geographic:** MOSCOW, RUSSIAN FEDERATION (79%); WARSAW, POLAND (79%); BERLIN, GERMANY (72%); BRUSSELS, BELGIUM (58%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (93%); BRUSSELS CAPITAL REGION (79%); GERMANY (90%); RUSSIAN FEDERATION (90%); BELGIUM (88%); NORTH AMERICA (79%); ESTONIA (77%); LATVIA (77%); EASTERN ***EUROPE (***73%); ***EUROPE (***72%); ITALY (72%); CHINA (58%); LITHUANIA (58%)

**Load-Date:** April 2, 2019

**End of Document**

[***Pulse of Europe beats in Erding; representatives of the European Movement found local group***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5VST-WW41-F10G-K3WN-00000-00&context=)

Süddeutsche Zeitung

Tuesday 2 April 2019

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**Section:** Erding; Erding; p. 9

**Length:** 329 words

**Byline:** KAU

**Body**

**Erding** - They don't want to lie on the couch anymore, says Stefan Grabrucker. With their own Pulse of ***Europe*** group in Erding, the organisers around Grabrucker are campaigning for a united ***Europe.*** Last Friday, the non-party citizens' movement held its founding meeting.

For its debut, it deliberately chose 29 March, the actual date of Britain's exit from the ***European*** Union (***EU***). The movement wrote this in a press release on Monday. It wanted to send a signal for the value of the ***EU***. Around 25 people were present on Friday, and the closed Facebook group has a total of 35 members. There is no membership in the classical sense with Pulse of ***Europe.*** Anyone can join," says Grabrucker. You don't have to fill out a membership application. The movement has 'very open structures': Whoever wants to join should just write to me,' he says. Already this month there will be some planning meetings in preparation for actions and "of course the ***European elections*** on 26 May". Besides a regulars' table and a round of talks with young political scientists, a rally is also planned before the ***European elections.*** The group will decide on the exact dates in the coming weeks.

The idea for a Pulse of ***Europe*** group in Erding came about rather by chance. Grabrucker was already committed to a united ***Europe*** during the state elections and found like-minded people among his friends and acquaintances. We exchanged ideas via the internet from time to time, but we finally wanted to organise ourselves better," he says. At a meeting in January, we thought about which structures would suit us. In the process, they 'stumbled' across Pulse of ***Europe.*** Within the movement there are many possibilities for actions around the ***EU*** and the ***European*** idea. That's why we finally decided on Pulse of ***Europe,***" says Grabrucker.

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject: *EUROPEAN UNION*** (90%); SOCIAL NETWORKS ON THE INTERNET (90%); ELECTIONS (90%); ELECTIONS & ELECTION COMPETITIONS (90%); PRESS RELEASES (72%); POLITICAL SCIENCE (67%)

**Company:** FACEBOOK INC (56%)

**Organization: *EUROPEAN*** UNION (84%)

**Ticker:** FB (NASDAQ) (56%)

**Industry:** NAICS519130 INTERNET PUBLISHING & BROADCASTING & WEB SEARCH PORTALS (56%); INTERNET & WWW (90%); SOCIAL NETWORKS ON THE INTERNET (90%); WEBSITES & WEB PORTALS (90%); INTERNET SEARCH PORTALS (77%)

**Geographic: *EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (92%); ***EUROPE*** (91%); UNITED KINGDOM (57%)

**Load-Date:** April 2, 2019

**End of Document**

[***With bulging self-confidence; The Hungarian ruling party Fidesz positions itself for the European election: The focus is on migration***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5VST-WW41-F10G-K4G8-00000-00&context=)

Süddeutsche Zeitung

Tuesday 2 April 2019

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**Section:** Politics; Bavaria; Germany; p. 7

**Length:** 495 words

**Byline:** PETER MÜNCH

**Body**

**Vienna -** Since its suspension by the ***European*** People's Party (EPP), the Hungarian ruling party Fidesz has been flexing its muscles. With bulging self-confidence, the move, intended as a warning shot by its ***EU partners, is being*** turned into a success and proof of its own adherence to principle. Prime Minister Viktor Orbán continues to rail against the ***EU institutions,*** and his government spokesman Zoltán Kovács tells correspondents in Vienna: "Nobody can suspend or expel us, we ourselves have voluntarily frozen our membership. But if someone doesn't want us, then we leave by our own decision'.

Next Friday, Orbán will officially present the Fidesz election programme for the ***European elections to be held at the*** end of May. According to Kovács, migration will, unsurprisingly, be the central issue. This topic shows "like in a prism, what challenges ***Europe*** is facing". Orbán has already made it clear in advance with a cascade of accusations that from Hungary's point of view the ***EU*** is not up to these challenges. The politicians in Brussels live in a bubble," he said, adding that the "Brussels bureaucratic elite" had lost touch with reality.

Kovács now followed up with attacks on the EPP, which he said was "drifting to the left". In this reading, it is no longer the Fidesz party that violates the common values of the conservative party family. Rather, the EPP partners would be abandoning principles with a "social-liberal agenda", Kovács said. The EPP's top candidate Manfred Weber, who is likely to be dependent on votes from Liberals and Greens in his bid for the ***EU Commission presidency, is*** increasingly in the crosshairs of the Budapest critics. The CSU politician had made ultimate demands on Orbán to remain in the EPP. Anyone who knows the Prime Minister and Hungary should know that ultimatums do not work," Kovács said. For his part, he now tied Weber's support to "two conditions": He would have to defend Christian values and support an anti-migration course.

Budapest is also not impressed by the announcement that a "three-member council of wise men" will be sent to investigate on behalf of the EPP whether Fidesz still fits into the party alliance. For us, this is not a debate about membership in the EPP, but about the future of ***Europe,***" Kovács said. He expects that after the ***European elections*** "the balance of power in the ***EU Parliament will change*** fundamentally". In the light of the result, the Fidesz party will then decide on its further course of action after election day. According to a survey by the Nézöpont Institute, which is close to the government, the conflict with the partners has already paid off, at least at the national level: according to the survey, the Fidesz party could count on 56 per cent of the votes in Hungary and 14 mandates in the ***European Parliament.***

**Classification**

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**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject:** POLITICAL PARTIES (93%); ***EUROPEAN UNION (90%);*** POLITICS (90%); ELECTIONS (90%); ELECTIONS & CAMPAIGNS (90%); VOTERS & ELECTIONS (90%); PUBLIC POLICY (90%); LEGISLATIVE BODIES (89%); HEADS OF STATE & GOVERNMENT (89%); POLITICAL DEBATES (78%); GERMAN POLITICAL PARTIES (77%); POLLS & SURVEYS (77%); PRIME MINISTERS (73%); INSTITUTIONS OF THE ***EUROPEAN*** UNION (72%)

**Organization: *EUROPEAN*** UNION (56%)

**Person:** VIKTOR ORBAN (79%)

**Geographic:** BUDAPEST, HUNGARY (92%); BRUSSELS, BELGIUM (73%); VIENNA, AUSTRIA (73%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (94%); CAPITAL REGION OF BRUSSELS (92%); HUNGARY (94%); ***EUROPE (92%);*** AUSTRIA (58%)

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[***PERSONNEL FROM THE HANOVER FAIR; Digital European***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5VST-WW41-F10G-K4J4-00000-00&context=)

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Tuesday 2 April 2019

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**Section:** Economy; Munich; Bavaria; Germany; p. 16

**Length:** 307 words

**Byline:** KUT

**Body**

**Günther Oettinger**, 65, ***EU Commissioner*** for Budget and Human Resources in Brussels, believes that the four fundamental freedoms of the ***European*** Union should be joined by a fifth: 'free flow of data'. Yes, the ***EU is*** home to more than 500 million people who enjoy the free movement of goods, services and payments. But no ***European*** country or company has the human resources that China, with its 1.3 billion inhabitants, can bring to the table to make progress in the digital economy. We have to invest massively in artificial intelligence in ***Europe,***" Oettinger said, especially when one sees the financial efforts that China and the USA are making in this area. This also applies to the training of specialists. In the long term, the number of technology and computer science graduates at universities must be doubled. And the talent that already exists must be retained and migration to San Francisco prevented.

The CDU politician Oettinger (photo: afp) and former Minister-President of Baden-Württemberg was responsible for the digital economy at the ***EU level*** until 2017. At that time, he came under criticism, among other things, when he called the Chinese 'chinks'. Today, he is more cautious with criticism. With regard to the accusations of espionage against the Chinese company Huawei, Oettinger said in Hanover: "I do not presume to have an opinion on Huawei. He explained that a lex Huawei should be avoided. But we should set ***European*** standards, for example with regard to compliance and the reliability of employees. The goal must be to create a ***European*** digital union - after all, a lot of money is at stake in the digital and data economy.

**Classification**

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**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject: *EUROPEAN UNION*** (91%); DIGITAL ECONOMY (90%); INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORGANISATIONS (90%); POLITICS (90%); INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (75%); GERMAN POLITICAL PARTIES (72%); POLITICAL PARTIES (72%); POPULATION SIZE (71%); ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (71%); HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT (67%); ESPIONAGE (51%).

**Organization: *EUROPEAN*** UNION (56%)

**Industry:** DIGITAL ECONOMY (90%); DATA PROCESSING (75%); ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (71%)

**Geographic:** HANOVER, GERMANY (79%); SAN FRANCISCO, CA, USA (79%); BRUSSELS, BELGIUM (58%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (91%); BRUSSELS CAPITAL REGION (79%); LOWER SAXONY, GERMANY (79%); BADEN-WÜRTTEMBERG, GERMANY (58%); CALIFORNIA, USA (56%); ***EUROPE (***92%); CHINA (90%); BELGIUM (79%).

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**End of Document**

[***The Sphinx should finally talk; It is not only in Brussels that the Brexit chaos has almost exhausted patience with the British. Although Berlin wants to avert a hard exit, Paris shows little inclination to prolong the drama - also because the European election is approaching***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5VST-WW41-F10G-K4FG-00000-00&context=)

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**Section:** Politics; Munich; Bavaria; Germany; p. 6

**Length:** 813 words

**Byline:** BY ALEXANDER MÜHLAUER

**Body**

**Brussels** - Angela Merkel is not known for committing herself too quickly. Especially in ***European policy,*** the Chancellor often takes her time before taking a position. On Brexit, however, she makes an exception. For some time now, Merkel has been declaring that she will fight "until the last hour" to prevent a disorderly ***exit of the*** UK from the ***EU.*** But the chancellor does not have this in her hands alone. The interest in averting a no-deal scenario by (almost) any means is not nearly as pronounced everywhere in the ***EU*** as it is in Berlin. Especially not in Paris.

Unlike the Chancellor, Emmanuel Macron has repeatedly stressed the possibility of a hard Brexit without a withdrawal agreement. In the eyes of the French president, the probability of a chaotic ***EU exit has*** increased in recent days, French government circles said on Monday. The message from Paris is clear: the British should not be too sure that the ***EU will*** not let them jump over the cliff. Not only in Macron's case are there weighty arguments against a further prolongation of the Brexit drama.

First, the initial situation. One week before the special summit on 10 April, the political situation in London is still unpredictable. But regardless of whether the House of Commons votes again on the withdrawal treaty or expresses other wishes: The 27 remaining ***EU states are preparing for*** all options. The heads of state and government set the guidelines themselves at the last ***EU summit.*** And so British Prime Minister Theresa May will have to declare whether her country will take part in the ***European elections at the*** end of May. This is the basic prerequisite for another Brexit postponement. May must also show a convincing way forward.

This second condition was deliberately formulated openly in the recent summit declaration. It is clear, however, that another vote on the withdrawal agreement will not be enough for the ***EU-27*** to agree to an extension. We have to be sure that we will not end up where we are now: in a deadlock," says an ***EU diplomat***. So new elections or a second referendum would be possible. On the other hand, both entail great uncertainties - also for the ***EU***. For example, a Brexiteer like Boris Johnson could become the new prime minister - with voting rights in the ***European*** Council.

Besides the uncertain situation in London, the heads of state and government are likely to weigh one thing above all: What are the consequences if Britain does take part in the ***European elections***? After Brexit, the number of MEPs in the ***European*** Parliament is supposed to fall from 751 to 705. 46 of the 73 British seats so far will be held in reserve for possible ***EU enlargement.*** The remaining 27 seats will be divided among countries that have so far been slightly underrepresented.

France and Spain would get the most new seats. If the Brexit process were to be extended, Paris and Madrid would each have to do without five additional MPs. For Macron, whose movement La République en Marche does not belong to any established party families, this would be compounded by the fact that he has no allies in Britain. Labour would remain in the Social Democratic group and the Tories would probably remain with the ***EU-critical*** ECR group.

But even far from the party-political power poker, there is a hurdle that all 27 ***EU states*** must measure: If the UK participates in the ***European elections***, it would de facto continue to have all the rights of an ***EU member***. The MEPs from the UK would thus be able to vote for the new Commission President and have a say in the selection of commissioners. The extent to which the UK will abstain on future issues in the ***EU Council of Ministers is a*** matter of negotiation. For example, most ***EU states are*** insisting that London should have no say in the upcoming deliberations on the next budget framework.

But all these planning games do nothing to change the deadlocked situation. A sphinx is an open book compared to the British Parliament," said ***EU Commission President*** Jean-Claude Juncker on Monday. He appealed to 'make this sphinx talk now', because 'enough is enough with the long silence'.

There is no question that frustration is running high in Brussels. And so Juncker expressed his displeasure that the ***EU Commission*** had not been allowed to present its arguments for ***Europe*** in the UK before the Brexit referendum. It was forbidden to do so by the then Prime Minister David Cameron, Juncker said. And added: "By Mr Cameron, who is one of the greatest destroyers of modern history".

**If the British vote in May, should they have a say on the head of the Commission?**

**Graphic**

Protest against Brexit separation: Residents of towns on the border between Ireland and Northern Ireland play out what future checks by British customs posts might look like. Photo: Charles McQuillan / Getty Images

**Classification**

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**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject: *EUROPEAN UNION*** (92%); POLITICS (91%); HEADS OF STATE & GOVERNMENT (91%); BREXIT (90%); GERMAN CHANCELLORS (90%); PUBLIC POLICY (90%); TALKS & MEETINGS (89%); PRIME MINISTERS (89%); ELECTIONS (89%); ELECTIONS & CAMPAIGNS (89%); VOTERS & ELECTIONS (89%); LEGISLATIVE BODIES (78%); REFERENDUMS (77%); BRITISH PARLIAMENT (76%); DIPLOMATIC SERVICES (75%); BRITISH PRIME MINISTERS (74%); FRENCH PRESIDENTS (74%); INTERNATIONAL GOVERNMENT TALKS (73%); ***EUROPEAN*** UNION INSTITUTIONS (71%)

**Person:** ANGELA MERKEL (92%); BORIS JOHNSON (79%); THERESA MAY (79%)

**Geographic:** PARIS, FRANCE (94%); BERLIN, GERMANY (73%); BRUSSELS, BELGIUM (73%); LONDON, ENGLAND (73%); MADRID, SPAIN (58%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (96%); BRUSSELS CAPITAL REGION (92%); ÎLE-DE-FRANCE, FRANCE (69%); ***EUROPE (***91%); FRANCE (91%); UNITED KINGDOM (90%); BELGIUM (58%); SPAIN (58%)

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[***EU demands clarity on Brexit plans; House of Commons seeks way out of political deadlock***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5VST-WW41-F10G-K4DG-00000-00&context=)

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**Section:** Politics; Bavaria; p. 1

**Length:** 224 words

**Byline:** SZ

**Body**

**Brussels** - ***EU Commission President*** Jean-Claude Juncker has demanded swift clarity from the British House of Commons on the country's plans to leave the ***European*** Union. A sphinx is an open book compared to the British Parliament," he said at an event in Saarbrücken on Monday. "And we have to make this sphinx talk now. Enough with the long silence.' The ***EU*** knows what the British Parliament does not want, Juncker explained. But we have not yet found out what it wants. If the British do not leave by 12 April and there is an extension of British ***EU membership, '***then Britain must take part in the ***European elections,*** that is a treaty', said the Commission President. The House of Commons was due to vote again on Monday evening on possible Brexit plans. Among them is the proposal by influential Tory and Labour politicians that Britain should remain linked to the ***European*** Union in a customs union. In a first round of voting last week, there was no majority in the House of Commons for any of eight alternative proposals. The withdrawal agreement negotiated between the British government and the ***EU was*** rejected by the House of Commons for the third time on Friday.

**Page 6**

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject: *EUROPEAN UNION*** (94%); BREXIT (90%); BRITISH PARLIAMENT (90%); LEGISLATURE (90%); POLITICS (90%); POLITICAL PARTIES (90%); PUBLIC POLITICS (90%); ELECTIONS (77%); ELECTIONS & ELECTION FIGHTING (69%).

**Person:** JEAN-CLAUDE JUNCKER (90%)

**Geographic:** BRUSSELS, BELGIUM (58%); SAARBRÜCKEN, GERMANY (57%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (96%); BRUSSELS CAPITAL REGION (79%); SAARLAND, GERMANY (58%); ***EUROPE (***90%); UNITED KINGDOM (90%).

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**End of Document**

[***Brexit hurts Easyjet's business; British budget airline warns of weaker summer demand impacting ticket prices***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5VST-WW41-F10G-K4JN-00000-00&context=)

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Tuesday 2 April 2019

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**Section:** Economy; Munich; Bavaria; Germany; p. 20

**Length:** 444 words

**Byline:** BY JENS FLOTTAU

**Body**

**Frankfurt** - Easyjet also had good news. Whatever happens, we will continue to fly as normal," announced Johan Lundgren, head of ***Europe's*** second-largest low-cost airline. His statement, of course, referred to the confusing situation surrounding Brexit, in which ***European*** and British airlines have to try to comply with new regulations, most of which they do not yet know.

The not-so-good news, which Lundgren also had to disseminate, caused the Easyjet share to lose about eight per cent of its value at times. Lundgren warned that the outlook for the second half of the 2019 financial year must now be "more cautious". Easyjet's financial year ends on 30 September. The airline may be as prepared as it wants to be for Britain's exit from the ***European*** Union, but the "macroeconomic uncertainty and the many unanswered questions surrounding Brexit are combining to weaken demand. British customers in particular appear to be flying less frequently in the summer than the company had previously assumed, according to the state of bookings.

According to the company, weak demand is having an impact especially in the third quarter, which at Easyjet includes the period from April to June and thus already covers a good part of the summer season. The timing is particularly unfortunate because Easyjet often makes all its profits in the summer. From July onwards, the company expects to be able to stabilise ticket prices again, especially as there should be more clarity about the timetable and details of the Brexit by then.

In the first half of the year, the company made a loss of 275 million pounds on a turnover of 2.3 billion pounds. Revenue per seat fell by 7.4 per cent, partly because the airline expanded capacity by 14.5 per cent. The result is still burdened by the construction of the base in Berlin-Tegel, which continues to make losses. Easyjet took over the station from the insolvent Air Berlin in January 2018 at high start-up costs in order to strengthen its presence in the German market. Other costs have also risen due to the many flight cancellations in the past year - Easyjet, like many other airlines, has now had to invest more money to make the flight schedule less susceptible to disruptions.

Easyjet's problems also had consequences for the shares of other airlines. Lufthansa lost 1.6 per cent at times, Air France-KLM 2.1 per cent and Ryanair, which like Easyjet is particularly dependent on the British market, even 3.7 per cent.

**Graphic**

The British are not flying as much this summer as in previous years, the booking situation shows. Pictured is Gibraltar airport. Photo: CZIBORRA/Reuters

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject:** BREXIT (90%); AIRFARES (90%); HOLDING COMPANIES (90%); PRICES (90%); PRODUCTION & DEMAND (90%); AVIATION SECTOR PERFORMANCE (89%); COMPANY SALES (78%); ***EUROPEAN UNION (77%);*** EXECUTIVES (77%); SALES FIGURES (75%).

**Company:** EASYJET PLC (90%); RYANAIR HOLDINGS PLC (56%); DEUTSCHE LUFTHANSA AG (56%); AIR BERLIN PLC & CO LUFTVERKEHRS KG (56%); AIR FRANCE-KLM SA (51%)

**Ticker:** EZJ (LSE) (90%); RYAAY (NASDAQ) (56%); RYA (LSE) (56%); LHA (FRA) (56%); AB1 (FRA) (56%); AF (PAR) (51%); AF (AMS) (51%)

**Industry:** NAICS481111 SCHEDULED PASSENGER AIR TRANSPORTATION (90%); SIC4512 AIR TRANSPORTATION, SCHEDULED (90%); NAICS481112 SCHEDULED FREIGHT AIR TRANSPORTATION (56%); AIRLINES (91%); AIR FARES (90%); AIR TRANSPORTATION PERFORMANCE (89%)

**Geographic:** BERLIN, GERMANY (58%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (56%); UNITED KINGDOM (91%); ***EUROPE (***88%)

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**End of Document**

[***Diplomatic twin; Germany presides over the UN Security Council for a month. During his visit to New York, Foreign Minister Heiko Maas is rarely seen without his colleague from Paris. The demonstrative closing of ranks with France is also a warning signal to the Americans.***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5VST-WW41-F10G-K4FB-00000-00&context=)

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Tuesday 2 April 2019

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**Section:** Politics; Munich; Bavaria; p. 5

**Length:** 934 words

**Byline:** BY DANIEL BRÖSSLER

**Body**

**New York** - When the Airbus with Foreign Minister Heiko Maas on board lands at New York's John F. Kennedy Airport in the morning, it's a good thing. It is the first mission of the "Konrad Adenauer" since the crew had to abort a flight to the G-20 summit in Buenos Aires at the end of November due to a serious breakdown and drop off German Chancellor Angela Merkel at Cologne/Bonn Airport. To the astonishment and partial amusement of the world public, Merkel was forced to change to an Iberia scheduled flight at that time and arrived significantly too late. Maas was spared a similar experience, but still did not arrive on time. A tyre burst on landing, which is no big deal, but in the end a bit embarrassing again. Since Monday, Germany has held the presidency of the United Nations Security Council for a month. The first session has to start without the German chair.

Germany not only wants to help "the Security Council fulfil its role in crisis management", said Maas before the start, but also to "put its own topics on the agenda". The first of these topics on Monday is the protection of humanitarian aid workers in conflict areas. Hospitals, doctors and aid workers are increasingly being targeted, and access to food and medical supplies is being misused as a means of warfare against the civilian population," Maas said. First he speaks at an informal Security Council meeting open to all UN members; an official briefing is about taking stock. Representatives of aid organisations have been invited to describe the sometimes catastrophic situation. In eight years of war, half of all medical facilities in Syria have been destroyed. In 2018 alone, the World Health Organisation (WHO) recorded 139 attacks on hospitals and similar facilities there, killing or injuring almost 300 people. Northeast Nigeria suffers from the terror of the Islamist militia Boko Haram. There, security guarantees for international aid workers are lacking, so that 800,000 people cannot be cared for. We have to stop this trend towards complete isolation. Otherwise, we risk sliding into a new barbarism," demands Maas.

Germany has been a member of the Security Council for two years since January and, as Maas has repeatedly emphasised, wants to stand up for the preservation of the "rules-based order" and multilateralism. What this can mean was demonstrated last week when the German UN Ambassador Christoph Heusgen took the USA to task: He denounced the US's disregard for several Security Council resolutions on the Middle East - most recently the recognition of Israel's sovereignty over the Golan Heights, which belong to Syria under international law, announced by US President Donald Trump on Twitter.

The German government is also trying to react to the growing rift with the USA by demonstratively closing ranks with France. In New York, Maas and the French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian seem like diplomatic twins, they hardly leave each other's side. Maas had only been in New York on Friday to attend the end of the French Chairmanship, Le Drian showed up specifically at the beginning of the German Chairmanship. Actually, as they want to understand it, it is a joint chairmanship. This is something new at the United Nations," says Maas.

However, even this partnership is not free of friction. Recently, for example, Paris and Berlin had a bone of contention over the German export ban on defence equipment to Saudi Arabia. The French, like the British, were annoyed because German supplies for their own exports or for joint products were not forthcoming. Last week, the German government extended the embargo by six months at the request of the SPD, but at the same time made it possible again for German arms manufacturers to deliver parts as long as no finished products end up in Saudi Arabia. However, the fundamental dispute with France over arms exports is far from settled.

The issue also overshadowed Le Drian's visit to a cabinet meeting in Berlin last Wednesday. The continuing irritation about CDU leader Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer's response to President Emmanuel Macron's ***appeal for Europe was also*** palpable. She had rejected many of his proposals or let them go to waste, but had spoken out in favour of a ***European*** seat on the Security Council - i.e. at the expense of the permanent seat of the veto power France.

Yet the Aachen Treaty, which Merkel and Macron signed in January, says something quite different. There, France pledges to support Germany's aspirations for a permanent seat on the Security Council. The ***EU seat*** is rather a "long-term matter", Maas appeases. Such contradictions are preferably not celebrated publicly in New York. This Tuesday, Maas and Le Drian would rather invite the public to an event on the "Alliance for Multilateralism". Who all is there and what such an alliance can achieve in practice against the unilateral actions of Trump or Russian President Vladimir Putin has so far remained rather vague. Maas and Le Drian now want to give answers at a press conference.

**The dispute over arms exports: Where the harmony between Germans and French ends**

**Why Heiko Maas wants an "Alliance for Multilateralism**

**Graphic**

Flew with the government plane and still arrived almost without incident: Federal Foreign Minister Heiko Maas (centre) chairing the meeting at the UN Security Council in New York. Photo: Johannes Eisele/AFP

**Classification**

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**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject:** UNITED NATIONS (91%); FOREIGN RELATIONS (90%); GERMAN CHANCELLORS (90%); UNITED NATIONS ORGANISATIONS (90%); POLITICS (90%); WAR & ARMED CONFLICT (89%); HEADS OF STATE & GOVERNMENT (89%); U.S. PRESIDENTS (89%); HEALTH DEPARTMENTS (87%); DEFENCE & MILITARY POLICY (75%); MEDICAL RELIEF ORGANISATIONS (71%); PARAMILITARY & MILITIA (70%); BOKO HARAM (67%); AID AGENCIES (67%); DOCTORS (66%); TRENDS (64%)

**Company:** AIRBUS SAS (58%); FLUGHAFEN KOELN/BONN GMBH (57%)

**Industry:** NAICS336411 AIRCRAFT MANUFACTURING (58%); SIC3721 AIRCRAFT (58%); SIC4581 AIRPORTS, FLYING FIELDS & AIRPORT TERMINAL SERVICES (57%); AIRLINES (90%); AIRPORTS (90%); HEALTH MINISTRIES (87%); DEFENCE & MILITARY POLICY (75%); HOSPITALS (71%); DOCTORS (66%)

**Person:** ANGELA MERKEL (91%); DONALD TRUMP (79%)

**Geographic:** NEW YORK, NY, USA (92%); PARIS, FRANCE (79%); BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA (78%); BONN, GERMANY (73%); COLOGNE, GERMANY (73%); ÎLE-DE-FRANCE, FRANCE (55%); GERMANY (90%); FRANCE (90%); SYRIA (88%); MIDDLE EAST (79%); NIGERIA (79%); NORTH AMERICA (79%); ISRAEL (58%).

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**End of Document**

[***No majority for Brexit plan; House of Commons fails to find way out of deadlock***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5VST-WW41-F10G-K4M5-00000-00&context=)

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**Section:** Politics; Munich; p. 1

**Length:** 197 words

**Byline:** CK

**Body**

**London** - The British parliament was unable to agree on a majority for one of the four proposals in the second round of test votes to explore alternative Brexit solutions. The hope of the MPs that the government can be forced by parliament to change course has thus vanished. The proposals put to the vote were a customs union with the ***EU***, Britain's membership of the ***European*** Free Trade Association (EFTA), a second referendum to confirm a deal yet to be decided, and a halt to the withdrawal process if a 'no deal' looms. Only the idea of a permanent customs union came close to a majority, with a difference of three votes. Prime Minister Theresa May will hold a five-hour cabinet meeting this Tuesday to decide on the next steps. The danger of a no-deal exit ***EU*** on 12 April has been further increased by the parliament's vote. The House of Commons rejected the treaty negotiated between London and Brussels for the third time on Friday.

**Page 6**

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject:** LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITIES (91%); BREXIT (90%); BRITISH PARLIAMENT (90%); ***EUROPEAN UNION (90%);*** POLITICS (90%); PRIME MINISTERS (78%); HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT (78%); FREE TRADE AGENCIES (76%); REFERENCES (72%).

**Person:** THERESA MAY (79%)

**Geographic:** LONDON, ENGLAND (73%); BRUSSELS, BELGIUM (57%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (92%); BRUSSELS CAPITAL REGION (79%); ***EUROPE*** (73%); UNITED KINGDOM (73%).

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[***End of the jokes; Volodymyr Selensky is ahead in Ukraine - despite all the tricks of the previous incumbent Petro Poroshenko***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5VST-WW41-F10G-K4FW-00000-00&context=)

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Tuesday 2 April 2019

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**Section:** Politics; Germany; p. 7

**Length:** 934 words

**Byline:** BY FLORIAN HASSEL

**Body**

**Kiev -** TV comedian Volodymyr Selensky has won the first round of Ukraine's presidential election by a wide margin over incumbent Petro Poroshenko. After 88 per cent of all ballots were counted, Selensky received 30.3 per cent of the vote, Poroshenko 16 per cent. Former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko came in third with 13.3 per cent. Yuri Boyko, a pro-Moscow candidate, received a surprising 11.5 per cent, and reformist candidate Anatoly Grytsenko seven per cent.

During the election campaign, there were special payments to millions of pensioners, salary increases for soldiers and pressure on civil servants and state employees - all massive efforts in favour of the incumbent Poroshenko. In addition, there was widespread vote-buying, as an OSCE-led observer group - including members of the ***European*** Parliament and the ***Council of Europe*** - confirmed on Monday. Numerous and credible indications of misuse of state resources and vote-buying undermined the credibility of the electoral process," it said. President Poroshenko had "systematically used public institutions and officials" in his campaign.

The OSCE observer mission ODIHR "observed some signs of vote buying". A large number of indications of vote-buying were received from all over the country. In Odessa, ODIHR received a video showing vote buying. In the industrial town of Kryvyi Rih, campaigners allegedly paid the equivalent of 33 ***euros for a*** proven vote in favour of the previous president. A police officer confirmed that the vote-buying was "organised like a Christmas tree". In Irpin near Kiev, a prosecutor prevented a police investigation into vote-buying by Poroshenko's associates. The Swedish head of the ODIHR mission, Peter Tejler, did not rule out the possibility that without these factors Tymoshenko, not Poroshenko, would have won second place and entered the run-off. Poroshenko's lead was less than 440,000 votes after 88 per cent of the ballots were counted. We have no conclusion because the counting process is still ongoing," Tejler said.

Selensky and Poroshenko will now face off in a run-off on 21 April. According to a poll of 15,000 Ukrainians by the Kiev-based Razumkov Institute and the Rating Group, Selensky would defeat the incumbent in the run-off by an even wider margin than in the first round of voting, with 39 per cent of the vote. The contest between the two candidates began on the evening of the election. I would like to thank all Ukrainians who voted today not only for rewards," Selensky said, taking a side swipe at the presidential camp.

Poroshenko said the time for jokes was over. Selensky, as president, is exactly the weak politician that Russian President Vladimir Putin dreams of. "He dreams of a soft, submissive, friendly, giggling, inexperienced, weak, ideologically flabby and politically insecure president. Do we want to give him this?' Poroshenko also portrayed Selensky as a puppet of the controversial oligarch Ihor Kolomoisky, who supports Selensky with his media. Fate has linked me to Kolomoisky's puppet. We won't give Kolomoisky a chance!'

Selensky shot back. Poroshenko's closest entourage has been embroiled in massive corruption scandals in recent weeks. It came out, for example, that the son of Oleg Gladkovsky, a friend of Poroshenko and deputy head of the National Security Council, had bought arms parts in Russia and resold them to the Ukrainian army at an inflated price using bribes. Satirist Selensky said that Poroshenko himself would have to answer the question of whether the - now dismissed - vice-head of the Security Council had been Poroshenko's puppet or vice versa.

Another scandal came out last Thursday and could further damage Poroshenko's tarnished image: According to a report by Radio Liberty, Ihor Kononenko, a close confidant of Poroshenko, is alleged to have been involved in multi-million dollar manipulations in the energy sector. Kononenko denies this.

The exchange of blows between Poroshenko and Selensky is likely to be just a foretaste of political mud-slinging in the coming three weeks. Volodymyr Ariyev, a member of Poroshenko's faction in the Ukrainian parliament and head of the Ukrainian delagation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the ***Council of Europe,*** congratulated "all voters of candidate Volodymyr Selensky on their professional holiday" on Monday - Clown or Fool Day in Ukraine.

According to observers, President Poroshenko is likely to try to make up for his shortfall with further special payments to state employees and other manoeuvres. Poroshenko called on Selensky to participate in a televised debate. Both Poroshenko and Selensky had avoided a debate scheduled before the first round of voting. Ruslan Ryaboshapka, an adviser to Selensky, fears that the president, in view of the large gap, could "provoke a crisis or even a flare-up of war in eastern Ukraine" in order to portray himself as a warlord and score points over the inexperienced Selensky. The comedian himself is taking a break from politics - he is performing several times this week in Kiev with his cabaret troupe.

**Page 4**

**International observers report on organised vote buying**

You can also listen to the podcast on this topic.

**sz.de/newspodcast**

**Graphic**

Surprise winner in Ukraine's presidential election: comedian and provisional election winner Volodymyr Selensky plays table tennis with a journalist. Photo: Genya SAVILOV / AFP

**Classification**

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**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject:** VOTERS & ELECTIONS (91%); POLITICS (90%); PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS (90%); HEADS OF STATE & GOVERNMENT (90%); PRESIDENTS OF STATE (90%); ELECTIONS (90%); ELECTIONS & CAMPAIGNS (90%); PUBLIC POLICY (90%); INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS ORGANISATIONS (89%); POLLS & SURVEYS (89%); BALLOTS (89%); LEGISLATIVE BODIES (78%); CORRUPTION (77%); SCANDALS (77%); ARMED FORCES (77%); ARMIES (75%); ***EUROPEAN UNION (***72%); INTERNATIONAL GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS (70%); ***EUROPEAN*** UNION INSTITUTIONS (69%); CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS (65%); PROSECUTORS (65%)

**Industry:** STRENGTHS (77%); ARMS (75%)

**Person:** PETRO POROSHENKO (97%); VLADIMIR PUTIN (78%)

**Geographic:** KIEV,UKRAINE (93%); ODESSA, UKRAINE (79%); ***EUROPE (***92%); UKRAINE (91%); SWEDEN (79%); RUSSIAN FEDERATION (73%)

**Load-Date:** April 6, 2019

**End of Document**

[***Less is more; ÖDP politician calls for a more sustainable economy in Europe***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5VST-WW41-F10G-K3S9-00000-00&context=)

Süddeutsche Zeitung

Tuesday 2 April 2019

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**Section:** Ebersberg; Ebersberg; p. 8

**Length:** 670 words

**Byline:** ANNA HORST

**Body**

**Markt Schwaben** - No one doubts that political decisions in a democracy should always serve the common good. But how this motto is put into practice is debatable. For Alexander Abt, Memmingen district councillor and third-placed candidate on the federal list of the ÖDP for the ***European elections*** in May, the matter is crystal-clear: "For a political decision to serve the common good, one must be able to answer three questions positively: Does it serve people, does it serve the environment, does it serve peace?', Abt explained.

At the invitation of Rosi Reindl, chairwoman of the ÖDP district association in Ebersberg, the party's top regional representative recently gave a talk at the Schweiger Brauhaus in Markt Schwaben on the topic of 'The common good for a just ***Europe***'. In the course of the evening, he addressed current national, ***EU*** and global problems and presented possible solutions from the perspective of the ÖDP.

One in four Germans currently works in the low-wage sector, i.e. earns less than 10.50 ***euros*** an hour', Abt noted at the beginning. This not only leads to low pensions, but is also a problem in connection with rising rents. It cannot be that a hairdresser works for 40 years, but only ever earns just above the minimum wage and then later cannot even afford a decent flat from her pension,' Abt found.

In the end, the state would always have to step in and pay additional benefits to the pension in such cases. This can be prevented by a decent wage, also for care and education work," he argued. The ÖDP therefore demands a minimum wage of 12.50 ***euros***, a rent brake and a socially insured education and care salary.

The ***European candidate*** also denounced considerable shortcomings in ***EU-wide*** environmental policy. In 2016, approximately 2.02 billion tonnes of waste were generated worldwide. He no longer had to ask whether this was good for the environment or for people. He sees a very big problem in the non-transparent production routes of large companies. One approach to solving the problem would be to draw up a balance sheet for the common good', explained Abt. The balance sheet should include, for example, what working hours and wages are fixed, how suppliers are dealt with and whether purchasing is done in a sustainable way, Abt demanded.

The economic actions of many large companies such as Apple, Siemens or Amazon often no longer serve the welfare of the citizens, criticised the ***European candidate***. German arms exports to countries such as Saudi Arabia or war zones such as Yemen are a much-discussed example of immoral economic activity. The ÖDP therefore calls for a federal policy programme that only allows arms exports to ***EU*** and NATO countries, subject to compliance with human rights standards," said Abt.

In order to change this situation decisively, a policy independent of business is urgently needed, Abt emphasised at the end of his lecture. The ÖDP therefore already does not accept party donations from companies. A corresponding law, which for example prohibits corporate donations and board positions in large companies for elected officials, is also a possible solution. We have to get away from the madness of material economic growth, because less is often more," added his party colleague Reindl. Every individual could do something, for example, by using exchange services such as clothes swaps, repair cafés or car sharing, which has also existed in the district of Ebersberg for some time.

Both Reindl and Abt emphasised at the end that one must rethink in the direction of restriction, because in the end this means a profit and not a loss for society. As a thank you, the guest from Memmingen was presented with a snack basket - consisting of regional organic products, of course.

**We have to get away from the madness of material economic growth', says the *European candidate of* the ÖDP.**

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject:** MINIMUM WAGE (90%); POLITICS (90%); ***EUROPEAN UNION*** (89%); SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (89%); PUBLIC POLICY (89%); PRICES (88%); WAR & ARMED CONFLICT (78%); POLITICAL PARTIES (78%); EXPORT TRADE (77%); ECONOMY & ECONOMIC INDICATORS (77%); LEGISLATION (76%); ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES AND REGULATIONS (76%); INTERNATIONAL GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS (74%); SOCIAL SECURITY (74%); BOARDS OF DIRECTORS & SUPERVISORY BOARDS BOARDS (73%); ELECTIONS (73%); ECONOMIC GROWTH (72%); WAGES & SALARIES (71%); PARTY DONATIONS (70%); CORPORATE DONATIONS (62%)

**Company:** SIEMENS AG (52%)

**Organization: *EUROPEAN*** UNION (91%)

**Ticker:** SIN (SWX) (52%); SIE (FRA) (52%); SIE (BIT) (52%)

**Industry:** NAICS335110 ELECTRIC LAMP BULB & PART MANUFACTURING (52%); NAICS334513 INSTRUMENTS & RELATED PRODS MFG FOR MEASURING, DISPLAYING & CONTROLLING IND PROCESS VARIABLES (52%); NAICS334413 SEMICONDUCTOR & RELATED DEVICE MANUFACTURING (52%); NAICS334210 TELEPHONE APPARATUS MANUFACTURING (52%); ACCOUNTING (89%)

**Geographic: *EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (92%); ***EUROPE (***92%); YEMEN (79%); SAUDI ARABIA (79%)

**Load-Date:** April 2, 2019

**End of Document**

[***Housing like in Vienna; Left Party demands more social buildings against the high rents***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5VST-WW41-F10G-K4FR-00000-00&context=)

Süddeutsche Zeitung

Tuesday 2 April 2019

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**Section:** Politics; Munich; Bavaria; Germany; p. 6

**Length:** 528 words

**Byline:** ANNA REUSS

**Body**

**Berlin** - The Left Party has presented a five-point plan to combat rising rents. Less than two months before the ***European elections,*** party leader Bernd Riexinger announced the party's ambitious goal: there should be more affordable housing not only in Germany, but in all ***EU member states.*** Rents are rising endlessly in Paris, London and Berlin," Riexinger said. Salaries, however, are rising more slowly. Many ***Europeans*** would therefore have to do without their old-age provision. Austria's capital Vienna is an exception, he said: there, more than 60 per cent of residents can live in publicly subsidised flats at low rents. We can only dream of this in other cities," said Riexinger.

Affordable housing is also lacking in Germany - not only in the big cities like Berlin or Munich. The number of social housing units is falling: In 2017, there were around 1.2 million, 46,000 fewer than the year before. By comparison, in 1990 there were still almost three million social housing units. The Arbeitsgemeinschaft Wohnungslosenhilfe has also calculated that the number of people without housing has increased by about 150 percent since 2014. Low-income earners and pensioners in particular have to pay a large share of their income for housing costs. "Rising rents have the potential to become the social crisis of the coming decades," Riexinger said.

In the view of the Left Party, more should therefore be invested in social housing. Social housing could either be newly built or bought back from real estate companies. However: "We don't want to build through private investors". Because no profit should be made with social housing, Riexinger said. The fact that real estate companies like Vonovia - the largest private landlord in Germany - were making high profits was unacceptable.

In connection with the five-point plan, the party also mentions the plan to "expropriate" real estate companies. The Left Party supports a petition for a referendum on this issue, which is currently being discussed in Berlin. However, Riexinger clarifies that this does not mean a real expropriation, which would violate the Basic Law. Rather, the companies should receive compensation that would not correspond to the current market price, which is driven by speculation. Instead, they could be made up of the purchase price at the time the corporation acquired the flat plus the rate of inflation.

Further measures could be the regulation of commercial providers such as Airbnb. On the platform, private rental flats are offered as holiday flats. In addition, it should be forbidden to pass on the costs of an energetic renovation of a flat to the rent, because this would often be exploited. In addition, a higher minimum wage of twelve ***euros is*** necessary.

Meanwhile, the 'Alliance Against Displacement and Rent Madness' has called on citizens all over ***Europe*** to demonstrate against rising housing costs this weekend. Demonstrations have been announced in Berlin, Dublin, Amsterdam and Paris, among other places.

**Graphic**

Left Party leader Bernd Riexinger warns of a new social crisis. Photo: dpa

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject:** SOCIAL HOUSING (99%); POLITICAL PARTIES (92%); CITIES (89%); PUBLIC POLICY (89%); ***EUROPEAN UNION*** (78%); LOW-INCOME (77%); PRICES (76%); PENSIONS (75%); WAGES & SALARIES (75%); ELECTIONS (73%); VOTERS & CHOICES (73%); PRIVATE EQUITY (69%); MINIMUM WAGE (67%); INFLATION (65%); PROTESTS & DEMONSTRATIONS (60%); HOMELESSNESS (52%)

**Industry:** RENTAL REAL ESTATE (77%); RENTAL RESIDENTIAL REAL ESTATE (77%); AGE PROVIDENCE (75%); PRIVATE EQUITY (69%); RESIDENTIAL BUILDING (64%)

**Person:** BERND RIEXINGER (92%)

**Geographic:** BERLIN, GERMANY (90%); PARIS, FRANCE (88%); DUBLIN, IRELAND (73%); VIENNA, AUSTRIA (73%); AMSTERDAM, NETHERLANDS (58%); LONDON, ENGLAND (58%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (78%); ÎLE-DE-FRANCE, FRANCE (56%); ***EUROPE*** (90%); GERMANY (89%); AUSTRIA (73%).

**Load-Date:** April 2, 2019

**End of Document**

[***Dampener for Erdo&gbreve;an; Although the president's party wins the most votes in the Turkish local elections. But in Ankara the AKP is losing power, even Istanbul could go to the opposition***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5VST-WW41-F10G-K4D7-00000-00&context=)

Süddeutsche Zeitung

Tuesday 2 April 2019

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**Section:** Politics; Munich; Bavaria; Germany; p. 1

**Length:** 535 words

**Byline:** BY CHRISTIANE SCHLÖTZER

**Body**

**Istanbul** - Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdo&gbreve;an and the ruling AKP have suffered heavy losses in Turkey's local elections. Although the conservative Islamic ruling party maintained its position as the strongest force nationwide with about 44 per cent, it lost important cities to the opposition. However, it lost important cities to the opposition led by the secular CHP.

In Ankara, the CHP candidate Mansur Yava&scedil; won with 50.9 per cent of the vote, 25 years of conservative mayors. But even in the count in Istanbul, the country's largest city, where Erdo&gbreve;an's career once began, the opposition CHP candidate, Ekrem Imamo&gbreve;lu, was extremely narrowly ahead of the AKP candidate, former Prime Minister Binali Yıldırım, who achieved 48.51 per cent, according to the supreme election authority on Monday.

Yıldırım confirmed that he was 25,000 votes behind his rival. But he refused to congratulate Imamo&gbreve;lu on his victory. The AKP was preparing an appeal, Yıldırım said, referring to an unusually high number of invalid votes. Some 319,500 ballots would have to be checked in Istanbul. The parties now officially have three days to lodge an appeal. Final results may not be available for another ten days. In Ankara, too, the AKP wants a partial recount.

Izmir, the third largest city, again went clearly to the CHP, as did all the provinces on the west coast and many on the south coast of Turkey, including the tourist stronghold of Antalya. As in past elections, the AKP was the leading force in Central Anatolia.

Erdo&gbreve;an had dominated his party's election campaign, and he had attracted support from the ultra-nationalist MHP. Its leader, Devlet Bahçeli, had brought additional fierceness into the election campaign. But Erdo&gbreve;an had also polarised strongly. He had accused the opposition of making common cause with "terrorists" because the CHP and its ally, the relatively new Iyi Party in the west of Turkey, were supported by the Kurdish HDP. There was no formal alliance, but the HDP had not fielded its own candidates in many major cities, such as Istanbul and Ankara, and had asked its voters to support the CHP-led alliance. Erdo&gbreve;an had also appealed to his religious voters by promising to turn Hagia Sophia, Istanbul's most famous monument, back into a mosque after the election.

The former coronation church of the Byzantine emperors became a mosque after the conquest of Istanbul in 1453, and has been a state museum since 1935. Erdo&gbreve;an also showed clips of the Christchurch bomber video at his election rallies and warned of a worldwide increase in Islamophobia.

Opposition media such as *Bianet* reported irregularities in the election. However, observers from a 22-member ***Council of Europe*** delegation said that the election was largely orderly.

**Pages 2 and 4**

**Graphic**

Even though he did not vote himself, President Recep Tayyip Erdo&gbreve;an dominated the election campaign. This did not benefit his party everywhere. Photo: OZAN KOSE / AFP

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject:** HEADS OF STATE & GOVERNMENT (92%); POLITICS (90%); POLITICAL PARTIES (90%); PRESIDENTS OF STATE (90%); ELECTIONS (90%); ELECTIONS & CAMPAIGNS (90%); VOTERS & ELECTIONS (90%); PUBLIC POLICY (90%); RELIGION & FAITH (89%); MAYORS (77%); CITIES (77%); INTERNATIONAL GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS (73%); TERRORISM (72%); HISTORIC SITES (71%)

**Company:** ALLIANZ SE (51%)

**Ticker:** ALV (FRA) (51%); ALV (BIT) (51%)

**Industry:** NAICS524126 DIRECT PROPERTY & CASUALTY INSURANCE CARRIERS (51%); NAICS524113 DIRECT LIFE INSURANCE CARRIERS (51%); NAICS523920 PORTFOLIO MANAGEMENT (51%); HISTORIC SITES (71%); MUSEUMS & GALLERIES (71%)

**Geographic:** ANKARA, TURKEY (93%); ISTANBUL, TURKEY (91%); LIEGE, BELGIUM (79%); CHRISTCHURCH, NEW ZEALAND (78%); TURKEY (94%); ***EUROPE (***73%).

**Load-Date:** April 2, 2019

**End of Document**

[***What Romania dares to do'; EU debates Bucharest's plans to legalise corruption. Justice Commissioner threatens with all available means***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5VX1-FX81-JDHD-W0HF-00000-00&context=)

Süddeutsche Zeitung

Wednesday 17 April 2019

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**Section:** Politics; Munich; Bavaria; Germany; p. 6

**Length:** 484 words

**Byline:** MATTHIAS KOLB

**Body**

**Brussels -** The ***European*** Parliament has again discussed the situation of the rule of law in Romania. This is not at all surprising, as the Bucharest government of post-communist PSD and the liberal Alde party is sticking to its plan to legalise corruption through emergency decrees. Previously, the independence of the Prosecutor General's Office had already been curtailed.

However, it was noticeable who was not represented in Strasbourg on Monday evening: Romania's government, which currently holds the ***EU Council Presidency,*** had not sent any representatives, and the top candidates for the ***European elections***, Manfred Weber of the ***European*** People's Party (EPP) and the Dutch Social Democrat Frans Timmermans, were also attending other appointments. This illustrates how sensitive the issue of the rule of law is for almost all party families: CSU politician Weber has ensured that the EPP membership of Hungary's Fidesz party is suspended, and ***Europe's*** Social Democrats recently 'froze' relations with Romania's PSD.

Justice Commissioner V&ecaron;ra Jourová spoke on behalf of Timmermans, who as First Vice-President of the ***EU Commission is*** responsible for the rule of law proceedings under Article 7 of the ***EU Treaty*** against Poland and Hungary. Brussels is closely watching what is happening in Bucharest: "The risk of a massive disruption of the Romanian legal system cannot be ignored. She called on the Romanian government to withdraw its plans, which have been criticised by international experts, or else the 'means at its disposal' would be used.

This suggests that the Commission will soon request Article 7 proceedings against Romania, which could result in the withdrawal of voting rights in the ***European*** Council. This is also demanded by MEP Ingeborg Gräßle (CDU): What Romania dares to do, no other ***EU state*** has ever dared to do before'. The chairwoman of the Committee on Budgetary Control recommended that the Commission stop the disbursement of funds, as their legitimate use could not be guaranteed. Afterwards, the speakers accused each other of election campaign manoeuvres - and the representatives of the Romanian governing parties complained about 'unfair double standards' towards their country. 'Romania has 20 million inhabitants, they deserve to be treated with respect,' cried MP Maria Grapini.

On Monday, PSD leader Liviu Dragnea appeared in court again in Bucharest. The 56-year-old is considered Romania's most powerful politician and was sentenced in the first instance to three and a half years in prison for fraud. Because of this, the parliamentary speaker cannot become head of government; according to critics, many changes in the law serve to save Dragnea's career and keep him out of prison. The verdict is expected in mid-May.

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject: *EUROPEAN UNION*** (93%); RULE OF LAW (91%); LEGISLATIVE BODIES (90%); ***EUROPEAN*** UNION INSTITUTIONS (90%); CORRUPTION (90%); POLITICS (90%); POLITICAL PARTIES (90%); GERMAN POLITICAL PARTIES (89%); DECRIMINALISATION (89%); PUBLIC POLICY (89%); COURT CASES (78%); LEGISLATION (78%); HEADS OF STATE & GOVERNMENT (78%); ELECTIONS (78%); VOTERS & ELECTIONS (78%); EU PRESIDENCY (77%); MINISTRIES OF JUSTICE (77%); CALENDAR OF EVENTS (77%); PROSECUTORS (76%); CRIMINAL JUSTICE (76%); ELECTIONS & ELECTION CAMPAIGNS (72%); NEGATIVE NEWS ABOUT PEOPLE (70%); PRISON SENTENCES (65%); COURT SENTENCES (65%); CONVICTIONS (65%); POPULATION & DEMOGRAPHICS (63%)

**Geographic:** bucharest, romania (90%); strasbourg, france (79%); brussels, belgium (73%); ***european*** member states (95%); brussels metropolitan area (92%); ***europe (***93%); hungary (92%); romania (91%); poland (79%); netherlands (58%)

**Load-Date:** April 17, 2019

**End of Document**

[***FOREIGN; The future after Brexit***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5VX1-FX81-JDHD-W0HX-00000-00&context=)

Süddeutsche Zeitung

Wednesday 17 April 2019

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**Section:** Politics; Munich; Bavaria; Germany; p. 7

**Length:** 130 words

**Byline:** REUTERS

**Body**

**Strasbourg** - The UK's exit from the ***European*** Union must not overshadow work on other issues, according to ***EU Commission President*** Jean-Claude Juncker. Brexit is not the future of the ***EU,***" Juncker told the ***European Parliament*** in Strasbourg on Tuesday. The future goes far beyond that. It cannot be allowed to slow us down in our major priorities. The ***European*** community of states is facing strategic challenges and must therefore not slacken in its reform zeal. At a summit last week, ***EU*** heads of ***state*** and government granted Britain a further postponement of the Brexit until 31 October.

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject: *EUROPEAN UNION*** (93%); BREXIT (90%); POLITICS (90%); HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT (88%); LAWMAKERS (73%)

**Organization: *EUROPEAN*** PARLIAMENT (54%)

**Person:** JEAN-CLAUDE JUNCKER (88%)

**Geographic:** STRAUSSBURG, FRANCE (90%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (94%); ***EUROPE*** (90%); UNITED KINGDOM (73%)

**Load-Date:** April 17, 2019

**End of Document**

[***First aid for Notre-Dame; Already on the day after the devastating fire, initiatives start for the reconstruction of the Paris cathedral, 600 million Euros donations have been pledged. Experts assume that the basic structure of the church will hold. The cause of the fire is still unclear***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5VX1-FX81-JDHD-W0G3-00000-00&context=)

Süddeutsche Zeitung

Wednesday 17 April 2019

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**Section:** Politics; Lead; Bavaria; p. 1

**Length:** 546 words

**Byline:** BY LEO KLIMM

**Body**

**Paris** - After the devastating fire at Notre-Dame Cathedral in Paris, all eyes are already on the reconstruction of the famous church building. We will rebuild this cathedral, all of us together,' said French President Emmanuel Macron on the forecourt of Notre-Dame, even before the fire was extinguished. He called for donations to finance the restoration of the Gothic church. Despite the "terrible drama", there is hope. Thousands of people gathered around Notre-Dame on Tuesday.

The pledges for the planned reconstruction followed promptly: the server of the French Heritage Foundation, where donations can be made for Notre-Dame, temporarily collapsed due to overload. The billionaires François Pinault and Bernard Arnault, both owners of luxury goods companies, the Bettencourt cosmetics dynasty and the oil company Total pledged donations totalling 600 million ***euros.*** Large sums have also been pledged from abroad, especially the USA, for the Catholic cathedral, which is one of France's most important landmarks and one of ***Europe's*** most visited monuments. Its reconstruction could cost hundreds of millions and will take many years, according to the French Bishops' Conference. France's government plans to deal with the restoration of the landmark alone in its cabinet meeting this Wednesday.

Expressions of solidarity were received in Paris from all over the world. Pope Francis wrote that he wished that 'Notre-Dame can once again become this jewel in the heart of the city thanks to a reconstruction and the mobilisation of everyone'. He offered the help of Vatican restorers. German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier called on all ***Europeans*** to support the reconstruction.

The fire broke out in the attic of the nave on Monday evening. Renovation work was in progress there. The Paris public prosecutor's office does not assume arson. According to the media, welding work may have caused the fire. On Tuesday, investigators questioned employees of the companies that were supposed to repair the roof.

The fire was not extinguished until Tuesday morning. One firefighter was injured. The extent of the damage to the cathedral could not be foreseen. The roof and the spire on top were destroyed. The two characteristic bell towers of the west façade were spared. The fire brigade recovered art treasures from them, such as the main relic, venerated as the crown of thorns of Jesus, and the gold robe of Louis the Saint. There is concern about paintings hanging in the cathedral, but the rosette windows suffered 'no catastrophic damage', according to the culture minister. Only after 48 hours, said Secretary of State for the Interior Laurent Nuñez, had the security work been completed and it would be possible to walk through the cathedral. There were 'weak points', but 'on the whole, the structure is holding up well'.

**Also in this issue**

**People's church: Notre-Dame is not only a landmark. A breath of eternity wafts around the twin towers. Page 2 A country that is stronger: Paris wakes up on Tuesday morning and sees: The Gothic walls are still standing. Page 3 From the ashes: The cathedral is a symbol of resilience - even in this difficult hour Page 4**

**Graphic**

Photo: PHILIPPE WOJAZER/reuters

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject:** FIRES (90%); CHARITABLE DONATIONS (90%); POLITICS (89%); HEADS OF STATE & GOVERNMENT (89%); PUBLIC POLICY (89%); ARSON (78%); CHRISTIANITY & CHRISTIANS (78%); FRENCH PRESIDENTS (78%); HISTORICAL SITES (78%); CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS (78%); CATHOLIC POPES (77%); RELIGIOUS LEADERS & OFFICIALS (77%); PRESIDENTS (77%); MINISTRIES OF CULTURE (76%); FOUNDATIONS (76%); RICH PEOPLE (70%); PROSECUTORS (50%).

**Industry:** HISTORIC STOCKS (78%); OIL PRODUCTS (54%)

**Person:** FRANK-WALTER STEINMEIER (79%); PAPST FRANZISKUS I (76%)

**Geographic:** PARIS, FRANCE (94%); ÎLE-DE-FRANCE, FRANCE (58%); FRANCE (91%); ***EUROPE (***88%); VATICAN CITY (58%)

**Load-Date:** April 17, 2019

**End of Document**

[***European election campaign with Martin Schulz***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5VX1-FX81-JDHD-W0T0-00000-00&context=)

Süddeutsche Zeitung

Wednesday 17 April 2019

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**Section:** Munich; Munich; Bavaria; p. 13

**Length:** 91 words

**Byline:** SAB

**Body**

**Haar** - The title of a panel discussion organised by the Haar SPD on Friday, 26 April, in the community centre at Kirchenplatz 1 is '***Europe*** is the answer'. From 7 p.m. onwards, former SPD Federal Chairman Martin Schulz, Bavarian leader and SPD Member of the State Parliament Natascha Kohnen and Korbinian Rüger from Planegg, who is running for the ***European elections,*** will debate. The SPD is fighting for a ***Europe of*** cooperation and solidarity and against a relapse into a continent full of nation states.

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject:** GERMAN POLITICAL PARTIES (90%); ELECTIONS & ELECTION COMPETITIONS (90%); POLITICAL CANDIDATES (72%); ELECTIONS (72%).

**Organization: *EUROPEAN*** UNION (91%)

**Person:** MARTIN SCHULZ (92%)

**Geographic:** BAVARIA, GERMANY (59%); ***EUROPE*** (73%)

**Load-Date:** April 17, 2019

**End of Document**

[***Schäuble warns against lecturing Eastern Europe***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5VX8-9SC1-JBK9-24CH-00000-00&context=)

Bild

Wednesday 17 April 2019

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**Section:** p. 2; issue 91

**Length:** 133 words

**Body**

Berlin - Wolfgang Schäuble (76, CDU), President of the Bundestag, calls for a different approach to the states of Eastern Europe.

Schäuble said in the evening at a panel discussion of Axel Springer (among others BILD) on the subject of ***Europe***: "My greatest concern at the moment is that we deal with the views in Eastern ***Europe in the*** same way as we dealt with the views in the new countries after reunification." The Eastern Europeans "should not be lectured to too much. We must listen and argue, but not lecture them."

When asked which country in the ***EU*** is difficult, Schäuble replied: "Every country is difficult."

The outgoing Chairman of the Supervisory Board of Axel Springer SE, Giuseppe Vita (83), had wanted the panel discussion instead of a farewell party. only on d

**Graphic**

Chairman of the Supervisory Board at Axel Springer for 17 years: Dr Giuseppe Vita

Photo: JENS KALAENE/DPA

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** BIBU

**Subject:** POLITICS (90%); GERMAN POLITICAL PARTIES (88%); GERMAN FEDERAL LAW (88%); ***EUROPEAN UNION (***72%)

**Company:** AXEL SPRINGER SE (84%)

**Organization: *EUROPEAN*** UNION (83%)

**Ticker:** SPR (FRA) (84%)

**Industry:** NAICS511110 NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS (84%); SIC2711 NEWSPAPERS: PUBLISHING, OR PUBLISHING & PRINTING (84%)

**Person:** WOLFGANG SCHÄUBLE (90%)

**Geographic:** BERLIN, GERMANY (59%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (73%); EASTERN ***EUROPE (***88%); ***EUROPE (***73%)

**Load-Date:** April 18, 2019

**End of Document**

[***Experiment in Moldova failed; coalition off Europe's Allies and Russia-friends broken up***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5XGT-J511-DXX2-P2DM-00000-00&context=)

Süddeutsche Zeitung

Wednesday 13 November 2019

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**Section:** Politics; Munich; Bavaria; p. 8

**Length:** 464 words

**Byline:** FRANK NIENHUYSEN

**Body**

**Munich -** The government in the Republic of Moldova collapsed on Tuesday after a vote of no confidence in parliament. This marks the end of an unusual political experiment; for the first time in the territory of the former Soviet Union, the ***European*** and pro-Russian camps had formed a coalition in the summer. The liberal Maia Sandu, a former World Bank employee who had been deliberately ignored by the most important television stations during the election campaign, surprisingly became prime minister. Sandu wanted to bring Moldova closer to the ***European Union*** after its many scandals. Now ***Europe's*** poorest country is probably facing another new election after the vote in February.

The reason for the vote of no confidence was a new law that would give Sandu the right to nominate candidates for the office of attorney general himself in order to speed up the fight against corruption. Sandu had proposed that the ***EU***'s Venice Commission should examine the new regulation. But her socialist coalition partner did not agree with this and therefore brought in a vote of no confidence.

The unusual coalition had been an embarrassing solution. The socialists and Sandu's westward-looking Acum bloc had in principle had only one major goal in common: to replace the previous government, which was hated by the population and considered corrupt, and to keep it out of the cabinet. But they could only do this by forming a joint government themselves. Both Russia and the ***European Union*** welcomed this. The ***EU***, linked to Moldova by an association treaty, even released financial aid that it had previously blocked; Chancellor Angela Merkel said during Sandu's inaugural visit to Berlin that the German government wanted to 'wholeheartedly support' Moldova.

Socialist leader Igor Dodon, who is also president in Moldova, in turn maintains close contacts with Moscow and takes a sceptical view of the ***EU course.*** The alliance was therefore endangered from the very beginning. It was therefore emphasised that foreign policy should take a back seat for the time being and that the government wanted to focus on social and economic progress. The country is suffering from the after-effects of the old, oligarch-dominated era. A billion ***euros*** disappeared in a banking scandal in 2014 alone. But Sandu's advisor Vladislav Kulminsky had already predicted a few weeks ago at a conference in Minsk that he did not believe "that the coalition will last long" because of the many contradictions. Before the vote of no confidence, Sandu asked the MPs if they were afraid of a cabinet "that acts"? She warned that international partners could now stop promised aid.

**Graphic**

For the time being, she is at the end of her government work: Maia Sandu has been the Prime Minister of Moldova until now. Photo: Katerina Sulova/AP

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject: *EUROPEAN UNION*** (90%); LEGISLATIVE BODIES (90%); INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORGANISATIONS (90%); CORRUPTION (90%); POLITICS (90%); HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT (90%); PUBLIC POLICY (90%); FOREIGN AID (78%); GERMAN CHANCELLORS (78%); LEGISLATION (78%); INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS (78%); POLITICAL CANDIDATES (78%); SCANDALS (78%); PRESIDENTS (78%); FOREIGN POLICY (73%); POVERTY & HOMELESSNESS (71%); PROSECUTORS (54%); CONFERENCES & CONGRESSES (50%)

**Person:** ANGELA MERKEL (79%)

**Geographic:** MOSCOW, RUSSIAN FEDERATION (79%); BERLIN, GERMANY (58%); MINSK, BELARUS (58%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (94%); ***EUROPE*** (93%); RUSSIAN FEDERATION (73%); MOLDOVA (58%)

**Load-Date:** November 13, 2019

**End of Document**

[***DIGITALISATION; Using your own strengths***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5XGT-J3Y1-DXX2-P0HK-00000-00&context=)

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Wednesday 13 November 2019

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**Section:** Economy; Munich; Bavaria; Germany; p. 17

**Length:** 661 words

**Byline:** BY HELMUT MARTIN-JUNG

**Body**

Germany thinks highly of its economic strength, and rightly so. But it cannot be said that the country is at the forefront of the developments that will shape the future - unfortunately. Digitalisation, network expansion and artificial intelligence, to name but a few, are often talked about. Compared to what the USA and China are investing in research and development, ***Europe's*** contribution is modest. At a time when cooperation is so important, nationalist and populist tendencies are on the rise. Yet the ***European Union*** has a chance, more than that: in shaping the new technologies, it can contribute the values of freedom and human dignity on which it relies and of which it can be proud.

For the US-American way is dominated by the interests of large corporations, which pretend to work in the spirit of these values. But if you take a closer look, profit is in the foreground. This starts with the use of all kinds of tricks to avoid taxes and ends with social networks playing a major role in manipulating citizens and thus undermining democracy. Chinese state capitalism, on the other hand, has made a pact with citizens, promising them prosperity in exchange for liberties. As long as the people of China have the impression that their country is on the way up, things will work out.

Both paths have been successful so far because the states set the framework conditions in such a way that companies can develop under them. These conditions are one thing, but it also takes the will of the founders to want to create something. However, many people in ***Europe*** prefer a secure permanent position, preferably with a large company, to the risk of setting up a business. This is also due to the fact that the failure of such an attempt is seen as a flaw, but not as a mistake from which one can possibly learn more than from a lukewarm success.

Now, one thing can be decreed, a state or the ***EU Commission*** can create framework conditions that make it easier for founders. But the other is a question of mentality, and it is doubtful whether this is influenced by circumstances alone. How do you get out of this?

The best thing is to make a virtue out of necessity. Of course, it doesn't hurt to adopt a bit of the Silicon Valley spirit, motto: We'll just do it now and see what comes out. In the start-up region in the west of the USA, however, a lot of money is burned because it is perhaps a little too easy to get money for half-baked ideas. Therefore - and also because venture capitalists' money is not so easy to come by in ***Europe*** anyway - it is not wrong to pay attention to two points: First, one does well to check the business model and the personalities of the founders.

Secondly, it is certainly sensible not to try to overtake the Americans on this side of the Atlantic where they have their strengths, such as in consumer products and platforms.

***Europe***, especially its strongest economic nation Germany, has its strengths in technology. This is where the many years of experience and quality awareness of engineers and skilled workers have flowed in and made the products successful worldwide. We need to build on this strength and combine it with the new things that digitalisation brings.

In the future, too, things will have to be produced, and this requires machines and tools. The state could also help here by supporting efforts to establish industry-wide standards. In addition, the expansion of the network must be accelerated. If that succeeds, the future looks far less threatening than many believe.

**USA and China lead the way, and *Europe* should not always just follow**

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject: *EUROPEAN UNION*** (89%); INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS ORGANISATIONS (78%); SOCIAL NETWORKS ON THE INTERNET (73%); ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (72%); RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT (71%); SOCIAL NETWORKS (71%); EUROPEAN UNION INSTITUTIONS (70%); BUSINESS & MANAGEMENT (70%); VENTURE CAPITAL (71%). DEVELOPMENT (71%); SOCIAL NETWORKS (71%); ***EUROPEAN*** UNION INSTITUTIONS (70%); BUSINESS & MANAGEMENT (68%); VENTURE CAPITAL (68%)

**Industry:** SOCIAL NETWORKS ON THE INTERNET (73%); ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (72%); VENTURE CAPITAL (68%)

**Geographic: *EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (90%); ***EUROPE (***91%); CHINA (88%); NORTH AMERICA (79%); GERMANY (59%); EAST ASIA (57%)

**Load-Date:** November 13, 2019

**End of Document**

[***For products from the West Bank; EU wants to ban "Made in Israel***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5XGT-MYX1-JBK9-2080-00000-00&context=)

Bild

Wednesday 13 November 2019

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**Section:** p. 2; issue 265

**Length:** 431 words

**Body**

Luxembourg - Only Israel's enemies can be happy about this verdict!

Fruit, wine or vegetables from Israeli settlements in the West Bank may NO longer be sold under the label "Made in Israel". This was decided yesterday by the ***European*** Court of Justice (***ECJ***). The judges' reasoning was that it was misleading to state Israel as the country of origin, as the state was an "occupying power" in these areas. The products are still available, but should be labelled separately. The judges thus confirmed the opinion of the ***EU Commission***.

WHAT A SCANDALOUS VERDICT!

"The ruling of the ***European*** Court of Justice is unacceptable morally and in principle," said Israel's Foreign Minister Katz (64). He announced that he would convince ***EU foreign ministers to*** prevent this "deeply flawed policy".

Decisions like these are the basis for anti-Semitic actions, the Israeli embassy warns: "They encourage radical anti-Israel groups to push boycotts against Israel." A spokeswoman called the ruling "politically motivated" and "discriminatory".

Until now, goods from the West Bank have been labelled as "Made in Israel" in Germany. FDP parliamentary group vice-chairman Michael Theurer (52) demands that this practice should remain. "No special labelling for these products! If necessary, the federal government must ensure in Brussels that the ***EU*** changes the legal situation to this effect."

The Ministry of Agriculture says it is currently examining the effects of the ruling on the German market.

The background to the legal dispute is the territories conquered by Israel in 1967, where more than 600,000 Israelis now live.

A look at Düsseldorf shows that anti-Semitism is not an abstract scenario but reality in Germany: the members of the Jewish community - the third largest in Germany - want to leave the country. It is no longer a question of whether to stay, but only when to leave, its director Michael Szentei-Heise told the "Rheinische Post". 74 years after the end of the Holocaust, Jews no longer feel safe in Germany. What a shame.

UNDERSTANDING IN ISRAEL: Rocket alert in Tel Aviv, more than 150 rockets were fired from the Gaza Strip, including hitting a residential building in the south of the country. Reason for the rocket attacks: Israel had killed the leader of the militant Palestinian organisation Islamic Jihad in a targeted action. "He was a ticking bomb," said Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu (70) about the terrorist.

**Graphic**

Wine from the West Bank should no longer be allowed to bear the "Made in Israel" label in future

Photo: BAZ RATNER/REUTERS

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** BIBU

**Subject: *EUROPEAN UNION*** (92%); FOREIGN RELATIONS (90%); ***EUROPEAN*** UNION COURTS (90%); TRIBUNALS (90%); JUDICIAL DECISIONS (90%); ***EUROPEAN*** UNION INSTITUTIONS (90%); INTERNATIONAL COURTS & TRIBUNALS TRIBUNALS (90%); POLITICS (90%); JUDGES (90%); ANTI-SEMITISM (89%); RACISM & XENOPHOBIA (88%); LEGAL ACTIONS (79%); COURT CASES (78%); JUDAISM & JEWS (78%); PRODUCT LABELLING (78%); SCANDALS (78%); PUBLIC POLICY (78%); DISCRIMINATION (77%); TERRORISM (77%); HEADS OF STATE & GOVERNMENT (76%); FOREIGN OFFICES & DIPLOMATIC SERVICES (74%); GERMAN POLITICAL PARTIES (74%); POLITICAL PARTIES (74%); MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE (73%); WORLD WAR II (73%); BOYCOTTS (72%); HOLOCAUST (68%); TERRORIST ORGANISATIONS (68%)

**Industry:** PRODUCT LABELLING (78%); MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE (73%)

**Person:** BENJAMIN NETANJAHU (79%)

**Geographic:** DÜSSELDORF, GERMANY (79%); TEL AVIV, ISRAEL (78%); BRUSSELS, BELGIUM (57%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (94%); BRUSSELS CAPITAL REGION (78%); NORTH RHINE-WESTPHALIA, GERMANY (56%); PALESTINIAN AUTONOMOUS TERRITORIES (91%); GERMANY (90%); ***EUROPE (90%);*** ISRAEL (90%); BELGIUM (56%).

**Load-Date:** November 13, 2019

**End of Document**

[***Outrage in Israel over EUProducts from occupied territories must be labelled***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5XGT-J3Y1-DXX2-P0K0-00000-00&context=)

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**Section:** Economy; Munich; Bavaria; Germany; p. 22

**Length:** 353 words

**Byline:** AFS

**Body**

**Luxembourg/Tel Aviv** - The ruling was criticised in Israel, welcomed in the Palestinian territories: the ***European*** Court of Justice (ECJ) has ruled that products from Israeli settlements in the West Bank and other territories occupied in 1967 must be labelled. This applies above all to fruit, vegetables and wine. This is necessary so that consumers 'can make an informed choice, taking into account not only health-related, economic, environmental or social considerations, but also ethical considerations or those relating to respect for international law', the judges ruled.

The Secretary General of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), Saeb Erekat, called on "all ***EU countries***" to implement the ruling. At the same time, he called for a ban on all products from Jewish settlements. Only last week, he had complained to journalists that "not only land, but also water" was being stolen from the Palestinians. Dates were being labelled as Israeli products or repackaged and relabelled in other countries. Israeli Transport Minister Bezalel Smotrich, who belongs to the New Right party, which is close to the settlers, sharply criticised the decision. Just on the day when Israel is being hit by rockets from its opponents, the ***European*** court is positioning itself on their side. The Israeli Foreign Ministry called the decision "a tool in the political campaign against Israel".

Jewish associations see the ruling as part of the boycott movement against Israel. Arie Reich, an economics professor specialising in ***EU law,*** called it a decision with political motives. Law professor Eugene Kontorovich spoke of a 'yellow star on Jewish products' that was now necessary.

The proceedings were triggered by a lawsuit filed by a Jewish organisation and the Psagot winery against a decree in France that stipulated the labelling of settlement products with reference to ***EU regulations.***

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject:** COURTS OF THE ***EUROPEAN*** UNION (99%); ***EUROPEAN UNION (***91%); INTERNATIONAL COURTS & TRIBUNALS (91%); TRIBUNALS (90%); JUDGMENTS (90%); INSTITUTIONS OF THE ***EUROPEAN*** UNION (90%); PALESTINIAN LIBERATION ORGANISATION (90%); COURT CASES (89%); LEGAL ACTIONS (79%); JUDGES (78%); BOYCOTTS (77%); ***EUROPEAN LAW (77%);*** POLITICS (77%); PRODUCT LABELLING (77%); ECONOMICS (73%); ***EU REGULATION*** (72%); INTERNATIONAL LAW (72%); FOREIGN AFFAIRS & DIPLOMATIC SERVICES (66%)

**Industry:** PRODUCT CHARACTERISTICS (77%)

**Geographic:** TEL AVIV, ISRAEL (78%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (92%); PALESTINIAN AUTONOMOUS TERRITORIES (93%); ***EUROPE (***90%); ISRAEL (90%); FRANCE (79%); LUXEMBOURG (79%).

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**End of Document**

[***Farage in an unfamiliar role; Brexit party leader under pressure after arrangement with Tories***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5XGT-J511-DXX2-P2DB-00000-00&context=)

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**Section:** Politics; Munich; Bavaria; Germany; p. 7

**Length:** 733 words

**Byline:** ALEXANDER MÜHLAUER

**Body**

**London** - It is not often that Nigel Farage has to defend himself. After all, the leader of the Brexit party loves to spend most of his time driving others before him. But on the day after his surprising U-turn, he himself was under massive pressure to justify himself. In an interview with the BBC on Tuesday, Farage even felt compelled to make one thing clear: "I can't be bought. Neither Boris Johnson nor Donald Trump had promised him anything for his electoral pact with the Tories, he declared. These were all "wild conspiracy theories". It was his decision alone that the Brexit Party would not contest the 317 seats won by the Conservative Party in the general election on 12 December. There was no quid pro quo from the Tories, Farage declared, visibly upset.

In a guest editorial for the *Telegraph,* the Brexit Party leader explained his change of heart by saying that he had seen a video of Johnson on Twitter on Sunday evening. In it, the prime minister said he wanted a 'Super Canada Plus' free trade deal with the ***EU.*** This was a 'big change' from previous Tory policy, Farage wrote, as the Conservatives had worked towards a 'close and special partnership' with Brussels, especially under Johnson's predecessor Theresa May. He has "no great love for the Tories", the Brexit party leader explained, but in his support for Johnson lies the chance to prevent a second referendum. He therefore wants to concentrate fully on all those constituencies that have so far been represented in parliament by Labour and pro-European parties, Farage wrote.

But this is precisely a problem for the Tories as well. For the Conservatives, it is not enough to defend the constituencies they won at the last election. They need to win especially where Labour MPs are going head-to-head with their Conservative challengers. Especially in the north-east of England and the West Midlands around Birmingham, the Tories hope to win new constituencies. But if Farage's party also runs there, the votes of the Brexit-enthusiastic voters are likely to be split between the Tories and the Brexit party. That is why Downing Street is urging Farage to back down in other constituencies as well, so as not to jeopardise a victory for Tory candidates. The warning from the Johnson camp could not be ignored on Tuesday: If there is no majority for the prime minister's Brexit deal in parliament after the election, Farage would be to blame.

Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn sees the cooperation between the Tories and the Brexit party as nothing more than the implementation of Trump's demands. A week ago Donald Trump told Nigel Farage to make a pact with Boris Johnson,' Corbyn wrote on Twitter. And added: "Trump got his wish. The US president had been interviewed by Farage on a radio programme at the end of October. At the time, Trump was critical of Johnson's Brexit agreement, but advised Farage to work with the prime minister. Together, the two are an "unstoppable force", Trump declared. Since then, the head of the Brexit party has claimed that he has not spoken to the US president.

Whether there will be cooperation between Labour and the Liberal Democrats after Farage's manoeuvre remained open. There was speculation in London that the two parties might decide on a pact after all. There are many constituencies where a Lib Dem candidate could back down in favour of a Labour candidate - and vice versa. But because Labour is struggling in many parts of the country with the Libdems' clear anti-Brexit stance, such a deal is likely to be difficult to achieve. While the Liberal Democrats continue to fight for Britain to remain in the ***European*** Union, Labour wants to negotiate a deal with Brussels first. The citizens are then to vote on whether they approve of this agreement or prefer to remain in the ***EU.***

**Trump commands, Farage delivers, says Labour leader**

**Graphic**

In the election campaign, he wants to lash out at Labour in particular: Nigel Farage. Photo: getty

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject:** POLITICAL PARTIES (94%); BREXIT (90%); LEADERS (90%); POLITICS (90%); PUBLIC POLICY (90%); LEGISLATURES (89%); PRIME MINISTERS (89%); CONSTITUENCIES (88%); UK HOUSE OF COMMONS ELECTIONS (78%); ***EUROPEAN UNION*** (77%); HEADS OF STATE & GOVERNMENT (77%); ELECTIONS (77%); VOTERS & POLLS (75%); ELECTIONS & CAMPAIGNS (74%); INTERVIEWS (73%); REFERENDUMS (72%); FREE TRADE AGREEMENTS (66%)

**Person:** NIGEL FARAGE (96%); BORIS JOHNSON (92%); JEREMY CORBYN (92%); DONALD TRUMP (90%); THERESA MAY (79%)

**Geographic:** LIEGE, BELGIUM (78%); BIRMINGHAM, ENGLAND (58%); BRUSSELS, BELGIUM (58%); LONDON, ENGLAND (58%); BRUSSELS CAPITAL REGION (79%); ***EUROPE (***78%); CANADA (78%); ENGLAND (58%).

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**End of Document**

[***This is Europe's TERROR PLANNER; Thomas-Marcel Christen trained the Paris and Brussels attackers He lived in Frankfurt and converted to Islam there BILD reveals his identity***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5XGT-MYX1-JBK9-2084-00000-00&context=)

Bild

Wednesday 13 November 2019

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**Section:** p. 3; issue 265

**Length:** 923 words

**Byline:** Björn Stritzel

**Body**

Frankfurt - It was the most momentous ISIS attack in ***Europe***: Four years ago, three "hit teams" murdered 130 people in Paris.

The cells struck simultaneously at different locations, murdering their victims with military precision. While the planners of the attack have long been the subject of speculation, one of the key backers remains a phantom to this day.

PICTURE REVEALS: IT'S THOMASMARCEL CHRISTEN!

Born in Switzerland (Nussbaumen in Aargau), he lived in Frankfurt for several years. He later rose to become the highest-ranking German-speaking ISIS jihadist under the fighting name "Abu Musab".

Christen's childhood is erratic: After his parents divorced, he lived with his father at a campsite in France for a few months before moving to Frankfurt with his mother in 2006. During this time, Christen apparently finds support in Islam, he visits the Abu Bakr mosque in Frankfurt more often, gets to know the Islamist preacher Said Emrani alias Abu Dujana, and converts to Islam in April 2009.

In 2011, Christen moved to Bonn, began studying and married a relative of Abu Dujana's according to the Islamic rite; the couple had a daughter a year later. In March 2013, he travels via Cologne to Paris and finally Istanbul, where his trail is lost.

In July 2013, Christen's mother had the last contact with her son - Thomas-Marcel Christen ("TMC") left for Syria with 15,000 ***euros,*** six smartphones and two notebooks.

Once in Syria, TMC, who calls himself Abu Musab here, rises quickly: In 2014, he was already head of the ISIS intelligence service in Manbij - at that time, the large city near the Turkish border was one of the most important transit points for incoming ISIS fighters from abroad; hundreds of Germans also lived in Manbij at times.

The fact that he is given such an important function in the terrorist organisation dominated by paranoid Iraqi ex-intelligence officers indicates that Abu Musab convinced the ISIS leadership through performance. In addition to German, English and French, TMC also speaks very good Arabic and probably Russian.

And he is considered a gun nut: "He spent the whole day shooting, practised for hours and watched training videos of Western special forces," a German ISIS member who is friends with him tells BILD.

And Abu Musab pays a lot of attention to security. While almost all foreign ISIS members pose with assault rifles or ISIS flags on social networks, such photos che of Thomas-Marcel Christen are not known.

According to a German ISIS member, TMC even had mobile phones confiscated if he feared he had been photographed by others.

And Thomas-Marcel Christen forges close ties with Abu Mohammed al-Adnani, marrying a close relative of the ISIS spokesman. Adnani is also the highest-ranking decision-maker on the terror group's foreign attacks.

Western intelligence services refer to the network within ISIS that is responsible for attacks abroad as OSEO: Organisational Structure External Operations.

Thomas-Marcel Christen soon becomes a central figure within OSEO. He founds his own unit, which he heads as emir: Katiba Furqan, which is stationed in Raqqa and has up to 100 members, whom TMC trains for attacks.

THEN 13 NOVEMBER 2015!

At 9.20 p.m., spectators at the friendly match between France and Germany hear a dull bang.

It is a suicide bomber who has blown himself up in front of the Stade de France. Minutes later, more and more new reports of horror come from Paris: with military precision, the assassins trained by TMC murder 130 people in the concert hall "Bataclan", in cafés and bars.

While there is speculation about the planners and those behind the attacks, one name does not come up: Thomas-Marcel Christen.

Finally, on 24 January 2016, ISIS released a new video entitled "Kill the infidels wherever you meet them", which shows the Paris bombers being executed in Syria. In one sequence, the Belgian Brahim Abdeslam trains tactical shooting.

As he points the gun at the targets and fires, a man steps towards him and pushes him away - Abdeslam continues to hold his gun focused on the painted targets.

The mysterious trainer wears combat fatigues and a balaclava, but the ISIS media department pixelated him even more.

It is actually Thomas-Marcel Christen who teaches one of the Paris attackers how to kill effectively here.

His training has blossomed with deadly precision - and on 22 March 2016, more members of his Katiba Furqan strike in Brussels, murdering 32 people.

Abu Musab is now rising to the top within OSEO - and planning big things.

READ TOMORROW IN BILD:

How Thomas-Marcel Christen planned an attack with three "hit teams" in Germany.

ISIS supporters arrested in Offenbach

Offenbach - The police have arrested three suspected ISIS supporters.

Charge: preparation of a terrorist attack. Those arrested: a German (24) of Macedonian origin and two Turkish nationals (21 and 22). They are alleged to have planned an attack with explosives and firearms in the Rhine-Main area.

170 police officers (including LKA officers, special forces) were involved in the arrest. During the search of the suspects' flats, "various explosives-relevant substances and equipment" were seized, the responsible public prosecutor's office announced.

**Graphic**

From high school graduate in Frankfurt to the highest-ranking German-speaking ISIS terrorist: terror planner Thomas-Marcel Christen is very careful about his safety, did not allow any photos of himself in the "caliphate". BILD shows his face for the first time

Thomas-Marcel Christen pushes Paris assassin Abdeslam, trains to kill in a scrum

Paris, "Bataclan" 13.11.2015 89 dead

BLOODBATH IN THE "BATACLAN": Three ISIS assassins storm the concert hall during a performance of the American band "Eagles Of Death Metal", take hundreds of hostages and murder 89 people

Paris Bars and Cafés 13.11.2015 41 dead

At the same time, several ISIS bombers strike at other locations throughout Paris: In various places, the terrorists kill 41 more victims with military precision - 15 people are shot dead in front of the bar "Le Carillon" alone. At the "Stade de France" during the international match between France and Germany, a suicide bomber blows himself up. One of the mass murderers: Brahim Abdeslam, who was trained in tactical shooting by Thomas-Marcel Christen.

Brussels 22.3.2016 32 dead

In the Belgian capital, members of the Franco-Belgian ISIS cell in hiding strike: in the metro and at the airport they detonate suitcases with explosives, killing 30 people. Two of the attackers were later also glorified in an ISIS video. It is considered certain that they were also trained by Thomas-Marcel Christen

Photos: MIRRORPIX, PHILIPPE WOJAZER/REUTERS

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** BIBU

**Subject:** ISLAM & MUSLIMS (90%); ISLAMIC STATE IN IRAQ AND THE LEVANT (90%); TERRORIST ATTACKS (90%); TERRORIST ATTACKS IN PARIS NOVEMBER 2015 (89%); TERRORIST ORGANISATIONS (89%); FAMILY (78%); WAR & WAR (78%); WEAPONS OF WAR (78%); TERRORISM (78%); DIVORCE & DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE (70%); SOCIAL MEDIA (70%); ONLINE SOCIAL NETWORKS (70%); SOCIAL NETWORKS (66%); FIREARMS (61%).

**Organization: *EUROPEAN UNION*** (84%)

**Industry:** WAR WEAPONS (78%); MOBILE COMMUNICATIONS (70%); SMARTPHONES (70%); SOCIAL MEDIA (70%); SOCIAL NETWORKS ON THE INTERNET (70%); MOBILE TELEPHONES (65%)

**Geographic:** FRANKFURT, GERMANY (90%); PARIS, FRANCE (88%); ISTANBUL, TURKEY (58%); ÎLE-DE-FRANCE, FRANCE (88%); BRUSSELS CAPITAL REGION (72%); AARGAU, SWITZERLAND (57%); NORTH RHINE-WESTPHALIA, GERMANY (56%); ***EUROPE (***73%); FRANCE (73%); SWITZERLAND (72%); SYRIA (72%); IRAQ (58%); TURKEY (56%).

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**End of Document**

[***Freedom of information takes precedence over 'right to be forgotten'; Federal Constitutional Court strengthens rights of media, incriminating reports do not have to be deleted as a rule***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5XM1-37Y1-JBF1-00VY-00000-00&context=)

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Thursday 28 November 2019

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**Section:** Politics; Germany; p. 1

**Length:** 494 words

**Byline:** WOLFGANG JANISCH

**Body**

**Karlsruhe** - In a landmark decision on the so-called 'right to be forgotten', the Federal Constitutional Court has strengthened freedom of information and the rights of the media. As a rule, people who want to erase their names from incriminating reports - for example, about a crime committed a long time ago - do not have a right to erasure.

At the same time, however, the Karlsruhe court grants them a certain protection through technical precautions, with the help of which such articles are more difficult to find, but nevertheless retain full attribution. Public archives are an important source for research and are of great importance for public debate in democracy, the judges argue.

The complaint was filed by a man who had committed two murders in the early 1980s. There had been serious conflicts on the sailing ship "Apollonia", of which he was a member of the crew. The former soldier shot two people and seriously injured another. The man, sentenced to life imprisonment for murder, was released in 2002 and in 2009 demanded that *Der Spiegel remove* his surname from its online archive. In another case, a woman is demanding that the search engine operator Google remove the link between her name and a contribution by the Norddeutscher Rundfunk about the 'nasty tricks of employers', through which she feels attacked.

With these two decisions, the Karlsruhe Court has drawn a fundamentally new line between the applicability of national and ***European*** fundamental rights. According to the Karlsruhe Court, whenever ***European*** law is not "fully harmonised", but leaves national leeway, the fundamental rights of the Basic Law are primarily applicable. Where the ***European Union gives*** the member states room for manoeuvre, ***EU law does*** not aim at ***Europe-wide*** 'uniformity', but at the diversity of different legal cultures.

It is true that in these cases the Basic Law is to be interpreted 'in the light' of the ***EU Charter of Fundamental Rights.*** However, this does not call into question the autonomy of fundamental rights. The court argues that they must also be interpreted on the basis of the experiences of German history and with a view to the social reality of the Federal Republic.

The judges in Karlsruhe are thus reacting to an increasingly expansive case law of the ***European*** Court of Justice (ECJ). Since the ***EU Charter of Fundamental Rights*** came into force in 2009, the Luxembourg court has aggressively interpreted the scope of application of ***European*** fundamental rights. Karlsruhe is now attempting to give the ECJ above all the power to define the external framework, while at the same time preserving the leeway for national idiosyncrasies. In addition, for the first time, the Constitutional Court itself applies ***European*** fundamental rights. In questions on which the ECJ had already ruled, this was a form of division of labour.

**Page 4, Media**

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[***We are the power that is inconvenient'; France's Minister of Economy and Finance, Bruno Le Maire, on his country's claim, Europe Brexit as 'collective suicide' and the question of why a lack of German investment could trigger a new crisis.***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5XM1-37Y1-JBF1-0116-00000-00&context=)

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**Section:** Economy; Interview; Munich; Bavaria; p. 19

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**Byline:** INTERVIEW: LEO KLIMM AND NADIA PANTEL

**Body**

From his office, Bruno Le Maire has a magnificent panoramic view of Paris. In the foreground the Seine, behind it the Eiffel Tower, in the middle Notre-Dame Cathedral, which from this distance looks as beautiful as ever, as if the fire in the spring had not even happened. But France's economy and finance minister, a key player in President Emmanuel Macron's ***European*** reform agenda, has no time for the city's beauty. Le Maire, 50, wants to jump right into the interview. There are a few things to make clear.

**SZ: Monsieur Le Maire, you are an expert on Germany. With your Berlin counterparts, you have maintained a close but sometimes troublesome relationship since your appointment in 2017. What have you learned about the Germans?**

Bruno Le Maire: I love Germany, from the bottom of my heart. For me, however, it has also been confirmed since 2017 that French and Germans often have very different perceptions, for example in budgetary policy or in questions of defence. That is not a bad thing. Opposites attract, they make the Franco-German relationship strong. Because we name the problems and find compromises at the same time.

**Don't you have the feeling that you are confronted with a political vacuum in Berlin? Recently, there is said to have been a real row between President Macron and Chancellor Angela Merkel.**

I don't see it that way. The cooperation between Emmanuel Macron and Angela Merkel is going well. I can testify to that. The same goes for my counterparts Olaf Scholz and Peter Altmaier and me. Just like any human relationship, it is a living relationship. One thing must be borne in mind: Macron has only been in office for two and a half years, Angela Merkel for 14. This discrepancy between the electoral calendars must be taken into account, but it should not put the brakes on ***European*** ambitions. Things are moving forward, albeit in small steps.

**Are there never moments when you just don't understand the Germans?**

Not really. We argue sometimes, we do. The most important debate we have at the moment is about more public investment. I know that Angela Merkel has already moved. The German government has increased spending and put together a climate protection package with billions more. But growth of one per cent of economic output in the ***Eurozone*** is insufficient. In the meantime, China is massively ramping up its investments in artificial intelligence, transport technology or space travel. We ***Europeans*** must react to this. Monetary policy is at the end of its rope. Now it is up to the governments to help out with budgetary funds.

**Berlin is sticking to the 'black zero'. You have described this as 'ideology'. Isn't prudent budgeting a sign of common sense?**

The German position is slowly changing. I can see that in the economic experts or in the position of the Federation of German Industries. Let's be clear about this: I am also in favour of prudent policies. France is getting its public finances in order. We have only slowed down the pace at which we are reducing new debt. We had to take the protests of the yellow waistcoats in France into account.

**Emmanuel Macron openly advocates using the negative interest rates for new debt. Is that sensible?**

In France, we are using negative interest rates to reduce debt, because our debt level is approaching 100 per cent of GDP. In the long run, this is poison for the economy.

**You disagree with the president?**

I have no disagreement with the President. Together we have stabilised the national debt. But Germany can do more. It has scope for more spending. The ***Eurozone*** must not simply focus on stability, but should also ensure prosperity. Otherwise it will disappoint the people.

**Is the lack of investment preparing the ground for the next crisis?**

Yes, if we don't do more, we will. If we don't invest enough now, we risk an economic crisis. We need to create optimal conditions to secure stronger growth for ***Europe.*** Moreover, the strategic gap in the digital economy is widening. We have made this mistake before. The big players are US and Chinese because the ***Europeans*** once slept through the development.

**The French position on the *EU deficit limit of a* maximum of three percent of gross domestic product has changed under Macron: When you started, the rules were still an absolute priority. Today, the head of state says this is a debate 'from the last century'.**

Emmanuel Macron has not said that he will blow the whistle on the deficit. France is playing by the rules. We are only saying that the three percent is not a key strategic issue - unlike ***European*** sovereignty. And that depends on massive investments in future technologies.

**Because of cheap money, the *European* Central Bank and its head Christine Lagarde are facing fierce criticism in Germany. Is German mistrust endangering the *euro*?**

The ***euro can withstand*** that. The ECB is independent, Germany had insisted on that. At the farewell to Lagarde's predecessor Mario Draghi, the Chancellor used the word 'independent' very often in her speech. Quite rightly. Political criticism of the ECB contradicts this demand.

**The tone in which you talk about *Europe* is changing. At the beginning you sounded optimistic, now everything is gloomy. You mention external threats from China, Macron talks about the "brain death" of Nato. Is that a new strategy?**

What the President said about NATO is simply clear-sighted. In economic policy, we need the same clear-sightedness in ***Europe.*** China is poised to become the dominant political and economic power of the 21st century. At the same time, the USA is turning away from ***Europe.*** They even act in a hostile manner when they impose punitive tariffs on our wine or greed for our companies' data. We ***Europeans*** can counter this with a project that aggressively defends liberal democracy. At its core, we are about transforming the ***EU*** - from a common market into a true, sovereign world power. There is no reason to be afraid of France's ambition for ***Europe.***

**For years, Germany demanded a strong France for *Europe*. Did it get too strong a France?**

I don't think so. We get a lot of positive feedback from Germany. We are serving a longing for ***Europe*** there as well. That is formidable. Conversely, the French also listen when messages come from Germany.

**In Macron's environment, it is said that Germany inoculated itself against exercising power in the aftermath of the Second World War. How do you think it should rethink its relationship to power?**

***Europe*** is a political construct into which each nation brings its own centuries of history. That is extremely complex. When you talk about Nato, you automatically also talk about the memory that connects Poland with Russia, you have to take that into account. And yet, a common military force should be the goal of the ***European*** peoples.

**Emmanuel Macron has recently publicly taken on the role of wanting to open Germany's eyes on this issue.**

I think this is one of France's roles in ***Europe***. We are the power that is uncomfortable, that disrupts. We make proposals and put them up for discussion. As soon as Britain decides to leave the ***EU***, we are the main military power in ***Europe***. This is the moment when we must realise together in ***Europe*** that we need an independent, ***European*** defence. This is certainly not a rejection of Nato, but there are members in this alliance who make decisions that go against our strategic interests. We need to give Nato back a clear role and, in parallel, move forward on ***European defence.***

**This analysis implies that the other *EU states* are blind.**

The other states also have the right to open our eyes in other areas. ***Europe*** slackens when nothing is said, when there are no more debates. I prefer there to be disagreements that lead to progress. As long as at the end of these debates there are compromises and decisions.

**Macron has recently called Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán a "key figure" in convincing the Visegrad states Hungary, the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Poland of his new *EU security architecture.* Before the *European elections* in May, he still called Orbán a threat to *Europe*. How does that fit together?**

We need to understand the concerns and positions of the Visegrad countries. We should not pigeonhole anyone, the realities of the peoples are always more complex than the categories we want to put them in. We do not forget the ***European*** values. The independence of the judiciary and freedom of the press are non-negotiable.

**In your book 'Le Nouvel Empire' you warn of the end of the *EU*. Aren't you exaggerating a little?**

It is a mistake to regard the ***EU*** as a finished achievement. It is just over 60 years old, which is nothing by historical standards. It was considered an unlikely hypothesis that Britain would leave the ***EU.*** But that is what has happened.

**Not yet, the British are having the greatest difficulty in leaving.**

Brexit is coming. And since then we know that the ***EU*** is mortal. This is a call for pro-Europeans to move faster to bring tangible improvements for our citizens. Whether in satellite navigation, data backup, building new batteries, in all these areas there are excellent ***European*** solutions that are only possible together. ***Europe*** is the solution. Brexit reminds us that collective suicide is always possible. The political responsibility is to prevent it.

**When you talk about an empire, how will you prevent the empire from abusing its power?**

The liberal thinker Alexis de Tocqueville already wrote beautifully in the 19th century about peaceful empires. The ***European*** empire I dream of is also peaceful. But it is an empire in the sense that its values are non-negotiable. An empire that can protect its borders and defend its economic interests.

**Do you know of any historical examples of empires that have remained peaceful?**

Let's not look for examples, they don't exist. This is something radically new that only exists in the ***European*** construction. This did not exist before, that nations with centuries of tradition decide to form a political union. History is decisive. We talk too much about numbers and economics, they are just tools.

**You of all people say that?**

Numbers are important, but peoples' memories are even more important. It is especially difficult to find a compromise when everyone speaks a different language. But that is the beauty of the ***European*** project.

**You are facing trouble of a different kind in the near future: from 5 December, the world will witness strikes paralysing France because your pension reform is being rejected. Have the French had enough of your reforms?**

I think not. We were elected to change the country. The first results prove us right. It would be wrong for us to discard this political identity now. Part of this transformation is the creation of a new pension system. We expect that there will be tensions around 5 December. But we are not there to maintain a worn-out pension system that is unfair, has too many special provisions and is not financially sustainable for the next generation.

**The previous crisis has not yet been overcome: According to polls, the majority of French people say that the yellow waistcoats are right with their protests.**

We have responded to the central and justified demand, namely that work be better paid. But one would have to be blind to see in the yellow waistcoats only a French crisis. This is a crisis of capitalism that affects all Western countries.

**There is no reason to be afraid of France's ambition for *Europe*'.**

**We talk too much about numbers and economics, they are just tools'.**

**Graphic**

Bruno Le Maire also speaks German and was an exchange student in Bremen and Vienna. Photo: JOEL SAGE/AFP

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**Geographic:** BERLIN, GERMANY (88%); PARIS, FRANCE (79%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (79%); ***EUROPE (***94%); FRANCE (94%); GERMANY (89%); CHINA (72%)

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[***The fine legal distinction; A Latvian bank must close, but who bears responsibility for the decision? The bank supervisors at the ECB or the bank resolution authority SRB? The decision of the EUcourt shows how complicated the answer is.***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5XM1-37Y1-JBF1-011J-00000-00&context=)

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**Byline:** BY MARKUS ZYDRA AND MEIKE SCHREIBER

**Body**

**Frankfurt** - The bank supervisors at the ***European*** Central Bank made their decision on 18 February 2018, when they classified the Latvian bank ABLV as "failing or likely to fail". In simple German terms, the bank was on the brink of bankruptcy. The US had already cut off the bank's dollar funding as a punishment because the US Department of Justice suspected ABLV of laundering money for the regime in North Korea. Trust in the Latvian bank was destroyed, many customers withdrew their money. The bank bled dry.

The ***European*** Central Bank handed over its dossier on the Latvian institution to another ***European*** authority: the ***European*** Bank Resolution Board (SRB) in Brussels. There, they take care of the hopeless cases and very quickly took the decision to liquidate the Latvian institution. This division of labour between bank supervision and bank resolution is part of the ***European*** Banking Union. The emergence of both authorities in 2014 and 2015 is due to the lessons learned from the financial and ***euro sovereign debt crisis.*** In the past, national supervisory authorities in the ***Eurozone*** had turned a blind eye far too often and rescued ailing banks with taxpayers' money for political motives, which destabilised the entire ***European*** financial sector. ***Europe*** wanted to reduce this risk in the future. Sick banks were to disappear from the market, and the bank ABLV felt this tougher wind last year.

But then the legal battle began, as the bank's owners filed a lawsuit against the decision. They wanted the ECB to withdraw its assessment that the bank was effectively broke. The Court of Justice of the ***European*** Union, which is subordinate to the ***European*** Court of Justice, delivered a swift and surprising judgement: the ECB could not be held responsible because it had no decision-making power. The bank supervisors, with their assessment of 'failing or likely to fail', would only provide a preparatory basis for a decision. The final decision on the end of the bank would be taken by the resolution authority SRB (T-281/18). The judges thus followed the assessment of the ECB lawyers.

Internally, the SRB is appalled. Officially, the authority does not want to say anything about the case, but many consider the situation bizarre: How can you be responsible for something you did not do? The ECB has classified the bank as 'failing or likely to fail', not the SRB. The resolution experts do get the ECB's documents on the table, but they only check the content for plausibility. To go through all the papers of the banking supervisory authority again would be an unjustifiable duplication of work, especially since the legal examination is the responsibility of the court.

In the meantime, the case is before the ***European*** Court of Justice. Clarification is important, because in the worst case it is also about liability for damages: Who is ultimately responsible? The ECB, which classifies a bank as "probably insolvent"? The SRB, where the decision is made to liquidate the institution without further ado or to save it by making shareholders and creditors pay?

Both authorities must be prepared for lawsuits in all their decisions. Because national authorities in the ***Eurozone*** are also involved in some of the decisions, there are many possible addressees for shareholders and creditors. I see this unemotionally. You could derisively call the situation a paradise for lawyers,' said SRB head Elke König at a recent event in Frankfurt. The authority had massively increased its legal department 'because we want to represent ourselves in court in Luxembourg'. In the first proceedings, a few fundamental questions would have to be clarified, König said. In March, the ***European*** Parliament concluded in an analysis of the banking union that the division of labour between the SRB and the ECB was 'confusing' in practice. Both authorities should agree on a clear procedure when cases of ailing banks are passed on to each other, it said.

It is also problematic that the insolvency rules for banks in the ***euro states*** are very different. The SRB often sends non-systemically important banks directly into liquidation, which is then always implemented differently by the national authorities - depending on the country.

The institutions have different priorities. The ECB faces a dilemma: If it classifies the bank as endangered too early, it creates panic among the bank's customers. So the supervisors wait with this decision as long as possible to give the bank the opportunity to raise fresh capital and save itself. At the SRB, they would rather have a resolute decision early on, so that the bank still has assets in resolution that can be realised.

The SRB was originally seen as a guarantor that taxpayers would no longer have to be liable for an ailing bank. Instead, the bank's creditors were to be held liable, i.e. the institution's lenders, whereby deposits of up to 100,000 ***euros*** would not be touched. But so far the SRB has never carried out a real so-called 'bail-in'. Only in the case of Banco Popular, which was then sold, did shareholders and some creditors suffer losses. In many other cases, governments, with the support of the ***EU Commission,*** intervened to support national banks with guarantees or capital, often in Italy, but also in Germany.

The ***EU Parliament*** report says this trend undermines the objective of the authority, which is very 'worrying'. The SRB was created "to end the bail-out of banks with taxpayers' money". For this purpose, a resolution fund was created, into which the banking sector pays its contributions.

**How can you be responsible for something you did not do?**

**The *European* Central Bank faces a dilemma**

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[***Demand without supply; An industry alliance pushes EUCommission on sales quotas for zero-emission trucks***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5XM1-37Y1-JBF1-0115-00000-00&context=)

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**Byline:** MARKUS BALSER

**Body**

**Berlin** - On the web and in glossy brochures, the world of truck manufacturers is also already beautifully green. Quiet as a whisper and emission-free. A vision becomes reality', promises the MAN Group, one of the big players in the industry. MAN has developed the eTGM, an electric truck that is to be used in cities and is already in use on the company's website. But it is still driving around the country as a prototype. There are only a few emission-free trucks for sale.

In the business community, the industry's hesitant conversion to zero-emission commercial vehicles is currently causing considerable anger. According to the *Süddeutsche Zeitung,* around 20 large trade and logistics groups are demanding a much more rigorous approach from the ***European*** Commission and the introduction of sales quotas for zero-emission trucks. Despite growing demand, there is practically no corresponding offer in ***Europe*** so far, complain groups such as Nestlé, Rewe, the Austrian Post or Unilever. This forces the companies to develop their own trucks or to initiate their own pilot projects, they say in an incendiary letter to ***EU Commission President-designate*** Ursula von der Leyen and her Vice-President-designate Frans Timmermans.

Road transport plays a crucial role in ***Europe's*** climate goals. Making ***Europe*** climate-neutral is not only a moral duty, it secures the future of ***Europeans*** and improves their lives, write the major corporations. However, this will not succeed without a restructuring of mobility. Truck emissions are rising instead of falling. Today, they account for 22 per cent of the pollution from road traffic. If nothing changes, they will increase by another 17 percent by 2050, the companies warn. Yet ***Europe is*** supposed to be emission-free by then.

The climate debate is thus also dividing the economy. The logistics industry is now demanding tough targets for truck manufacturers. The new commission must develop a new strategy for the transport sector in its first 100 days. This should include binding sales quotas for zero-emission trucks and vans by 2025 and 2030. In addition, a ***European*** investment fund must support the development of a corresponding charging infrastructure. The users of the trucks, such as the food company Nestlé, do not expect any change without specifications: "We see only a very limited development of zero-emission trucks so far," says Robin Praillet from the Nestlé Group's liaison office in Brussels. But sales quotas could soon change that, Praillet hopes.

In June, the Commission had for the first time prescribed concrete targets for the reduction of CO2 emissions for manufacturers such as Daimler, MAN or Scania. The Commission stipulates that the average carbon dioxide emissions of new vehicles must be 30 percent lower from 2030 than in 2019, with an interim target of 15 percent for 2025. The industry had resisted even stricter targets for months.

Manufacturers such as MAN now offer emission-free vans. So far, trucks are only available in exceptional cases. At MAN, for example, the first small series of less than 100 vehicles is about to be launched. One of the problems, however, is that they are still significantly more expensive than fossil-fuelled trucks. There is talk in the industry of a multiple of the sales price of conventional trucks.

At the world climate summit in Madrid in the next two weeks, negotiations will also be held on whether individual regions should take the lead in climate protection. Because major polluters like China are dragging their feet, environmentalists are pinning their hopes on the ***European*** Union. Commission President-designate von der Leyen had signalled that she would tighten the Commission's climate course.

**Graphic**

Scania's AXL is an electric truck that drives autonomously. Photo: oh

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**Organization: *EUROPEAN UNION*** (83%)

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**Person:** URSULA VON DER LEYEN (55%)

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[***EU; Fear and leadership***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5XM1-37Y1-JBF1-00X1-00000-00&context=)

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**Byline:** BY STEFAN ULRICH

**Body**

Ursula von der Leyen went all out in her candidacy speech for the office of Commission President: 'The world needs our leadership more than ever', she appealed to MEPs. These are bold words in the face of an ***EU*** that is losing Britain, divided between North and South, East and West, and whose Franco-German leadership duo is arguing more than advancing. Nevertheless, the CDU politician does well to spur ***Europeans***' self-confidence and ambition. For ***Europe's*** leadership is indeed needed, and above all in two areas.

When it comes to climate protection, the sceptics argue that Germany and ***Europe*** can do little against rapidly developing giants like China and India. So we might as well just leave it alone. A killer argument that fails to recognise that someone always has to start so that others follow suit. And who would be more suitable for this than ***Europe*** with its wealth, its technical skills and its quite open-minded people. According to a recent study, 40 percent of ***EU citizens*** already want the new Commission to make climate protection its top issue. This is a good basis for transforming ***Europe*** into the first climate-neutral metropolitan area by 2050 at the latest.

The second area where ***Europe's*** leadership would be needed is multilateralism, that is, the close, peaceful, compromise-oriented cooperation of states in solving their problems. For decades, the ***EU*** itself has been the example of how well multilateralism can work. And the ***Europe*** before the two world wars offers the counter-example of how devastating the competition of nationalist states can be.

But what if other countries don't care? If the Trumps, Putins and Xis continue to divide and weaken ***Europe to indulge*** their lust for authoritarian nationalism? The ***EU*** has no answer to that yet. Its economic power will not be enough to stop the destroyers of the multilateral order.

Von der Leyen is therefore addressing a point that is causing unease, especially in Germany: the question of power, including military power. The neo-aggressive Russia and the charging China are forcing a response to this. And Donald Trump, who could be re-elected as US president and then write off Nato for good. It doesn't have to happen this way, but it would be wise for ***Europe to*** prepare for it - by strengthening ***European*** defence, for the time being in addition to Nato, and through a common armament policy.

But it will not be easy for Ursula von der Leyen and the new Commission to push through their ideas and thus strengthen the ***EU.*** Many ***Europeans*** are despondent and fearful. Some, fearing globalisation and the immigration of foreigners, would rather stay in their nation states than dare more ***Europe.*** Others are flirting with aligning themselves with great powers such as Russia or China, not least for the sake of economic advantages. The Commission's most important task will therefore be to rekindle a sense of community and self-confidence among ***Europeans.*** The new Commission President seems ready to tackle this.

**Ursula von der Leyen rightly confronts *Europeans* with the question of power**

**Classification**

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**Journal Code:** SZ

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**Organization: *EUROPEAN UNION*** (93%)

**Industry:** DEFENCE POLICY & MILITARY POLICY (66%)

**Person:** URSULA VON DER LEYEN (90%); DONALD TRUMP (79%); XI JINPING (79%); VLADIMIR PUTIN (73%)

**Geographic: *EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (94%); ***EUROPE (***92%); CHINA (88%); FRANCE (79%); NORTH AMERICA (79%); UNITED KINGDOM (78%); GERMANY (74%); RUSSIAN FEDERATION (71%); INDIA (57%).

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[***Europe's new heavyweights; digital, climate, migrants: Who will take care of the most urgent tasks in Brussels in future***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5XM1-37Y1-JBF1-00WM-00000-00&context=)

Süddeutsche Zeitung

Thursday 28 November 2019

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**Section:** Topics of the day; Munich; Bavaria; Germany; p. 2

**Length:** 986 words

**Byline:** KAROLINE META BEISEL, BJÖRN FINKE, MATTHIAS KOLB

**Body**

The seating arrangement reveals the differences in the hierarchy. When Ursula von der Leyen begins her speech, only one sits next to her: Frans Timmermans, Social Democrat from the Netherlands and, as 'Executive Vice-President' of the ***EU Commission,*** responsible for the '***European*** Green Deal' and the fight against the climate crisis. In the row behind are the two who have the same title and sit in key positions in the Commission. The Latvian Christian Democrat Valdis Dombrovskis is the coordinator responsible for the ***euro***, banking union and economic policy, while the liberal Dane Margrethe Vestager is to ensure that the ***EU is*** ready for the digital age.

All three are also supposed to form the hinge to their party families in order to eliminate conflicts at an early stage. One thing is clear, however: von der Leyen's first deputy is Timmermans. He and Vestager are known to a broader public in ***Europe*** as former top candidates in the ***European elections*** - and their responsibility for climate protection and digitalisation will bring them permanent attention. But for her Commission to succeed, von der Leyen is also reliant on the skills and creativity of commissioners who so far few citizens know.

Ylva Johansson, for example, was most recently Minister of Labour in Sweden. In future, the former maths teacher is to take care of the tricky issue of migration. Johansson is considered a rather left-wing social democrat. She received her first mandate in 1988 for a left-wing party. As Commissioner for Home Affairs, she is to initiate the new "Pact for Migration", which von der Leyen already announced in July.

The problem is that nothing has been done about this issue for years. So what could such a new start look like? At her hearing in the ***EU Parliament,*** the 55-year-old gave the same answer to this question: first she would talk to all heads of state and government. She did not immediately convince the MEPs; only after she had answered further questions in writing was Johansson confirmed. Politically, however, the answer was clever, because without unity among the member states, nothing will move on this issue.

In Brussels, it is assumed that Johansson will first withdraw the previous legislative proposals on the controversial asylum reform - in order to then work out a new packaging for the old problems together with her fellow Commissioner Margaritis Schinas, a Christian Democrat from Greece.

Josep Borrell from Spain will be responsible for foreign policy. Von der Leyen must have been impressed by the way he presented himself in the ***EU Parliament.*** After all, the CDU politician borrowed one of the Spaniard's sayings for her Berlin ***speech on Europe, in*** which she demanded that the ***EU*** "must also learn the language of power". As 'High Representative for Foreign and Security Policy', Borrell will fight for the ***EU to present a*** more united front on the world stage, to define and assert its interests.

Of course, there is no guarantee that the member states will give the 72-year-old social democrat more leeway than they previously gave Federica Mogherini. But Borrell's career shows that he does not shy away from conflict. As a former foreign minister under Pedro Sánchez, he is top fit in terms of content and acts politically smart. Borrell counters the criticism that Spain does not recognise Kosovo's independence by saying that his first official trip will take him to Pristina. And he always emphasises that he will only represent the interests of the ***EU in*** his new office.

Borrell is highly intelligent - and easily irritated. He is considered a loner, but now he has 4000 staff members under him. The Catalan is supposed to bring strategic thinking into the Commission's meetings, defend ***Europe's*** values against Russia and China and keep in touch with Nato. The fact that his boss, unlike Jean-Claude Juncker, is very interested in foreign and security policy is an opportunity. If both pull together, much can be achieved and the ***EU*** can show more presence as a global player.

Thierry Breton is responsible for the heart of the ***EU***, the internal market. The Frenchman is a replacement for his compatriot Sylvie Goulard, who was blocked by the Parliament. The 64-year-old is responsible for one of the most important legislative projects of the new Commission, a legislative package for the digital economy. Moving ***Europe*** forward in these industries is a priority for von der Leyen. Breton is also expected to strengthen ***Europe's*** defences against hackers and promote the defence industry. Von der Leyen wants more cooperation between states on defence projects.

In her speech, she called on him to create a framework for states and companies to make better use of the knowledge lying dormant in mountains of data. In fact, he knows a lot about this. Until October, the former finance minister was head of the French IT service provider Atos. Breton, who speaks German and whose daughter lives in Berlin, has received various management awards in his career and has worked as a scientist.

When he was nominated for the commissioner post, the Frenchman sold all his Atos shares to prove his independence. But the Left and the Greens are not convinced. Ska Keller, leader of the Greens in the ***European Parliament***, criticised Breton's portfolio on Wednesday. The fact that the former head of "one of the largest digital companies in ***Europe***" is also responsible for the ***EU digital market*** creates "a massive conflict of interest". Von der Leyen pleaded for confidence. I would be grateful if we could start by giving all Commissioners the confidence that it is the ***EU*** they serve," she said.

**The Foreign Affairs Commissioner wants the *EU* to be more united on the world stage**

You can also listen to the podcast on this topic.

**sz.de/newspodcast**

**Graphic**

'This is our competitive advantage': Ursula von der Leyen promised more ***EU*** commitment to climate protection during her speech in the ***European Parliament.*** Photo: KESSLER/Reuters

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**Organisation: *EUROPEAN*** PARLIAMENT (59%); ***EUROPEAN UNION*** (56%)

**Industry:** DEFENCE POLICY & MILITARY POLICY (76%)

**Person:** URSULA VON DER LEYEN (94%); VALDIS DOMBROVSKIS (79%)

**Geographic:** BRUSSELS, BELGIUM (73%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (94%); BRUSSELS CAPITAL REGION (92%); ***EUROPE*** (93%); BELGIUM (88%); LATVIA (79%); SWEDEN (79%); NETHERLANDS (73%); GREECE (58%).

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[***COMMENT; Late insight***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5XM1-6X21-DY2B-S2KP-00000-00&context=)

Bild

Thursday 28 November 2019

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**Section:** p. 2; issue 278

**Length:** 164 words

**Byline:** Ralf Schuler

**Body**

It is a revelation of the Chancellor!

"***Europe*** cannot defend itself alone at the moment," Angela Merkel said yesterday in the Bundestag.

To be more precise: GERMANY cannot defend itself. Because some of our neighbours are far more prepared to defend themselves than we Germans are. The economic power Germany is - militarily speaking - the sick man of ***Europe***.

So it is all the more strange that the woman who for years as Defence Minister was responsible for our junk Bundeswehr is now formulating ***Europe's*** claim to leadership: "The world needs our leadership," Ursula von der Leyen said yesterday in the ***European*** Parliament as the new ***President of the EU Commission.*** One wonders where she hid this insight as a minister.

But it is also a fact: Von der Leyen is right! While Russia threatens our continent and China strives to become the world leader, ***Europe*** cannot stand on the sidelines.

***Europe*** must lead! Politically, economically - and also militarily!

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**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

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**Subject:** GERMAN FEDERAL CHANCELLORS (90%); GERMAN FEDERAL DAY (90%); ***EUROPEAN UNION (90%);*** POLITICS (90%); HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT (90%); LEGISLATIVE BODIES (88%); ARTICLES & COMMENTS (73%); INSTITUTIONS OF THE ***EUROPEAN UNION (***69%)

**Organization: *EUROPEAN UNION*** (93%)

**Person:** URSULA VON DER LEYEN (90%); ANGELA MERKEL (79%)

**Geographic: *EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (90%); ***EUROPE (***91%); GERMANY (72%); CHINA (55%); RUSSIAN FEDERATION (53%).

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[***FEDERAL CONSTITUTIONAL COURT; Right to remember***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5XM1-37Y1-JBF1-00X0-00000-00&context=)

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**Section:** Opinion page; Editorial; Germany; p. 4

**Length:** 570 words

**Byline:** BY WOLFGANG JANISCH

**Body**

A sentence of poetic enigma is found in the two Karlsruhe decisions on the right to forget: "The possibility of forgetting belongs to the temporality of freedom". What is meant by this is not only that it can be a blessing if the social memory of crimes and sins of misguided people fades so slowly. The 'temporality of freedom' lies in the fact that the chance to start again returns when enough time has passed after a crime. Everyone should have the prospect of becoming free again from the relentless confrontation with the misdeeds of their past: there is something deeply human in this.

The Karlsruhe court is now reacting to the fact that in the digital world the passage of time, which causes memory to fade, is stopped. The net stores, archives and keeps ready for retrieval what happened years and decades ago. Because the worldwide web slows down the physical process of forgetting, the courts must order and sometimes mandate legal oblivion.

The Constitutional Court has offered a clever solution here - a technical procedure that takes equal account of personality protection and freedom of information. The names of convicted criminals are not to be deleted from old articles, but the articles themselves are to be made more difficult for search engines to find. The judges have thus developed the "right to be forgotten" in a decisive point. The ***European*** Court of Justice, the inventor of this right, had placed great emphasis on the rights of those affected. From the Karlsruhe point of view, however, the concerns of the media are no less important because they archive contemporary history and make it usable for society. This is not only a question of media business, but of democracy: public debate needs information. An unconditional right of those affected to have their names erased would not stand up to the democratic factor, because there is also a social 'right to remember'.

The Karlsruhe decision is thus a groundbreaking compromise for the digital world - and at the same time for the ***European one***. In the same breath, the Constitutional Court has attempted to bring a smouldering conflict with the ***European*** Court of Justice over the delimitation of national and ***European*** fundamental rights closer to a solution. Which, by the way, is only apparently a separate issue. In reality, the digital space can only be effectively regulated at ***the European level.***

In the ***European part of*** the Karlsruhe judgement, the First Senate takes a bold and correct step forward in order not to completely abandon fundamental rights. Since the Charter of Fundamental Rights came into force in 2009, the courts have increasingly been faced with the question: is this our data protection or yours, national artistic freedom or ***European***? Karlsruhe is now trying to unite the two worlds under the motto: ***Europe*** may set the external framework, but ***Europe*** also stands for diversity - and fundamental rights are an expression of the different histories and cultures of the states. That is why the national constitutional courts must retain their central role here, albeit in pair with the ***EU court***. It would be good if the recently very expansive ECJ took up this offer.

**Karlsruhe has wisely weighed up between protection of personality and freedom of information**

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**Industry:** DATA PROTECTION ON THE INTERNET (90%)

**Geographic:** KARLSRUHE, GERMANY (90%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (92%); ***EUROPE*** (90%)

**Load-Date:** November 30, 2019

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[***Transparency, but not too much; The EUstates want to water down a law against corporate tax dodges***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5XM1-37Y1-JBF1-010T-00000-00&context=)

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**Section:** Economy; Munich; Bavaria; Germany; p. 17

**Length:** 746 words

**Byline:** BJORN FINKE

**Body**

**Brussels** - An ***EU law*** against corporate tax dodges faces a major vote this Thursday - but the proposal has been watered down in key respects. Three years ago, the ***EU Commission*** presented a draft directive aimed at making it more difficult for companies to shift profits to countries with low tax rates. A year later, the ***European Parliament*** approved the legal act with amendments, but the Council of Ministers, the decision-making body of the member states, blocked the project for a long time. Now, at their meeting in Brussels on Thursday, the ministers of economics could approve the directive, but also with adjustments. And they have their work cut out for them.

The legal act stipulates that large companies must publicly report how much turnover and profit they report in which countries and how high their tax burden is there. So far, only the tax authorities receive such information. If every citizen, journalist or campaign against tax evasion could see the data on the internet, those corporations that are particularly resourceful in shifting their profits to countries with low rates would come under pressure. Companies like Apple and Amazon are criticised for booking a large part of their ***European*** profits in small, low-tax countries like Luxembourg or Ireland.

For the directive to become law, the Council of Ministers and the Parliament must agree on whether and how they want to amend the Commission's draft. The economics ministers are to adopt a common position for these talks at their meeting. The 33-page draft resolution, which is available to the *Süddeutsche Zeitung, does indeed deviate* from the Commission's proposal on some points - in favour of the companies. For example, the Brussels authority wanted to force all corporations with more than 750 million ***euros in*** annual turnover to disclose the information. According to the common position of the member states, however, only companies that exceed this turnover limit two years in a row are to be affected. If a company normally stays just below the limit, but exceeds it exceptionally in a very good year, it would not have to put data on the internet.

In addition, the states require a generous exemption clause: If the publication of the profit is damaging to business, for example because rivals receive valuable information, the company is allowed to delay the release of the data for six years. The member states' amendments address some concerns from the business camp. Rainer Kirchdörfer, board member of the Family Business Foundation, complains that companies would be "decisively weakened if they have to disclose internal profit and tax data in future". The foundation represents the interests of family-run corporations.

The directive was discussed for a long time in working groups of the Council of Ministers. So far, however, there has not been a large enough majority to approve the legal act with amendments and start negotiations with the ***European Parliament.*** According to diplomats, the fact that the blockade could end on Thursday is the result of the Croatian government switching from the camp of opponents to that of supporters. Croatia takes over the ***EU Council presidency in*** January and apparently wants to be constructive. Nevertheless, the decision will probably be very close.

This is also because the federal government is expected to abstain: That counts as a no vote. Federal Finance Minister Olaf Scholz (SPD) was initially sceptical about *public country-by-country reporting - the* technical term - but came out in favour in September. However, the coalition partner in Berlin, the CDU/CSU, is not playing along; Federal Economics Minister Peter Altmaier (CDU) rejects the publication requirement. Therefore, Germany will probably not support the resolution.

Sven Giegold, finance spokesman for the Greens in the ***European Parliament***, says "it would be shameful" if the German government's disunity prevented a majority for the directive. Altmaier and the Union should no longer block our sharpest tax sword for fair competition in the internal market," he demands. The fact that the CDU/CSU even refused to accept the weakened proposal was "incomprehensible".

**The federal government is divided on the issue and will probably abstain**

**Graphic**

Apple's ***European headquarters*** in Cork, Ireland: The American technology company has come under criticism for its tax dodges. Photo: Niall Carson/dpa

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**Organization: *EUROPEAN*** PARLIAMENT (57%)

**Geographic:** BRUSSELS, BELGIUM (88%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (94%); BRUSSELS CAPITAL REGION (93%); ***EUROPE (***79%); CROATIA (92%); ***EUROPE*** (90%); BELGIUM (79%); LUXEMBOURG (79%).

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[***The lessons of Mali; The deaths of 13 soldiers have led to louder calls in Paris for more support for missions in the Sahel. The demand is also heard in the Bundestag - but the coalition partners come up with contrary answers***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5XM1-37Y1-JBF1-00XP-00000-00&context=)

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**Section:** Politics; Munich; Bavaria; p. 7

**Length:** 904 words

**Byline:** BY NADIA PANTEL AND MIKE SZYMANSKI

**Body**

**Paris/Berlin** - After the death of 13 French soldiers during a combat mission in Mali, Paris is preparing a national commemoration. On 11 November, President Emmanuel Macron had a memorial erected for soldiers who died for France in foreign missions. He was aware of the "human and family consequences" that "the decision to intervene" could have, Macron said. He was living with "this tragedy". Exactly two weeks later, on 25 November, two combat helicopters collided during a mission against terrorism in Mali, none of the 13 occupants survived - the tragedy Macron spoke of becomes tangible. And it raises the question of the conditions under which French soldiers fight during missions.

French troops have been stationed in Mali since 2013, and Operation Barkhane, for which those 13 fallen soldiers were deployed, has been running since August 2014. The aim of the operation, which involves about 4,500 soldiers, is to fight Islamist terrorist organisations in Mauritania, Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger and Chad. 41 French soldiers have died since 2013.

Defence Minister Françoise Parly stresses that 'this is not the time to ask questions about the justification of this operation'. And *Le Monde* quotes from the president's entourage that this "tragic event should not be seen as something that changes the basis of our work in Sahel". But Le *Parisien,* the largest daily newspaper in *Paris, has a* headline: "***European*** support is not forthcoming". Nathalie Loiseau, a Macron confidant and ***MEP, makes it*** clear that the French army is 'far from being able to operate on its own'. But she uses the occasion to once again make a strong case for Macron's oft-stated demand for a ***European*** army. We need a ***Europe that is*** stronger and better able to defend itself," Loiseau told The *Parisien*.

A call that should always also be read as a message to Berlin. Does Germany need to do more? And if so: what exactly? Defence Minister Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer (CDU) has opened the debate. At the beginning of November, she said in an interview with this newspaper: 'Security in the Sahel is part of our own security.' But part of the truth is that at the moment 'our friends from France' are bearing the main burden.

For Kramp-Karrenbauer, it is only a question of time before concrete requests come from Paris as to what Germany can deliver beyond its current commitment. The example of France with its many victims shows what Germany might then have to get involved in. Mali is already considered a dangerous mission in Berlin. So far, Germany has been spared such high casualties as France. So far, two Tiger helicopter pilots have lost their lives, albeit due to a technical defect.

German soldiers are participating in two mandated missions: A pure ***EU training mission*** for Malian armed forces. The focus is on engineer, logistics and infantry training. A maximum of 350 soldiers can be deployed for this purpose, currently 150. In addition, the UN stabilisation mission Minusma is running with an upper limit of 1100 soldiers (currently: 900). Germany is participating with a reconnaissance company, the Heron drone and armoured reconnaissance vehicles. In addition, the Bundeswehr is flying out wounded. Several countries in the Sahel zone already receive military equipment such as trucks from Germany. But that is not enough for Kramp-Karrenbauer.

Chancellor Angela Merkel intervened in these issues in the Bundestag on Wednesday. In the general debate on the budget, she emphasised the threat posed to Germany by an unstable Sahel. At present, she sees little chance of obtaining UN mandates for new robust missions, partly because the Americans have become reluctant.

Doing more', Merkel said, could also mean supporting countries more strongly in defending themselves. Those who, like Germany, are already training armed forces in Mali in order to send them into the fight against terrorists must also face the question of who is equipping them. One cannot "completely refuse" to do this.

This note is addressed to the coalition partner SPD, which is watching with growing unease how the CDU is advocating more involvement of the Bundeswehr abroad - Kramp-Karrenbauer even wants to send soldiers as far as the Indo-Pacific. Only on Monday, the SPD parliamentary group passed a paper to restrict arms exports. Merkel said in the Bundestag that this made her "uneasy", that it would limit the room for manoeuvre.

It is becoming clear that future Bundeswehr missions have the potential to become a new major conflict for the coalition. SPD parliamentary group leader Rolf Mützenich accuses Kramp-Karrenbauer of "striving for military dominance", and his group will not participate. Training and equipment aid - that is possible if it is "UN-supported". There is still a long way to go before that is the case. The debates are just beginning.

**The example of France with its victims shows what Germany would have to get involved in**

**The question of Bundeswehr deployments could become a new major conflict in Berlin**

**Graphic**

In the town of Gap in southeastern France, residents and army personnel mourn for the deceased soldiers in Mali. Photo: JEFF PACHOUD/AFP

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**Industry:** ARMIES (89%); ARMY FORCES (89%); DEFENCE POLICY & MILITARY POLICY (89%); MILITARY HOMES (78%); AIRCRAFT PILOTS (70%).

**Person:** ANNEGRET KRAMP-KARRENBAUER (88%)

**Geographic:** PARIS, FRANCE (92%); BERLIN, GERMANY (88%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (92%); CENTRAL AFRICA (78%); ÎLE-DE-FRANCE, FRANCE (58%); FRANCE (91%); GERMANY (90%); ***EUROPE (90%);*** MALI (90%); NIGER (78%); BURKINA FASO (73%); MAURETANIA (73%); CHAD (73%)

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[***5G; China's network***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5XM1-37Y1-JBF1-00X3-00000-00&context=)

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**Section:** Opinion page; Editorial; Germany; p. 4

**Length:** 829 words

**Byline:** BY GEORG MASCOLO

**Body**

The decision on whether the Chinese company Huawei will be one of the big losers in the finally passionate debate on the expansion of the German mobile network 5G has not yet been made. But one loser is already certain: it is Chancellor Angela Merkel. Her attempt to keep the discussion small, to degrade it to what is really only a technical question, has failed. In March, Merkel had said that she did not think much of discussing sensitive security issues in public.

Even large parts of her CDU do not want to follow her on this course, nor do the coalition partner SPD or the Foreign Office. Even her intelligence services are now making the concerns about Huawei, which the Chancellery has known about since 2011 at the latest, public before parliament. The coalition of resistance grows with each passing day. In the meantime, it is clear that the Bundestag and not only the government will decide who will be allowed to build the network of the future. That is good, the debate is overdue.

When it comes to critical infrastructure, China is not a supplier like any other. It is a country that has reinvented dictatorship with the help of just such technologies, monitors its own people and brutally represses minorities like the Uyghurs. As impressive as the economic rise of the giant empire is, the actions of its thoroughly digitalised repressive apparatus are oppressive.

From the point of view of the Chancellery, there were always two reasons for quietly settling the Huawei issue: The first was understandable: one did not want to publicly alienate the Chinese trading partner, who was so important and reacted sensitively to every accusation. The other, on the other hand, was pure self-protection; the German government feared unpleasant questions. For example, why there is masses of Huawei technology in today's German mobile phone networks that was not allowed to be installed in the German government network because of security concerns. Or why the idea of security checks for hardware and software is only now coming up, although such a thing has existed in the UK for years. In fact, the government has not only been half-hearted in digitising the country, but also in answering such important security questions.

Yes, trade with China is necessary, but it must find its limits where security is concerned. According to all experts, the technology used for the mobile internet is so complex that it cannot be certified as reliable even after the most thorough examination. It is like nuclear energy: a residual risk remains. This raises the central question of whether the country in which the components are manufactured can be trusted.

Therefore, the answer now can only be to find the entry point to the phase-out. This is easier to explain politically than to implement in practice. In the upcoming debates, the government and parliament must combine political convictions with technical feasibility and long-term strategy. Otherwise, 5G will not be available at every milk can for a long time. Huawei should not be used in the so-called core network, and parts already in use should be dismantled. Telekom is said to have already started with this. For the less sensitive technology for the antennas, on the other hand, Huawei could continue to be used for some time. After all, in the first step 5G often means nothing more than a software upgrade of the technology, which often comes from Huawei anyway.

However, further-reaching measures would have to safeguard this: for example, the agreement of high penalties in the event that backdoors are discovered in Huawei products. A commitment to produce in ***Europe in the*** future would also be worth considering. Conversely, the Chinese also demand this from German companies in China. Even the angry US government should have understanding for a smart transition with a clear goal, because it faces a similar problem: in the rural regions of the US, there are many providers who have also installed Huawei parts for cost reasons. There, too, the conversion will take time.

For the future, ***European*** equipment suppliers like Nokia and Ericsson should be strengthened. ***European*** sovereignty, more independence in the IT sector, is overdue. Much has been promised here in recent years and almost nothing has been delivered. The Chancellor declared this a priority years ago, at the height of the NSA affair. To exaggerate, today the software mostly comes from the USA, the hardware from China. ***Europe*** has fallen behind. The Huawei discussion is a reminder to turn back. Research is already being done on 6G. It would be nice if we didn't have to have this discussion again. To say the least, it won't make mobile internet any cheaper. But stinginess is not cool, especially when it comes to security.

**For the sake of its security, Germany should push back Huawei**

**Classification**

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**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject:** POLITICS (91%); GERMAN CHANCELLORS (90%); LEGISLATIVE BODIES (90%); POLITICAL DEBATES (90%); POLITICAL PARTIES (89%); GERMAN POLITICAL PARTIES (77%); GERMAN PARLIAMENT (77%); HEADS OF STATE & GOVERNMENT (77%); SURVEILLANCE (76%); SECRET SERVICES (73%); MINORITIES (71%); FOREIGN OFFICES & DIPLOMATIC SERVICES (70%)

**Industry:** 5G (91%); WIRELESS NETWORKS (89%); MOBILE COMMUNICATIONS (78%); TELECOMMUNICATIONS (73%); NUCLEAR ENERGY (71%); COMPUTER SOFTWARE (62%)

**Person:** ANGELA MERKEL (91%)

**Geographic:** CHINA (90%); UNITED KINGDOM (78%)

**Load-Date:** November 28, 2019

**End of Document**

[***Merkel: More commitment to Nato; The Chancellor stands up to France's President and promises higher defence spending. The alliance is at least as important today as it was during the Cold War.***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5XM1-37Y1-JBF1-00W6-00000-00&context=)

Süddeutsche Zeitung

Thursday 28 November 2019

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**Section:** Politics; Lead; Munich; Bavaria; Germany; p. 1

**Length:** 508 words

**Byline:** BY DANIEL BRÖSSLER, LEO KLIMM AND NADIA PANTEL

**Body**

**Berlin/Paris** - German Chancellor Angela Merkel (CDU) made an impassioned call in the Bundestag to preserve and strengthen Nato even after 70 years of its existence. Today, the preservation of Nato is in our very own interest - or at least as strong as it was during the Cold War,' Merkel said in the budget debate on Wednesday. The Chancellor was reacting once again to statements by French President Emmanuel Macron, who had described the alliance as "brain-dead" and assured that ***Europe*** could defend itself.

***Europe*** cannot defend itself alone at the moment. We are dependent on this transatlantic alliance and that is why it is also right for us to work for this alliance and take on more responsibility,' Merkel countered. It was right to strengthen ***European*** defence efforts. The point is to be able to carry out missions even without NATO. But this should never be done "against NATO or instead of NATO". The heads of state and government of the Western alliance will meet in London at the beginning of December to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the alliance.

Merkel supported the announcement by Defence Minister and CDU Chair Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer to further massively increase defence spending in order to come closer to the Nato states' voluntary commitment to spend two percent of gross domestic product on defence. The goal is to reach the two-percent mark by the early 30s, Merkel said. "You can count on that," she stressed. Germany is under pressure on the issue, especially from US President Donald Trump, who has repeatedly criticised Germany for allegedly making too little effort. It was right for Germany to take on more responsibility, Merkel said. However, it is "not an approach that focuses only on the military".

Differences within the coalition became clear. SPD parliamentary party leader Rolf Mützenich accused Defence Minister Kramp-Karrenbauer of "striving for military dominance", which the SPD would not go along with. Instead, we want dominance in diplomacy, in the civilian confrontation with humanitarian crises," he said.

France's Minister of Economy and Finance, Bruno Le Maire, defended Macron's statements in an interview with the SZ. What the president said about Nato is simply clear-sighted," he said. ***Europe*** must react to the fact that China is preparing to become "the dominant power of the 21st century, politically and economically". At the same time, the USA is turning away from ***Europe.*** We ***Europeans*** can counter this with a project that aggressively defends liberal democracy", he demanded. In essence, France wants to "transform the ***EU*** from a common market into a true, sovereign world power". No one should fear France's ambition for ***Europe.***

**Pages 6, 7, Economy**

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject:** HEADS OF STATE & GOVERNMENT (94%); GERMAN CHANCELLORS (91%); GERMAN POLITICAL PARTIES (90%); GERMAN PARLIAMENT (90%); FRENCH PRESIDENTS (90%); WAR & ARMED CONFLICT (90%); POLITICS (90%); POLITICAL PARTIES (90%); DEFENCE SPENDING (90%); DEFENCE & MILITARY POLICY (90%); PUBLIC POLICY (90%); PRESIDENTS (89%); DEFENCE MINISTRIES (89%); INTERVIEWS (78%); POLITICAL DEBATES (78%); STATE BUDGETS (78%); ANNIVERSARIES (77%); ***EUROPEAN UNION (***76%); US PRESIDENTS (76%); GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT (71%)

**Company:** ALLIANZ SE (55%)

**Organization: *EUROPEAN UNION*** (83%)

**Ticker:** ALV (FRA) (55%); ALV (BIT) (55%)

**Industry:** NAICS524126 DIRECT PROPERTY & CASUALTY INSURANCE CARRIERS (55%); NAICS524113 DIRECT LIFE INSURANCE CARRIERS (55%); NAICS523920 PORTFOLIO MANAGEMENT (55%); DEFENCE SPENDING (90%); DEFENCE POLICY & MILITARY POLICY (90%); DEFENCE MINISTRIES (89%); BUDGETS (78%); GOVERNMENT BUDGETS (78%)

**Person:** ANGELA MERKEL (95%); ANNEGRET KRAMP-KARRENBAUER (92%); DONALD TRUMP (79%)

**Geographic:** LONDON, ENGLAND (79%); PARIS, FRANCE (79%); BERLIN, GERMANY (58%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (79%); FRANCE (94%); ***EUROPE (***93%); GERMANY (89%); NORTH AMERICA (79%); CHINA (57%)

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**End of Document**

[***BRIEFLY REPORTED; Dispute over Feta cheese***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5XM1-37Y1-JBF1-011C-00000-00&context=)

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Thursday 28 November 2019

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**Section:** Economy; Munich; Bavaria; Germany; p. 20

**Length:** 143 words

**Byline:** DPA

**Body**

**Brussels** - Denmark is in trouble at the highest ***EU court*** over mislabelled cheese. The ***EU Commission is taking the*** country to the ***European*** Court of Justice (ECJ) because companies there have named their cheese Feta and exported it. Since 2002, only cheese produced in Greece according to certain criteria may be called Feta in the ***EU.*** Despite repeated requests, Denmark had not fulfilled its obligation to prevent companies from marketing domestic cheese as Feta, it said. Feta has been the subject of legal disputes in the past. Three years after the Greek cheese had been protected ***throughout the EU,*** Germany and Denmark had sued against it. Without success: the ECJ ruled that Feta had to be produced in Greece.

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject:** COURTS OF THE ***EUROPEAN*** UNION (99%); ***EUROPEAN UNION*** (92%); INSTITUTIONS OF THE ***EUROPEAN*** UNION (91%); COURTS OF JUSTICE (90%); INTERNATIONAL COURTS OF JUSTICE & TRIBUNALS (90%); LAWYERS (90%)

**Geographic:** BRUSSELS, BELGIUM (58%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (91%); BRUSSELS CAPITAL REGION (79%); DENMARK (90%); GREECE (88%); GERMANY (59%); ***EUROPE (***58%).

**Load-Date:** November 28, 2019

**End of Document**

[***Berlin angry at US Congress; Because of the Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline, the House of Representatives passes sanctions against European companies. Foreign Minister Maas refuses to interfere, the business community is outraged.***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5XR6-MRD1-DXX2-P120-00000-00&context=)

Süddeutsche Zeitung

Friday 13 December 2019

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**Section:** Politics; Lead; Munich; Bavaria; p. 1

**Length:** 510 words

**Byline:** BY STEFAN BRAUN AND PAUL-ANTON KRÜGER

**Body**

**Berlin** - A decision by the US Congress to impose sanctions has resulted in severe disgruntlement in Berlin. After the House of Representatives spoke out in favour of penalties against companies involved in the construction of the Nord Stream 2 Baltic Sea pipeline, representatives of the German government and the German business community strongly criticised the US side. Foreign Minister Heiko Maas condemned the planned retaliatory measures. ***European*** energy policy is decided in ***Europe***, not in the USA," he said. We fundamentally reject external intervention and sanctions with extraterritorial effect.

The US House of Representatives passed the 2020 defence budget on Wednesday. Attached to this is a sanctions bill to punish companies involved in the construction of the pipeline. Main justification: Germany and ***Europe*** would make themselves dependent on Russia with the pipeline. The US Senate's approval of the bill is considered certain, as is that President Donald Trump will sign it.

Economic and foreign policy experts of the CDU strongly disagreed. Joachim Pfeiffer, economic policy spokesman for the CDU/CSU parliamentary group, said that this was "no longer just an unfriendly, but a hostile act by the USA against its allies and all of ***Europe***". The CDU's foreign affairs expert and parliamentary group vice-chairman Johann Wadephul spoke of a strain on German-American relations and declared: We do not need any lectures on our relationship with Russia. Nord Stream 2 remains an important "pillar of a diversified energy supply".

Clear words also came from the German business community. The President of the German-Russian Chamber of Commerce Abroad, Rainer Seele, called the decision "a blow against ***Europe*** and the close alliance partner Germany". Seele, who is CEO of the oil and gas company OMV, demanded a harsh response. It is time for Berlin and Brussels to take a clear political position and respond with targeted countermeasures. At stake was '***Europe's*** energy independence'. The Managing Director of the Committee on Eastern European Economic Relations, Michael Harms, did not want to go that far. He even warned against getting into a downward spiral with counter-sanctions. Nevertheless, Harms demanded "a robust response to this encroachment on our sovereignty".

The new ***EU Trade Commissioner*** Phil Hogan warned the US to impose sanctions. The ***European Union*** is "opposed in principle to the imposition of sanctions on ***EU companies*** doing legitimate business".

From the ***EU***'s point of view, the companies involved have complied with all rules and laws. The Irishman left open whether the ***EU would*** actually respond in the case. Before that, Hogan said, the US plans would be looked at closely. In Washington, it is assumed that the Senate will confirm the resolution from the House of Representatives before Christmas and that US President Donald Trump will sign the law.

**Pages 2 and 4**

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject:** LEGISLATIVE BODIES (92%); ECONOMY & ECONOMIC INDICATORS (91%); GERMAN STATE PARLIAMENTS (90%); GERMAN POLITICAL PARTIES (90%); EMBARGOS & SANCTIONS (90%); LEGISLATION (90%); POLITICS (90%); POLITICAL PARTIES (90%); HEADS OF STATE & GOVERNMENT (90%); ECONOMIC NEWS (90%); PUBLIC POLICY (90%); ***EUROPEAN UNION*** (89%); LEADERS (89%); INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS (89%); U.S. PRESIDENTS (78%); BOARDS OF DIRECTORS & BOARDS (78%); FOREIGN POLICY (77%); ENERGY POLICY (77%); INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS ORGANISATIONS (77%); BUSINESS NEWS (77%); DEFENCE SPENDING (55%)

**Organization: *EUROPEAN UNION*** (93%)

**Industry:** PIPELINE TRANSPORT (90%); OIL AND GAS PIPELINES (90%); ENERGY POLICY (77%); OIL AND GAS INDUSTRY (77%); NATURAL GAS DISTRIBUTION (76%); DEFENCE EXPENDITURE (55%)

**Person:** DONALD TRUMP (92%)

**Geographic:** BERLIN, GERMANY (90%); BRUSSELS, BELGIUM (58%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (94%); BRUSSELS CAPITAL REGION (79%); ***EUROPE (***94%); NORTH AMERICA (94%); RUSSIAN FEDERATION (88%); GERMANY (74%).

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**End of Document**

[***US sanctions against Nord Stream 2 With the gas pipe through the Baltic Sea, the German government has angered many: the neighbouring countries to the east, the EUCommission and, last but not least, the Americans, who see Germany and Europe as being too dependent on gas. Europe on Russian natural gas. Do the threatened punitive measures mean the end of the project?; Affront with an announcement; For too long Berlin has pretended that the project in the Baltic Sea is a purely economic enterprise and not a political business. Now investments of almost ten billion euros at stake***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5XR6-MRD1-DXX2-P12G-00000-00&context=)

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Friday 13 December 2019

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**Section:** Topics of the day; Topic box; Munich; p. 2

**Length:** 1103 words

**Byline:** BY DANIEL BRÖSSLER

**Body**

It was an outburst of rage on an empty stomach. US President Donald Trump received NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg for breakfast. The Norwegian wanted to create a good mood before the start of a summit meeting a few hours later. Defence spending had increased "because of your leadership", Stoltenberg flattered. "Nobody writes that again," the president replied in a bad mood. Then he went on. It is "sad that Germany is making a huge deal with Russia while we are supposed to be defending Germany", he complained. Germany', he raged, 'is totally controlled by Russia'.

That was in July 2018, and anyone who is now wondering about the decision of the US House of Representatives to impose sanctions over the Nord Stream 2 Baltic Sea pipeline should remember this episode. Even then it was clear: the anger over the pipe would not simply go away. Trump sensed a good opportunity to sow discord. Not only the Ukrainians had complained about the pipeline project, but also several eastern Nato states. Look, it's not me who is endangering Nato and Western cohesion, was the message, but Angela Merkel. The manoeuvre was transparent but effective. At least the Eastern Europeans thought: Trump is right. And in the House of Representatives, Republicans and Democrats are now saying in rare unanimity that the tube must go.

It is a dispute that goes back to 2015. The annexation of Crimea was only a year ago, the war in eastern Ukraine was in full swing. The USA and ***the EU*** had imposed sanctions against Russia. Quietly, however, a project was flourishing that was supposed to bring Russia and Germany closer again. In addition to the first Baltic Sea pipeline, a second was to be launched to pump more gas to Germany. Alexei Miller, head of the Russian Gazprom Group, got companies like Eon on board, but also German politicians. In October 2015, when the then Economics Minister and SPD leader Sigmar Gabriel was a guest of Russian President Vladimir Putin, it was all about the pipe. Gabriel was a supporter of the project, as was former Chancellor Gerhard Schröder with the first pipeline.

However, Gabriel and Chancellor Merkel may have underestimated the resistance to the second pipeline. The Ukrainians warned that Putin would use the pipeline as a weapon if necessary. Similar warnings came from Poland and the Baltic states. They also saw their own interests threatened in case the old pipeline was drained in favour of the new one. They did not want the gas to travel almost exclusively via Germany. The ***EU Commission*** also felt upbraided. Actually, the ***EU states*** had agreed on the goal of diversifying their energy supplies and becoming less dependent on Russian gas.

The federal government denied this. On the one hand, it took the view that the pipeline was a purely economic project, on the other hand, it denied the ***EU***'s competence. This dispute was fought out in Brussels for years. The ***EU Commission***, supported by several member states, tried to take the matter to itself - but ultimately with modest success. In the ***EU*** Council, Germany prevented decisions that could have endangered the commissioning. Even a long outstanding approval by Denmark was finally granted. The last hope of the opponents remained the USA. German diplomats registered the lobbying in Washington, especially by Poland, with growing indignation. The ***EU partner lobbied the*** US ***to enact*** sanctions against companies involved in the pipeline project, which had long been in the pipeline's pipeline pipeline pipeline pipeline pipeline pipeline pipeline project, and thus ultimately promoted sanctions against Germany. To Trump's delight.

The criticism of the Poles and Ukrainians also met with the approval of German politicians. As head of the ***EU Commission,*** I will apply all the rules to block Nord Stream 2," promised CSU politician and ***European leadership candidate*** Manfred Weber during the election campaign. CDU leader Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer spoke of a "conflict of interests". Chancellor Merkel also saw this. In 2018, during a visit to the then Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko, she admitted that "political factors" had to be taken into account. Merkel's goal was and is to continue to secure gas transit through Ukraine despite Nord Stream 2. Moscow and Kiev are negotiating this under the mediation of the ***EU Commission.***

From the Ukrainian perspective, however, there is always the danger that Russia will not abide by agreements. It is therefore hardly surprising how pleased the government in Kiev reacted to the decision of the US House of Representatives. Good news from the United States," wrote head of government Alexei Goncharuk on Twitter. Approval also comes from elsewhere, however. "I hate to say this because I hate the imposition of extraterritorial sanctions by the US," ***MEP*** Reinhard Bütikofer (Greens) also let it be known on Twitter, "but I hope that the US sanctions against Nord Stream 2 will stop the disastrous anti-European course that the German government has taken on this issue.

Naturally, the German government sees things differently. ***European*** energy policy is decided in ***Europe***, not in the USA," said Federal Foreign Minister Heiko Maas (SPD). We fundamentally reject external intervention and sanctions with extraterritorial effect," he emphasised. In fact, it has long been an annoyance not only from Germany's point of view, but also from that of the ***EU, that*** the US takes the right to punish non-US companies for things they do outside the US in accordance with the laws of their countries. In the case of the Iran sanctions, the ***Europeans are now realising that it*** is almost impossible to fight such US sanctions.

The German business community is nevertheless combative. An "affront to ***European*** sovereignty and an unacceptable intervention in ***Europe's*** autonomous energy policy", complained Oliver Hermes, Chairman of the Committee on Eastern ***European*** Economic Relations. And the German-Russian Chamber of Commerce Abroad even called for 'counter-sanctions'. However, the business representatives did not specify what they had in mind.

**German politicians also joined in the criticism of tube construction**

**Good news from the United States," tweeted the Ukrainian head of government.**

**Graphic**

1230 kilometres long, costing 9.5 billion ***euros***: Nord Stream 2 is one of the longest offshore pipelines in the world - if it is completed: Laying ship off the island of Rügen, pipe storage in the port of Mukran, drilling on the Yamal peninsula in Siberia, where the gas is to come from. Photos: Stefan Sauer / dpa; Jens Büttner / dpa; ALEXANDER NEMENOV / AFP

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject:** EMBARGOES & SANCTIONS (90%); ***EUROPEAN UNION (90%)***; LEGISLATIVE BODIES (90%); TALKS & MEETINGS (90%); POLITICS (90%); US POLITICAL PARTIES (90%); HEADS OF STATE & GOVERNMENT (90%); US PRESIDENTS (90%); GERMAN CHANCELLORS (89%); PRESIDENTS OF STATES (89%); INSTITUTIONS OF THE ***EUROPEAN UNION (***87%); DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF THE US (78%); INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS (78%); WAR & ARMED CONFLICT (78%); POLITICAL PARTIES (78%); REPUBLICAN PARTY OF THE USA (78%); PUBLIC POLICY (78%); LEADERS (73%); DEFENCE SPENDING (72%); GERMAN POLITICAL PARTIES (67%)

**Company:** OAO GAZPROM (65%)

**Ticker:** OGZD (LSE) (65%); GAZP (RTS) (65%)

**Industry:** NAICS486210 PIPELINE TRANSPORTATION OF NATURAL GAS (65%); NAICS221210 NATURAL GAS DISTRIBUTION (65%); NAICS211130 NATURAL GAS EXTRACTION (65%); NAICS211120 CRUDE PETROLEUM EXTRACTION (65%); SIC4923 NATURAL GAS TRANSMISSION & DISTRIBUTION (65%); SIC1311 CRUDE PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (65%); NATURAL GAS (89%); NATURAL GAS PRODUCTS (89%); OIL & GAS PIPELINES (89%); DEFENCE SPENDING (72%); PIPELINE TRANSPORTATION (68%)

**Person:** ANGELA MERKEL (92%); SIGMAR GABRIEL (92%); VLADIMIR PUTIN (92%); DONALD TRUMP (79%)

**Geographic:** BERLIN, GERMANY (58%); BRUSSELS, BELGIUM (55%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (95%); BRUSSELS CAPITAL REGION (79%); BALTIC STATES (77%); NORTH AMERICA (92%); RUSSIAN FEDERATION (91%); GERMANY (90%); ***EUROPE*** (90%); BELGIUM (79%); NORWAY (79%); POLAND (79%); UKRAINE (79%)

**Load-Date:** December 14, 2019

**End of Document**

[***Brussels cooperates with Riyadh; EU wants to fight extremism together with Saudi Arabia***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5XR6-MPK1-DXX2-P4HS-00000-00&context=)

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Friday 13 December 2019

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**Section:** Politics; Munich; Bavaria; p. 7

**Length:** 626 words

**Byline:** GEORG MASCOLO, RONEN STEINKE

**Body**

**Berlin** - Closer cooperation in the fight against extremism is brewing between Saudi Arabia and the ***EU.*** According to information from the *Süddeutsche Zeitung,* NDR and WDR, ***European*** member states have been informed by Gilles de Kerchove, the ***EU coordinator*** for counter-terrorism, that they want to start a stronger exchange. Saudi authorities are said to have agreed 'at the highest level' to hold annual consultations with their ***EU partners*** 'on extremist material', meaning above all propaganda material coming to ***Europe*** from the Gulf state, but also radical curricula for Islamic studies, 'television broadcasts from Saudi Arabia transmitted via satellite or cable' or subsidies for radical preachers.

Saudi Arabia wants to 'ensure greater transparency of financial flows', according to a confidential paper sent to member states at the end of November. The ***EU*** wants to accept this offer after cooperation with the kingdom was restricted a year ago in protest at the murder of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi in the Saudi consulate in Istanbul. Formally, the ***EU*** Council still has to approve the plan, but this is considered certain. The German government says it welcomes Saudi Arabia's openness.

With regard to the financing of Islamist structures in ***Europe,*** Kerchove writes: "A number of member states have not been able to reach an agreement with Saudi Arabia on greater transparency of financial flows. The ***EU***'s efforts in this regard may help to break this impasse.' In Germany, too, security authorities have observed in recent years how Salafist ideology has also been promoted with money from Saudi Arabia. However, Saudi officials have always denied responsibility. The donations came from private foundations and the state of Saudi Arabia had no influence on them.

As early as 2016, the Federal Office for the Protection of the Constitution and the Federal Intelligence Service presented a first report that went all the way up to the Chancellor's Office. It included the names of foundations from Kuwait and Qatar, "Salafist missionary organisations from the Gulf states are increasingly networking with Salafists in ***Europe*** and Germany", the intelligence paper said. One of the examples was the Revival of Islamic Heritage Society from Kuwait, banned in the USA for allegedly supporting terrorism. It had tried to set up a Salafist centre in Fellbach-Oeffingen in Baden-Württemberg, which, according to the Office for the Protection of the Constitution, was "part of a strategic plan to proselytise southern Germany". Since then, the Office for the Protection of the Constitution and the BND have set up a joint working group to monitor these Saudi activities.

In the current ***EU paper,*** the counter-terrorism expert Kerchove points out that 'in recent decades, extremist Islamist ideology has been actively promoted among Muslim populations worldwide, including in ***Europe,*** with funding from the Gulf region and through missionary work carried out from there, including from private sources'. In particular, it appears to be about scholarships from the Gulf state specifically aimed at ***European*** preachers. According to the ***EU experts,*** this 'raises concerns' because Saudi Arabia 'may want to promote the spread of extremist ideology worldwide'.

**The *EU* had limited cooperation after the murder of the journalist Khashoggi**

**Saudi scholarships for preachers in *Europe* 'raise concerns', Brussels experts say**

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject: *EUROPEAN UNION*** (92%); INTELLIGENCE SERVICES (89%); ISLAM & MUSLIMS (89%); POLITICS (89%); TERRORISM (89%); PUBLIC POLICY (89%); FOUNDATIONS (88%); COUNTER-TERRORISM (78%); DONATIONS & GRANTS (74%); POPULATION & DEMOGRAPHY (62%)

**Company:** AL MUDON INTERNATIONAL REAL ESTATE CO KSCC (53%)

**Organization: *EUROPEAN UNION*** (83%)

**Ticker:** ALMUDON (KUW) (53%)

**Industry:** NAICS531110 LESSORS OF RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS & DWELLINGS (53%); SIC6513 OPERATORS OF APARTMENT BUILDINGS (53%)

**Geographic:** ISTANBUL, TURKEY (79%); RIYADH, SAUDI ARABIA (79%); BERLIN, GERMANY (58%); BRUSSELS, BELGIUM (58%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (95%); GULF STATES (94%); BRUSSELS CAPITAL REGION (79%); BADEN-WÜRTTEMBERG, GERMANY (58%); ***EUROPE*** (93%); KUWAIT (92%); SAUDI ARABIA (91%); GERMANY (89%); QATAR (79%)

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**End of Document**

[***Dispute over the Green Deal and the money; The heads of state and government of the EU negotiate ambitious goals and many billions of euros at their summit.***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5XR6-MRD1-DXX2-P13S-00000-00&context=)

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**Section:** Politics; Munich; p. 8

**Length:** 592 words

**Byline:** KAROLINE M. BEISEL,  
  
BJÖRN FINKE, MATTHIAS KOLB

**Body**

**Brussels** - When Ursula von der Leyen presented her 'Green Deal' climate plan on Wednesday, she spoke of a 'man on the moon' moment for ***Europe***. The following day, however, it became clear that the ***EU is*** still in its 'man on the crane' phase: Before the start of the ***EU summit,*** Greenpeace activists had succeeded in demanding more climate protection with a banner on the ***European*** Council building, despite strict security measures. The Brussels police had to move in with cranes to remove the banner and the demonstrators.

The episode shows that the ***EU is*** still some way from realising the Commission President's ambitious plans. At the beginning of the first day of the summit on Thursday, not even the basic question had been clarified: can the heads of state and government really agree that the ***EU*** should become climate-neutral by 2050, i.e. that it should not release more pollutants into the atmosphere than are simultaneously saved elsewhere?

I hope that this will succeed. That would be a strong sign,' said Chancellor Angela Merkel as she arrived at the meeting on Thursday. Charles Michel, who was chairing his first summit as the new Council president, had already said in advance that by opting for this goal, the ***EU*** could become a global leader - which would be entirely in line with Ursula von der Leyen and her plans for a 'geopolitical commission'. Sanna Marin, Prime Minister of Finland for only two days, warned: "This is about the future of our children.

But the situation is not as unanimous as it sounded before the summit began. It is already the second attempt to agree on the 2050 target. When the topic was on the agenda in June, an agreement failed because of four member states: Estonia changed its mind, but Hungary, the Czech Republic and Poland remained reticent before the summit.

Without nuclear power, this is not possible for the Czech Republic," said Prime Minister Andrej Babiš. The ***EU Commission*** and the other heads of government must therefore stipulate that nuclear power is considered a 'clean energy source'. Because of the decline of coal, the Czech Republic wants to increase the share of nuclear power in the electricity mix to half by 2040. However, some countries - such as Austria - strongly protest that it should be permissible to achieve climate targets by using nuclear power. Poland, on the other hand, generates 77 percent of its energy from coal, a much higher share than in the other ***EU countries***. "That is why the costs of energy transformation in Poland are also much higher than in countries that have been luckier in the past decades," said Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki. He hopes for payments from a transition mechanism announced by von der Leyen as an element of her 'Green Deal'. But concrete financial commitments are difficult because the size of the ***EU budget*** is unclear. The states are currently negotiating the seven-year financial framework for 2021 to 2027.

At the summit, the topic was on the agenda, but there it was only supposed to be an exchange of known positions. The talks are difficult because the gap that would arise if the important contributor Great Britain were to leave the ***EU has*** to be filled. Late in the evening, the heads of state and government agreed to extend the ***EU***'s economic sanctions against Russia until the end of June 2020, despite the revival of the peace process for eastern Ukraine.

**Graphic**

The new Commission President Ursula von der Leyen arriving at the Summit: the topic is her climate package. Photo: afp

**Classification**

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**Subject:** HEADS OF STATE & GOVERNMENT (92%); ***EUROPEAN UNION*** (90%); TALKS & MEETINGS (90%); POLITICS (90%); PUBLIC POLICY (90%); PRIME MINISTERS (89%); STATE BUDGETS (78%); ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION (78%); ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION MOVEMENT (78%); POLITICAL PARTIES (77%); INTERNATIONAL GOVERNMENT TALKS (76%); INSTITUTIONS OF THE ***EUROPEAN UNION (***72%); GERMAN CHANCELLOR (71%)

**Organisation: *EUROPEAN UNION*** (84%); GREENPEACE INTERNATIONAL (57%)

**Industry:** NUCLEAR ENERGY (89%); STATE BUDGETS (78%)

**Person:** URSULA VON DER LEYEN (93%); ANGELA MERKEL (79%)

**Geographic:** BRUSSELS, BELGIUM (73%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (95%); BRUSSELS CAPITAL REGION (92%); POLAND (93%); CZECH REPUBLIC (93%); ***EUROPE (***90%); HUNGARY (79%); ESTONIA (78%); FINLAND (58%); AUSTRIA (58%).

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**End of Document**

[***After ECB decision: Still no interest for savers RENTS at risk LIFE INSURANCES increasingly worthless; Big worries about our money!; CSU legend Gauweiler writes to the new ECB head; 5 SETS ABOUT MONEY THAT MUST BE REPEATED!***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5XR6-SWG1-DY2B-S383-00000-00&context=)

Bild

Friday 13 December 2019

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**Section:** TITLE PAGE; p. 1; issue 291

**Length:** 570 words

**Body**

Frankfurt/Main - She has "her own style", Christine Lagarde (63), the new head of the ***European*** Central Bank (ECB), claimed yesterday at her first press conference.

BUT: She has NOT changed the zero interest policy of her predecessor Mario Draghi (72), which was disastrous for savers. After her first interest rate decision, it means: further penalty interest on credit balances! Mortal danger for life insurers who can hardly finance their guaranteed interest rates! Pensioners and savers are worried!

CSU legend Peter Gauweiler (70, photo) has been complaining against the ECB's policies for years. For BILD he analyses how age-old truths about money are being shaken. Gauweiler appeals to the new ECB chief: Rethink, MRS LAGARDE!

Those who make provisions have enough in old age!

It would be nice! But those who make private provisions are currently being penalised twice - by the negative interest rate and by the new tax on shares, which, strangely enough, is aimed primarily at small shareholders. This ruins the moral value of shares as a reliable investment. On top of that, many citizens with medium incomes will be further burdened by the remaining solidarity tax. This is the wrong way to go. The ECB and the federal government must finally give people more room to make their own provisions for old age.

It pays to save!

That was once, a long time ago. Today, the opposite is the case. Those who save lose and are punished! Experts made it clear before the Constitutional Court: German savers have already lost more than 400 billion ***euros*** due to years of the ***European*** Central Bank's (ECB) low-interest policy. The court explicitly criticised that the ECB had "not weighed" these losses. This is expropriation without compensation for anyone who has a savings book.

Therefore, Ms Lagarde: do not make the mistakes of your predecessor. Give savings back its value!

If you work hard enough, you can live on it!

One thing is clear: the ***euro has*** halved all salaries - but not prices!

Unfortunately, every working person feels this in their wallet to this day. And: The ECB has ignored the hidden devaluation of money for years. Property prices are not included at all in the calculation of its inflation rate. And yet no normal working family in Hamburg, Munich or Berlin can afford to buy their own home.

A responsible ECB president will have to call a spade a spade when it comes to inflation.

You can only spend as much money as you have!

The ECB's debt support programmes are irresponsible. We are becoming more and more dependent on the banks. It's like chocolate for the diabetic.

The danger is that low interest rates will not last forever. If, as in the USA in 2008, there is an overnight interest rate turnaround, nothing can be paid for. And everything starts to falter. More and more debt means more and more dependence. Dear Madame Lagarde, this path leads to bondage.

The pension is safe!

More and more old people, fewer and fewer young people paying into the system - the system cannot function in the long run.

The federal government must finally say what it is really up to: for example, to have the pension financed by the taxpayer even more than today (already over 30%).

At the same time, the zero interest rate eats up every pension increase because what I have on the high side is being melted thanks to the ECB - like trying to roast snowballs.

**Graphic**

Yesterday, Christine Lagarde (63) chaired her first meeting as ECB chief.

Photo: DANIEL ROLAND/AFP

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** BIBU

**Subject:** CENTRAL BANKS (91%); GERMAN POLITICAL PARTIES (90%); ***EURO (***90%); LEADERS (90%); POLITICAL PARTIES (90%); PUBLIC POLICY (90%); ***EUROPEAN UNION (***89%); INFLATION (89%); POLITICS (89%); HEADS OF STATE & GOVERNMENT (77%); COURTS OF JUSTICE (76%); PENSIONERS & RETIREMENT (75%); SECURITIES & OTHER INVESTMENTS (73%). OTHER INVESTMENTS (73%); PROPERTY PRICES (69%); SHAREHOLDERS (68%); WAGES & SALARIES (67%); HOUSE PRICES (66%)

**Industry:** CENTRAL BANKING (91%); ***EURO*** (90%); REAL ESTATE (77%); LIFE INSURANCE (76%); SECURITIES & OTHER CAPITAL ASSETS (73%); INSURANCE (71%); REAL ESTATE PRICES (69%); RESIDENTIAL REAL ESTATE PRICES (66%); SWEET GOODS (61%)

**Person:** MARIO DRAGHI (79%); CHRISTINE LAGARDE (58%)

**Geographic:** HAMBURG, GERMANY (73%); FRANKFURT, GERMANY (59%); BERLIN, GERMANY (58%); ***EUROPE (***92%)

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**End of Document**

[***Macron in particular is enthusiastic***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5XR6-MRD1-DXX2-P13W-00000-00&context=)

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**Section:** Politics; Munich; Bavaria; Germany; p. 8

**Length:** 365 words

**Byline:** KMB/MATI

**Body**

The 'Conference on the Future of ***Europe***' is causing enthusiasm in the ***European Parliament***, but the member states are more concerned with damage limitation. At the ***EU summit,*** the heads of state and government asked the General Secretariat of the ***European*** Council to develop a position on the 'content, objectives, composition and functioning' of the conference. Even though they support the idea of citizens' dialogues: The strategic agenda, which was adopted in May 2019, continues to have priority.

Many member states observe with incomprehension how the MEPs and also the ***EU Commission,*** including Ursula von der Leyens personally, are pushing the issue. They want to strengthen the citizens' trust in the ***EU*** and reform the top candidate process in such a way that after the ***European elections in*** 2024, no politician will be at the head of the Commission without first having presented himself to the voters. A supporter of the conference, on the other hand, is France's President Emmanuel Macron, who congratulated himself on his arrival for making his idea a reality.

Most recently, a Franco-German paper had caused unrest in many places. What is in dispute is not that the conference is to be pushed forward under the German Council Presidency in 2020 and concluded in the first half of 2022 under French leadership - it is a matter of a few words in brackets: 'including possible amendments to the treaties'. Paris and Berlin affirm that they are not aiming for this, but they do not want to limit the discussion. Especially from the new member states one hears: 'We can talk about content, but not about the institutions'. This is only of interest to the Brussels bubble. In addition, Macron is accused of wanting to change the current treaties to create a core Europe, and thus second-class member states. The desire to save the Spitzenkandidaten model and to upgrade the ***EU Parliament is*** shared by more of a minority. Each head of government is democratically legitimised. If they agree, there is no deficit,' says an ***EU diplomat***. The discussions that will take place in 2020 should be exciting.

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**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject:** POLITICS (91%); ***EUROPEAN UNION (***90%); LEGISLATIVE BODIES (90%); TALKS & MEETINGS (90%); INTERNATIONAL GOVERNMENT TALKS (90%); HEADS OF STATE & GOVERNMENT (90%); PUBLIC POLICY (90%); FRENCH PRESIDENTS (77%); PRESIDENTS OF STATES (77%); ELECTIONS & CAMPAIGNS (75%); ELECTIONS (73%); INSTITUTIONS OF THE ***EUROPEAN UNION (***72%); VOTERS & ELECTIONS (69%)

**Organization: *EUROPEAN*** PARLIAMENT (84%)

**Person:** URSULA VON DER LEYEN (78%)

**Geographic:** PARIS, FRANCE (79%); BERLIN, GERMANY (58%); BRUSSELS, BELGIUM (58%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (95%); BRUSSELS CAPITAL REGION (79%); ***EUROPE (***90%); FRANCE (90%).

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**End of Document**

[***"I will be different"; ECB President Christine Lagarde makes it clear at her first press conference that she wants to quickly and fundamentally revise the central bank's strategy. The issue of climate change is important to her***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5XR6-MRD1-DXX2-P15W-00000-00&context=)

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**Section:** Economy; Munich; p. 15

**Length:** 872 words

**Byline:** BY MARKUS ZYDRA

**Body**

**Frankfurt** - Christine Lagarde obviously felt a strong need to make a few things clear at her first appearance before the world public. I will be me," the new ECB President said unasked at the beginning of the press conference. She meant: "Don't compare me with my predecessors at the head of the central bank, Draghi, Trichet and Duisenberg - 'because I will be different'.

Lagarde had her first meeting on monetary policy with the ECB Governing Council on Thursday. For the first time, she read out the obligatory opening statement for over 15 minutes, in which the central bank sets out its view of the world of money in all linguistic rigour. The former head of the International Monetary Fund completed this task bravely. It was a little difficult for her, a lawyer who had never worked in a central bank before, to convey the jargon of monetary policy makers with verve. But after the compulsory lecture, she took the initiative, said she would be different and promised: 'If I don't know something, I will say I don't know it.' Draghi never said that.

Lagarde has mapped out the terrain for her eight-year mandate. She wants to fundamentally revise the strategy of the central bank. Everything is at stake. We will discuss every topic and turn over every stone," said the ECB president. It's about the question of how climate change can be reflected in monetary policy in the future, whether the ECB's inflation target of around two per cent is still in line with the times and what instruments the central bank still has at its disposal now that it has fixed the key interest rate at zero and the volume of bond purchases is approaching trillions of ***euros.*** The last strategy debate was held by the ECB in 2003, so it is really time," Lagarde said. The discussions will begin in January; the new paradigms are to be implemented by the end of 2020 at the latest. Lagarde wants the debate to be broad-based. We will involve the ***EU parliamentarians***, the academic world and representatives of civil society," said the Frenchwoman. In the discussions, the central bank will "not only preach, but also listen".

Lagarde, who previously also served as French finance minister, also wants to listen better internally. The mood in the highest decision-making body, the ECB Governing Council with central bank heads from the 19 ***euro countries,*** is testy. Mario Draghi, whose mandate ended at the end of October, had pushed through a renewed easing of monetary policy with all his might in September. Many central bankers felt ignored.

In the meantime, Lagarde has repeatedly vowed to follow a "consensual" course in the future and to take all opinions in the council into account. The other day, she invited the ECB Governing Council to an informal dinner at the Schlosshotel Kronberg and posted a photo of the group on social media. The mood was reportedly good, with Austria's central bank chief Robert Holzmann praising Lagarde's tolerance. The non-smoker had allowed him to smoke a cigar.

Lagarde is taking advantage of the fact that she lacks the smell of a monetary politician. Central bankers sometimes share a penchant for unfathomable humour. Moreover, some are neither willing nor able to say a sentence that the general public can understand. Many are simply too deep in the subject. The monetary guardians cultivate the exclusive technical language in which every word is correct and whose deep meaning is usually immediately understood by the financial markets. Lagarde wants to open up this tight communication corset in order to get in touch with the broader ***European*** public, where trust in the ECB has dwindled recently. But she has to talk to civil society in an understandable way. Lagarde has already prepared the financial markets for this: If I express something differently in front of a different audience, please don't overinterpret it.

Lagarde also emphasised once again how important she considers the issue of climate change. The Frenchwoman sees two areas: On the one hand, the further development of economic models with which the central bank calculates economic growth and inflation expectations. The other is the ECB's banking supervision. Companies involved in fossil energy could get into economic difficulties due to the stricter laws, which would weaken their solvency. Lending banks would therefore have to create higher loss buffers in these cases. But so far there is no binding set of rules for this.

Lagarde's penchant for action on climate change is controversial in the Governing Council. Some central bankers think the central bank should be neutral. They rule out, for example, the central bank's preferential purchase of 'green bonds'. All these issues will be on the table in the new year. Lagarde is considered a good communicator and one who can forge face-saving compromises. At the end she said: "voilà" - that's it? She wished everyone a Merry Christmas and suggested: "Make other people happy.

**The last strategy debate was held by the central bank in 2003. The new one wants to turn over every stone**

**Graphic**

Wants to involve parliament, academia and civil society: Christine Lagarde. Photo: Zhang Cheng/dpa

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject:** MONETARY POLICY (91%); CENTRAL BANKS (91%); PRESS CONFERENCES (90%); ECONOMIC POLICY (90%); LEADERS (89%); POLICY DEBATES (89%); PUBLIC POLICY (89%); INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND (78%); ***EUROPEAN UNION (***77%); INFLATION (76%); POLITICS (76%); CURRENCIES (76%); LEGISLATIVE BODIES (73%); INTEREST RATES (71%); SMOKING (61%).

**Industry:** MONEY POLICY (91%); CENTRAL BANKS (91%); INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND (78%); CURRENCIES (76%); LIBERAL SECURITIES (71%)

**Person:** MARIO DRAGHI (93%); CHRISTINE LAGARDE (88%)

**Geographic:** FRANKFURT, GERMANY (73%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (79%); FRANCE (79%); AUSTRIA (72%)

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**End of Document**

[***The SHAME of Lesbos; Already 6 dead on the Greek island! BILD report from refugee hell***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5XR6-SWG1-DY2B-S38R-00000-00&context=)

Bild

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**Section:** p. 3; issue 291

**Length:** 476 words

**Byline:** Paul Ronzheimer

**Body**

GIORGOS MOUTAFIS (photos)

Lesbos - It is the coughing of the children from the small tents that can be heard from afar as one approaches the hell of Moria.

"Hell Moria" - that's what many here call the camp on the island of Lesbos (Greece), where some of them have been stuck for months.

Conditions have not improved since the refugee summer of 2015, quite the opposite. More than 18,000 people are stuck waiting for months for their asylum interviews with the authorities. Every third refugee (36%) here is a child.

In the past few days, up to 400 people a day arrived in boats from Turkey to Lesbos. The "Turkey deal" negotiated by Chancellor Angela Merkel in 2016 is clearly no longer working. According to the UN, the majority of the refugees are from Afghanistan (around 40 %) and Syria (30 %), followed by states such as Iraq, Congo and Iran.

When night falls, families gather around small fires. It is the only possibility for a little warmth. Seven-year-old Irfan came from Afghanistan with his family six months ago, he too coughs while sitting by the fire.

Houssein (29) says: "The tents are not waterproof. Everything is wet when it rains, our clothes, the whole body. If we had known what it was like here, we would never have come to ***Europe.***"

But there are also those in Moria who, despite everything, are just happy to have escaped the bombs. "I never expected the ***EU to*** allow something like this, but anything is better than the war in Syria," says Ibrahim (43).

In the rain of Lesbos, one walks through a lot of mud, there are small hills on which new tents are erected all the time. Aid organisations have collected clothes so that the children can at least wear rubber boots and gloves. It is an incredibly sad sight, a humanitarian embarrassment in ***Europe***.

ONLY: WHY IS NO ONE DOING ANYTHING ABOUT THE DISGRACE OF LESBOS?

The ***EU*** has spent many billions of ***euros to*** support Greece. It is unclear whether parts of the money have not seeped away. There are investigations into how exactly the previous government under Alexis Tsipras (45) used the money and whether there may have been corruption.

What is certain in any case is that more boats are reaching Lesbos again - and those responsible seem to be overwhelmed. At the expense of the weakest.

Apostolos Veizis, director of the aid organisation MSF, says that there is currently one toilet for every 200 refugees and one shower for every 500 refugees. "We call on the ***EU,*** but also on the Greek government, to accommodate these people in suitable facilities on the mainland.

There have been six deaths in the last few months, with one baby dying of dehydration, Veizis said. "They were preventable deaths. Most suffering is preventable suffering. We need to put an end to this suffering."

**Graphic**

Small fires are the only source of heat at night. BILD reporter Paul Ronzheimer with refugees on Lesbos

Six-year-old Abulfazal fled with his parents from Afghanistan to ***Europe***. Among the 18 000 refugees on Lesbos are more than 6000 children

Many refugees in the "hell of Moria" live in improvised tents, secure the tarpaulin makeshift with stones

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** BIBU

**Subject:** REFUGEES (90%); ***EUROPEAN UNION*** (89%); DEATH & DYING (89%); UNITED NATIONS (76%); GERMAN FEDERAL CHANCELLORS (73%); AID ORGANISATIONS (67%); CORRUPTION (50%).

**Organization: *EUROPEAN UNION*** (82%)

**Person:** ALEXIS TSIPRAS (79%); ANGELA MERKEL (79%)

**Geographic: *EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (92%); CENTRAL AFRICA (77%); GREECE (91%); ***EUROPE (***73%); AFGHANISTAN (72%); SYRIA (72%); DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (71%); IRAN (58%); IRAQ (57%).

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**End of Document**

[***EU braces itself against the end of the Commercial Court***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5XR6-MPK1-DXX2-P4F8-00000-00&context=)

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**Section:** Economy; Munich; Bavaria; Germany; p. 19

**Length:** 334 words

**Byline:** BJORN FINKE

**Body**

**Brussels** - The ***EU Commission*** is soon to be able to impose punitive and retaliatory tariffs without first going through a full dispute settlement procedure at the Geneva-based World Trade Organisation (WTO). This is the ***EU***'s reaction to the blockade of the WTO Court of Appeal. Trade Commissioner Phil Hogan wants to have the corresponding regulation, which regulates the tasks and powers of his authority, amended, as he announced in Brussels on Thursday. The ***European Parliament*** and the Council of Ministers, the decision-making body of the states, must agree. The Commissioner expects the proposals to become law by summer.

The WTO's Dispute Settlement Body has been unable to function since Wednesday. The US government has been blocking the appointment of new judges for two years, accusing the court of exceeding its powers. Since the term of two jurists ended on Tuesday, the court now consists of only one jurist: however, at least three are required. In the WTO, states set rules for world trade, and in disputes between members, the court is the final instance.

If the ***EU is*** proven right in a WTO case and thus, for example, given permission to impose punitive tariffs, the opposing party could file an appeal. Since the court is not operational, this process would be on hold. So far, ***EU rules stipulate that*** the Commission may only launch retaliatory actions once the WTO proceedings have been fully concluded. But under the proposed rule change, the ***EU would*** no longer have to take into account that the litigant has appealed to the blocked tribunal.

In addition, Hogan wants to agree with states worldwide to continue using the WTO dispute settlement procedure and to use another court as the court of last resort instead of the blocked body. This replacement court will be staffed with former WTO judges.

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject: *EUROPEAN UNION*** (91%); COURTS OF APPEAL (90%); TRIBUNALS (90%); COURT CASES (90%); INSTITUTIONS OF THE ***EUROPEAN*** UNION (90%); INTERNATIONAL TRADE TRIBUNALS (90%); INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORGANISATIONS (90%); POLITICS (90%); CUSTOMS TARIFFS (90%); JUDGES (89%); ***EU REGULATION (***78%); ***EUROPEAN LAW (78%);*** LEGISLATIVE BODIES (78%); UNITED NATIONS ORGANISATIONS (77%).

**Organisation:** WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION (92%); ***EUROPEAN*** PARLIAMENT (56%)

**Geographic:** BRUSSELS, BELGIUM (73%); BRUSSELS CAPITAL REGION (90%); ***EUROPE (***78%); NORTH AMERICA (78%); BELGIUM (73%)

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**End of Document**

[***EUsummit debates nuclear energy***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5XR6-SWG1-DY2B-S384-00000-00&context=)

Bild

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**Section:** TITLE PAGE; p. 1; issue 291

**Length:** 71 words

**Body**

Brussels - Nuclear power spat at ***EU summit***! The Czech Republic demanded yesterday that before officially committing to a "climate-neutral" ***Europe*** by 2050, nuclear power must first be recognised as "green power". Nuclear power is a "clean and emission-free energy source", said Czech head of government Andrej Babis. Germany (which is phasing out nuclear power by 2022) takes a critical view.

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** BIBU

**Subject: *EUROPEAN UNION*** (90%); TALKS & MEETINGS (90%); INTERNATIONAL GOVERNMENTAL TALKS (90%); HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT (54%)

**Organization: *EUROPEAN UNION*** (83%)

**Industry:** KERNENERGIE (92%)

**Geographic:** BRUSSELS, BELGIUM (59%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (90%); BRUSSELS CAPITAL REGION (59%); CZECH REPUBLIC (88%); ***EUROPE (***59%); GERMANY (54%)

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**End of Document**

[***PROFILE; John Curtice; British pollster and fast talker***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5XR6-MPK1-DXX2-P4HK-00000-00&context=)

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**Section:** Opinion page; In profile; Munich; Bavaria; Germany; p. 4

**Length:** 656 words

**Byline:** CATHRIN KAHLWEIT

**Body**

If you wanted to cast a British film with an absent-minded professor, John Curtice would be your first choice. The political scientist wears stained jackets, his glasses tend to be crooked, his fingernails haven't seen scissors for a while, and if he hasn't been to the hairdresser, the hair above his ears sticks out from his head in little tufts. But outward appearances are deceptive. Sir John Kevin Curtice is a brilliant scientist, an excellent rhetorician, a number cruncher and data analyst like few others in Britain.

Curtice teaches at the University of Strathclyde in Scotland, he researches at the National Centre for Social Research, he writes for the platform 'What UK thinks: ***EU***' platform and sits on numerous international panels dealing with social research. But above all, he is Britain's best-known pollster. On Thursday, he was booked by the BBC to explain the general election, the results and, by extension, their country to viewers. When he is on top form, he does so with a flood of figures, data, interpretations and explanations that are nevertheless well sorted and understandable even for laypeople.

Curtice is widely recognised as a 'polling guru'. Even if the media landscape in the Kingdom is clearly divided into right and left, pro-Tory and pro-Labour, which was reflected in clear election recommendations in the days before the general election, all media like to interview and quote the man from Cornwall because he is highly political but not party-political. He talks fast and a lot, and an interview with him can degenerate into a half-hour monologue. When *Times columnist* Matt Chorley recently wanted to question the pollster about whether polls could be believed, Chorley practically didn't get a word in edgewise. But in the end, all the questions were answered.

Curtice explained that serious polls are not only about predicting results, but also about issues and structures: in 2019, the election was dominated by Brexit. Around 80 per cent of those who voted to ***leave the EU*** in the 2016 referendum would have preferred a party that wanted to go through with the Brexit. Conversely, about 80 per cent of those who were against leaving would have voted for a Remain party. Young voters were more committed, older voters more frustrated.

Curtice also admits that polls are often off the mark because, on the one hand, it is difficult for them to include voter turnout in their forecasts and, on the other hand, they cannot accurately weight the opinions of those who do not participate in polls in the first place. He is also critical of exit polls, i.e. post-election surveys. The polling expert complains that in Great Britain they are compiled under difficult conditions: Because voting takes place on a weekday, most people go to the polling stations after work, leaving little time to analyse the data. In addition, unlike in other ***EU countries,*** data from individual polling stations would not be analysed. Instead, voters - in 140 polling stations spread across the country - would fill out duplicates of their ballot papers again after casting their actual exit poll votes and then throw them into a wrong ballot box; these duplicates would be collected, thrown together and then counted at a central location. Therefore, in a country where a simple majority of votes decides in each constituency, the result is not very representative.

In 2017, the 66-year-old was considered 'the man who won the election' because he had predicted Theresa May's unexpectedly poor performance earlier than others. This time, the prominent researcher predicted a victory for the Tories. But clever as he is, he naturally hedged his bets on Thursday: It is not guaranteed.

**Graphic**

Photo: Jeff Overs/BBC/Reuters

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject:** BRITISH HOUSE OF COMMONS ELECTIONS (90%); POLITICS (90%); POLITICAL SCIENCE (90%); POLITICAL PARTIES (90%); ELECTIONS (90%); VOTERS & POLLS (90%); BREXIT (89%); ***EUROPEAN UNION*** (89%); POLLS & SURVEYS (89%); INTERVIEWS (78%); BY-ELECTIONS (77%); ELECTIONS & CAMPAIGNS (77%); FILM (73%); WRITERS (73%); REFERENDUMS (72%)

**Industry:** FILM (73%); WRITING (73%)

**Geographic: *EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (91%); UNITED KINGDOM (90%); ***EUROPE*** (78%); ENGLAND (58%); SCOTLAND (58%)

**Load-Date:** December 13, 2019

**End of Document**

[***OSTSEE PIPELINE; False friends***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5XR6-MPK1-DXX2-P4HM-00000-00&context=)

Süddeutsche Zeitung

Friday 13 December 2019

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**Section:** Opinion page; Editorial; Munich; Bavaria; Germany; p. 4

**Length:** 570 words

**Byline:** BY KURT KISTER

**Body**

It is a paradoxical situation. On the one hand, it may make sense for the German government to delay or suspend the completion of the Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline through the Baltic Sea. But at the same time, the sanctions now passed by the US House of Representatives against companies involved in the construction of this pipeline are wrong, presumptuous and hypocritical.

Berlin started the pipeline project years ago together with Moscow. It meets with resistance in parts of the ***EU***, but especially in Ukraine and Poland, because it is precisely these countries that will lose high transit fees through 'their' gas pipelines. On the other hand, a direct pipeline to Germany secures the gas supply from Russia, even if the almost hostile relationship between Kiev and Moscow would lead to one or the other turning off the gas through the land pipelines. A second gas pipeline through the Baltic Sea is not in Ukrainian interest, but it is in German interest. It is certainly in Russia's interest.

And that is precisely what bothers those Americans who are supposedly worried about Germany becoming too dependent on Russian gas. This paraphrase means nothing other than that many in Washington do not want to begrudge the Russians the money they earn from their gas, partly because America would rather sell its own gas to ***Europe*** and the Germans.

The sanctions against companies involved in the construction of the Nord Stream pipeline, which have now been passed by the House of Representatives, are the implementation of the America First strategy dressed up in world politics, which in this case is also shared by most US Democrats. Simply put: Washington wants to dictate to Germany from whom it should buy energy and how. And at the same time, it wants to prevent Russia from profiting from it.

However, it is true that Moscow is pursuing reprehensible, unscrupulous power politics with violence, not only through the annexation of Crimea in violation of international law and the fomenting of wars on its periphery and elsewhere. But this cannot mean breaking off relations, no more trade and also renouncing opportunities to exert influence. Russia is the ***EU***'s largest neighbour, and although it is a semi-authoritarian state, ways of coexistence must be found.

However, when a Russian secret service apparently sends an assassin to Berlin to kill a person whom Russia's president calls a bandit, then the German government must respond. Putin has recently lied brazenly and publicly about the circumstances of this 'case'; the fact that the US president also lies repeatedly is unfortunately true, but does not make it any better.

Because of the Berlin murder, if Moscow does not cooperate after all, clear answers are needed - up to and including sanctions. This creates the absurd situation that Berlin should also think about suspending cooperation on the Baltic Sea pipeline, even if this might be necessary for completely different reasons than those put forward in Washington. Berlin is truly not in a desirable position: the former friend in the West has been behaving for a few years now and then as its neighbour in the East has been doing for a long time.

**Sanctions against Moscow might be necessary - but not because Washington wants them to be**

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject:** POLITICS (90%); EMBARGOES & SANCTIONS (89%); ***EUROPEAN UNION (89%);*** US DEMOCRATIC PARTY (77%); US POLITICAL PARTIES (77%); HEADS OF STATE & GOVERNMENT (77%); PRESIDENTS OF THE STATE (77%); US PRESIDENTS (77%); PUBLIC POLICY (77%); INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES (73%); ASSASSINATION (67%)

**Organization: *EUROPEAN UNION*** (55%)

**Industry:** PIPELINE TRANSPORT (90%); OIL AND GAS PIPELINES (90%); NATURAL GAS PRODUCTS (78%)

**Person:** VLADIMIR PUTIN (79%)

**Geographic:** MOSCOW, RUSSIAN FEDERATION (93%); BERLIN, GERMANY (90%); KIEV,UKRAINE (79%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (92%); NORTH AMERICA (93%); GERMANY (90%); RUSSIAN FEDERATION (90%); UKRAINE (90%); POLAND (79%); ***EUROPE (***73%).

**Load-Date:** December 13, 2019

**End of Document**

[***USA plans sanctions against Nord Stream 2***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5XR6-SWG1-DY2B-S38N-00000-00&context=)

Bild

Friday 13 December 2019

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**Section:** p. 2; issue 291

**Length:** 109 words

**Byline:** Röp

**Body**

Washington - The US House of Representatives on Wednesday paved the way for sanctions against the Russian pipeline "Nord Stream 2".

If the Senate and US President Donald Trump (73) approve the law, punitive measures against the civil engineering companies involved in the construction could take effect as early as next week. This means that the completion of the Putin pipeline, which is to bring gas from Russia to ***Europe***, would be acutely endangered!

There is approval from the Greens. ***European politician*** Reinhard Bütikofer (66) told BILD: "In order to stop the dangerous course of the German government on this issue, I now hope that these sanctions will come quickly."

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** BIBU

**Subject:** EMBARGOES & SANCTIONS (91%); LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITIES (90%); POLITICS (90%); HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT (90%); US PRESIDENTS (89%); POLITICAL PARTIES (88%).

**Organization: *EUROPEAN UNION*** (82%)

**Industry:** CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY (88%); OIL AND GAS PIPELINES (72%); DEEP LINE CONSTRUCTION (71%)

**Person:** DONALD TRUMP (79%); VLADIMIR PUTIN (78%)

**Geographic:** NORTH AMERICA (90%); RUSSIAN FEDERATION (73%)

**Load-Date:** December 13, 2019

**End of Document**

[***When borders blur; general strike in France also means: the right and left political spectrum are united in their anger at President Macron. The people are sending rather contradictory signals - although a majority is in favour of the strike, they also see a need for reform in the area of pensions.***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5XR6-MRD1-DXX2-P13R-00000-00&context=)

Süddeutsche Zeitung

Friday 13 December 2019

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**Section:** Politics; Munich; Bavaria; Germany; p. 8

**Length:** 992 words

**Byline:** BY NADIA PANTEL

**Body**

**Paris** - Sometimes these French strike days are more reminiscent of a major sporting event than of politics. The sport starts in private, when people walk or cycle to work because the trains are not running. It continues on television when Prime Minister Édouard Philippe's speech on pension reform is reported on Wednesday like an upcoming match. We're 13 minutes away! Whew, now it's only ten! After the speech then cut to the union leaders. Angry faces, disappointment. You could put a big thumbs down symbol right there.

Philippe announced that people earning more than 120,000 ***euros*** a year will have to pay more into the pension fund in the future than before to finance relief for women, families and nurses. He promised that one thing would not change: France's pension should remain the most generous in ***Europe.*** But only one thing stuck with the unions: In future, everyone will have to work until 64. Although President Emmanuel Macron had promised not to touch the official retirement age of 62. In government logic, the new regulation sounds like this: The intention is to 'create incentives for people to work longer'. Therefore, there will be deductions if you retire at 62 and bonuses if you hold out until 64. An untouched retirement age looks different. In the evening, you have to turn down the TV because trade unions and government members are shouting at each other. On Thursday, the moderate and largest trade union, the CFDT, also calls for demonstrations. Although it shares the government's view that a universal pension, without the special funds, would be better.

Until Christmas, opponents and supporters of the reform will now count how many people demonstrate (at the start of the strike there were 800,000). They will try to guess against whom the anger is directed when the few trains that run are so full that security personnel have to cordon off the platform. Are the stranded commuters angry at the unions or at the government?

The polls do not give a clear answer. According to the polling institute Harris Interactive, 59 percent of respondents support the strike. At the same time, 54 percent of respondents think it is good that special regulations are being abolished. But working two years more, as Philippe presented it, is considered a good idea by only 34 percent of respondents.

Tuesday lunchtime, left bank of the Seine, Place Vauban. Laurence Bernard gets off the bus chartered by the CGT union to take members from Val d "Oise to the demonstration in Paris. Bernard is 50 years old and a civil servant. She is here because "now it will be decided in which system we will live". We want solidarity," says Bernard, "Macron wants everyone to fight for themselves. There have been moments in Macron's time in office when this sentence was truer. For example, when the president weakened workers' rights by decree in 2017. The uprising failed to materialise. The trade unions are only now succeeding in really mobilising. After all, everyone becomes a pensioner at some point.

People in yellow high-visibility waistcoats walk past Bernard. Remnants of the Gilet-jaunes movement who joined the trade union protest. If you drove through France this year and asked the people demonstrating at the roundabout what should change, you often heard that wealth should be better distributed. If you then asked the person in the yellow waistcoat if he was left-wing, he often snorted. "Ugh! Please, no politics.' Wasn't that frustrating for you, Madame Bernard, all those people who share her ideas and reject them at the same time? She sighs. People have reinvented for themselves a solidarity that we have been demanding for a long time. One of her fellow campaigners is optimistic: They will eventually realise that the alternatives they are looking for already exist. It just takes time.

A little further forward in the demo is Jean-Luc Mélenchon of France Insoumise. The party he founded so that there would be an alternative to the left of the socialists. Today there is only one gap to the right of Mélenchon and then Macron. 'He's really a star,' says a student to his friend, both filming with their mobile phones as ten camera teams film Mélenchon. Sarah Legrain, a France-Insoumise member from the beginning, stands next to the hustle and bustle. She sees the reform as an opportunity: If we overturn the pension reform, we can show for the first time that it is possible to stop Macron. The dispute over pensions is the great hour of France Insoumise. You can agree or disagree with the left, but for years they have stood for a comprehensive social change based on redistribution. They are now not just saying 'no', but 'preferring everything to be different'.

In the evening, on television, Adrien Quatennens, 29, of France Insoumise sits next to Jordan Bardella, 24, of Marine Le Pen's radical right Rassemblement National. Both are angry, both agree that Macron is wrecking France. Opposites are blurring in the face of the common enemy. Being left-wing in France these weeks means not having time to worry about right-wing extremists. Quatennens is fighting for workers' rights. Bardella says: "This government is unfortunately very good at scaring the French. I don't think anyone needed this trouble just before Christmas.' In terms of economic policy, Le Pen has no clear identity. Sometimes she presents herself as liberal, sometimes as socialist. Currently, her compass points more to the left. In the current major conflict, she is assuming the role she has mastered so well: that of the secret victor.

**There are now deductions if you retire at 62. Those who work until 64 are to receive more**

**Graphic**

Commuters are the main victims of the strike in France - as seen here at a crowded metro station in Paris. Photo: PHILIPPE LOPEZ/AFP

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject:** TRADE UNIONS (90%); POLITICS (90%); HEADS OF STATE & GOVERNMENT (90%); STRIKES (90%); PUBLIC POLICY (90%); POLLS & SURVEYS (89%); PRIME MINISTER (78%); COMMUTER TRANSPORT (77%); PENSIONS AND BENEFITS ACT (76%); PENSION LAWS AND REGULATIONS (76%); WELFARE REGULATION (76%); BONUS PAYMENTS (51%)

**Organization: *EUROPEAN UNION*** (56%)

**Industry:** TRAINS (89%)

**Geographic:** PARIS, FRANCE (92%); PICARDIE, FRANCE (78%); ÎLE-DE-FRANCE, FRANCE (58%); FRANCE (91%); ***EUROPE (***79%).

**Load-Date:** December 13, 2019

**End of Document**

[***REFUGEES; A European Step***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5Y4R-P941-JBF1-002R-00000-00&context=)

Süddeutsche Zeitung

Saturday 28 December 2019

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**Section:** Opinion page; Editorial; Munich; Bavaria; Germany; p. 4

**Length:** 564 words

**Byline:** BY BERND KASTNER

**Body**

Horst Seehofer is so right. A ***European*** solution is needed in migration policy. And yes, of course it is true when the Federal Minister of the Interior says: "One state alone can't do it. We must not abandon Greece.

We are not allowed to do that - but we do it anyway. ***Europe is abandoning*** Greece, ***Europe is*** also abandoning thousands of children in inhumane, overcrowded camps. Among the 40,000 refugees stuck on the Aegean islands are about 4,000 children without parents. These numbers and conditions are not new, and that is precisely why they are a disgrace for the ***EU*** and its 500 million citizens.

Robert Habeck, the German Green Party leader, wants Germany to take in those unaccompanied persons who live in unacceptable conditions. Is this demand dishonest, as CSU man Seehofer thinks? No, it is not. When, if not at Christmas, when Christian ***Europe*** celebrates the feast of the family, we should remember those who hang lost between worlds without relatives. Habeck has initiated an urgently needed discussion. Did he also present the solution right away?

Certainly, Germany would be able to provide for a few thousand minors. But apart from the fact that the proposal has no chance of being implemented: It might not be politically wise to bring all children to Germany.

Not because such a humanitarian action would develop a pull. This is often attributed to sea rescue, but there is no evidence of this so far. Politically, the admission of all unaccompanied persons would be questionable because it would fuel discord in the ***EU and*** further widen the gap with countries like Hungary. This would be counterproductive to the goal of a humanitarian ***European*** migration policy. However, to leave things as they are on the Greek islands would be the ultimate failure of ***Europe***. It would also be the continued violation of international agreements that require the protection of children and family. So what to do?

First of all, the ***EU*** should help Greece to alleviate its misery without acting like a colonial master; this can be done with money and know-how. Luxembourg's Foreign Minister Jean Asselborn's proposal to make a clear announcement to those countries that refuse to take in refugees also makes sense: Brussels will give you money, but only if you show solidarity and finally implement the 2015 ***EU decision*** on the distribution of protection seekers.

Regardless of this, Germany should help the island children quickly, which is possible without upsetting its ***European*** neighbours. Berlin could let in children whose relatives already live in Germany. In addition, the German government should change its policy of saying no: When Athens asks to take in refugees, Berlin usually refuses; this is politically short-sighted and contradicts the Seehofer credo of not leaving Greece alone. Finally, the interior minister could help the children from the Aegean in the same way he helps shipwrecked people: Germany joins forces with other willing ***EU states***, each of which takes in some of the children. That would be a good first step, a ***European one***.

**Seehofer can help the children on the Aegean islands without upsetting *EU neighbours***

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject:** GERMAN POLITICAL PARTIES (90%); POLITICAL PARTIES (90%); PUBLIC POLITICS (90%); IMMIGRATION (89%); ***EUROPEAN UNION (89%);*** POLITICS (89%); CHILDREN (76%); ISLANDS & RIFFS (75%)

**Organization: *EUROPEAN UNION*** (91%)

**Person:** HORST SEEHOFER (93%)

**Geographic:** ATHENS, GREECE (79%); BERLIN, GERMANY (73%); BRUSSELS, BELGIUM (58%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (94%); BRUSSELS CAPITAL REGION (79%); ***EUROPE (***94%); GERMANY (90%); GREECE (90%); LUXEMBOURG (79%); HUNGARY (79%).

**Load-Date:** February 5, 2020

**End of Document**

[***One trillion for Europe's green future; A new EUfund to help countries and regions with poor environmental performance meet climate targets***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5XYT-RFH1-DXX2-P1GB-00000-00&context=)

Süddeutsche Zeitung

Monday 13 January 2020

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**Section:** Economy; Munich; Bavaria; Germany; p. 15

**Length:** 767 words

**Byline:** KAROLINE META BEISEL

**Body**

**Brussels** - When Ursula von der Leyen presented her '***European*** Green Deal' in December, she was not at a loss for words: The Green Deal is '***Europe's*** growth strategy', 'a long journey' and 'a generational task': "This is ***Europe's*** man-on-the-moon moment". The CDU politician was less clear when it came to how her trip to the moon would be financed. For even without any additional costs for a Green Deal, the member states have been arguing fiercely for months about the future budget of the ***EU***.

In the coming week, however, the ***EU Commission*** wants to be more concrete and present a plan on where the trillion ***euros*** that the authority wants to mobilise over the next ten years to finance the fight against climate change will come from. The SZ has received a draft of this plan. According to it, just under half of this sum - a total of 485 billion ***euros*** - is to come from the ***EU budget.*** This corresponds to the Commission's proposal to invest a quarter of the future budget in climate protection measures. This sum is to be increased by 115 billion euros through the co-financing of individual projects by the Member States. The ***EU Commission*** did not want to comment on the paper.

According to the draft, private and public donors are to contribute a further ***€280*** billion, and their investment decisions are to be facilitated by the ***EU*** providing guarantees for such projects. However, the third item on the bill is likely to trigger the most discussion: a mechanism to support those regions of ***Europe that are*** still particularly far away from the goal of so-called climate neutrality, or have to overcome greater challenges on the way to this goal than other member states. In December, the ***EU member states*** agreed in principle to achieve a situation in which the proportion of pollutants in the atmosphere does not increase any further by 2050. Poland, however, did not want to commit to this yet. An instrument to finance this transition is intended to change that.

At the heart of this 'Just Transition Mechanism' is a new fund. ***EU countries*** can apply to the Commission for funding from this pot. In addition, there are special investment support programmes and offers from the ***European*** Investment Bank. According to the Commission's draft, however, not only Polish coal regions will be able to benefit from the funds: the fund will "support all member states", the paper says. The concrete allocation will depend, among other things, on "how great the challenges of the changeover are" or which social consequences are to be feared, for example, through the loss of jobs. This means that German coalfields such as Lusatia or the Rhineland would in principle also be eligible for ***EU aid***, but: "In order to ensure that the change is fair and can be borne by all, the allocation of funds will also depend on the extent to which the respective member states themselves are economically able to meet the challenges," the paper states.

According to the Commission draft, in order to hope for money from the Just Transition Fund, interested member states must present concrete plans on how they intend to move closer to the goal of a climate-neutral economy and how the ***EU funds will*** help them to do so. The Commission must confirm the plans. A yet-to-be-created body within the Commission is to help draw up the plans and accompany their implementation.

According to the plans, only the fund itself would be financed from the ***EU budget***, with 7.5 billion ***euros***. However, since this instrument is to be established by law, the member states and the ***EU Parliament*** still have to agree. The Greens in the ***European Parliament*** welcome these plans of the ***EU Commission in*** principle, but demand stricter conditions for the disbursement of the funds: "The fresh money from the ***European*** Commission must be linked to the coal phase-out," says ***MEP*** Michael Bloss. The transition fund must not lead to 'gold-plating of the profit balance of coal companies'.

Whether the Just Transition Fund will come about, as planned by the Commission, however, depends not only on the majorities in Parliament, but on the outcome of the long dispute over money between member states. The proposal will be "part of the discussions on the upcoming budget", the paper says.

**Graphic**

***European*** climate polluter: The world's largest lignite-fired power plant is located near Belchatow in Poland. Photo: Kacper Pempel/Reuters

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject: *EUROPEAN UNION*** (91%); INSTITUTIONS OF THE ***EUROPEAN*** UNION (90%); ECOLOGICAL FUSH PRESSURE (90%); STATE BUDGETS (78%); CLIMATE CHANGE (76%); GERMAN POLITICAL PARTIES (71%); AIR POLLUTANTS (71%); ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION (71%); FOREIGN AID (64%)

**Industry:** BUDGETS (90%); STATE BUDGETS (78%); COAL MINING (65%)

**Person:** URSULA VON DER LEYEN (73%)

**Geographic:** BRUSSELS, BELGIUM (58%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (96%); BRUSSELS CAPITAL REGION (79%); ***EUROPE*** (92%); POLAND (92%)

**Load-Date:** January 13, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Weber shows a clear edge; The European politician is known as a man of moderate tones. At the New Year's reception of the CSU in Bruck, however, he is combative and even appeals for understanding for Donald Trump.***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5XYT-RFH1-DXX2-P11R-00000-00&context=)

Süddeutsche Zeitung

Monday 13 January 2020

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**Section:** Fürstenfeldbruck; Fürstenfeldbruck; p. 5

**Length:** 656 words

**Byline:** BY STEFAN SALGER

**Body**

**Fürstenfeldbruck** - The deputy leader of the CSU, Manfred Weber, advocates a powerful ***Europe*** as well as understanding and peace. In his speech on Sunday afternoon at the New Year's reception of the Bruck local association, the politician, who is considered level-headed, is also clear. The leader of the EPP group in the ***European Parliament*** signalled understanding for US President Donald Trump in the Iran crisis. And in the direction of Great Britain, he said: "Those who turn their backs on the ***EU*** must be prepared to give up advantages they have come to love.

In front of the door of the police college, the 47-year-old is received by high-ranking CSU representatives from the district. Katrin Staffler and the former minister Thomas Goppel present themselves to the photographers and a BR television crew along with state parliament member Benjamin Miskowitsch, Bruck's CSU leader Andreas Lohde and Lord Mayor Erich Raff. One familiar face is missing: District Administrator Thomas Karmasin, who actually wanted to bring a 'New Year's address', is ill.

It is becoming clear that Weber is a bandwagon. And this despite the fact that French President Emmanuel Macron had vetoed the appointment of the top candidate of the ***European*** Christian Democrats as ***EU Commission President***. In a speech at the end of the year, he made it clear that Weber can also show clear edges, in which he settled accounts with Macron for the "low blow to the democratic pit of the stomach".

The defeat has obviously not damaged the former JU chairman in the long term. This was the view of about 200 visitors in the overcrowded baroque hall of the monastery, among them former mayor Sepp Kellerer, city, county and district councillors, representatives of Bruck's advisory councils and representatives from the church and business. With the carnival prince and princess Max II and Sonja I, even blue blood is represented. Before the sextet of the trombone choir of the Church of the Redeemer sings the ***European anthem*** and the buffet is served, Weber's speech is acknowledged with long applause.

The ***European politician*** proves beforehand that he has mastered fishing for compliments. He has long had people on his side when he modestly thanks them 'for letting me come', takes up the cudgels for diesel, speaks out against a ban on holiday flights to Majorca or is uncompromising in the fight against child labour. However, Weber also ventures into mined terrain. For example, when it comes to Trump's policy in the current Middle East crisis. One can think what one wants of the US president. But the Iranian general who was killed was an "architect of the Mullah regime's terror network", which executes people and wages proxy wars in Yemen, for example. Whether this is enough to justify a state-ordered killing, Weber does not address.

All in all, he said, ***Europe was in a*** good position, and in Bavaria, too, one could be quite satisfied - especially because the united ***Europe*** had developed into a 'peace power' since the Second World War. We can be proud of our prosperity, low youth unemployment, medical care, justice and police. At the same time, Weber signalled that one must not rest on one's laurels - one must "tackle, shape and maintain the community" - and stand up to China and the USA, for example, in data protection, industrial promotion and security policy. Weber advocates bilateral trade agreements and the abolition of the unanimity principle in ***EU foreign policy***. He predicts that the UK may yet regret the Brexit: "We are not a forced community. But only members enjoy all the benefits.

As a thank-you for his appearance, the 'fighter for a strong ***Europe***' received an illustrated book about Fürstenfeld Monastery from CSU local leader Lohde.

**The long peace is one of the greatest achievements of the united *Europe.***

**Graphic**

Grand station in front of the Baroque Hall (from left): Deputy District Administrator Martina Drechsler, CSU local leader Andreas Lohde, ex-Minister Thomas Goppel, Manfred Weber, Member of the State Parliament Benjamin Miskowitsch, District Councillor Josef Loy, Bruck's CSU Vice-President Dieter Roiger, Member of the Bundestag Katrin Staffler Photo: Günther Reger

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject:** GERMAN POLITICAL PARTIES (90%); ***EUROPEAN UNION (90%)***; POLITICS (90%); POLITICAL PARTIES (90%); HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT (89%); US PRESIDENTS (89%); MAYORS (78%); GERMAN STATE PARLIAMENTS (78%); LEGISLATIVE BODIES (78%); YOUTH (75%); FRENCH PRESIDENTS (71%); TERRORISM (70%); CITIES (69%); CHILDREN (60%); TERRORIST ORGANISATIONS (60%); CHILD LABOUR (50%); SECOND WORLD WAR (50%).

**Organisation: *EUROPEAN UNION*** (84%); ***EUROPEAN*** PARLIAMENT (58%)

**Person:** DONALD TRUMP (92%)

**Geographic: *EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (92%); BALEARIC ISLANDS (79%); BAVARIA, GERMANY (59%); ***EUROPE (***94%); NORTH AMERICA (92%); FRANCE (79%); YEMEN (79%); MIDDLE EAST (79%); UNITED KINGDOM (73%); CHINA (58%); IRAN (58%).

**Load-Date:** January 13, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Compromise after three years; Protestants and Catholics form new government in Northern Ireland***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5XYT-RFH1-DXX2-P1DT-00000-00&context=)

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Monday 13 January 2020

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**Section:** Politics; Munich; Bavaria; Germany; p. 6

**Length:** 526 words

**Byline:** ALEXANDER MÜHLAUER

**Body**

**London** - Three years after the collapse of Home Rule in Northern Ireland, there is once again a joint government of Protestants and Catholics in Belfast. At an extraordinary session of the regional parliament on Saturday, Arlene Foster of the Protestant-loyalist DUP was appointed head of government of the British province. Her de facto deputy will be Michelle O "Neill of the Catholic Republican Sinn Féin party. We have many differences," Foster said. O "Neill "s view of the past could not be more different from hers, but it was now time to look forward, Foster explained. O "Neill spoke of a "defining moment" for Northern Ireland.

The move was also welcomed in London and Dublin. The Irish Prime Minister Leo Varadkar spoke of a "historic day" for Northern Ireland. He also announced that new elections would soon be held in the Republic of Ireland. British Prime Minister Boris Johnson called the news from Belfast "significant"; the Northern Ireland parties had shown leadership. The DUP and Sinn Féin had agreed on Friday to a compromise proposal worked out by the governments in London and Dublin. According to the compromise, the British province will receive considerable financial support. The exact amount was not made public at first. According to the *Financial Times,* Northern Ireland is to receive 1.5 to two billion pounds from London. The Irish government promised the former civil war region 110 million ***euros*** for infrastructure projects.

If the DUP and Sinn Féin had not reached an agreement by this Monday, there would have been new elections in Northern Ireland. Both parties would have had to reckon with significant losses because, according to polls, the majority of citizens showed no understanding for the continuing rift. Both parties had already lost support in the British general election in December. The main reason was the years of deadlock in Belfast. In January 2017, the regional government burst over a dispute about a renewable energy support programme. There was also a dispute over the Irish Gaelic language, which Sinn Féin wants to promote. Now, commissioners are to ensure bilingual street signs and that Gaelic can be spoken in court, for example.

With the new regional government in Belfast, Northern Ireland can now also speak with one voice in the upcoming Brexit negotiations. The province is to be given special status after the UK leaves the ***EU*** on 31 January. As there are to be no border controls between Northern Ireland, which is part of the United Kingdom, and the Republic of Ireland, the province must continue to abide by certain ***EU rules.*** With the Brexit, tensions between Protestants and Catholics grew recently, which could only be calmed in 1998 in the course of the Good Friday Agreement. For three decades, militant groups on both sides as well as the police and military had fought a civil war with thousands of deaths.

**Graphic**

New elections averted: Northern Ireland's parliament building in Belfast. Photo: AFP

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject:** POLITICS (90%); POLITICAL PARTIES (90%); HEADS OF STATE & GOVERNMENT (90%); PUBLIC POLICY (90%); BREXIT (89%); ***EUROPEAN UNION*** (89%); WAR & WARLIKE CONFLICT (89%); POLLS & SURVEYS (89%); ELECTIONS (89%); VOTERS & ELECTIONS (89%); CIVIL WAR (86%); BRITISH PRIME MINISTERS (78%); BRITISH HOUSE OF COMMONS ELECTIONS (78%); BRITISH PARLIAMENT (78%); LEGISLATIVE BODIES (78%); PRIME MINISTERS (78%); MULTILINGUALISM (74%); STATE BORDERS (72%); COURT CASES (61%); LANGUAGE (61%); ***EU REGULATION (***60%)

**Person:** BORIS JOHNSON (79%)

**Geographic:** BELFAST, NORTHERN IRELAND (94%); DUBLIN, IRELAND (92%); LONDON, ENGLAND (91%); ***EUROPE (***94%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (92%); NORTHERN IRELAND (94%); UNITED KINGDOM (92%).

**Load-Date:** January 13, 2020

**End of Document**

[***New Industrial Policy; The EU wants Europe's better equip Europe's companies for the future***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5Y2T-B5P1-JBF1-00FN-00000-00&context=)

Süddeutsche Zeitung

Monday 27 January 2020

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**Section:** Economy; Munich; Bavaria; Germany; p. 20

**Length:** 875 words

**Byline:** BJÖRN FINKE  
  
bfi

**Body**

**Brussels** - Fewer hurdles in the common internal market, better rules for the use of data, more protection against unfair competition and special support for key industries: With this colourful bouquet of initiatives, the ***EU Commission*** wants to strengthen ***Europe's*** industry. At the beginning of March, the Brussels authority will present its industrial strategy; the *Süddeutsche Zeitung has* already received excerpts of a draft.

It is a commissioned work - the heads of state and government of the member states instructed the Commission last March to develop a plan for more competitiveness. A month earlier, the governments of Germany and France had already spoken out in favour of a new ***EU industrial policy in a*** joint position paper. The ***European Parliament*** also has ambitious demands: "We expect a strategic rearmament of ***Europe,***" says MEP Markus Pieper, who sits on the industry committee for the CDU. A spokesperson for the Commission did not want to comment on the draft.

The paper describes the challenges for the companies: stronger global competition, the digital transformation, climate protection. Among other things, it says, the task of politics is to guarantee "secure access to raw materials" and to affordable green energy. In addition, the ***EU*** needs "technological sovereignty" in key areas such as internet security or 5G mobile technology.

The Commission lists industries and topics that it and the member states should specifically promote because of their overriding importance: for example, the space, defence and pharmaceutical industries or the fields of artificial intelligence and environmentally friendly transport. First and foremost, however, the strategy paper addresses the question of how the location can become more competitive in general.

The authority complains, for example, that despite the ***EU***'s common internal market, companies still face hurdles when doing business abroad in ***Europe*** - especially in the growing services sector. Together with the industrial strategy, the Commission will therefore present an action plan for the internal market. In addition, new ***EU laws are*** needed to respond to digitalisation and make it easier for companies to unearth their data treasures, it says.

The Commission also wants to better protect industry from unfair competition. Commission Vice-President Margrethe Vestager, who is responsible for competition and digital affairs, is examining whether stricter rules are needed for state-owned companies - for example from China - that buy companies in ***Europe*** at inflated prices or can get hold of contracts with cheap bids because they have the financial backing of their government. At the same time, the Commission dislikes the fact that countries like China put ***European*** companies at a disadvantage in tenders. The authority proposes to discriminate against Chinese companies in ***EU tenders in return if the*** practice does not change.

Vestager is also looking at whether competition rules in general need to be updated to reflect developments in global markets and digitalisation. It must be ensured that the rules are "fit for purpose and contribute to a strong ***European*** industry at home and in the world", the strategy paper says. The German and French governments in particular will be eagerly awaiting the results. A year ago, Vestager banned the merger of the rail divisions of Siemens and Alstom because the combined entity would have been too powerful. The two governments complained that the Commission did not sufficiently take into account competition from Chinese rivals.

Berlin and Paris campaigned to simplify the formation of ***European champions.*** In an interview with the SZ, however, Vestager stressed that the Commission had already approved a whole series of mergers that had led to ***European*** champions. But in these cases, the takeovers had not limited the choice for customers too much - unlike in the case of Alstom/Siemens. As long as there is enough competition and "you are still challenged, you can be a ***European*** champion and a global champion", Vestager said.

**The pharmaceutical, armaments and aerospace sectors deserve special promotion**

**Money summit**

The ***EU*** heads of state and government will meet for a special summit in Brussels on 20 February. There they are to negotiate the ***EU financial framework for the*** seven years from 2021 to 2027. Council President Charles Michel invited the leaders by letter at the weekend. In it, he writes that it is now time to reach an agreement. However, he was fully aware that these negotiations would be very difficult. The next regular meeting of the heads of state and government is not scheduled until the end of March. The talks on the seven-year budget are even more arduous than usual because with the UK, an important contributor is no longer involved. The positions are far apart. Germany is one of the states that insist on austerity. Moreover, the German government wants its contribution rebate to be extended.

**Classification**

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**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject: *EUROPEAN UNION*** (91%); POLITICS (90%); TENDERING (89%); ***EU REGULATION (89%);*** PUBLIC POLICY (89%); GERMAN POLITICAL PARTIES (78%); LEGISLATIVE BODIES (78%); POLITICAL PARTIES (78%); ***EUROPEAN*** UNION INSTITUTIONS (77%); STATE-OWNED ENTERPRISES (77%); ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION (77%); ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION MOVEMENT (77%); HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT (75%); DISCRIMINATION (72%); ***EUROPEAN LAW (72%);*** CORPORATE MERGERS (63%)

**Company:** SIEMENS AG (50%)

**Organization: *EUROPEAN*** PARLIAMENT (56%)

**Ticker:** SIN (SWX) (50%); SIE (FRA) (50%); SIE (BIT) (50%)

**Industry:** NAICS335110 ELECTRIC LAMP BULB & PART MANUFACTURING (50%); NAICS334513 INSTRUMENTS & RELATED PRODS MFG FOR MEASURING, DISPLAYING & CONTROLLING IND PROCESS VARIABLES (50%); NAICS334413 SEMICONDUCTOR & RELATED DEVICE MANUFACTURING (50%); NAICS334210 TELEPHONE APPARATUS MANUFACTURING (50%); 5G (76%); PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY (72%); MOBILE COMMUNICATIONS (70%); INTERNET & WWW (66%)

**Geographic:** BRUSSELS, BELGIUM (73%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (94%); BRUSSELS CAPITAL REGION (92%); ***EUROPE*** (95%); CHINA (92%); FRANCE (92%); GERMANY (79%); EAST ASIA (79%).

**Load-Date:** January 27, 2020

**End of Document**

[***'We are back on the stage'; The EUforeign affairs commissioner Borrell demands, Europe Europe should exert more geopolitical influence and stand up to the USA.***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5Y2V-T921-JBF1-015H-00000-00&context=)

Süddeutsche Zeitung

Monday 27 January 2020

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**Section:** Politics; Munich; p. 7

**Length:** 712 words

**Byline:** MATTHIAS KOLB

**Body**

**Brussels - The** ceasefire in Libya is 'hanging by a thread', according to ***EU foreign affairs envoy*** Josep Borrell. He hopes that the representatives of the internationally recognised government and General Khalifa Haftar will soon meet for the '5 plus 5' talks on a political solution that were supposed to have taken place last week. In an interview with the *Süddeutsche Zeitung,* Borrell nevertheless sees the Libya conference in Berlin as a great success for the ***EU***: We are back on the stage and ready to fill the power vacuum.

In Berlin, the participants adopted 55 "conclusions" to give the civil war country a perspective for peace. The 72-year-old sometimes expresses himself completely undiplomatically, saying things like "Libya is a cancer whose metastases permeate the entire region". For him, it is clear that the ***Europeans*** must be more united and do more in their immediate neighbourhood: "The phrase 'we are concerned' is used far too often in Brussels. In the case of Libya, however, it is appropriate.'

Since the ***EU naval mission*** Sophia was suspended in March 2019 due to pressure from Italy, Russia and Turkey could have emerged in Libya and gained influence. The ***EU foreign ministers*** have instructed Borrell to work out concrete proposals with the relevant bodies on how to monitor a ceasefire and stop the smuggling of weapons, oil and people. Time is pressing and a political commitment is needed. I hope that Operation Sophia will be reactivated in mid-February," said Borrell, referring to the next meeting of foreign ministers. However, this requires an agreement on how the migrants rescued on the high seas are to be distributed - and so far those ***EU states that*** refuse to accept them hardly seem ready for a course correction.

Borrell is expected to discuss how to convince the sceptics with Federal Foreign Minister Heiko Maas in Berlin on Monday. Another topic will be the nuclear agreement with Iran. The ***EU*** is the guarantor power here, which is why Borrell is in constant contact with Iran, Russia, China and the E-3, i.e. France, Germany and Great Britain. All contracting parties want to preserve the agreement," he emphasises. The fact that the E-3 have recently used the dispute settlement mechanism is not an escalation. The agreement states that the parties are to seek a solution in 15 days, but Borrell does not feel time pressure: "Everyone has agreed that we will not set an artificial deadline. In order to save the deal after Washington's withdrawal, the ***Europeans*** as well as Russia and China would have to keep their part of the bargain and provide Iran with the economic benefits promised in return for giving up uranium enrichment. Borrell does not reveal how this can be done, but for him the deal shows a weakness of the ***EU***: "The third-party effect of the US sanctions narrows our room for manoeuvre. We have to fight to achieve economic strategic sovereignty.' Experts agree: Making better use of the strength of the ***euro*** would help ***Europe to*** have more influence geopolitically.

The Social Democrat spent the first weeks of 2020 in permanent crisis management mode, but now he hopes to soon set other priorities. Venezuela's self-proclaimed president Juan Guaidó has just visited Brussels and the situation there is of great concern to Borrell. There is almost no communication between Guaidó and Nicolás Maduro, which is why new approaches are needed: Perhaps we need to organise a conference for Venezuela, as we have just done for Libya.

Very soon, Borrell wants to embark on a trip he announced in the ***EU Parliament***: he wants to visit Kosovo as soon as possible. This is to refute the accusation that as Spain's ex-Foreign Minister he cannot mediate in the Western Balkans because Madrid, unlike 23 ***EU states, does*** not recognise Kosovo's independence. His message to Serbia and Kosovo, which are embroiled in a bitter customs war, is: "You have a ***European*** perspective, but you have to resolve your conflicts first.

**Graphic**

Wants to avoid empty phrases: the new ***EU chief diplomat*** Josep Borrell. Photo: AP

**Classification**

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**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

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**Organization: *EUROPEAN UNION*** (84%)

**Industry:** MARINE (78%); ***EURO*** (50%)

**Geographic:** BERLIN, GERMANY (88%); BRUSSELS, BELGIUM (73%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (95%); BRUSSELS CAPITAL REGION (92%); LIBYA (94%); ***EUROPE (***93%); IRAN (88%); RUSSIAN FEDERATION (88%); FRANCE (79%); BELGIUM (78%); ITALY (78%); UNITED KINGDOM (78%); CHINA (73%); GERMANY (59%).

**Load-Date:** January 27, 2020

**End of Document**

[***EUCommission wants to strengthen industry***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5Y2T-B5P1-JBF1-009P-00000-00&context=)

Süddeutsche Zeitung

Monday 27 January 2020

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**Section:** Politics; Bavaria; Germany; p. 1

**Length:** 79 words

**Byline:** SZ

**Body**

**Brussels -** The ***EU Commission*** wants to strengthen ***Europe's*** industry, make it more competitive and better protect it from unfair competition. This emerges from a draft strategy paper, which is available to the *Süddeutsche Zeitung.* Special support is to be given to key sectors such as the space, defence and pharmaceutical industries and the fields of artificial intelligence and environmentally friendly transport.

**Economy**

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject: *EUROPEAN UNION*** (90%)

**Industry:** PHARMACEUTICALS (85%)

**Geographic:** BRUSSELS, BELGIUM (58%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (90%); BRUSSELS CAPITAL REGION (79%); ***EUROPE (***79%)

**Load-Date:** January 27, 2020

**End of Document**

[***INLAND; Cross of Merit for Draghi?***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5Y2T-B5P1-JBF1-00C0-00000-00&context=)

Süddeutsche Zeitung

Monday 27 January 2020

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**Section:** Politics; Munich; Bavaria; Germany; p. 6

**Length:** 180 words

**Byline:** DPA

**Body**

**Berlin** - The CSU has criticised the planned award of the Federal Cross of Merit to former ECB President Mario Draghi. Why Mr Draghi should receive the Federal Cross of Merit is a mystery. What is Mr Draghi's merit for our country?', Secretary General Markus Blume told *Bild am Sonntag*. Draghi had undoubtedly rendered outstanding services to ***Europe*** and the stabilisation of the ***Eurozone,*** but the price that German savers had to pay for this policy was great, he said. Federal President Frank-Walter Steinmeier plans to present Draghi with the Order of Merit on 31 January at Bellevue Palace in Berlin. Germany awards the Order of Merit to domestic and foreign citizens for political, economic-social or intellectual achievements. The Italian Draghi was head of the ***European*** Central Bank in Frankfurt am Main for eight years. With the banking crisis coming to a head in 2008, he pursued a low interest rate policy that continues to this day, and the ECB drastically increased the money supply.

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject:** CENTRAL BANKS (91%); ***EUROPEAN UNION (***90%); POLITICAL PARTIES (90%); HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT (90%); PUBLIC POLICY (90%); GERMAN POLITICAL PARTIES (78%); MONETARY UNIONS (76%); LEADERS (72%); ***EUROZONE (***71%); BANK FAILURES (68%); MONEY SUPPLY (68%); ECONOMIC CRISIS (68%).

**Organization: *EUROPEAN UNION*** (55%)

**Industry:** CENTRAL BANKS (91%); CURRENCY UNIONS (76%); ***EUROZONE*** (71%); BANKING AND FINANCIAL OVERVIEW (68%); BANK LEADERSHIPS (68%); MONEY QUANTITY (68%)

**Person:** MARIO DRAGHI (92%); FRANK-WALTER STEINMEIER (79%)

**Geographic:** BERLIN, GERMANY (73%); FRANKFURT, GERMANY (73%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (92%); ***EUROPE*** (91%); GERMANY (59%)

**Load-Date:** January 27, 2020

**End of Document**

[***AKK vs. Merkel Bitter power struggle; Kramp-Karrenbauer quits as CDU leader, makes serious accusations against the chancellor Who now has the best chances as chancellor candidate; No chancellor candidacy! Withdrawal as CDU leader! Kramp-Karrenbauer quits!; AKK knocked out at 9.15 a.m.***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5Y61-1B71-DY2B-S2ND-00000-00&context=)

Bild

Tuesday 11 February 2020

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**Section:** TITLE PAGE; p. 1; issue 35

**Length:** 2677 words

**Byline:** L. Esslinger  
  
M. Hollstein  
  
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P. Poensgen  
  
P. Ronzheimer  
  
R. Schuler  
  
P. Tiede  
  
H.-j. Vehlewald  
  
C. Voigt  
  
P. Volkmann-schluck

**Body**

Berlin - Saturday evening at the Konrad Adenauer House. Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer's (57, AKK for short) closest confidants whisper to each other at CDU headquarters: "She wants to quit." It will be the best-kept secret in Berlin over the weekend.

Then, on Monday morning, the drumbeat: AKK renounces her candidacy for chancellor and wants to withdraw from the CDU leadership. The trench warfare in the party, the Thuringia debacle - AKK can no longer do it.

BILD documents the moments around the AKKK. o.!

On Sunday, the CDU leader had gone into hiding, unavailable even to CSU leader Markus Söder (53). "This will not heal," predicts a CDU federal vice-president and state premier.

In the evening, however, AKK receives her deputies for dinner. Italian cuisine in the Adenauer House, chicken is served. She senses the frustration of her deputies and decides to keep quiet about her secret decision.

On Monday morning, AKK inaugurates her closest confidants by text message. Even Angela Merkel (65) is surprised by AKK. Shortly before eight AKK calls the Chancellor. Then NRW Minister President Armin Laschet (58) and CSU leader Markus Söder (53), both of whom are considered potential candidates for chancellor alongside Friedrich Merz (64).

The party presidium does not find out until shortly after nine in the Konrad Adenauer House. AKK says at 9.15 a.m.: "The decision has been maturing in me for some time." The reaction: shock. Long silence. And the question: What now?

YOUR General Secretary Paul Ziemiak (34) is the first to find words: "The party is in a serious situation", it is important to keep the CDU together.

Then Merkel speaks. She thanks AKK - and admits: The separation of the party chairmanship and the chancellorship, which she had forced upon her, had been difficult. But this insight comes far too late. All that remains is for AKK to outline the roadmap for her departure as party leader: No chancellor candidacy. The CDU chairmanship only on a temporary basis. Until the CDU/CSU has decided who its top candidate should be. Then she wants to hand over the helm. For good. When will that be? She herself is no longer in charge.

The news leaks out immediately, and at 9.25 a.m. the first breaking news comes in. Then the CDU federal executive committee meets. Even party veteran Elmar Brok (77) hurries over: "I'm just sick.

The same is true of Senior Citizens' Union leader Otto Wulff (87), who shouts at Thuringia's slumped-over state leader Mike Mohring (48).

AKK speaks calmly but with a brittle voice, Merkel with a petrified expression. "She's not so easy to draw out," say board members. Not even on this day! Wolfgang Schäuble (77), the old CDU/CSU driver, whom nothing can shake since the donations affair, says clearly: "If we carry on like this, none of us will become chancellor.

A contentious issue: how to deal with the AfD and the Left Party. The right-wing conservative Values Union in the CDU, which does not rule out cooperation with the AfD, was sharply attacked. Union faction leader Ralph Brinkhaus (51) said to applause in the direction of the Values Union: "You don't belong to us.

Migration Commissioner Annette Widmann-Mauz (53) compares the Union of Values to a "cancer" - and immediately apologises for the term.

General Ziemiak takes on Schleswig Holstein's Minister-President Daniel Günther (46), who had declared the possibility of the CDU tolerating governments with the participation of the Left Party. Ziemiak: the CDU must be a "bulwark against the left and the right".

Open wing warfare in the CDU!

One person was missing in Berlin yesterday: Armin Laschet, the strong man from North Rhine-Westphalia, whose state association provides so many delegates at party conventions that he can almost single-handedly decide on the chancellor candidacy. Just coincidence?

The alleged reason for his absence: storm "Sabine". For months he had no longer been a support for AKK. "A situation like the one in Thuringia should never have happened," he had excoriated AKK's failed crisis management from Düsseldorf. Now he is considered a favourite to succeed Merkel and Kramp-Karrenbauer.

While AKK postpones her public statement announced for 1.15 p.m., "Phoenix" broadcasts an interview with Wolfgang Schäuble, who wanted to see Friedrich Merz at the head of the CDU from the very beginning. He names the central mistake of AKK AND Chancellor Merkel in the Thuringia crisis: "One must also pay attention in Ber lin: Members of parliament are bound by their conscience, they are not bound by instructions. That's why no one in Berlin can decide how MPs in the Thuringian state parliament should behave.

AKK had arrogated this to herself - and Merkel even more so. First AKK had rushed to Erfurt to push through new elections - without success. Then Merkel intervened and personally phoned Bodo Ramelow (63, Left Party), promising him support in the presence of AKK.

AKK was passive, Merkel suddenly party leader again. An affront, an unbearable loss of face. And for AKK a clear sign: The chancellor is ignoring her. Cold as ice.

At 2.15 p.m. yesterday, AKK made her appearance at the CDU headquarters. Sovereign, without sensitivities, short, concise, clear, she states what is obvious: it did not work with her and Merkel as dual leadership. "The separation of chancellorship and party chairmanship, the open question of the chancellor candidacy weakens the CDU in a phase in which politics in Germany depends on a strong CDU."

She already sounds like former CDU Secretary General and Defence Minister Volker Rühe (77), who had already said in the morning: "We must not forget who brought Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer into the office of party leader, who proposed her for it. We must immediately overcome the dualism of party chair and chancellor." But it doesn't look like that will happen (yet).

At 5.06 p.m. Armin Laschet in Aachen, 470 kilometres away as the crow flies, declares in a statesmanlike manner that NRW will "make its contribution" to the cohesion of the CDU. That can mean many things. It could also mean that he now wants to consult with Friedrich Merz from Sauerland. He only tweeted: "The decision deserves respect.

The K-question in the BILD check

Who will now be the Union's candidate for chancellor?

Berlin - The race is on! The CDU/CSU has been looking for a candidate for chancellor since yesterday.

A snap survey (around 110,000 participants) shows: BILD readers have a clear opinion! Friedrich Merz is far ahead with 68%, followed by CSU leader Markus Söder (18%) and Armin Laschet (11%).

BILD shows the most important candidates now being traded by the CDU and CSU. And explains what speaks for and against the politicians.

FRIEDRICH MERZ (64, CDU)

The former leader of the CDU/CSU parliamentary group is the darling of the party base and the king of the polls. Scores points above all in the east, in BaWü, with the business wing and the conservatives. He stands for a clear break with the Merkel era, economic competence and clear words. And: he wants to do it again.

The private pilot with millions in assets is regarded by some in the party as aloof. Because of his old age and his temporary withdrawal from politics, left-wing Union circles have doubts about him. He seemed hapless after his defeat by AKK in 2018.

ARMIN LASCHET (58, CDU)

Has proven himself as head of government and CDU in powerful NRW. Laschet offers natural authority, but can also be folksy (carnival). And: the Rhinelander has a feel for moods in his party and could form a leadership duo with Friedrich Merz.

Laschet supported Chancellor Merkel for a long time, defended her refugee policy. If he goes, there will need to be a strong successor in NRW. A deal with Spahn (Laschet gets Berlin, Spahn gets NRW) is out of the question because the new minister-president would also have to be a member of the state parliament in Düsseldorf.

MARKUS SÖDER (53, CSU)

Bavaria's prime minister and CSU leader is known for a clear edge and at the same time has green moments. As the father of the state, Söder is doing well in the polls. He doesn't impose himself, says modestly: "My place is in Bavaria." Could profit from the CDU chaos.

Söder's turn towards Green policies (wind turbines, nature conservation in the Basic Law) goes down well with the mainstream, but many CDU members take a critical view. Then there is the Bavarian problem: no CSU candidate has ever made it into the chancellorship (Strauß 1980, Stoiber 2002).

URSULA VON DER LEYEN (61, CDU)

The first woman to lead the ***EU Commission*** as President offers experience and the political glamour of a top international post. In her Berlin cabinet days, she was an all-purpose weapon in the CDU, serving as Minister for Labour, Family and Defence.

By oath of office, von der Leyen has sworn "full independence" for her ***EU job.*** This is NOT compatible with national ambitions for state office. One thing is certain: von der Leyen would not resign from her ***EU post.*** Moreover, her withdrawal would be a devastating signal for a divided ***Europe***.

JENS SPAHN (39, CDU)

The Health Minister has scored points with his criticism of Chancellor Merkel in refugee and security policy. Is sovereign in the Corona crisis, shines with many initiatives (e.g. compulsory measles vaccination). Good relationship with Söder, his relationship with Laschet is better than rumoured. He would stand for a clear generation change.

In his candidacy for the CDU presidency, Spahn had no chance and was eliminated in the first round of voting. One reason: although Spahn has loyal supporters, he finds it difficult to reach the broad base of the CDU. For many members, Spahn still seems too young, too ambitious, too dogged.

The MERKEL dawn

The failure of AKK is the failure of the chancellor

Berlin - Mission thoroughly failed!

"Bring together. And lead together" was the motto of the 2018 Hamburg party conference, where Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer (57) was elected as the new CDU leader after 18 years of Angela Merkel (65).

It was Merkel's motto, as she herself revealed in her farewell speech. Her last as CDU chairwoman.

Her successor, Kramp-Karrenbauer, failed miserably at both: she neither succeeded in uniting the party nor in leading the party, the country and the Grand Coalition alongside Chancellor Angela Merkel.

It was Merkel's spontaneous idea to resign as CDU election leader after the disastrous Hesse elections in 2018, contrary to her own convictions, and to separate the office of chancellor from the party chair. AKK is now paying the bill.

Two women on call!

"What we are experiencing here is the legacy, is the legacy of Angela Merkel's chancellorship and party chairmanship. Kramp-Karrenbauer has not managed to get a grip on these problems," says historian Andreas Rödder (52, CDU). Merkel "leaves behind a divided CDU".

The supposed modernisation of the Union is becoming a legacy. There is even talk of excluding the conservative Union of Values.

Yesterday, the Merkel/AKK leadership duo also officially failed miserably. First Merkel struggled with the reassessment of her migration policy in AKK's "workshop talk", then the two leaders suffered bitter defeats in ***European*** and East German elections and even argued about a joint flight to the USA.

Even before the Thuringia crisis, the realisation grew in the Chancellor's Office: AKKann es nicht!

From Africa, Merkel intervenes in the Erfurt scandal ("an unforgivable act that must be reversed") and puts her foot down, which AKK has not found. It is a power word that is tearing the CDU apart: can an election be "undone"?

The result of the bitter power struggle: a political shambles!

Even Bundestag President Wolfgang Schäuble (77, CDU) makes it clear: "The way the election of a state premier, i.e. a constitutional body, was handled, that is not appropriate!" No one in Berlin could "decide how members of the Thuringian parliament should behave".

After Kramp-Karrenbauer's withdrawal, the Chancellor is now alone in her final months. A solo in injury time! But Merkel can no longer win.

It has made the AfD a competitor for the Union on the right-wing fringe.

The CDU's programmatic shift to the left is rejected above all in the Eastern Union, but also in conservative circles in the West.

The candidacy for chancellor has still not been decided. There is no clear favourite for the future top job.

In foreign policy, Germany is a powerless moral preacher. The Chancellor hosts a major Libya conference in Berlin. The ceasefire barely lasts a week. Kramp-Karrenbauer proposes a peace zone in northern Syria, but can neither provide her own troops nor win over allies.

The CDU/CSU must now look for a new leader AND a top candidate, but wants to take its time until autumn. The result: a continuous loop of personnel debates.

In the GroKo, the small CSU has become the biggest anchor of stability, while now the SPD and the CDU/CSU are on the road with weak dual leaderships.

At the end of the Merkel era, gloom descends on the future of the Union.

"The situation is not serious," says one of the CDU executive after the meeting. "It is hopeless."

Can Merkel's GroKo hold on until autumn 2021?

Berlin - First the SPD, now the CDU - the GroKo parties are wearing out their bosses!

Now CDU leader Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer (57) has been hit. And everyone is asking: How long can the GroKo hold out? Can the alliance still get through the last 18 months until the next election in autumn 2021?

"The GroKo is finished," says Dietmar Bartsch (61), leader of the Left parliamentary group. "The CDU is not fit to govern at the moment. The country cannot afford "a one-and-a-half-year stalemate".

SPD leader Norbert Walter-Borjans (67) also considers the CDU/CSU to be "recognisably lacking leadership", but does not currently see any danger for the Grand Coalition: "The coalition is working". The outgoing CDU leader herself also sees "no impact on the stability of the grand coalition". According to AKK, her resignation has "not changed the situation".

Former Vice-Chancellor and ex-SPD leader Sigmar Gabriel (60) counters! "We are witnessing the end of the second big people's party in Germany: after the SPD, the CDU is also no longer managing to keep the tension within its party. The wings are drifting too far apart," Gabriel told BILD.

The government was "paralysed for the second time in a short time after the SPD candidate contest. I suspect it won't be long before there are new elections".

THURINGIA CDU and FDP do not want to vote for Ramelow

Erfurt - Even after the resignation of FDP man Thomas Kemmerich (54), the theatre surrounding the election of Thuringia's Minister President remains a tragedy.

Former head of government Bodo Ramelow (63, Left Party) is against the new election demanded by the Berlin coalition committee. He warned of a "catastrophic state" and "months of standstill" in the country. Ramelow wants to be re-elected prime minister. This would be possible at the end of February at the earliest.

BUT: Red-Red-Green is four votes short of a majority. These should be guaranteed by the CDU or FDP for the first ballot. Only then would it be guaranteed that Ramelow would not be returned to office by the votes of the AfD.

CDU Secretary General Raymond Walk (57) told BILD, however, that there would be NO votes from his faction for Ramelow. It is not helpful to constantly make new demands. The FDP has also already waved off the idea. Robert-Martin Montag (40), parliamentary director, told BILD: "For us it is clear that we will not vote for Ramelow. There are too many differences. We can't be expected to do that."

FDP leader Christian Lindner (41) and Hesse's Prime Minister Volker Bouffier (68) are campaigning for an independent expert whom the CDU and FDP agree to as interim Prime Minister.

And Thuringia's still-CDU leader Mike Mohring (48)? Yesterday he proposed a grassroots conference at which every member of the state party could voice his or her opinion.

**Graphic**

Dismantled: Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer (l.) and Angela Merkel yesterday at the Konrad Adenauer House in Berlin

Photo: JENS JESKE

STRASBOURG As FDP man Kemmerich is elected Minister-President of Thuringia on Wednesday, AKK sits in the ***EU Parliament***

ERFURT AKK leaves the meeting of the CDU parliamentary group on Thursday night without having prevailed

BERLIN Saturday, arrival at the Chancellery. AKK was only an extra in the GroKo committee

Possible candidates for chancellor: CSU leader Markus Söder (l.) and Health Minister Jens Spahn in a dinner jacket at the CSU ball in Nuremberg at the weekend.

Resigned: AKK with the Chairperson's Bell in the CDU Federal Executive Committee

Ginger tea with fresh mint (to help detoxify): Chancellor Angela Merkel (65) yesterday at the beginning of the CDU presidium meeting.

Party conference in Hamburg at the end of 2018: The new CDU leader Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer (57, l.) and Chancellor Angela Merkel (65). They are beaming, but not for long

Thuringia's CDU leader Mike Mohring (48)

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**Organization: *EUROPEAN*** PARLIAMENT (59%)

**Industry:** SENDING SMS MESSAGES (67%)

**Person:** ANGELA MERKEL (94%); ANNEGRET KRAMP-KARRENBAUER (93%); WOLFGANG SCHÄUBLE (79%)

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[***GREECE; repression does not help***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5Y68-B731-JBF1-03BJ-00000-00&context=)

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**Body**

Climate researchers speak of 'tipping points' when they describe dangerous developments that can be suppressed for a while, but can suddenly throw an entire system out of balance - and can no longer be slowed down in their progress. In Greece's political climate, such a tipping point has now been reached.

The situation on Lesbos escalated last week. Police used tear gas against migrants who had taken to the streets from a hopelessly overcrowded camp to protest against their inhumane accommodation. Later, locals demonstrated against the fact that their island is being used as an open-air prison on the edge of ***Europe.*** According to reports, the protests were infiltrated by right-wing extremists.

The humanitarian crisis is turning into a domestic crisis for the conservative government. Its announcement to expropriate land for the construction of new, closed camps in exchange for compensation, if necessary, is unlikely to defuse the situation. However, the escalation on Lesbos has also reached a tipping point for ***Europe***: once again, it becomes clear that the strategy of pushing the plight of refugees from neighbouring regions of the world to the periphery of the ***EU,*** and thus to the fringes of public perception, only ever works for a limited time.

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