

**Date and Time:** Tuesday 19 January 2021 15:21:00 CET

**Job Number:** 134400270

**Documents (69)**

1. [*von der Leyen takes risks;Shortly before the vote on the Commission leadership, the Defence Minister announces her resignation in Berlin. She promises the MEPs in Strasbourg more power*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:5WK6-W421-JBF1-040F-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

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2nd [*Moldovan turning point; Europe's poorest country dares a political experiment: a coalition of pro-European and pro-Russian politicians declares war on the oligarchs. The prime minister wants to "clean up" state institutions.*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:5WK6-W421-JBF1-041Y-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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3. '[*Core values' of the candidate;Ursula von der Leyen explains her government programme as EU Commission President in two letters. On the day before the vote she promises more climate protection and more parliamentary rights*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:5WK6-W421-JBF1-041C-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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4 [*Von der Leyen goes for full risk;Shortly before the vote on the Commission leadership, the Defence Minister announces her resignation in Berlin. She promises the MEPs in Strasbourg more power*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:5WK6-W421-JBF1-040G-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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5 [*A Dutchman for the Monetary Fund;Former Finance Minister Jeroen Dijsselbloem is gaining ground as a possible successor to Christine Lagarde. Emerging countries rebuffed with demand for own candidate*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:5WK6-W421-JBF1-0442-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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6 [*Dijsselbloem to become IMF chief;Former Eurogroup chief could replace Christine Lagarde*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:5WK6-W421-JBF1-040R-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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7. [*VON DER LEYENS RESIGNATION;Not courageous, only logical*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:5WK6-W421-JBF1-0471-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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8. [*car toll again in court;Green Party MP Kühn wants to take legal action to force Transport Minister Scheuer to disclose the contracts*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:5WK6-W421-JBF1-041F-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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9. [*on her own;Since Captain Racketeforcedthe entry into the port of Lampedusa, Sea-Watch has been met with praise, criticism - and a lot of hate. What happens next?*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:5WK6-W421-JBF1-040Y-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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10 '[*Sophia' back in the conversation*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:5WK6-W421-JBF1-0426-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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11 [*FOREIGN;Ministers discuss rescue*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:5WK6-W421-JBF1-0427-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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12th [*mission of no return;Ursula von der Leyen is giving up her post as Defence Minister. Now the question arises as to who could succeed her in Berlin*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:5WK6-W421-JBF1-041G-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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13. [*FOREIGN;Pressure on Turkey*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:5WK6-W421-JBF1-0475-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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14. [*FOREIGN COUNTRY;Netherlands to help USA*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:5WK6-W421-JBF1-0424-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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15. [*logbook of failure;Sicilian author Davide Enia on the island of Lampedusa*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:5WK6-W421-JBF1-043F-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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16. [*europe's central bank;warning shot*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:5WPD-DF31-DXX2-P4WT-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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17 [*Karlsruhe allows banking union; critics fail with lawsuit against European supervision*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:5WPD-DF31-DXX2-P4W2-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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18 [*European Banking Union is legal*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:5WPD-J7M1-JBK9-20KC-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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19 "[*Still acceptable"; How far may the ECB go in controlling German banks?The Federal Constitutional Court has nowdrawnaline - and sent a fundamental warning behind it*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:5WPD-DF31-DXX2-P50N-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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20 [*COMMENT;Bitter truth*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:5WPD-J7M1-JBK9-20KF-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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21. [*touring Europe;Von der Leyen recruits staff for the EU Commission*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:5WPD-DF31-DXX2-P4XD-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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22 [*France grows more slowly; Paris reports a plus of only 0.2 per cent*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:5WPD-DF31-DXX2-P51D-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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23. [*in the chicken coop*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:5WPD-DF31-DXX2-P53S-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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24 [*Much criticism of the ECJ*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:5WPD-DF31-DXX2-P53V-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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25. [*it is slowly dawning;Actually, Boris Johnson's intention on his tour was to allay the fears of a hard Brexit among the British and instead to awaken the anticipation of new marketsand new opportunities. But the Scots and the Welsh were mostly unimpressed*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:5WPD-DF31-DXX2-P4XR-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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26. [*the Eritrean (40) was on the run from the Swiss police In Zurich he had threatened a woman with a knifeAt the German border no one checked him;The truth about the child murderer from track 7;ONLY AT THREE BORDER CROSSINGS ARE STRICTLY CONTROLLED*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:5WPD-J7M1-JBK9-20JY-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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[*The BoJo effect hits the pound; the exchange rate of the British currency falls. This may be good for tourists, but it is threatening for the country.*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:5WPD-DF31-DXX2-P51F-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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28. [*FOREIGN;Prison sentences in Russia*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:5WPD-DF31-DXX2-P4XY-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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29th [*savings bank boss settles accounts with zero interest rate Draghi*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:5WTM-41G1-JBK9-22BK-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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30. [*250 years ago today, France's tallest (1.69 m) general was born;WHY IT IS WRONG TO HONOUR NAPOLEON!*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:5WTM-41G1-JBK9-22CR-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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31st [*DEFENCE ACT;Chancellor breaks away from Nato pledge*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:5WTM-41G1-JBK9-22BR-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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32 [*COMMENT;A resounding slap in the face!*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:5WTM-41G1-JBK9-22BT-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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33 [*Little Britain;Hundreds of thousands of English people live in Spain, watch the BBC, eat fish "n" chips and live very well in and from the EU.Nevertheless, many ofvotedBrexit What Boris Johnson is doing now, however, makes them nervous*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:5WXT-HVV1-DXX2-P0Y5-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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34. '[*Really excellent'; EU hopes for much better cooperation with Rome*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:5WXT-HVV1-DXX2-P0Y4-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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35. [*quite a few confidants;With the appointment of some posts, the new Ukrainian president raises eyebrows*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:5WXT-HVV1-DXX2-P103-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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36. [*PARLIAMENTARISM;In the name of the people*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:5WXT-HVV1-DXX2-P0YJ-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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37 [*Conte wants to quickly appoint ministers; Italy's prime minister wants to overcome 'political instability'.*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:5WXT-HVV1-DXX2-P0XR-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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38th [*storm of protest against Johnson;The British Prime Minister's plan to close Parliament for five weeks meets with widespread rejection. Tories resign, MPs want to legislate to fight back, activists sue*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:5WXT-HVV1-DXX2-P0XP-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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39. [*comment;Nothing learned*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:5WXT-P0K1-DY2B-S05J-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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40th [*EU COMMISSION;What Europe is all about*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:5X21-3PY1-DXX2-P10T-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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41. BRIEFLY [*REPORTED;Cultureless EU Commission*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:5X21-3PY1-DXX2-P143-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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42. [*Orbán's candidate could fail;Many MEPs reject ex-minister as commissioner*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:5X21-3PY1-DXX2-P120-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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43 "[*The ECB catches many on the wrong foot";He really did it: Mario Draghitightened the punitive interest rates againshortly before his departure as ECB president Some economists welcome this step, others criticise it strongly - even the head of the Bundesbank intervenes.*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:5X21-3PY1-DXX2-P15J-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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44. [*one in four are allowed in;Berlin wants to take in 25 per cent of the refugees who reach Italy by sea*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:5X21-3PY1-DXX2-P11D-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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45 There [*are limits to overtime;Many employees work more than is stipulated in their employment contract or collective agreement - and they do not always do so voluntarily. However, labour law has rules for this*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:5X21-3PY1-DXX2-P15S-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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46. [*the ECB chief has been draining our accounts for years!;Germany's top banker settles accounts with Count Draghila*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:5X21-7DM1-JBK9-245Y-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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47. [*WEEKLY CHRONICLE FROM 7 TO 13 SEPTEMBER*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:5X21-3PY1-DXX2-P11J-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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48. [*so many refugees come across the Mediterranean;... AND SO MANY END UP WITH US!*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:5X21-7DM1-JBK9-245N-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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49: [*Doom before our eyes; Angela Merkel wants a conference on Libya - the country should not end up like Syria.*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:5X21-3PY1-DXX2-P11W-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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50th [*strong man - and now?;Prime Minister Boris Johnson is on the defensive in the Brexit dispute, beset by parliament and judges. Some already see this as a template for how populists can be tamed*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:5X21-3PY1-DXX2-P0YR-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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51. [*without\_title*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:5X21-3PY1-DXX2-P13B-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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52. [*last crime episode;Investigations against Czech Prime Minister Babiš have been discontinued*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:5X21-3PY1-DXX2-P11X-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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53 [*Seehofer wants to relieve Italy;Berlin wants to take in every fourth refugee who arrives there*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:5X21-3PY1-DXX2-P10C-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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54 [*Brussels balancing act; hearings of the designated EU commissioners show whether Ursula von der Leyencanbalance conflicting interests*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:5X5D-MMN1-DXX2-P2VK-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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| News | Fonti: Süddeutsche Zeitung,BILD Bund; Sequenza temporale: set 30, 2019 Fino a set 30, 2019 |

55th [*Triumph for Kurz;KURZ'S TRIUMPH ...;... impresses Europe's conservatives ... disenchants right-wing populists ...and puts Germany under pressure in the chancellor question;Is black-green now coming to Austria?*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:5X5D-SBJ1-JBK9-20MX-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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56th [*Refugees, Immigrants, Bavaria;Former Prime Minister Günther Beckstein pays tribute to the achievements of displaced persons at the Day of the Homeland in Grafing and warns against nationalism*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:5X5D-MMN1-DXX2-P2CV-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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57th [*FORUM;For climate and economy;To ensure that the EU does not suffer economically from higher CO[Subscript 2] prices, a border adjustment is needed.*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:5X8D-77Y1-JBF1-04SC-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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58. [*roman conditions;two journalists trace the recent crises in Italy*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:5X8D-77Y1-JBF1-04S2-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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59. [*bloody axe;New US tariffs also hit small businesses, for example German tool manufacturers*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:5X8D-77Y1-JBF1-04SJ-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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60th [*Nato states put pressure on Turkey; Chancellor Merkel demands the "immediate end" of the military operation against Syria. Several allies announce a weapons freeze. The USA also prepares sanctions*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:5X8D-77Y1-JBF1-04NS-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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61. [*Johnson urges decision in Brexit dispute;British PM wants to give EU a choice: either a deal his way - or no deal at all*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:5X8D-77Y1-JBF1-04NW-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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62. [*dORSCH-FISCHER EMPÖRT;The EU is sinking our cutter fleet!*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:5X8D-BY01-JBK9-2487-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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63rd [*election of good deeds;The national populist party ,,Law and Justice' remains Poland's strongest force*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:5X8D-77Y1-JBF1-04WR-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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64th [*EU grants Brexit postponement until the end of January;A disorderly exit of Great Britain is thus averted for the time being. In London, Prime Minister Johnson fights for new elections*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:5XCK-YHS1-JBF1-052H-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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65 [*AGRICULTURAL POLICY;Solidarity looks different*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:5XCK-YHD1-DXX2-P566-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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66. [*Always stay flexible;The remaining EU states agree to an extension of the Brexit deadline.British Prime MinisterBoris Johnson has to break another promise - and Parliament denies him new elections*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:5XCK-YHS1-JBF1-053M-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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| News | Fonti: Süddeutsche Zeitung,BILD Bund; Sequenza temporale: ott 29, 2019 Fino a ott 29, 2019 |

67. [*Now it's your turn;Mario Draghi was not without controversy as ECB chief.At his departure, he is nevertheless celebrated like a saviour. His successor Christine Lagarde takes on a difficult task*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:5XCK-YHS1-JBF1-04T2-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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68 [*Stoiber: Orbán's medal is a tribute to work*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:5XCK-YHS1-JBF1-04XH-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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69th [*He's back;Italy's right-winger Salvini works on political comeback*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:5XCK-YHS1-JBF1-053W-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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[***Von der Leyen takes risks; Shortly before the vote on the Commission's leadership, the Defence Minister announces her resignation in Berlin. The EUMEPs in Strasbourg she promises more power.***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5WK6-W421-JBF1-040F-00000-00&context=)

Süddeutsche Zeitung

Tuesday 16 July 2019

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

**Length:** 503 words

**Byline:** BY DANIEL BRÖSSLER, MATTHIAS KOLB AND ALEXANDER MÜHLAUER

**Body**

**Berlin/Brussels -** Before the election for ***EU Commission President*** this Tuesday, Ursula von der Leyen has announced her resignation as Federal Defence Minister. Regardless of the outcome of the vote, she will resign from her post on Wednesday, the CDU politician wrote on Twitter on Monday. She wants to put her "full strength into the service of ***Europe***", she explained. German Chancellor Angela Merkel (CDU) welcomed von der Leyen's step. This shows that the minister has decided on a "new stage in her life" and wants to put all her energy and verve into the office of ***EU Commission President,*** Merkel said.

In Berlin, the opposition had warned von der Leyen against holding on to the post of Defence Minister after a defeat. In the event of a return to Berlin, von der Leyen would have had to 'face fierce revelations from the committee of enquiry into the advisor affair', according to Agnieszka Brugger, deputy parliamentary group leader of the Greens in the Bundestag. It is considered possible that von der Leyen could be sent to Brussels as German ***EU Commissioner in the*** event of a defeat in Tuesday's election.

Until the very end, it was open whether von der Leyen would achieve the necessary absolute majority in the vote. In the battle for the votes of Social Democrats and Liberals, she promised more power for the ***European*** Parliament. The nominee for the head of the ***EU Commission*** wants to campaign for giving MEPs the long demanded right of initiative so that they can introduce legislation themselves. She assured the leaders of the Socialist and Liberal groups of this in letters of several pages on Monday.

Von der Leyen also spoke out in favour of much stricter climate targets. ***European*** carbon dioxide emissions are to be reduced by "at least 50 percent" by 2030 compared to 1990. Ideally, a reduction of 55 per cent should be achieved, which the ***EU Parliament*** had demanded in March. At that time, a majority of the EPP members voted against it. Von der Leyen also pleaded for minimum wages in every ***EU state*** and for the introduction of a ***European*** unemployment insurance scheme. This would help ***EU states*** cushion social hardship in the event of economic shocks.

The candidate, who was surprisingly nominated by the ***EU*** heads of state and government at the beginning of July to succeed Jean-Claude Juncker, specified her priorities for the next five years in the letters, should she receive the necessary majority of 374 of the 747 MEP votes. So far, von der Leyen can mainly count on the support of the EPP, which has 182 mandates. After her meetings with the parliamentary groups of Social Democrats and the liberal Renew ***Europe*** alliance last week, they had demanded more concrete statements, which von der Leyen presented in her letters.

**Pages 4 and 5**

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**Load-Date:** July 16, 2019

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[***Moldovan Turning Point; The Poorest Country in Europe dares a political experiment: a coalition of pro-European and pro-Russian politicians is declaring war on the oligarchs. The prime minister wants to "clean up" state institutions.***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5WK6-W421-JBF1-041Y-00000-00&context=)

Süddeutsche Zeitung

Tuesday 16 July 2019

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

**Length:** 965 words

**Byline:** BY FRANK NIENHUYSEN

**Body**

**Munich -** They were miserable prospects for electoral success. Maia Sandu drove over bumpy roads to the province, where not even a hundred people were waiting for her in run-down cultural houses. She entered the election campaign with only 13,000 ***euros***, had no money for large posters and commercials, and state television did not even let the opposition candidate get a word in edgewise. And now: Maia Sandu has been governing the Republic of Moldova as Prime Minister for three weeks. She was in Brussels with ***EU Council President*** Donald Tusk, she has the support of the ***European*** Union, the USA, and also of Russian President Vladimir Putin. An astonishing political experiment has begun in Moldova, perhaps a turning point.

For years, the country between Ukraine and Romania was roughly shaped by two camps: the Moscow-backed Socialists, who provide the president, Igor Dodon, and the Democratic Party, which as the ruling party wanted to lead Moldova into the ***EU.*** To the annoyance of the Socialists, the Democratic Party signed the Association Agreement with the ***EU*** and achieved visa-free travel. But corruption scandals and the power of oligarchs turned the population and Brussels against it to such an extent that the ***EU*** stopped payments and the voters voted it into opposition in February.

But who would govern? After much wrangling and because there was no alternative, Sandu's Acum Party and the Socialist Party have allied to form a coalition government - with Sandu, the former World Bank advisor, as prime minister. It is a bold project, an attempt to unite the torn country, which is considered the poorest in ***Europe.***

The coalition looks very unusual. We see the risks', says head of government Sandu to the *Süddeutsche Zeitung* on the phone, but it is also 'an opportunity for the Republic of Moldova to start reforms, to regain the trust of the people in the state and to move faster towards the ***EU***'. The old regime was "a very undemocratic regime that intimidated the media and opponents".

For years, Moldova has been a kind of self-service shop for oligarchs, especially Vlad Plahotniuc. The head of the Democratic Party, which was voted out of office, had enormous influence on companies, the judiciary and the media. It is still not clear where almost a billion dollars disappeared to in the course of a banking scandal a few years ago. The Moldovans' desire to vote out the old government was "very strong", says Sandu. In order to regain the lost trust in the state, all six judges of the controversial Constitutional Court resigned a fortnight ago under pressure from the government.

In Brussels, Sandu made it clear that she wants to continue the desired reforms with the help of the ***EU, which in*** turn promises further rapprochement. Already, 70 per cent of Moldova's exports go to the ***EU***; ties with neighbouring Romania are particularly close because of cultural and linguistic proximity. The 47-year-old Sandu made her first visit as head of government to Romania, where she promoted the restoration of schools and kindergartens, environmental protection projects and water supply. Rural areas in particular often lack the most basic necessities.

This is another reason why many Moldovans have left the country frustrated and hopeless since the collapse of the Soviet Union and the beginning of independence. In the direction of Romania, Italy, Spain. People whom Maia Sandu now wants to bring back. I'm asking you to come home,' she called out to the diaspora, enticing them with 'key positions in state institutions' after they have 'cleaned up' there.

Sandu makes no secret of the fact that she sees better relations with the ***EU*** as the most important task, but she also makes this clear: that her country is ready to advance economic and trade cooperation with Russia as well. We do not consider it incompatible to trade freely with the ***EU*** and to participate in a free trade area with Russia," says Sandu. But she stresses: "The coalition programme states that the implementation of the ***EU Association Agreement*** is the basis of the government's work. We have that in writing from the Socialists. Otherwise, the unusual partnership of convenience can hardly come to anything.

Natalia Morari, probably the best-known TV presenter in the country, tells the SZ that the new government 'is a great opportunity for our country. It is the first time in more than ten years that the ***European*** part of society and the more East-oriented part have found some kind of consensus'. The most important task now is to 'cut all state ties with the oligarch groups'. The new government is capable of doing this, says Morari. Justice is needed in Moldova, "only later can we talk about geopolitics".

Kremlin leader Putin, who had supported Moldovan President Dodon in his election campaign in recent years, was pleased with the spectacular attempt. He praised the common path of the Moldovan coalition, "despite certain possible internal contradictions". And he would support it "unconditionally", Putin said.

In terms of foreign policy, the dividing lines are not quite as sharp as the different camps would suggest. Sandu wants more Moldovan goods to be exported to Russia. And she once said of the Socialist leader Dodon, "he doesn't want to stop the ***EU association*** and the visa-free regime either. Because that is very popular in the country.

**Many left the country frustrated and hopeless. Towards Romania, Italy, Spain**

**Graphic**

Maia Sandu ran her election campaign on just 13,000 ***euros.*** She has been Prime Minister of the Republic of Moldova for three weeks. Photo: Daniel Mihailescu/AFP

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**Industry:** MARKETING & ADVERTISING (78%)

**Person:** DONALD TUSK (79%); VLADIMIR PUTIN (79%)

**Geographic:** BRUSSELS, BELGIUM (88%); MOSCOW, RUSSIAN FEDERATION (79%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (97%); BRUSSELS CAPITAL REGION (93%); ***EUROPE (***93%); ROMANIA (88%); UKRAINE (79%); BELGIUM (73%); MOLDOVA (72%); RUSSIAN FEDERATION (72%).

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

**End of Document**

[***The candidate's 'core values'; Ursula von der Leyen explains her government programme in two letters as an EUCommission President. The day before the vote, she promises more climate protection and more parliamentary rights.***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5WK6-W421-JBF1-041C-00000-00&context=)

Süddeutsche Zeitung

Tuesday 16 July 2019

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

**Length:** 979 words

**Byline:** BY K. M. BEISEL, M. KOLB AND A. MÜHLAUER

**Body**

**Brussels** - When Ursula von der Leyen gives her speech to the ***European*** Parliament this Tuesday, the MEPs will probably find some things familiar. Already on Monday, the candidate nominated for the office of ***EU Commission President*** gave a first detailed outlook on her government programme in two letters. In her letters to the parliamentary group leaders of the Social Democrats and the Liberals, von der Leyen responded to their respective demands. The most important points at a glance.

**Climate**

In the fight against climate change, von der Leyen wants to go beyond what her party family, the EPP, had offered so far. She wants to commit to reducing pollutant emissions 'by at least 50 percent' by 2030 (compared to 1990). So far, the ***EU states*** had only been able to agree on 40 percent. Socialists, Liberals and Greens had therefore been pushing for more ambitious targets for a long time, but the EPP has so far not wanted to commit itself to a concrete, new reduction target. In addition to the target that has now been set, von der Leyen wants to draw up a plan on how even 55 percent could be saved. Among other things, she wants to expand the emissions trading system, set up an investment plan for sustainable development and transform part of the ***European*** Investment Bank into a 'climate bank'.

**Democratisation**

Von der Leyen advocates a right of initiative for the ***EU Parliament.*** The MEPs should be able to introduce legislation - but via a diversion. She pledges that the ***EU Commission*** under her leadership will react with a corresponding legislative act if the Parliament calls on the Commission to do so by majority vote. In order to save the Spitzenkandidaten procedure, the candidate wants to mediate between the ***European*** Council and the Parliament. She wants to discuss the introduction of transnational lists within the framework of a two-year "conference on the future of ***Europe***". Citizens should also participate. Concrete proposals, also in the form of legislative texts, should be available by summer 2020. **Economy and social affairs**

Von der Leyen wants to propose a ***European*** unemployment reinsurance scheme. This would help ***EU states when*** they are hit by an economic shock; an example would be the effects of a no-deal Brexit on Ireland. The candidate also wants to drive forward the deepening of the Economic and Monetary Union. This includes a deposit guarantee for savings in the ***Eurozone***. She also wants to advocate a ***eurozone budget*** and use the 'full flexibility' of the Stability and Growth Pact to enable more growth. Von der Leyen also wants to create a legal instrument that guarantees a fair minimum wage for every worker in the ***EU.***

**Migration**

The debate on how to distribute newly arriving asylum seekers in the ***EU*** has been completely deadlocked for years. Ursula von der Leyen knows this too. We need a new start', she writes in her letter to the Social Democrats. What exactly that means is not stated there, but she writes that she will propose a "new pact" for asylum and migration. New ways of sharing the burden are needed, she says, and member states at the external borders must be given sufficient support. To this end, she wants to advocate the expansion of the border protection agency Frontex to 10,000 people by 2024, not just by 2027, as agreed by the ***EU interior ministers.***

**Rule of law**

Von der Leyen calls "respect for the rule of law" central to her vision of a community of equality and social fairness: "There must be no compromise on our core values". She supports the proposal of a "comprehensive ***European*** rule of law mechanism", which was put forward by EPP top candidate Manfred Weber. In future, there should be "objective annual reports" for all ***EU members***, i.e. a kind of rule of law MOT. This idea has recently gained popularity, as the ongoing Article 7 proceedings against Poland and Hungary have brought little progress and, according to ***EU diplomats, have*** poisoned the climate. If every ***EU country*** were audited, the governments in Budapest and Warsaw could no longer dismiss it with prejudice against Eastern Europeans. None of us is perfect," von der Leyen writes. She is in favour of punishing violations of the rule of law with a cut in funding in future; this mechanism should be anchored in the next ***EU budget, which will*** apply from 2021.

**Digitisation**

In her letter to the Liberals, von der Leyen also comments on digitalisation: If elected, she wants to propose legislation within the first 100 days of her term to achieve a "coordinated approach to the human and ethical implications" of artificial intelligence. She also wants the ***EU*** to resume its leadership role in the field of technology. To this end, it should invest specifically in research on blockchain technology, quantum computers and algorithms.

**Brexit**

On Brexit, von der Leyen does not deviate one millimetre from the previous ***EU position.*** The treaty negotiated with London is "the best and only possible deal for an orderly exit" of the United Kingdom. If she is elected Commission President, she wants to pave the way for an 'ambitious and strategic partnership' with the UK. Von der Leyen is prepared to support a renewed extension of the withdrawal process if it takes more time - provided there are 'good reasons'. So far, Brexit is scheduled for 31 October, the official last working day of still-Commission chief Juncker.

**Graphic**

In a letter of application to the Social Democrats and Liberals, Ursula von der Leyen promises that in future ***EU Commissioners will*** work 'hand in hand' with the Parliament. Photo: dpa

**Classification**

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**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject: *EUROPEAN UNION*** (92%); LEGISLATIVE BODIES (90%); ***EUROPEAN*** UNION INSTITUTIONS (90%); POLITICS (90%); ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION (90%); PUBLIC POLICY (90%); LEGISLATION (89%); MONETARY UNIONS (89%); ***EUROZONE (***78%); POLITICAL DEBATES (78%); POLITICAL CANDIDATES (78%); EMISSIONS (75%); CLIMATE CHANGE (75%); CLEAN AIR REGULATIONS (75%); SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (75%); BREXIT (72%); EMISSION RIGHTS (70%); CURRENCIES (67%); ***EURO (***65%); MINIMUM WAGE (65%)

**Organization: *EUROPEAN*** PARLIAMENT (55%)

**Industry:** CURRENCY UNIONS (89%); ***EUROZONE (***78%); EMISSIONS (75%); EMISSION RIGHTS (70%); CURRENCIES (67%); INVESTMENT BANKING (66%); ***EURO (***65%)

**Person:** URSULA VON DER LEYEN (94%)

**Geographic:** BRUSSELS, BELGIUM (58%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (99%); EUROPE (79%); CAPITAL REGION OF BRUSSELS (79%); ***EUROPE (***93%)

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

**End of Document**

[***Von der Leyen goes for full risk; Shortly before the vote on the Commission leadership, the Defence Minister announces her resignation in Berlin. The EUMEPs in Strasbourg she promises more power.***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5WK6-W421-JBF1-040G-00000-00&context=)

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

**Length:** 509 words

**Byline:** BY DANIEL BRÖSSLER, MATTHIAS KOLB AND ALEXANDER MÜHLAUER

**Body**

**Berlin/Brussels -** Before the election for ***EU Commission President*** this Tuesday, Ursula von der Leyen has announced her resignation as Federal Defence Minister. Regardless of the outcome of the vote, she will resign from her post on Wednesday, the CDU politician said on Twitter on Monday. She wants to put her "full strength into the service of ***Europe***". She said she felt 'deep gratitude' for her years with the Bundeswehr.

In Berlin, the opposition had warned von der Leyen against holding on to the post of Defence Minister after a defeat. If Ursula von der Leyen fails in the ***EU*** and returns to Berlin, she will have to face the fierce revelations from the committee of enquiry into the advisor affair,' said Agnieszka Brugger, deputy parliamentary group leader of the Greens in the Bundestag, to the SZ. She cannot remain Defence Minister," said Jan Korte, parliamentary director of the Left Party.

In the battle for the votes of ***Europe's*** Social Democrats and Liberals, von der Leyen promised more power for the ***European*** Parliament. The candidate nominated to head the ***EU Commission*** wants to work to give MEPs the long demanded right of initiative so that they can introduce legislation themselves. She assured the leaders of the two parliamentary groups of this in letters of several pages on Monday.

Von der Leyen also spoke out in favour of much stricter climate targets. ***European*** carbon dioxide emissions are to be reduced by "at least 50 percent" by 2030 compared to 1990. Ideally, the 55 percent reduction should be exactly what the ***EU Parliament*** had called for in March. At the time, a majority of MEPs from the ***European*** People's Party (EPP) had voted against it. Von der Leyen also called for minimum wages in every ***EU state*** and the introduction of a ***European*** unemployment insurance scheme to cushion social hardship in the event of economic shocks.

The German candidate, who was surprisingly nominated by the heads of state and government at a ***special EU summit*** at the beginning of July to succeed Jean-Claude Juncker, specified her priorities for the next five years in the multi-page letters, should she receive the necessary majority of 374 of the 747 MEP votes. So far, von der Leyen can mainly count on the support of the Christian Democratic EPP, which has 182 mandates. After her meetings with the parliamentary groups of Social Democrats and the liberal Renew ***Europe*** alliance last week, the latter had demanded more concrete statements, which von der Leyen presented in her letters.

The points mentioned in the letters are expected to be explained in more detail by von der Leyen on Tuesday in Strasbourg. Her speech, scheduled for nine o'clock in the morning, will be followed by a debate lasting several hours before a secret ballot is to be held at 6 pm. Until the very end, it was unclear whether von der Leyen would achieve the necessary absolute majority.

**Page 5**

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject: *EUROPEAN UNION*** (91%); LEGISLATIVE BODIES (90%); POLITICS (90%); POLITICAL PARTIES (90%); RESIGNATIONS (90%); PUBLIC POLICY (90%); TALKS & MEETINGS (89%); ***EUROPEAN*** UNION INSTITUTIONS (78%); HEADS OF STATE & GOVERNMENT (78%); GERMAN POLITICAL PARTIES (77%); GERMAN PARLIAMENT (77%); LEGISLATION (77%); POLITICAL DEBATES (77%); SCANDALS (73%); INVESTIGATIONS (69%); LEADERS (69%); MINIMUM WAGE (66%); EMISSIONS (65%)

**Organisation: *EUROPEAN*** UNION (57%); ***EUROPEAN*** PARLIAMENT (54%)

**Industry:** EMISSIONS (65%)

**Person:** URSULA VON DER LEYEN (94%); JEAN-CLAUDE JUNCKER (79%)

**Geographic:** STRAUSSBURG, FRANCE (91%); BERLIN, GERMANY (90%); BRUSSELS, BELGIUM (58%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (97%); BRUSSELS MAIN CITY REGION (79%); ***EUROPE (***93%)

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**End of Document**

[***A Dutchman for the Monetary Fund; Former Finance Minister Jeroen Dijsselbloem is gaining ground as a possible successor to Christine Lagarde. Emerging countries rebuffed with demand for own candidate***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5WK6-W421-JBF1-0442-00000-00&context=)

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**Section:** Economy; Lead; Germany; p. 15

**Length:** 923 words

**Byline:** BY CERSTIN GAMMELIN AND ALEXANDER HAGELÜKEN

**Body**

**Berlin/Munich** - The Dutch government wants to have the former Finance Minister and head of the ***Euro Group,*** Jeroen Dijsselbloem, elected Director of the International Monetary Fund IMF in Washington. According to the *Süddeutsche Zeitung,* The Hague is currently trying to organise a majority among ***European*** states for Dijsselbloem to succeed Frenchwoman Christine Lagarde, who is to move to the head of the ***European*** Central Bank (ECB) on 1 November.

The IMF's central task is to keep the international monetary system stable, prevent financial crises and help member countries in financial distress. Dijsselbloem is now considered a promising candidate for the top job. In the past few days, Den Haag has made numerous phone calls to politicians and central bankers across ***Europe.*** Berlin and Paris are also said to be open to the idea, but there has been no official statement. Without the approval of these two central ***EU states,*** a candidate would probably have little chance. If the French government agrees, it would be a signal because France has provided the IMF's secretary-general for 44 of the 73 years since its founding after World War II, including Dominique Strauss-Kahn, Michel Camdessus and Jacques de Larosière. If Lagarde becomes ECB chief, however, Paris will probably not be able to claim the IMF post as well.

Dijsselbloem was promoted to head the powerful group of ***euro finance ministers in*** January 2013 as a completely inexperienced finance ***minister at the*** instigation of the then German Finance Minister Wolfgang Schäuble (CDU). Schäuble wanted to secure his influence on decisions of the body especially in the time of the dramatic debt crisis. Dijsselbloem initially acted entirely along Schäuble's lines; he tried to impose a strict austerity policy on Cyprus and Greece in particular. His initially undiplomatic behaviour and mistakes in communication earned him harsh criticism. Over the years, Dijsselbloem showed himself to be much more diplomatic and thus gained esteem in almost all ***European*** states.

For years, the economically more and more important emerging countries have been pushing to fill the post of head of the Monetary Fund. Since 1946, this post has always been held by a ***European,*** while the USA has usually headed the World Bank - according to the transatlantic agreement. This time, too, the ***Europeans reject the*** emerging countries' demand. It is a ***European*** demand to name the president of the IMF again," said German Chancellor Angela Merkel a few days ago in Berlin. The world has changed, and that is why we will have to fight for it. Because we are not alone in the world'.

The ***Europeans are*** likely to prevail this time as well, with US President Donald Trump standing by them. According to reports, Trump wants to limit the influence of the emerging countries, especially China, in the 189-country organisation. It is understandable that the ***Europeans*** want to send a candidate from the ***Eurozone*** to Washington: After the experience of the debt crisis of 2010 to 2017, it would be helpful in a future financial crisis to have a politician at the head of the IMF who knows the ***Eurozone*** particularly well. This reason speaks against another candidate, the Canadian Mark Carney, long-time head of the British central bank. He is favoured by important central bankers for the IMF post. They point out that Carney has Canadian and British citizenship as well as that of Ireland, which belongs to the ***Eurozone.*** In the light of Britain's ***exit from the EU,*** however, Carney, as a Canadian-born British central bank chief, is probably difficult to convince some ***euro governments***.

The Dijsselbloem personnel issue is to be further coordinated at the meeting of the G7 countries in Paris this week. An agreement on the successor is to be reached by the end of July. Besides Dijsselbloem, a total of five other candidates are currently being mentioned, but their chances are considered to be slimmer.

Dijsselbloem had to resign as head of the ***Eurogroup in*** January 2018; before that, his party, the Social Democrats, had lost heavily in the parliamentary elections; Dijsselbloem lost the post of finance minister as a result. In the ***European elections,*** the Dutch Social Democrats celebrated a great comeback; they won 18 percent with their top candidate Frans Timmermans.

Timmermans, however, failed as a candidate for the job of ***EU Commission President*** among the heads of state and government; Eastern Europe in particular rejected him. This also contributed to the fact that the Social Democrats, especially in Germany, now oppose electing Ursula von der Leyen as head of the Commission instead. As a CDU politician, von der Leyen belongs to the ***European*** People's Party.

The nomination of the Social Democrat Dijsselbloem for the IMF's top job could help to smooth the party-political waters in ***Europe.*** Chancellor Merkel said a few days ago that the IMF appointments would of course also include those countries that "perhaps did not get as much of a chance" when it came to filling the top ***European*** posts. That would apply to the Netherlands.

**'It is a *European* aspiration to name the president of the IMF again', says Angela Merkel**

**British central bank chief Mark Carney has little chance in light of Brexit**

**Graphic**

Know each other from many crisis talks: Jeroen Dijsselbloem and Christine Lagarde at a meeting in The Hague. Photo: Robin Utrecht/dpa

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

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**Company: *EUROPEAN*** CENTRAL BANK (83%)

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

**Industry:** INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND (91%); CURRENCIES (90%); CENTRAL BANKS (90%); ***EURO (***89%); ***EUROZONE (89%);*** CURRENCY UNIONS (78%).

**Person:** JEROEN DIJSSELBLOEM (96%); CHRISTINE LAGARDE (92%); WOLFGANG SCHÄUBLE (92%); ANGELA MERKEL (79%); DONALD TRUMP (77%); MARK CARNEY (57%)

**Geographic:** THE HAGUE, NETHERLANDS (92%); PARIS, FRANCE (92%); BERLIN, GERMANY (88%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (94%); ***EUROPE (***94%); FRANCE (92%); NORTH AMERICA (79%); NETHERLANDS (78%); CYPRUS (78%); CHINA (58%); GREECE (58%).

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**End of Document**

[***Dijsselbloem to become IMF chief; former EuroGroup chief could replace Christine Lagarde***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5WK6-W421-JBF1-040R-00000-00&context=)

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

**Length:** 223 words

**Byline:** AHA, GAM

**Body**

**Berlin/Munich** - The former Finance Minister and head of the ***Euro Group,*** Jeroen Dijsselbloem, is to become Director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in Washington, according to the will of ***European*** governments. According to the *Süddeutsche Zeitung,* the Dutch government is currently trying to organise a majority among ***Europeans*** for Dijsselbloem to succeed Frenchwoman Christine Lagarde, who is to move to the head of the ***European*** Central Bank (ECB) on 1 November. The IMF's central task is to keep the international monetary system stable, prevent financial crises and help member countries in financial distress.

According to reports, Berlin and Paris are also open to the idea, but there has been no official statement. Without the approval of these two central ***EU states,*** a candidate would have little chance. After the experience of the debt crisis of 2010 to 2017, it would be helpful in a future financial crisis to have a politician at the head of the IMF who knows the ***Eurozone*** particularly well. This circumstance speaks against another candidate, the Canadian Mark Carney, long-time head of the British central bank. He is favoured by important central bankers for the IMF post.

**Economy**

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject:** INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND (93%); LEADERS (92%); ***EURO (***90%); ***EUROPEAN UNION (90%);*** UNITED NATIONS ORGANISATIONS (90%); POLITICS (90%); ECONOMIC CRISIS (90%); CURRENCIES (90%); CENTRAL BANKS (90%); PUBLIC POLICY (90%); ***EUROZONE (***78%); DEBT CRISIS (78%); MONETARY UNIONS (73%); ***EUROPEAN UNION*** INSTITUTIONS (71%).

**Company: *EUROPEAN*** CENTRAL BANK (82%)

**Industry:** INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND (93%); ***EURO*** (90%); CURRENCIES (90%); CENTRAL BANKS (90%); ***EUROZONE (***78%); CURRENCY UNIONS (73%).

**Person:** JEROEN DIJSSELBLOEM (93%); CHRISTINE LAGARDE (90%); MARK CARNEY (71%)

**Geographic:** PARIS, FRANCE (79%); BERLIN, GERMANY (73%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (93%); ***EUROPE*** (91%); UNITED KINGDOM (79%); NETHERLANDS (73%).

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**End of Document**

[***VON DER LEYENS RESIGNATION; Not courageous, only logical***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5WK6-W421-JBF1-0471-00000-00&context=)

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Tuesday 16 July 2019

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

**Length:** 224 words

**Byline:** DANIEL BRÖSSLER

**Body**

In the ***EU Parliament,*** MEPs have what Ursula von der Leyen no longer has: the choice. While the parliamentarians are free to decide whether to make the German president of the ***European*** Commission, for von der Leyen there is no going back to her old life. After a foray into the heights of ***European politics,*** no one would believe that for her it's all about the two-percent target and the *Gorch Fock* again. Her announcement of resignation, even in the event of defeat, is in this respect not courageous but logical.

This is therefore unlikely to be the deciding factor in the vote. What will count for success or failure will be whether von der Leyen presents a programme that wins over liberals without alienating conservatives - and which, above all, still attracts as many Social Democrats as possible to her side. Von der Leyen's biggest problem remains the nationalists like the Polish PiS. As much as she needs every single vote, a narrow victory with the help of the far right would shake von der Leyen's credibility from the start.

A defeat, on the other hand, would probably not be the end of her ***European*** career. Von der Leyen could then still have legitimate hopes for the German seat in the ***European*** Commission.

**Classification**

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**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject: *EUROPEAN UNION*** (90%); LEGISLATIVE BODIES (90%); POLITICS (90%); INSTITUTIONS OF THE ***EUROPEAN*** UNION (78%); HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT (78%); PRESIDENTS OF STATE (78%); PUBLIC POLICY (78%)

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

**Person:** URSULA VON DER LEYEN (92%)

**Geographic: *EUROPE*** (90%); POLAND (73%)

**Load-Date:** July 16, 2019

**End of Document**

[***Car toll again in court; Green Party MP Kühn wants to force Transport Minister Scheuer to disclose the contracts with a lawsuit***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5WK6-W421-JBF1-041F-00000-00&context=)

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

**Length:** 564 words

**Byline:** DPA

**Body**

**Berlin** - The contracts for the failed car toll are becoming a case for the courts. Stephan Kühn, member of the Bundestag for the Greens, wants to go to court to force Federal Transport Minister Andreas Scheuer (CSU) to disclose the contracts with the actually intended operators. Scheuer has refused for six months to disclose the contracts with the companies Kapsch and CTS Eventim, said Kühn, a member of the Bundestag, to the *Rheinische Post*. He had filed a lawsuit "to put an end to this stalling tactic".

A push for a new environmental toll was clearly rejected by the federal government on Monday. Scheuer is under pressure because he already concluded the toll contracts at the end of 2018, when there was still no legal certainty. In June, the ***European*** Court of Justice (ECJ) overturned the car toll, and Scheuer immediately cancelled the contracts. Should the operators claim damages for investments and services already rendered, there could be arbitration proceedings. Kühn had already applied in January under the Freedom of Information Act for Scheuer to hand over the contracts. The ministry has not yet decided on this, Kühn's office said on Monday. Now Kühn is suing at the Berlin Administrative Court for a decision - and wants to sue again if the ministry does not comply with his demand.

Scheuer has made the contracts with Kapsch and CTS Eventim available to the MPs for confidential reading in the Bundestag's Secret Protection Unit. However, they are not allowed to talk about them publicly. The ministry stands for 'transparency and clarity', said a spokeswoman. Reports on the toll had been sent to the transport and budget committees. The toll operators have refused to disclose the contracts on the ministry's website. The transport committee of the Bundestag is scheduled to meet on 24 July for a special session, which will focus on the failure of the passenger car toll and its consequences. The ECJ had overturned the toll, among other things, because it discriminated against drivers from abroad: nationals were to be fully relieved for toll payments via a lower motor vehicle tax.

The President of the Federal Audit Office, Kay Scheller, then expressed sympathy for a toll without compensation for German motorists: "The federal government must now decide whether it wants to introduce the car toll without compensation," Kay Scheller told the *Süddeutsche Zeitung*. There are 'many good reasons' to make transport more climate-friendly. The Federal Environment Ministry, however, sees things differently. Secretary of State for the Environment Jochen Flasbarth referred to the ongoing debate on making the emission of greenhouse gases in transport and heating more expensive by means of a CO[Subscript 2] price. He believes that there will be a result. Then there will be no need for an eco-toll.

Bavaria's Prime Minister Markus Söder (CSU), on the other hand, is striving for a uniform car toll ***throughout Europe.*** Either tolls for all or none at all," Söder said on Monday in Munich before a CSU executive meeting. After the German toll was stopped by the ***European*** Court of Justice, there would be no further national push. This must now be discussed at ***European level,*** the CSU leader added, referring to the toll that continues to exist in Austria.

**Economy**

**Graphic**

Up to now, MPs have only been allowed to see the toll contracts in the Bundestag's secret office; they are not allowed to talk about them in public. Photo: Uli Deck / dpa

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject:** GERMAN PARLIAMENT (91%); GERMAN POLITICAL PARTIES (90%); COURTS OF JUSTICE (90%); COURT CASES (90%); POLITICS (90%); POLITICAL PARTIES (90%); LEGAL ACTIONS (90%); PUBLIC POLICY (90%); COURTS OF THE ***EUROPEAN*** UNION (89%); LEGISLATIVE BODIES (89%); INTERNATIONAL COURTS & TRIBUNALS (89%); COURTS OF LAW (89%); COURTS OF JUSTICE (89%); COURTS OF TRIBUNALS (89%); HEADS OF STATE & GOVERNMENT (89%); ***EUROPEAN*** UNION INSTITUTIONS (88%); BOARDS OF DIRECTORS & SUPERVISORY BOARDS (78%); FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (77%); POLITICAL DEBATES (77%); LEGISLATION (76%); CLIMATE CHANGE (75%); ENVIRONMENT MINISTRIES (75%); TAXES & TAXATION (61%)

**Company:** CTS EVENTIM AG (57%)

**Ticker:** EVD (FRA) (57%)

**Industry:** NAICS561599 ALL OTHER TRAVEL ARRANGEMENT & RESERVATION SERVICES (57%); SIC4729 ARRANGEMENT OF PASSENGER TRANSPORTATION, NEC (57%); VEHICLE TRANSPORTATION (89%)

**Geographic:** BERLIN, GERMANY (73%); BAVARIA, GERMANY (74%); ***EUROPE*** (90%)

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**End of Document**

[***On her own; Since Captain Rackete forced the entry into the port of Lampedusa, Sea-Watch has been met with praise, criticism - and a lot of hate. What happens next?***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5WK6-W421-JBF1-040Y-00000-00&context=)

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**Section:** Page Three; Munich; Bavaria; p. 3

**Length:** 2685 words

**Byline:** BY OLIVER MEILER AND RENATE MEINHOF

**Body**

The silence out here in the countryside is deafening when you come from Berlin and the sentences that Leonie had read to you still resonate, reluctantly to be sure, with this monotony in her voice that is supposed to mark a distance. She had been sitting at the long wooden table in the hallway outside the office, had opened her laptop and hadn't looked far. "Dirty niggers are fish food. As an example. Deleted. Any more?

The whore Rackete, who disregards every right, must die. Who threw up in her hair and in the brains of all her followers?

Enough? She looks you in the eye. Enough, yes. Leonie, who is part of the 'entire entourage' and gives up dozens of hours a week for the sea rescue organisation 'Sea-Watch' to read all the comments that reach the association by email or on Facebook, to respond to them, but above all to delete what no longer has anything to do with 'democratic debate', as she puts it. They send death threats to the State Criminal Police Office, as well as anything signed 'Heil Hitler'. Also this photo of a woman's corpse, as a 'warning'. Torso. Legs. Arms. Head. She lies there like this. A human being.

That is the dimension, at the moment.

Leonie doesn't want her name in the newspaper.

From the office in Berlin to the quiet of the Brandenburg village where it all began five years ago is an hour north by car. Harald Höppner and Matthias Kuhnt, the founders of the association, live here.

Trimmed lime trees along the road, shorn willows along the paths, and birds glide over the green, almost without flapping their wings. It is a peace that does not fit in with the boats on the Mediterranean, not with Matteo Salvini's insults, not with Leonie's hate mails and not with the faces of the women Carolin Möhrke, the doctor, will tell about.

This story is about those who stand behind captain Carola Rackete. Since mid-June, she has become a hero for some, a lawless hate figure for others. There are about fifty people who support the association 'Sea-Watch' with their daily work all over ***Europe.*** Students, navigators, doctors, nurses, lawyers and photographers, machinists and social workers.

The operation that would change everything for 'Sea-Watch' began on 12 June, 47 nautical miles off the coast of Libya, in international waters. The *Sea-Watch 3* rescued 53 people in distress on a rubber dinghy that morning, then asked permission to dock in a safe, nearby port. Malta? Didn't reply. Italy? Didn't answer either. Libya, the war-torn country, answered. Migrants who had to live in detention camps there report torture, beatings and rape.

Carola Rackete decided against Libya and headed for Lampedusa, ***Europe's*** southernmost outpost, the island with the big heart. But the Italian government forbade her to land there. The port is closed," said Matteo Salvini, the interior minister. The captain could take her passengers to Holland or Hamburg. Or wait out there 'until Christmas', 'until New Year's Eve'.

Finally, the captain forced the ship into the harbour with a risky manoeuvre in the middle of the night. The ship was confiscated and Carola Rackete was put under house arrest because she had defied Italian law. A judge, however, quickly released her. The captain had listened to her sense of duty, she said, and in doing so had obeyed international maritime law, rescued people and brought them to safety.

Carola Rackete has now been called back to court for a hearing on 18 July. The charge will be that she may have aided and abetted illegal immigration during her rescue operation off the Libyan coast. For this to be the case, the crew of the *Sea-Watch 3 would* have to be able to prove that they coordinated with Libyan tugboats beforehand, by radio or with light signals.

Now the issue of sea rescue is powerfully back. It is exactly what the association wanted to achieve. But there is now a bitter dispute, especially in Germany, which Leonie is not alone in observing on a daily basis. But can it be that whoever asks critical questions of the sea rescuers, whoever asks critical questions about migration and integration, is immediately sorted into the 'right-wing corner' or 'suspected of hard-heartedness'?

This is how the East German theologian Richard Schröder puts it, who has never shied away from naming truths and problems, even under dictatorship. He sits in his house on the outskirts of Berlin. For years, he has been thinking about immigration and how Germany can remain open to the world without 'giving up on itself'.

It is not up for discussion whether people should be saved," he says in his study, a cave full of books. Everyone who can be saved must be saved. That is what the sea rescuers do, it is their merit. But they also provide two services for which the migrants, who are often not the poorest of the poor, have paid the traffickers: transit and illegal entry into ***Europe***.' But the better option is to prevent people from putting themselves in distress at sea in the first place. We Germans always have to be the ones who are one hundred and fifty percent," says Richard Schröder. Even in blindly doing good, we are once again the hundred and fifty percenters.' But the ***Europeans*** must decide together how to regulate migration in a humanitarian and just way. The theologian is also disturbed by the fact that people's fears of migration are often exaggerated. Exaggerated fears are also a political issue," he says, "what people feel is political, not what they should feel. You cannot forbid people their fears, instead you have to argue.

With Richard Schröder's template, one is immediately in the middle of the conversation at Matthias Kuhnt's, out in the village. He sits in the casually tamed wilderness of his homestead between bottle boxes, herbs and flowers. He seems level-headed, calm, an open face. The whole world cannot come to us, yes, but that is not our theme. We cannot think from the end,' he says. It doesn't matter what comes after when it comes to whether I save someone or not.

Two families live on the farm, the Kuhnts and the Höppners. Harald Höppner and Matthias Kuhnt founded "Sea-Watch" five years ago. They have known each other since their youth and have run a business together for twenty years. They were born in the GDR, Kuhnt in 1972, near Bernauer Strasse, East Berlin, in the shadow of the Wall.

The Wall has left its mark on him. How a border works," he says, "I absorbed that with my mother's milk. He heard gunshots as a child, and his parents told him of people being chased, of escape attempts. Sometimes, when he was older, he climbed onto the roofs, which was forbidden. He looked over into Wedding. We wanted to see something of everyday life over there. It didn't look much different, but it was inaccessible, life-threatening.

Matthias Kuhnt sits there and talks as if he now has it all back in his mind's eye. The tank traps, the barbed wire, the concrete against which they played football.

Then he talks about the late autumn of 2014, when Germany was celebrating the fall of the Wall 25 years earlier. We didn't come from the activists' corner," he says. But when the state rescue at sea in the Mediterranean was stopped and boats full of migrants disappeared into the sea as if they had never existed, the two men sat together with friends and asked themselves how it could be: that people were celebrating the fall of the Wall, remembering the victims of this deadly border, and at the same time thousands of people were dying at another deadly border, "and we see neither blood nor faces, nor do we know the names.

We thought we couldn't duck away," he says. At first it was a very naïve thought: What would you need if you wanted to help?

You would need 'a watercraft to get there'. And so it began. Neither of them had the slightest clue about seafaring or ships, but others were quickly enthusiastic about the idea, came forward and offered to help. Journalists took notice. It was as if the country had been waiting for these two friends who were willing to invest 60,000 ***euros,*** but above all their time and energy, in a rescue ship. An oil company donated fuel, others donated money, medicine, baby food. In May 2015, the *Sea-Watch 1 headed* south, a cutter built in 1917.

Matthias Kuhnt says: "It was meant to be a project at the time, three months, maybe six. We wanted to document the situation, be a floating phone box and generate political pressure'.

But then you are almost there, aren't you? The castaways have rarely had more attention than now.

We are at the threshold of the goal', says Matthias Kuhnt. I don't know how it will end, but yes, we are on the threshold.

Other thresholds have been crossed hard in the past four weeks. In Italy, it seemed as if Matteo Salvini had been waiting a long time for this one duel, for the showdown with the opposite world, the helpers. He calls them *buonisti*, do-gooders. Carola Rackete fits the bill perfectly. Young, German, idealistic, with dreadlocks.

Salvini set the 'beast' on them, his communication apparatus. A team of fifteen men who post videos, pictures, political tirades around the clock on his accounts and profiles in the social networks. So many people follow the right-wing politician on Twitter and Facebook that he is his own medium, all conventional media just run after him. The 'Beast' covered the captain with waves of slander, so that one had to assume they had prepared the whole repertoire for this duel long ago. It was then like football. One curve celebrated the 'Capitana tedesca', the German captain - as a heroine. The other crowd chanted after Italy's strong man, the 'Capitano'. That's how his supporters call him, and if that sounds a bit like 'Duce', they think it's all right. "Spoiled brat", Salvini called his opponent, live and in the social media, a "delinquent", even after her acquittal. A 'pirate', a 'potential murderer', a 'vice-smuggler', an 'accomplice of the smugglers', a 'young, rich, German communist'.

When has it happened that a Minister of the Interior and Deputy Prime Minister of a large country, founding member of the ***European*** Union, talked like this in public? He exposed Rackete to unbridled hatred, out of calculation. Rackete has now denounced Salvini for "serious defamation" and "incitement to violence". There are death threats on the net.

Here, in the Sea Watch office in Berlin, they get to feel all this very directly. Leonie, of course, and Ruben Neugebauer anyway, who is responsible for the press. We try not to let ourselves be intimidated," he says, but he observes how "language is becoming brutal". A brutal language is often followed by deeds.

We have to worry about Caro's safety now, we can't just put her on a train anymore," he says. None of us wanted to become celebrities, we want to change politics. And we also stand by the fact that we want to work on our break-up, because actually there should be no need for us to do so.'

However, it doesn't look like dissolution here. Fourteen young people are sitting at their laptops. It wasn't long ago that they moved in here. The old office was at ground level, with a large window. The window was smashed too often.

A lot of money has come in through donations in the past weeks. Ruben Neugebauer cannot yet say how much, but they will need a lot of money, not only for the ship, but also for the lawyers who will defend Carola Rackete. And those who toil here sixty hours a week will now also have to pay a bill or be employed with a mini-job. After all, you have to be able to pay the rent," says Neugebauer.

Leonie's rent is paid by her parents. She is studying philosophy and comes from Göttingen. In January 2017, she came to Sea-Watch, where she now has a mini-job. She says she read Kant for four years, gladly even, but for her all philosophy has now melted down into a single sentence: People drown in the Mediterranean, so I "buy" a ship.

That's roughly what Harald Höppner had said when he and his friend started it back then. For her, that was the most intelligent sentence she had ever heard. Why? "I mean it like this: The core is not to be fooled into thinking that you can't change anything.

This woman seems grounded, cheerful, and yet she is haunted by what she is forced to read on the net every day. Sometimes until late at night, but she knows: "The haters go to bed at half past eleven. Those who write hate comments, that is. Often she forces herself to stay up. It's like a competition. Who can last longer? Sometimes her colleagues say, "Come on, take a break for a day, otherwise we'll take away your computer. They look out for each other, you can tell by the tone in the office.

The other day, however, no one could pay attention to her. The day was almost behind her. She was sitting on the train, but even then she was still working, deleting 'wild comments'. Just before she had to get off, she put her mobile phone away. I sat there for two minutes looking at the people, the faces. I suddenly thought: Is *that you*? They are real people, hundreds of them denying the right to exist to whole groups of people. Is that *you*?' It was a sudden realisation, she says, a fright.

Carolin Möhrke is standing at the railway station in Greifswald with her bicycle and wearing comfortable shoes. She is a paediatrician. She was born in Münster 39 years ago, but she feels at home here, in the town of Caspar David Friedrich, in Western Pomerania. She has been to Afghanistan and Haiti for 'Doctors without Borders'. She has worked in the Moria refugee camp and on Lesbos. For four years, Carolin Möhrke has been in charge of the medical department at Sea-Watch, instructing new doctors and paramedics, taking care of medicines and bandages.

She has a half-time job at the hospital and works in blocks so that she can go out again and again. The last time she went out was six weeks ago with the *Sea-Watch 3.*

She tells of women who have been raped, of faces from which the movement has fled. Women who would be afraid to have a child in their womb.

She says: Then you sit there and give paracetamol to someone who urgently needs a gynaecological examination'.

Guests, that's what the crew calls the people they pulled out of the water. Why guests? Carolin Möhrke sits in the sun in the small Greifswald harbour and says: "It's simple. They are not wanted before, they are not wanted afterwards. With us they are guests.' It sounds as if the ship is a floating respite.

Afterwards. Aren't you interested in what happens to your guests afterwards? Do you keep in touch with some of them? No', she says very firmly now, 'I don't want to know what goes wrong afterwards. I like to live with the illusion.

Carolin Möhrke has seen what a doctor can only see. The open end. She needs it. The possibility at least that not everything is in vain.

**The theologian says you can't forbid people to be afraid. You have to argue more**

**The old office was at ground level, with a large window. They had to get out of there now, too dangerous**

**She knows that these women need a gynaecological examination, not paracetamol**

**Graphic**

Spoiled brat', Italian Interior Minister Matteo Salvini called captain Carola Rackete (left), and 'delinquent', 'pirate', 'potential murderer'. Since then she has been receiving death threats. They now have to deal with this at Sea-Watch, including Carolin Möhrke, who is responsible for the medical area. Photos:AP; Sea-Watch

To rescue people from the unsafe boats in the Mediterranean Sea, Sea-Watch needs money, but above all idealism. An attitude that the hate-mongers are pouncing on. Photo: Christian Ditsch / imago

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject:** RURAL COMMUNITIES (90%); SOCIAL NETWORKS ON THE INTERNET (90%); OCEANS (75%); POLITICAL DEBATES (72%); SEXUAL DISCLOSURES (67%); DOCTORS (66%); COASTAL TERRITORIES (65%); POLITICAL CONCERNS (62%)

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

**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%); HOURS (89%); INTERNET SEARCH PORTALS (75%); DOCTORS (66%)

**Geographic:** BERLIN, GERMANY (73%); LIBYA (90%); ***EUROPE (***86%); ITALY (68%); MALTA (53%)

**Load-Date:** July 16, 2019

**End of Document**

[***Sophia' under discussion again***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5WK6-W421-JBF1-0426-00000-00&context=)

Süddeutsche Zeitung

Tuesday 16 July 2019

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

**Length:** 253 words

**Byline:** KMB

**Body**

**Brussels -** The ***EU foreign ministers met*** in Brussels on Monday to discuss the controversial handling of boat refugees in the Mediterranean. After the meeting, ***EU Foreign Affairs Commissioner*** Federica Mogherini said that if there was progress on the question of how to distribute the migrants, they could again consider sending ships to the Mediterranean as part of the military operation Sophia. The operation's main goal is to put a stop to human and arms smugglers. Until the end of March, however, ships from the mission had also been involved in rescuing shipwrecked people. In Germany, there are increasing calls for a generous reception of rescued migrants. Prior to the ministerial meeting, ***Minister of State for Europe*** Michael Roth (SPD) had called for a quick agreement on a distribution mechanism. Italy's Foreign Minister Enzo Moavero Milanesi wanted to present new proposals to his colleagues. According to reports, these include that the ***EU*** should allocate more resources. Accordingly, Milanesi proposed that asylum seekers should submit their applications outside ***Europe*** and only be brought into the ***EU*** if they receive a positive decision. This would make life-threatening crossings in smugglers' boats from North Africa superfluous. Furthermore, the fight against smugglers should be stepped up and the ***EU*** should organise the repatriation of rejected asylum seekers. As far as migrants rescued at sea were concerned, the Italian was apparently vague - a system was needed to get away from case-by-case solutions.

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject: *EUROPEAN UNION*** (90%); REFUGEE CRISIS IN ***EUROPE (***90%); POLITICS (90%); PUBLIC POLICY (90%); GERMAN POLITICAL PARTIES (78%); POLITICAL PARTIES (78%); SHIPPING ACCIDENTS (78%); SMUGGLING (76%); ARMED FORCES (73%); MILITARY OPERATIONS (71%).

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

**Industry:** WATER DRIVES (90%); ACCIDENTS IN SHIP DRIVING (78%); ARMIES (73%); MILITARY OPERATIONS (71%)

**Geographic:** BRUSSELS, BELGIUM (73%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (94%); BRUSSELS CAPITAL REGION (90%); ***EUROPE (***88%); NORTH AFRICA (73%); GERMANY (59%); BELGIUM (58%); ITALY (58%).

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

**End of Document**

[***FOREIGN; Ministers discuss rescue***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5WK6-W421-JBF1-0427-00000-00&context=)

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

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**Byline:** SZ

**Body**

**Brussels** - The ***EU foreign ministers met*** in Brussels on Monday to discuss the controversial handling of boat refugees in the Mediterranean. Beforehand, ***Minister of State for Europe*** Michael Roth (SPD) called for a quick agreement on a distribution mechanism. Italy's Foreign Minister Enzo Moavero Milanesi wanted to present new proposals to his colleagues. According to preliminary reports, these include that the ***EU*** should use more resources to solve the situation. Accordingly, Moavero Milanesi proposed that asylum seekers should submit their applications outside ***Europe*** and only be brought into the ***EU*** if they receive a positive decision. This would make life-threatening crossings in smugglers' boats from North Africa superfluous. Furthermore, the fight against smugglers should be stepped up and the ***EU*** should organise the repatriation of rejected asylum seekers. As far as migrants rescued at sea were concerned, the Italian was apparently vague - a system was needed to get away from case-by-case solutions.

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject:** GERMAN POLITICAL PARTIES (90%); ***EUROPEAN UNION*** (90%); ***REFUGEE*** CRISIS IN ***EUROPE (90%)***; POLITICS (90%); POLITICAL PARTIES (90%)

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

**Geographic:** BRUSSELS, BELGIUM (73%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (94%); BRUSSELS CAPITAL REGION (90%); ***EUROPE*** (88%); NORTH AFRICA (73%); BELGIUM (58%); ITALY (58%).

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

**End of Document**

[***Mission of no return; Ursula von der Leyen gives up her post as Defence Minister. Now the question arises as to who might succeed her in Berlin***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5WK6-W421-JBF1-041G-00000-00&context=)

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Tuesday 16 July 2019

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

**Length:** 639 words

**Byline:** DANIEL BRÖSSLER

**Body**

**Berlin** - In the event that Ursula von der Leyen is elected by the ***EU Parliament*** this Tuesday evening, the matter is simple: Chancellor Angela Merkel (CDU) must then quickly settle the succession in the Ministry of Defence with CDU leader Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer. But what if von der Leyen fails? The government spokesman Steffen Seibert said on Monday that "we will not deal with the possible what-if scenarios now". In the afternoon, von der Leyen herself provided clarity. She would definitely resign from her post as Federal Defence Minister, she announced on Twitter.

Both in the CDU/CSU parliamentary group and in the SPD parliamentary group, it was already considered unlikely that von der Leyen would simply be able to return to her office in the Bendlerblock, the seat of the Ministry of Defence, after a defeat in Strasbourg. Indeed, it would probably have seemed strange to simply carry on as before her lightning candidacy after an interlude as an ***EU enthusiast*** with a team in Brussels. She wanted to put her "full energy into the service of ***Europe***", von der Leyen tweeted. She "feels deep gratitude for the years with the Bundeswehr". In the event of a defeat on Tuesday evening, there is still a job to be filled in Brussels: the German seat in the ***EU Commission***.

At least from the point of view of opposition politicians, von der Leyen's way back would have been blocked anyway. She cannot remain defence minister. Either you get involved in something like that or you don't. If you take such a step, there has to be a certain political risk,' said Jan Korte, parliamentary director of the Left Party, to the *Süddeutsche Zeitung*. In case of failure in the ***EU*** and a return to Berlin, von der Leyen would have had to face "fierce revelations from the committee of enquiry into the advisor affair", emphasised Agnieszka Brugger, deputy parliamentary group leader of the Greens in the Bundestag. A defeat would "lengthen her list of mistakes and defeats".

FDP defence politician Marie-Agnes Strack-Zimmermann also considered a return of von der Leyen inconceivable. She has understandably decided to take up another post in ***Europe in*** an exceptional position," she said. Because of the resulting 'internal distance' from her current post, there was 'no turning back'. The succession must now be clarified quickly. In view of the challenges currently facing the Bundeswehr, the Federal Government cannot allow itself to be caught in the middle, as was the case with the succession in the Federal Ministry of Justice," she said.

Theoretically, there is also the possibility that the vote will be postponed - but even in this case it was clear that a new appointment would be needed quickly. Chancellor Merkel had already indicated last week that the Brussels application procedure would only be compatible with the ministerial office if it were for a short period of time. There is 'plenty to do' in the Ministry of Defence, emphasised Korte, a left-winger, referring to the advisor affair as well as the exploding costs for the sail training ship *Gorch Fock.*

In the question of von der Leyen's successor, the Chancellor has so far provided clarity in one respect. She does not want to move any further away from her goal of having as many men and women as possible in the cabinet. What Merkel had said in this regard continues to apply, Seibert clarified. Currently, seven women sit opposite nine men in the cabinet. If, for example, Jens Spahn (CDU) were to move to the defence portfolio, he would have to be replaced in the health ministry by a woman, such as Annette Widmann-Mauz (CDU), who has been minister of state for migration.

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject:** GERMAN POLITICAL PARTIES (90%); ***EUROPEAN UNION (90%);*** LEGISLATIVE BODIES (90%); POLITICS (90%); POLITICAL PARTIES (90%); HEADS OF STATE & GOVERNMENT (90%); DEFENCE MINISTRIES (90%); GERMAN CHANCELLORS (89%); DEFENCE & MILITARY POLICY (89%); PUBLIC POLICY (89%); GERMAN PARLIAMENT (78%); SCANDALS (77%); INVESTIGATIONS (73%); ***EUROPEAN*** UNION INSTITUTIONS (73%); JUSTICE MINISTRIES (70%); LEADERS (65%)

**Organisation: *EUROPEAN*** PARLIAMENT (84%); ***EUROPEAN*** UNION (55%)

**Industry: DEFENCE** MINISTRIES (90%); DEFENCE POLICY & MILITARY POLICY (89%); WATER VEHICLES (66%)

**Person:** URSULA VON DER LEYEN (96%); ANGELA MERKEL (92%); ANNEGRET KRAMP-KARRENBAUER (79%); STEFFEN SEIBERT (78%)

**Geographic:** BERLIN, GERMANY (88%); BRUSSELS, BELGIUM (88%); STRASBOURG, FRANCE (79%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (94%); BRUSSELS MAIN CITY REGION (92%); ***EUROPE*** (90%); BELGIUM (73%).

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**End of Document**

[***FOREIGN; Pressure on Turkey***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5WK6-W421-JBF1-0475-00000-00&context=)

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Tuesday 16 July 2019

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

**Length:** 162 words

**Byline:** DPA

**Body**

**Brussels** - In response to Turkey's search for natural gas off Cyprus, which is considered illegal, the foreign ministers of the ***EU states have*** decided on punitive measures against Turkey. Specifically, ***EU funds*** are to be cut and negotiations on an air transport agreement are to be suspended - which could make flights more expensive for consumers. This emerges from a text adopted in Brussels on Monday. Turkey's provocations are unacceptable to all of us and we are on Cyprus' side here," said the German ***Minister of State for Europe,*** Michael Roth, at the ***EU meeting in*** Brussels. If Turkey does not give in, other types of sanctions are also conceivable. According to the ministerial decision, they could specifically target companies or individuals involved. The ***EU*** wants to use the sanctions to persuade Turkey to stop exploring for natural gas off the coast of Cyprus, a member state. Turkey rejects the accusations that it is drilling illegally.

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject: *EUROPEAN UNION*** (92%); POLITICS (90%); PUBLIC POLICY (90%); EMBARGOES & SANCTIONS (73%)

**Industry: NATURAL** GAS (90%); NATURAL GAS EXPLORATION (73%)

**Geographic:** BRUSSELS, BELGIUM (88%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (94%); BRUSSELS CAPITAL REGION (91%); CYPRUS (90%); BELGIUM (73%); ***EUROPE (***73%).

**Load-Date:** July 16, 2019

**End of Document**

[***FOREIGN; Netherlands to help USA***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5WK6-W421-JBF1-0424-00000-00&context=)

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Tuesday 16 July 2019

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

**Length:** 254 words

**Byline:** AP, REUTERS, DPA

**Body**

**Brussels** - The USA has asked the Netherlands for military support in monitoring the Strait of Hormuz in the Persian Gulf. This was announced by Dutch Foreign Minister Stef Blok on Monday. The government would examine the request by mid-September and then make a decision. This would include an assessment of what military equipment would be needed and the overall security situation. At their monthly Council meeting in Brussels on Monday, the ***EU foreign ministers*** discussed, among other things, ways to reduce tensions between the USA and Iran in the Gulf. A conflict there could block the Strait of Hormuz, through which about one-fifth of the world's traded oil is transported. The US, together with allies, wants to ensure the unimpeded movement of oil tankers. Britain's Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt said in Brussels that there was still time to save the nuclear agreement with Iran. Iran is still a good year away from being able to develop a nuclear bomb," Hunt said. Hunt's French counterpart Jean-Yves Le Drian said ***Europeans*** must be united in trying to save the deal. ***EU foreign ministers*** will try to convince Iran and the US to reduce their tensions. Trump unilaterally withdrew from the agreement, which was negotiated in 2015, just over a year ago. The other signatories, Great Britain, France and Germany, as well as Russia and China, want to stick to the agreement.

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject:** FOREIGN RELATIONS (90%); ***EUROPEAN UNION (90%)***; POLITICS (90%); DEFENCE & MILITARY POLICY (90%); PUBLIC POLICY (90%); SURVEILLANCE (90%); WEAPONS OF WAR (78%); CONFERENCES & CONGRESSES (72%); BOMBS & EXPLOSIVES (71%)

**Industry: DEFENCE** POLICY & MILITARY POLICY (90%); WAR WEAPONS (78%)

**Geographic:** BRUSSELS, BELGIUM (88%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (92%); BRUSSELS CAPITAL REGION (91%); GULF STATES (79%); IRAN (90%); FRANCE (88%); NETHERLANDS (88%); BELGIUM (73%); ***EUROPE*** (73%); UNITED KINGDOM (73%); GERMANY (59%); CHINA (58%); RUSSIAN FEDERATION (58%).

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

**End of Document**

[***Logbook of Failure; The Sicilian Author Davide Enia on the Island of Lampedusa***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5WK6-W421-JBF1-043F-00000-00&context=)

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Tuesday 16 July 2019

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**Section:** Literature; Munich; Bavaria; Germany; p. 12

**Length:** 729 words

**Byline:** MAIKE ALBATH

**Body**

It happened for the first time in 1996. A shipwreck full of bodies washed up in Lampedusa. The current had driven it close to the harbour. The military authorities turned to Vincenzo, the gravedigger, gardener and altar boy of the island's cemetery. Vincenzo plugged his nostrils with mint, put on a face mask, recovered the twelve Africans, washed them and buried them. For the only woman among the boat people, he planted an oleander bush.

It is information of this kind that makes Davide Enia's account of his experience, 'Shipwreck off Lampedusa', so memorable. Enia, a Palermo native who has known the island since his youth, returned there several times between 2012 and 2015, visiting friends, interviewing a rescue diver as well as the coast guard captain, doctors, fishermen, the gravedigger and ordinary residents. He was also able to talk to survivors.

Enia has the people affected describe their experiences in verbatim speech. No one, it quickly becomes clear, can process the experiences. There are often over 200 refugees on the sinking boats, and once even 1300 people. Even if the helpers are able to save countless lives - the images of those who drown before their eyes are too cruel. You don't weigh things up, says the rescue diver: "At sea, every life is sacred.

It is due to the martial tones of the current Minister of the Interior, Matteo Salvini, that statements of this kind stand out. After the dramatic accident off Lampedusa on 3 October 2013, in which 368 people died and 155 were rescued, Italy initiated and financed the 'Mare Nostrum' sea rescue programme. Davide Enia, who wrote his book long before Salvini took office, implicitly asks the central questions - how can it be that ***Europe***, especially Germany, has disregarded the situation in southern Italy for decades and insists on the Dublin procedure? The author, born in 1974, now at home in Rome, known in Italy as a playwright and novelist, does not provide a guide to dealing with the refugee issue, but rather logs his own reactions. The result is a kind of logbook - a mixture of reportage, self-exploration and factual report.

Again and again, Enia reflects on his own helplessness in the face of the force of what he experiences. However, this attitude is also the problem of the book. For Enia does not leave it at the portraits of the participants and their descriptions, but supplements these episodes with his own family history. He is concerned with genealogies, with the concept of masculinity that he was taught in his family. His father, a retired cardiologist and passionate photographer, accompanies him to Lampedusa; meanwhile, his father's seriously ill brother is threatening to succumb to cancer. The narrator's triumph is that he manages to break the confused silence among the men of the family even before the uncle's death.

To parallel the private loss with the dying on the Mediterranean is a risk, however. The episodes themselves are not convincing, nor does Enia find an appropriate language for them - they are too colloquial, too little worked through and seem out of place in the midst of the refugees' hardships. In some places, the author pulls out the wrong stops and resorts to droning metaphors that would not even be necessary. Especially in comparison with Gianfranco Rosi's award-winning documentary 'Fuocoammare' ('Sea Fire' 2016), which used images to illustrate the interweaving of everyday life on the island and the state of emergency, Enia's 'Shipwreck off Lampedusa' seems awkward in many moments. The fact that the reading nevertheless burns itself in is due to the narratives of the participants in verbatim speech. How the oil-smeared bodies keep slipping away from the fishermen, or how the harbour master discovers a dead girl in the water who reminds him of his daughter. It is not only the refugees who are shipwrecked off Lampedusa, but all of ***Europe***.

**Davide Enia:** Shipwreck off Lampedusa. Translated from the Italian by Susanne Van Volxem and Olaf Matthias Roth. Wallstein Verlag, Göttingen 2019. 236 pages, 20 ***euros***.

**The original voices of the people who report on the shipwrecks are the book's strength**

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject:** LITERARY CRITICISM (90%); WRITERS (89%); DEATH & DYING (89%); COPYRIGHT (79%); FAMILY (78%); PORT SECURITY (78%); NOVELS & SHORT STORIES (78%); MARITIME ACCIDENTS (78%); COASTAL AREAS (77%); DOCTORS (69%); MEN (60%)

**Industry:** LITERATURE CRITICS (90%); WRITERS (89%); PORT SAFETY (78%); SHELTERS (78%); ACCIDENTS IN SHIP PASSING (78%); DOCTORS (69%)

**Geographic:** DUBLIN, IRELAND (73%); ROME, ITALY (73%); ITALY (90%); AFRICA (72%); GERMANY (59%); ***EUROPE (***55%).

**Load-Date:** July 16, 2019

**End of Document**

[***EUROPE'S CENTRAL BANK; warning shot***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5WPD-DF31-DXX2-P4WT-00000-00&context=)

Süddeutsche Zeitung

Wednesday 31 July 2019

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

**Length:** 824 words

**Byline:** BY MARC BEISE

**Body**

With a few cautionary words, after all, Germany's highest judges have waved through the ***European*** Banking Union. This sounds like a report from the factory, far away from the people. Yet this procedure and the other procedures currently before the Federal Constitutional Court are important for every citizen. It is about ***Europe's*** future, about German (residual) competences - and about a lot of money.

The question (now answered in the affirmative) of whether the ***EU*** may also supervise banks at the expense of German influence is one thing. The question of how much the ***European*** Central Bank (ECB) may interfere in financial policy is another. For example, the ECB has bought securities for 2.6 trillion ***euros*** so far, with the benevolence of the governments, in order to stimulate the economy and hedge the debts, especially in Southern Europe. That is a number with eleven zeros. Written in figures, it looks like this: 2 600 000 000 000 ***euros***!

***Euro-critics*** - conservative politicians, lawyers, professors, entrepreneurs - have been trying for years to stop the ***European*** institutions from this gigantic increase in money in court. Their argument is that the financial merry-go-round, largely run by the now outgoing ECB President Mario Draghi, is extremely risky, harmful to Germany and not covered by ***European*** law. That is true, and it is also not true.

What the plaintiffs give too little weight to: The ***European Union*** is a historic opportunity. Only two generations after the end of the last world war, it is a peace project and a catalyst for prosperity. Little Greece benefits from it no differently than big Germany. But anyone who wants to be organised in such a community must be prepared to compromise. This also applies to the strongest economy in the union, Germany. The established politicians have always been prepared to do this, and they will have to continue to do so, especially since the introduction of the common currency in 1999.

As we know today, the ***euro*** came too early. It presupposes a common financial, economic and social policy for which the member states are not yet ready. The hope that this would work out in practice was deceptive. But now the ***euro*** is here, and to abandon it would mean dramatically damaging the ***EU*** - in the long run, certainly to Germany's detriment.

The ECB's loose monetary policy is also against the concrete interests of many Germans, at least if they are savers. If interest rates tend towards zero or even become negative, then many people's provisions shrink and money loses its function as an incentive system in the market. For example, companies that would actually no longer be creditworthy continue to exist, and land becomes more and more expensive. When this bubble bursts, the consequences can be dramatic.

The ECB's policy is, to put it mildly, on the borderline of what is legally permissible. After all, according to the treaties, the independent and barely controlled ECB is supposed to keep the money stable, but not to conduct financial and economic policy, which is what the politicians elected by the people are there for. Although all this is much discussed and some members of the ECB Governing Council, including the German Bundesbank President Jens Weidmann, oppose it, the Draghi majority continues to play its game. Recently, the prospect of easing the money supply has been raised again, and in Frankfurt the wildest rumours are circulating about what else the central bankers might come up with in their increasingly desperate attempt to stimulate the economy.

The moment is approaching when the concrete disadvantages for Germany will no longer be compensated by the general advantages for ***Europe.*** If, for example, acceptance of ***Europe*** continues to wane in Germany, the ***euro*** and the ***EU*** may be finished sooner than some might imagine. And even if things are suspiciously quiet in Germany, the situation is extremely serious. If the ECB doesn't come to its senses and at least hold out the prospect of a turnaround, it will soon need a shot across the bow. And since it is independent and politics better not interfere, this shot can only come from the Federal Constitutional Court, which is now negotiating and will announce its decision in a few months.

If the warning shot does not bear fruit, the next step would be an emergency brake. In professional circles this is called *ultra vires.* The judges in Karlsruhe would then rule that the ECB is acting outside its powers and would order the German institutions - such as the Bundesbank - to stop following suit. That would be the biggest conceivable crisis of the ***EU*** and possibly its end. The ECB now has it in its hands to prevent such a crazy escalation.

**The constitutional judges should urgently show the ECB its limits**

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject:** CENTRAL BANKS (92%); ***EUROPEAN UNION (90%);*** COURT CASES (90%); POLITICS (90%); JUDGES (90%); ECONOMIC POLICY (89%); ***EURO (***78%); MONETARY POLICY (78%); COURTS OF JUSTICE (78%); ECONOMY & ECONOMIC INDICATORS (78%); CURRENCIES (78%); MONETARY UNIONS (78%); ***EUROPEAN*** UNION INSTITUTIONS (75%); INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORGANISATIONS (75%); HEADS OF STATE & GOVERNMENT (74%); SECURITIES & OTHER INVESTMENTS (74%); SUPREME COURT (73%)

**Industry:** CENTRAL BANKS (92%); ***EURO*** (78%); MONEY POLICY (78%); CURRENCIES (78%); CURRENCY UNIONS (78%); SECURITIES & OTHER CAPITAL ASSETS (74%)

**Person:** MARIO DRAGHI (79%)

**Geographic: *EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (94%); ***EUROPE (***94%); GERMANY (90%); SOUTHERN EUROPE (79%); GREECE (58%)

**Load-Date:** July 31, 2019

**End of Document**

[***Karlsruhe allows banking union; critics fail with lawsuit against European supervision***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5WPD-DF31-DXX2-P4W2-00000-00&context=)

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Wednesday 31 July 2019

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

**Length:** 226 words

**Byline:** GAM  
  
, JAN

**Body**

**Berlin/Karlsruhe** - The Federal Constitutional Court has approved the ***European*** Banking Union with considerable reservations. The President of the Court, Andreas Voßkuhle, said at the pronouncement of the judgement that the regulations on the ***European*** banking union "use the given legal framework to a very large extent, but do not exceed it in a form that is relevant from the point of view of the Basic Law". This result presupposes a "strict interpretation" of the treaties. The ECB may only supervise important - i.e. systemically relevant - financial institutions in the future, as it has done so far. However, it should not extend its supervision to all banks on its own authority, otherwise this would be a violation of the "right to democracy". Behind the complaints is the ***euro-critical*** '***Europolis***' group around the financial scientist Markus Kerber. Green party leader Robert Habeck welcomed the decision. It is good that the Constitutional Court confirms the line that ***Europe should*** arm itself against speculation and risks on the financial market in a deepened unity," Habeck told the *Süddeutsche Zeitung*. The financial sector is global, 'national regulations are no longer sufficient'. The banking union with banking supervision and resolution rules is a good start.

**Page 4, Economy**

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject:** COURTS (90%); SUPREME COURT (90%); POLITICAL PARTIES (90%); LEGAL ACTIONS (90%); BANKING REGULATION & FINANCIAL SUPERVISION (78%); CENTRAL BANKS (78%); GERMAN POLITICAL PARTIES (73%); CONSTITUTIONAL LAW (73%); ECONOMICS (70%).

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

**Industry:** BANKING AND FINANCIAL OVERSIGHT (78%); BANKING REGULATION & FINANCIAL OVERSIGHT (78%); CENTRAL BANKS (78%)

**Geographic:** KARLSRUHE, GERMANY (90%); BERLIN, GERMANY (58%); ***EUROPE*** (90%)

**Load-Date:** July 31, 2019

**End of Document**

[***European Banking union is legal***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5WPD-J7M1-JBK9-20KC-00000-00&context=)

Bild

Wednesday 31 July 2019

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**Section:** p. 2; issue 176

**Length:** 54 words

**Body**

Karlsruhe - The banking supervision of the ***European*** Central Bank (ECB) does not violate the German Constitution or ***EU law***. This was the decision of the Federal Constitutional Court in Karlsruhe yesterday. With their ruling, the judges rejected constitutional complaints - but warned the ECB to strictly adhere to the rules.

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** BIBU

**Subject:** CENTRAL BANKS (92%); BANK REGULATION & FINANCIAL SUPERVISION (90%); EU REGULATION (90%); ***EUROPEAN UNION (90%);*** COURTS OF JUSTICE (90%); JUDGES (90%); ***EUROPEAN LAW (88%);*** INSTITUTIONS OF THE ***EUROPEAN UNION (88%);*** CONSTITUTIONAL LAW (88%)

**Company: *EUROPEAN*** CENTRAL BANK (93%)

**Industry:** CENTRAL BANKS (92%); BANK REGULATION & FINANCIAL SUPERVISION (90%)

**Geographic:** KARLSRUHE, GERMANY (74%); BADEN-WÜRTTEMBERG, GERMANY (59%); ***EUROPE*** (73%)

**Load-Date:** July 31, 2019

**End of Document**

[***"Still acceptable"; How far may the ECB go in controlling German banks? The Federal Constitutional Court has now drawn a line - and sent a fundamental warning after it***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5WPD-DF31-DXX2-P50N-00000-00&context=)

Süddeutsche Zeitung

Wednesday 31 July 2019

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**Section:** Economy; Munich; Bavaria; p. 15

**Length:** 822 words

**Byline:** BY WOLFGANG JANISCH

**Body**

**Karlsruhe** - One might have wondered what the Federal Constitutional Court actually had to criticise, when the Banking Union is a really good thing. At least, that was the impression one got at the hearing in November last year. The ***European*** banking supervision, set up in 2013, as well as the single resolution mechanism installed the following year: real progress towards crisis-proofing the banking system, praised Felix Hufeld, President of the German financial supervisory authority Bafin, at the time: Overall, I can confirm that the level of supervision has clearly improved.

Now, eight months later, the Constitutional Court has delivered its verdict. The ***European*** Banking Union is 'still acceptable' under the strict gaze of the judges, as Court President Andreas Voßkuhle put it. Banking supervision and the resolution mechanism, the two pillars of the banking union, 'did not manifestly exceed' the foundations of the ***European*** treaties.

However, the word 'concerns' runs through the reasons for the judgement. As so often in recent years, Karlsruhe raises an admonishing finger because ***Europe*** once again wants to break free of the democratic reins of the member states. The admonition comprises a voluminous 174 pages, almost 30 more than the very detailed Lisbon ruling ten years ago. The longer the Constitutional Court works on ***Europe,*** it seems, the longer the judgements become.

The judges have nothing against the banking union as such. It includes, first, a resolution mechanism with an emergency fund for expensive bailouts, and second, the uniform supervision of "systemically important" banks by the ECB. These are a total of 114 financial institutions, 19 of them from Germany, such as Deutsche Bank or Commerzbank. 1400 German banks are still under the national supervision of Bafin. So actually a sensible division of tasks between the ***European*** and national levels.

Why Karlsruhe still sees a problem here has to do with a ruling by the ***European*** Court of First Instance in May 2017. At the time, it was about the Baden-Württemberg L-Bank, which did not want to subject itself to ECB supervision. The ***EU court*** wrote that national supervision of less significant banks "does not constitute the exercise of autonomous competence, but the decentralised exercise of an exclusive competence of the ECB". In other words: at the moment, ***Europe*** only takes care of the very big banks, but basically the ECB is responsible for all of them - which would downgrade Bafin to a ***European*** branch. So there it was again, the black hole of ***Europe*** threatening to swallow up national competences - Karlsruhe was alarmed. The scenario was not atypical. In response to the financial crisis, the ***EU*** created a sensible mechanism - and incidentally tried to expand its own sphere of influence. 'Never miss a good crisis', is a Karlsruhe jibe about ***EU institutions***: Never miss the chances of a crisis.

The ruling of the ***EU court has since*** been relativised by the next instance, the ***European*** Court of Justice, in May - at the last minute before the Karlsruhe decision. In any case, a claim to all-encompassing ***European*** banking supervision is not clearly made in it. But the constitutional judges now wanted to play it safe. Only in a "strict interpretation" is banking supervision compatible with the Basic Law, i.e. only if it is limited to the "particularly important" banks. If the ECB were to presume to do more, then German voters' "claim to democracy" would be violated. The Constitutional Court would reprimand this as an obvious over-extension of ***European*** competences.

At this point, the Second Senate - the rapporteur was Peter Huber - began an excursus on democratic theory about independent ***European*** institutions. They had to exist, just think of monetary policy, which without an independent ECB would be at the mercy of the egoistic interests of the states. The price for this, however, is a democratic deficit. If more and more important policy areas are shaped by bureaucrats whom no one elects and no one can recall, then voters may fill out as many ballot papers as they like - their vote will not get through. This is why Karlsruhe demands compensation: Politically independent authorities may only exist if it is exceptionally objectively justified, and they must have a minimum of 'democratic controllability', for example through the appointment of their members or through accountability. And, of course, through judicial control. A digression - but actually a warning.

**Page 4**

**Politically independent authorities need a minimum of 'democratic controllability'.**

**Graphic**

One house for all - that's not possible, the Constitutional Court rules. The ECB must limit itself to the "particularly important" banks. Photo: Boris Roessler/dpa

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject:** BANKING REGULATION & FINANCIAL SUPERVISION (90%); COURTS OF JUSTICE (90%); COURT DECISIONS (90%); SUPREME COURT (90%); JUDGES (90%); CENTRAL BANKS (90%); ***EUROPEAN UNION (89%)***; ***EUROPEAN*** UNION COURTS (89%); INTERNATIONAL COURTS & TRIBUNALS (89%); ECONOMIC CRISIS (77%); SECURITIES BROKERS (74%); ***EUROPEAN*** UNION INSTITUTIONS (66%)

**Company:** DEUTSCHE BANK AG (84%); COMMERZBANK AG (58%)

**Organization: *EUROPEAN*** UNION (82%)

**Ticker:** DEUT (JSE) (84%); DBK (FRA) (84%); DBK (BIT) (84%); DBETN (JSE) (84%); DB (NYSE) (84%); CZB (LSE) (58%); CBK (FRA) (58%)

**Industry:** NAICS523920 PORTFOLIO MANAGEMENT (84%); NAICS523110 INVESTMENT BANKING & SECURITIES DEALING (84%); NAICS522110 COMMERCIAL BANKING (84%); SIC6282 INVESTMENT ADVICE (84%); SIC6211 SECURITY BROKERS, DEALERS, & FLOTATION COMPANIES (84%); SIC6081 BRANCHES & AGENCIES OF FOREIGN BANKS (84%); BANKING REGULATION & FINANCIAL SUPERVISION (90%); COMMERCIAL BANKS (90%); INVESTMENT BANKING (90%); CENTRAL BANKS (90%); SECURITIES BROKERS (74%)

**Geographic:** KARLSRUHE, GERMANY (91%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (94%); BADEN-WÜRTTEMBERG, GERMANY (58%); ***EUROPE*** (90%); GERMANY (59%).

**Load-Date:** July 31, 2019

**End of Document**

[***COMMENT; Bitter truth***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5WPD-J7M1-JBK9-20KF-00000-00&context=)

Bild

Wednesday 31 July 2019

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**Section:** p. 2; issue 176

**Length:** 287 words

**Byline:** Julian Reichelt

**Body**

The child murder in Frankfurt shakes Germany. Yes, there should never be such a crime, no matter where the perpetrator comes from. But yes, unfortunately we also know that humans are capable of such insane acts, no matter where they come from.

NO, this is certainly no reason to stop any political debate about the origin of the perpetrator. The question is not only how a person can do such a thing. The question is also why exactly this person and many other potential or already active perpetrators of violence can enter Germany completely unhindered.

Regardless of whether they have a criminal record, are obliged to leave a ***European*** country, are on the run, armed, dangerous to the public - there is no longer any systematic control over who comes to Germany or moves freely in our country. This control used to take place at our borders. The ***EU*** abolished these controls with Schengen, without at the same time guaranteeing effective protection of the external borders (as promised) and ensuring data exchange between states so that police officers can know at any time whether they have a wanted person in front of them.

The bitter truth is that anyone who enters our continent - even with bad intentions - can move almost unhindered through all the countries of ***Europe.*** No one can seriously want that. Because ***Europe's*** great idea of freedom of movement is in the greatest danger if it suddenly appears to too many people as a security risk.

For almost five years we have been talking about the fact that we don't know who is actually in Germany. It must be the Merkel government's top priority to finally, finally change that!

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** BIBU

**Subject:** KILLING DELICACIES (90%); ***EUROPEAN UNION*** (78%); MURDER (78%); CRIME (78%); POLITICS (77%); LEADERSHIP & COMMENTS (73%); POLITICAL DEBATES (72%).

**Geographic:** FRANKFURT, GERMANY (58%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (78%); GERMANY (90%); ***EUROPE (***90%).

**Load-Date:** July 31, 2019

**End of Document**

[***Touring through EuropeVon der Leyen is recruiting personnel for the EUCommission***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5WPD-DF31-DXX2-P4XD-00000-00&context=)

Süddeutsche Zeitung

Wednesday 31 July 2019

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

**Length:** 564 words

**Byline:** MATTHIAS KOLB

**Body**

**Brussels -** Ursula von der Leyen has been on Twitter for only a month, and the designated head of the ***EU Commission is*** still using the short message service rather cautiously. On Tuesday morning, her team posted a photo of the CDU politician waiting for her flight at Brussels airport. The next destination of her get-to-know-you tour through ***Europe***: the Croatian capital Zagreb, where she had an appointment with Prime Minister Andrej Plenkovi&cacute;.

This week von der Leyen also wants to visit Spain and Italy. The picture from the airport lounge shows what will change for the former Defence Minister: She no longer has her own plane, but like predecessor Jean-Claude Juncker and all ***EU commissioners, has*** to fly scheduled flights. Her schedule is now based on the flight plan. This is undoubtedly feasible - Juncker travelled to Washington on United Airlines flight 951 before forcing Trump to take a break in the trade dispute - but travelling is no longer as efficient as it used to be.

In the capitals, von der Leyen will talk about the work programme until 2024 as well as the structure and staff of her ***EU Commission.*** While Spain is prominently represented with Josep Borrell as ***EU foreign affairs representative***, Croatia and Italy have not yet named their candidates - and Plenkovi&cacute; knows, like Giuseppe Conte, how important gender parity is to the first woman to head the Commission. Something is happening here: Cyprus is sending Stella Kyriakides into the race and on Monday evening Czech Prime Minister Andrej Babiš said that Digital Commissioner V&ecaron;ra Jourová should stay in Brussels. Eleven men and eight women have been officially nominated by governments; and Sweden is likely to send a female commissioner again. In August, von der Leyen will hold talks with the candidates, who will have to convince the ***European Parliament in*** autumn.

Jourová is well known there and Prague would like a portfolio with a digital or economic focus, Babiš said. He praised von der Leyen for wanting to overcome the division between East and West. Similar comments are likely to be made by the man who is expected in Brussels on Thursday and who, together with Babiš and Polish Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki, prevented Social Democrat Frans Timmermans from succeeding Juncker: Viktor Orbán. The Hungarian recently described von der Leyen as 'pragmatic and a mother of seven children'. He demands that the Commission should stop acting like a 'political activist' - a reference to the rule of law proceedings underway against Budapest.

The fact that von der Leyen recently used phrases like 'none of us is perfect' on this issue is being carefully noted in Brussels. There are also complaints that the German has not yet recruited top personnel: Her predecessor Juncker had said in his candidacy speech that he wanted to attract political 'heavyweights'. This succeeded: three ex-prime ministers and several foreign ministers moved to Brussels. There is no sign of that in 2019. According to media reports, Romania wants to propose its ***EU ambassador*** Luminita Odobescu. Although she is considered highly professional in Brussels, she is not a politician that everyone knows back home.

**In Brussels, people complain that she has not yet won over any ex-prime ministers for the Commission**

**Graphic**

First to Croatia, then to Spain and Italy: Ursula von der Leyen. Photo: afp

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject: *EUROPEAN UNION*** (92%); INSTITUTIONS OF THE ***EUROPEAN*** UNION (90%); PUBLIC POLICY (90%); POLITICS (89%); PRIME MINISTERS (89%); HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT (89%); FOREIGN RELATIONS (77%); GERMAN POLITICAL PARTIES (77%); POLITICAL PARTIES (77%); CALENDAR OF EVENTS (77%); LEGISLATIVE BODIES (73%); RULE OF LAW (72%); ECONOMIC NEWS (72%); CITIES (71%); TRADE DISPUTES (53%).

**Company:** UNITED AIR LINES INC (56%)

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

**Industry:** SIC4512 AIR TRANSPORTATION, SCHEDULED (56%); AIRPORTS (90%)

**Person:** URSULA VON DER LEYEN (95%); JEAN-CLAUDE JUNCKER (92%); VIKTOR ORBAN (79%)

**Geographic:** ZAGREB, CROATIA (92%); BRUSSELS, BELGIUM (90%); BUDAPEST, HUNGARY (79%); PRAGUE, CZECH REPUBLIC (79%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (94%); BRUSSELS CAPITAL REGION (94%); ***EUROPE*** (93%); CROATIA (92%); BELGIUM (91%); ITALY (88%); SPAIN (88%); POLAND (79%); SWEDEN (79%); CZECH REPUBLIC (79%); CYPRUS (79%); ROMANIA (58%)

**Load-Date:** July 31, 2019

**End of Document**

[***France grows more slowly; Paris reports a plus of only 0.2 per cent***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5WPD-DF31-DXX2-P51D-00000-00&context=)

Süddeutsche Zeitung

Wednesday 31 July 2019

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

**Length:** 253 words

**Byline:** REUTERS

**Body**

**Paris** - More cautious consumers slowed down the French economy in the second quarter. Gross domestic product (GDP) rose by only 0.2 per cent between April and June compared to the previous quarter, according to the statistics office Insee. The growth was below the 0.3 per cent recorded at the beginning of the year and below the expectations of economists, who had again expected a plus of 0.3 per cent. Private consumption, which is traditionally an important pillar of the French economy, increased by only 0.2 per cent this time and thus only half as much as at the beginning of the year. This was also the smallest increase in a year. And this despite the fact that President Emmanuel Macron had put together a package of more than ten billion ***euros*** to strengthen the purchasing power of the French because of the yellow waistcoats protests.

No growth impulses came from foreign trade in the spring, as exports and imports both barely increased. Corporate investments, on the other hand, climbed by 1.2 percent, almost twice as much as recently. Although the French economy is doing quite well compared to other ***European countries***, the public deficit grew significantly in the first half of the year. Expenditures exceeded revenues by more than 77 billion ***euros,*** according to the finance ministry. A year earlier, the deficit had only amounted to just under 59 billion ***euros.*** While expenditures increased by 2.2 per cent, revenues fell by almost ten per cent.

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject:** GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT (91%); CONSUMPTION (90%); STATISTICS (78%); ECONOMIC SCIENCE (78%); IMPORT TRADE (77%); INTERNATIONAL TRADE (77%); GOVERNMENT DEBT (77%); FINANCIAL MINISTRIES AND AUTHORITIES (70%)

**Industry:** FINANCIAL MINISTRIES AND AUTHORITIES (70%)

**Geographic:** PARIS, FRANCE (88%); FRANCE (91%); ***EUROPE (***58%)

**Load-Date:** July 31, 2019

**End of Document**

[***In the chicken coop***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5WPD-DF31-DXX2-P53S-00000-00&context=)

Süddeutsche Zeitung

Wednesday 31 July 2019

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

**Length:** 84 words

**Body**

Britain's new prime minister, currently on a promotional tour for his Brexit course in the kingdom, has promised British farmers that they will be better off after ***leaving the EU.*** In Wales, where he visited a chicken farm on Tuesday, about 80 percent of farmers' income recently came from the ***European*** Union, according to experts. More than 50 000 people are employed in agriculture there. Photo: Adrian Dennis/Reuters

**Page 7 and Economy**

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject:** BREXIT (90%); ***EUROPEAN UNION*** (90%); PRIME MINISTERS (90%); INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORGANISATIONS (87%).

**Industry:** LANDWIRTE (90%)

**Geographic: *EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (88%); UNITED KINGDOM (90%); ***EUROPE*** (73%); WALES (58%)

**Load-Date:** July 31, 2019

**End of Document**

[***Much criticism of the ECJ***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5WPD-DF31-DXX2-P53V-00000-00&context=)

Süddeutsche Zeitung

Wednesday 31 July 2019

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**Section:** Economy; Court decision; Bavaria; p. 15

**Length:** 301 words

**Byline:** Anika Blatz

**Body**

After the bank ruling, the hearing for the ECB's controversial bond-buying programme began in Karlsruhe. The professors commissioned by the central bank's critics were above all disappointed with the ***European*** Court of Justice, to which the Federal Constitutional Court had submitted five questions for a preliminary ruling. The ECJ had lacked any critical analysis, said the legal scholar Hans-Detlef Horn. Particularly with regard to the question referred for a preliminary ruling on the unlimited distribution of risk in the case of defaults on bonds issued by central governments, which the ECJ classified as inadmissible, his colleague Markus Kerber spoke of an erroneous assumption and even an error of law. It was not a purely hypothetical question; however, this was how the ECJ had justified the inadmissibility. The ECB was influencing the Economic and Monetary Union in a way that was not provided for in the Treaties, criticised Christoph Degenhart. The right to democracy was in danger of being "pulverised".

Dietrich Murswiek also emphasised the lack of democratic legitimacy of the ECB's bond purchases and criticised the fact that the ECJ did not say a word about this legitimacy problem. In the OMT proceedings, the Federal Constitutional Court tried to establish a bridge of understanding with the ECJ, but the ECJ probably sees it more as a bridge of command," Horn said. The German court now has the task of saving what can be saved. The Bundestag and the Federal Government must also finally take action. On the other hand, State Secretary for Finance Jörg Kukies insisted on behalf of the Federal Government that the ECB needed a wide margin of appreciation in view of the complex matter, but that the Federal Government was watching its actions closely.

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject: *EUROPEAN*** UNION COURTS (94%); CENTRAL BANKS (91%); BONDS & NOTES (90%); COURTS OF JUSTICE (90%); ***EUROPEAN*** UNION INSTITUTIONS (90%); INTERNATIONAL COURTS & TRIBUNALS (90%); POLITICS (90%); LEGISLATIVE BODIES (78%); SUPREME COURT (78%); COURT CASES (77%); MONETARY UNIONS (77%). TRIBUNALS (90%); POLITICS (90%); LEGISLATIVE BODIES (78%); SUPREME COURT (78%); COURT CASES (77%); MONETARY UNIONS (77%); GERMAN PARLIAMENT (72%)

**Industry:** CENTRAL BANKS (91%); BORROWINGS & BONDS (90%); CURRENCY UNIONS (77%)

**Geographic:** KARLSRUHE, GERMANY (78%); BADEN-WÜRTTEMBERG, GERMANY (58%); ***EUROPE*** (58%)

**Load-Date:** August 1, 2019

**End of Document**

[***It's slowly dawning; Boris Johnson's original intention on his tour was to allay British fears of a hard Brexit and instead inspire anticipation of new markets and new opportunities. But the Scots and the Welsh were mostly unimpressed***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5WPD-DF31-DXX2-P4XR-00000-00&context=)

Süddeutsche Zeitung

Wednesday 31 July 2019

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

**Length:** 948 words

**Byline:** BY CATHRIN KAHLWEIT

**Body**

**London** - The new Prime Minister's tour of the United Kingdom has so far been rather unpleasant for him. The 'Minister for the Union', to which Johnson has appointed himself, had set out to allay the fears of a hard Brexit and instead to awaken in the British people the anticipation of new markets and new opportunities. It sounded like this: "I will ensure that all corners of the UK can enjoy the bright future outside the ***EU.*** Or like this: 'I will make sure Brexit pays off for British farmers.' Or like this: 'We will sign new trade deals so our great farmers sell more than ever, not just at home but around the world.'

But the Scots and the Welsh were not impressed. On Monday, the boos at Johnson's arrival at the official residence of the Scottish First Minister, Nicola Sturgeon, had been so loud that Johnson preferred to leave through the back exit after the conversation in which Sturgeon had read him the riot act. He clearly wanted to avoid images shortly after taking office that would show that not all Britons are as enthusiastic about No Deal as the majority of the 95,000 Tories who voted for him earlier.

Sturgeon regularly threatens a new independence referendum if the UK does indeed leave the ***EU in a*** hard crash. The last one in 2014 was narrowly in favour of remaining in the kingdom, but since then her Scottish National Party has made up a lot of ground. Polls suggest that a new attempt could lead to a *scoxit* - and end with Scotland as an ***EU member.*** This is pie in the sky, but real enough to make the English Tories nervous - which is why Johnson went to Edinburgh first.

A strengthening of the traditionally weak Welsh independence movement is also already being reported. Although the region in the south-west of the country was finally incorporated into the kingdom in the 16th century, nests of nationalists who want the region to separate have also persisted here. The regional party Plaid Cymru (Party of Wales) has recently made slight gains in opinion polls.

Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland are so-called 'devolved nations', the three parts of the country have their own parliaments and limited legislative powers. Only England, as the largest nation, is represented by the British Parliament. According to current polls, a majority in the Conservative Party accepts that Brexit could lead to a break-up of the Union. The last prime minister, Theresa May, had declared a no deal unacceptable, partly out of fear of this scenario.

On Tuesday, her successor travelled to Wales, which, unlike Scotland, had voted for Brexit by a majority in 2016. Here, too, the mood was already depressed and the rhetoric aggressive before his arrival. Before Johnson's visit, the Farmers' Union of Wales had already threatened 'riots' in the event of a no deal. On the BBC, a regional representative of the British Sheep Federation, Helen Roberts, said a hard crash would be a "disaster" for the industry. The word 'disaster' was then taken up by the First Minister of Wales, Mark Drakeford. No Deal, he tweeted before Johnson had even paid his respects in Cardiff, would "damage agriculture and industry and destroy the Union. The Prime Minister must stop playing with fire as soon as possible'.

In fact, it seems to be only now dawning on many Welsh people what Brexit, for which they voted with 53 per cent, means for them. Sheep and lamb products, an important export commodity in Wales, face tariffs of 40 per cent after a hard Brexit. And of the 40 per cent of lamb production that leaves the country, 90 per cent in turn goes to the ***EU***: so exports are likely to slump. Sheep farmers are already warning of mass slaughter. Conversely, about 300 million ***euros a*** year in ***EU subsidies*** flow to Wales from the Common Agricultural Policy. London would have to fill this gap in the future.

The new parliamentary minister and Brexit supporter Jacob Rees-Mogg has already consolingly let it be known that the farmers affected will be "taken care of". However, many farmers now have doubts as to whether the money will continue to flow. Johnson therefore returned to Downing Street in the evening with the request that he should no longer play "Russian roulette" with the country's economy.

Even further west, on the island of Ireland, fears are spreading about the consequences of a policy that 56 percent of Northern Irish people voted against. On Tuesday, after much hesitation, Johnson finally spoke to the Prime Minister of the Republic of Ireland, Leo Varadkar, and claimed that a hard border could be avoided through technical solutions. He did not say where he would find such solutions in a hurry, since his country is already leaving the ***EU*** on 31 October. At the same time, Varadkar might have been looking attentively to Belfast, where the leader of the republican Sinn Féin party, Mary Lou McDonald, gave a programmatic speech. In the face of the madness in London, the people of Northern Ireland are increasingly relying on leadership from Dublin, she said. The vision of a united Ireland is more real than ever before.

**The Farmers' Union of Wales has already threatened 'riots' in the event of a no deal.**

**The *EU subsidy* gap must be plugged by London in future**

**Graphic**

In the end, Boris Johnson preferred to go out the back way: visiting Scottish leader Nicola Sturgeon. Photo: Duncan McGlynn/Pool via REUTERS

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject:** BREXIT (90%); ***EUROPEAN UNION*** (90%); POLITICS (90%); PRIME MINISTERS (90%); HEADS OF STATE & GOVERNMENT (90%); PUBLIC POLICY (90%); LEGISLATIVE BODIES (89%); POLITICAL PARTIES (89%); POLLS & SURVEYS (86%); BRITISH PARLIAMENT (78%); REFERENDUMS (75%); SCOTTISH INDEPENDENCE REFERENDUM (74%); SEPARATISM & SECESSION (70%); TRADE AGREEMENTS (69%)

**Industry:** LANDWIRTE (75%)

**Person:** BORIS JOHNSON (79%); NICOLA STURGEON (79%); THERESA MAY (79%)

**Geographic:** EDINBURGH, SCOTLAND (58%); LONDON, ENGLAND (58%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (93%); SCOTLAND (92%); UNITED KINGDOM (91%); WALES (90%); ENGLAND (73%); NORTHERN IRELAND (73%).

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[***The Eritrean (40) was on the run from the Swiss police In Zurich he had threatened a woman with a knife At the German border no one checked him; The truth about the child murderer of track 7; ONLY AT THREE BORDER CROSSINGS ARE STRICTLY CONTROLLED***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5WPD-J7M1-JBK9-20JY-00000-00&context=)

Bild

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**Byline:** Florian Kain  
  
Filipp Piatov  
  
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Kai Feldhaus  
  
Lisa Goedert  
  
Jürgen Mahnke  
  
Daniela Path  
  
Simone Windhoff

**Body**

Two years ago, an advertising brochure of the Swiss Workers' Relief Agency showed Habte Araya (40) as an example of successful integration.

Berlin - The brutal act of the Eritrean who entered from Switzerland shocks Germany - and reignites the debate on open borders.

BILD answers the most important questions!

WHY ARE THERE NO CONTROLS AT THE BORDERS?

Only at three border crossings between Germany and Austria have permanent (stationary) checks been carried out again since autumn 2015. The smugglers avoid these crossings.

Until then, there had been no stationary checks on persons at German borders on the basis of the Schengen Agreement, which guarantees freedom of movement within most ***EU states. The*** situation-dependent controls that Seehofer now wants to introduce for all German borders have so far failed due to a lack of will on the part of the federal government. In addition, there is ***EU law that*** restricts such controls.

WILL WE EVER KNOW WHO IS IN OUR COUNTRY?

Not of the people (including tourists) from the ***EU*** who travel in and out every day. But for those who stay longer, it is a question of rules. Interior expert Armin Schuster (58, CDU) demands: "The Federal Police should be given responsibility for the area of residence rights in all its areas of responsibility!

Schuster to BILD: "Federal police officers must be allowed to check on suspicion of illegal entry or residence - also in stations and trains."

DOES SCHENGEN REALLY COMMIT US TO OPEN BORDERS AS LONG AS ***EU EXTERNAL BORDERS*** ARE NOT SECURED?

Some constitutional lawyers say that as long as the external borders are not secure, ***EU states*** may completely control their borders. Others say: only limited, occasion-related controls (e.g. at G-20 meetings) are allowed.

WHY DON'T WE KNOW ABOUT ALL THE SEARCHES IN ***EUROPE***?

That is not mandatory. Federal Police President Dieter Romann said yesterday that searches are sometimes also started nationally, there is no obligation to immediately trigger an international search. Seehofer wants to change this during the ***EU Council Presidency in*** 2020.

Regarding the Frankfurt case, a spokesperson for the Zurich cantonal police told BILD: "It was a case of domestic violence and there were no indications for an international alert or public search."

ARE ALL RECOGNISED ***EUROPEAN*** REFUGEES ALLOWED TO ENTER OUR COUNTRY?

According to the Geneva Refugee Convention, every recognised refugee has the right to a travel document. Exception: The person poses a threat to public security.

Recognised refugees in Switzerland may travel throughout the Schengen area without a visa. Exceptions: provisionally admitted foreigners who may not be expelled and asylum seekers in ongoing proceedings.

WIFE CALLED THE POLICE OUT OF FEAR

4 days before the murder in Frankfurt, the Eritrean attacked his family and a neighbour

Frankfurt - He is wearing a white disposable overall, his clothes are being examined by forensics. In his hand the child murderer of platform 7 holds his red arrest warrant.

It is 4.59 p.m., Habte Araya (40) is brought from the Frankfurt district court to custody. For murder and attempted murder in two cases.

The cold-blooded murder on a platform at Frankfurt's main railway station shocked the whole of Germany. Araya, an Eritrean living in Switzerland, pushed a mother (40) and her son (8) in front of an arriving ICE train. The woman was able to roll out of the track bed at the very last second, but it was too late to help the child.

A pensioner (78), whom the murderer also wanted to throw into the track bed, was very lucky: she resisted, fell, but escaped with a shoulder injury.

Millions of Germans are asking themselves after a mother in Voerde (NRW) was pushed in front of a train by a Kosovo Serb (28) and thus murdered only 11 days ago: Can one still trust oneself on a train platform at all? Is this a new form of terror?

The child murderer of track 7 comes from Eritrea (East Africa). He came to Switzerland illegally as a refugee in 2006. Applied for asylum, which was granted in 2008. Since 2011, five years after entering the country, Araya has had unlimited right of residence in Switzerland. He is allowed to travel in the Schengen area without a visa with his "alien's permit category C".

Habte Araya lives in Wädenswil near Zurich, is married and father of three children (1, 3 and 4).

He worked for a fitter in Aarau for six years until he went bankrupt. Through a programme of the Swiss Workers' Relief Agency (SAH), he got a job in the workshop of the transport company in Zurich.

Araya was considered a prime example of successful integration: he liked "almost everything" in Switzerland, he said when he was interviewed for the SAH annual report in 2017. "At the beginning it was difficult because of the language and with communication. But not any more. I like the fact that everyone gets help here, whether they are rich or poor."

For his children, he wished that they would have "a better and easier life than I had", said the man who has now become the child murderer of track 7.

Supervisors and SAH staff described Habte Araya as "reserved and a little shy". He "made a very good impression right from the start". Araya is not someone "who chats around or stands around. He is really committed and reliable.

Hard-working. Well integrated. Not violent, not radical. Something must have gone thoroughly wrong in Habte Araya's life afterwards.

But he was not happy with his situation, with the job at the transport company. They say he was increasingly frustrated that he was not getting anywhere.

Araya went on sick leave and received psychiatric treatment. He has not worked since the beginning of the year.

On Thursday, 25 July, Araya's wife dialled the emergency number at the cantonal police. Her husband had locked her and the children in and attacked a neighbour with a knife and locked her in as well. Araya, apparently completely out of his mind. The wife says she has "never seen her husband like this before".

When the police arrived, Araya was gone. The Eritrean was put on the wanted list throughout Switzerland. A spokesperson for the cantonal police: "There were no indications for an international alert or public search. Thus, the German border authorities did not learn anything about the wanted man. Araya set off from Wädenswil towards the German border. According to his own statements, he travelled by train via Basel towards Hesse.

He was apparently not checked at the border. It is unclear whether he would have been caught in a random check because of the Swiss arrest warrant.

Where Habte Araya stayed in Germany in the days before the murder, who he met, where he slept. Unclear. The only thing that is clear is that on Monday morning at around 9.45 a.m. he was waiting on a pillar on platform 7 for the right moment to treacherously push innocent people to their deaths.

More police, more controls, more protection

SEEHOFER-PLAN

Berlin - Interior Minister Horst Seehofer (70, CSU) announced a package of measures after the mad act in Frankfurt to increase the security of citizens in view of the "serious offences" of recent times. This was the "duty of politics".

BILD names the most important points of the new Seehofer plan!

"Intelligent border controls" close to ALL German border states. Around 42,500 "unauthorised entries" (including asylum seekers without passports) into Germany in 2018 are too many, says the minister. He does NOT want turnpike controls as in the past, but flexible federal police operations just across the border.

Background: Stationary checks are currently only carried out at three border crossings between Germany and Austria - an exception to the regime of borderless movement of persons ("Schengen area") agreed with the ***EU Commission.***

More guards at railway stations: Seehofer wants to deploy more federal police officers at railway stations. More police presence is "urgently" needed to reassure citizens. The Federal Police must also continue to grow significantly. Since 2015, the agency has already received 9200 new posts - and a further 3,500 posts have been agreed by 2021. Seehofer reiterated a demand to create another 11,300 new positions in the Federal Police by 2025.

Stronger video surveillance and technical modifications, provided that these demonstrably increase people's safety. Seehofer is referring to devices such as those already in place at international railway stations (e.g. London).

There, passengers pass through barriers to get to the trains when they have arrived and are at a standstill. In view of the 5600 railway stations in Germany, this is a "complex task".

Yesterday, BILD was told by railway board members that such conversions cost millions and caused queues. Seehofer was furious: "When it comes to human lives, I don't like the money argument at all.

Riots at funeral service

Ugly scenes at the prayer service for the killed eight-year-old! While Frankfurt's mayor Peter Feldmann (60, SPD) appeals for cohesion and humanity in front of 400 mourners, there are repeated angry interjections.

A woman holds up a placard reading "This policy kills the people". On the sidelines, a man yells at left-wing demonstrators: "If only he had pushed you in front of the train!"

The police secured the funeral service with a large contingent.

ERITREANS FLEE "NATIONAL SERVICE" FROM THEIR HOME COUNTRY

Almost 60000 recognised refugees live in Switzerland. More than 25,000 come from Eritrea - more than from any other country.

Eritreans are mainly fleeing the "national service" introduced by President Isayas Afewerki's regime, which has been in power since the founding of the state in 1993. The service is unlimited in time, all Eritreans have to do it - in the military, in agriculture, in construction or in public service.

The pay is so low that it cannot support a family. The service is "indefinite forced labour", according to the aid organisation Amnesty International. Almost one fifth of the 5 million Eritreans live abroad.

Switzerland recently tightened the asylum law, more than 2000 Eritreans would have to return to their home country. The problem is that the country does not accept rejected refugees. These rejected refugees leave Switzerland and go into hiding in neighbouring countries.

In 2018, 5500 Eritreans applied for asylum in Germany, and 1710 so far in the first half of 2019.

At a rest area, the sister (12) learned that her little brother (8) was dead

Frankfurt/M. - Mother (40) and son (8) were in high spirits as they waited for the ICE at platform 7 at Frankfurt Central Station.

They were on their way on holiday. They were going to Austria with friends. They had already set off by car from the Hochtaunus district and had the eight-year-old's sister (12) with them. A friend of the family told BILD: "The girl was in the car with them because she didn't feel like taking the train, which her mum and her little brother wanted to do.

Everyone wanted to meet at the holiday destination. But that did not happen.

Habte Araya (40) came onto the platform. Out of nowhere he pushed the boy to his death - and the child's family into a nightmare.

The 40-year-old had first pushed the mother into the track bed in front of the arriving train, then the child. The woman was able to roll to the side at the last second and landed between tracks 7 and 8, but her child was run over by the ICE - dead.

At that time, the sister was sitting in the car of her mother's best friend. Her son was also with her. The woman had decided to go by car because her old dog could no longer endure a long train journey without a pee break.

At 2 p.m., her mobile phone rang and the police were on the other end: she should stop at the Sindelfinger Wald service area near Stuttgart and wait. Around 20 minutes later, officers arrived there with a chaplain and had to deliver the terrible news.

The family friend: "The girl collapsed. Her grandparents from Leipzig came immediately and took care of her."

**Graphic**

Source: SAH ZÜRICH

Photos: ANDREAS ARNOLD/DPA, FRANK RUMPENHORST/DPA, JÜRGEN MAHNKE, REUTERS/FABRIZIO BENSCH, PATRICK SCHEIBER/KEGLER

Habte Araya (40) in a forensic suit after his presentation to the magistrate.

Yesterday afternoon, a judge issued a warrant for the arrest of Habte Araya for murder.

The annual report of the Swiss Workers' Relief Agency (SAH) showed Habte Araya as a building fitter in Aarau

Investigators set up a screen in front of the ICE that ran over the boy (8)

Plain speaking: Interior Minister Horst Seehofer (70, CSU)

Silent remembrance of the victims: mourners laid candles and flowers at platform 7 in Frankfurt Central Station

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** BIBU

**Subject: *EUROPEAN UNION*** (91%); ALERTS (89%); REFUGEES (89%); INSPECTIONS (89%); MURDER (89%); STATE BORDERS (89%); HOMICIDE (89%); POLICE FORCES (87%); POLITICAL DEBATES (78%); POLITICS (77%); PASSPORTS & VISAS (77%); EU REGULATION (75%); DOMESTIC VIOLENCE (75%); INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORGANISATIONS (75%); CRIMES AGAINST PERSONS (75%); ARRESTS (75%); DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CRIMES (74%); DEPORTATION (71%); ***EU PRESIDENCY (***70%); ***EUROPEAN LAW (***70%); POLITICAL ASYLUM (66%)

**Industry:** Passports & VISA (77%); TRAINS (74%)

**Geographic:** ASMERA, ERITREA (88%); FRANKFURT, GERMANY (88%); ZURICH, SWITZERLAND (88%); GENEVA, SWITZERLAND (78%); BERLIN, GERMANY (58%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (94%); ***EUROPE (***92%); SWITZERLAND (91%); GERMANY (86%); AUSTRIA (57%).

**Load-Date:** July 31, 2019

**End of Document**

[***The BoJo effect is hitting the pound; the exchange rate of the British currency is falling. This may be good for tourists, but it is threatening for the country.***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5WPD-DF31-DXX2-P51F-00000-00&context=)

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

**Length:** 447 words

**Byline:** BY STEPHAN RADOMSKY

**Body**

Anyone who has ever tried a diet knows the yoyo effect: First the pounds go down, but then they go up again quickly and with momentum. The BoJo effect is to be distinguished from this. In this case, the pound has only gone down since the new prime minister Boris Johnson took over political power in London. Since the self-confessed Brexit fan Johnson was elected leader of the Conservatives on 23 July, the pound sterling has lost more than two percent against the ***euro*** and the dollar. For one of the world's leading currencies, this is an enormous loss within a short period of time.

The losses have one main reason: Johnson seems to be preparing the country for a hard Brexit, i.e. leaving the ***EU*** without a treaty on future relations. On 31 October, the United Kingdom and all its citizens and businesses would no longer be part of the single market. The consequences for the economy are likely to be drastic - something the markets are now anticipating. In any case, the pound exchange rate is now almost back at the level of the historic low of January 2017.

Now, the decline in value could even be interpreted as quite useful: A weaker currency means that exports abroad become cheaper in relative terms, as does travel to the country. So industry and tourism could benefit. However, both play a rather subordinate role for the British economy. An estimated almost 80 percent of economic output comes from the service sector, with the financial sector alone accounting for 6.5 percent. The City of London is still the most important financial centre in ***Europe***; many banks, funds and insurance companies have their headquarters or at least important branches there. However, the location is likely to suffer particularly from the political uncertainties surrounding a possible hard Brexit and the weakness of the pound.

And then there is another problem: London in particular has attracted the rich and super-rich from all over the world in recent decades, along with their money. Low taxes, a stable state with a reliable legal system, access to ***Europe*** and a bit of old imperial splendour - that attracted them. But because the pound is worth less and less, the fortunes are also dwindling. And then the prices for London's often wickedly expensive real estate are also falling, for the first time since the financial crisis. The BoJo effect is therefore likely to annoy above all the millionaires and billionaires between Kensington and Canary Wharf. If they withdraw their capital, it will be even more difficult for the pound to rise again.

**Graphic**

Houses on sale: Property prices in London are falling - for the first time since the financial crisis. Photo: TOBY MELVILLE/Reuters

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject:** CURRENCIES (93%); BRITISH PUND (90%); EXCHANGE RATES (90%); ECONOMY & ECONOMIC INDICATORS (90%); BREXIT (89%); RICH (87%); CONJUNCTION NEWS (77%); PREMIERMINISTRATORS (76%); ***EUROPEAN UNION (***75%); ECONOMIC CRISIS (72%).

**Industry:** CURRENCIES (93%); BRITISH PUND (90%); EXCHANGE RATES (90%); BANKING AND FINANCIAL OVERVIEW (69%)

**Person:** BORIS JOHNSON (79%)

**Geographic:** LONDON, ENGLAND (94%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (79%); UNITED KINGDOM (93%); ***EUROPE (***90%)

**Load-Date:** August 1, 2019

**End of Document**

[***FOREIGN; prison sentences in Russia***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5WPD-DF31-DXX2-P4XY-00000-00&context=)

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

**Length:** 200 words

**Byline:** DPA

**Body**

**Moscow -** After the mass arrests during protests in the Russian capital Moscow, more than 60 demonstrators have been sentenced to detention. In addition, 160 participants, organisers and opposition members were fined, the Moscow City Court told the Interfax agency on Tuesday.

The well-known Kremlin critic Ilya Yashin was given a total of 20 days' arrest in two cases (photo: imago), a fellow campaigner of Alexei Navalny will be locked up for 30 days. The opposition member Navalny had already been sentenced to 30 days of detention before the protests. Navalny and his team had called for a protest in front of Moscow City Hall at the weekend because dozens of opposition members will not be allowed to vote in the regional elections in September. The authorities had not authorised the demonstration. About 1400 people were arrested in the process. The Moscow police's crackdown was criticised by the ***EU***, the United Nations and also by German politicians. The opposition called for a new rally on Saturday. They are negotiating a venue with the city administration.

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject:** PROTESTS & DEMONSTRATIONS (91%); COURT SENTENCES (90%); SENTENCING (90%); CITIES (90%); CONVICTIONS (90%); PRISON SENTENCES (78%); POLITICS (78%); ARRESTS (77%); ***EUROPEAN UNION*** (73%); NEGATIVE NEWS ABOUT PEOPLE (73%); ELECTIONS (73%); FINES & PENALTIES (72%)

**Person:** ALEXEI NAWALNY (93%)

**Geographic:** MOSCOW, RUSSIAN FEDERATION (93%); RUSSIAN FEDERATION (73%)

**Load-Date:** July 31, 2019

**End of Document**

[***Savings bank boss settles accounts with zero interest rate Draghi***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5WTM-41G1-JBK9-22BK-00000-00&context=)

Bild

Thursday 15 August 2019

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**Section:** 189; title page; p. 1; issue 189

**Length:** 299 words

**Body**

For Helmut Schleweis (64), President of the German Savings Banks and Giro Association, German savers' worries about their money have a culprit: Mario Draghi (71). In BILD, Schleweis writes the head of the ***European*** Central Bank (ECB) a stinging letter.

DEAR MARIO DRAGHI,

We have a lot of respect for your difficult task of keeping the ***euro*** stable and ***Europe*** together. That in advance.

But what you are doing is wrong. For years you have been throwing more and more money on the market. You have abolished interest rates. And you have lent money to highly indebted states in unimaginable amounts.

In doing so, they are gradually changing ***Europe***, Germany and the lives of millions of people - not for the better, but in the long run for the worse. Running up debts costs nothing.

Saving money no longer yields interest. Anyone who invests money with you even has to pay something.

In doing so, you turn the rules of the economy upside down. Those who can, flee with their money into real estate. Their prices and rents are rising. Retirement provisions for millions of people are melting like snow in the sun. Social security funds, pension funds and foundations are losing a lot of money every day, and with it their efficiency. For a decade we have taught Germany's children that it makes sense to save because you have to make provisions for bad times in crises. They are grinding away at this culture. All this cannot end well in the long run.

And what was the point of it all? Did ailing ***European*** states use the time they bought to reduce their debts? Has ***Europe*** moved closer together? None of this has been achieved by your monetary policy.

When you are at a dead end, you should not increase the pace. It is time to turn back - step by step. Now!

Yours sincerely, Helmut Schleweis

**Graphic**

Mario Draghi (71) is still head of the ECB until October

Photos: EMMANUEL DUNAND/AFP/GETTY IMAGES, PICTURE ALLIANCE/ARNE DEDERT/DPA

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** BIBU

**Subject:** MANAGERS (90%); ***EUROPEAN UNION (***78%); MONETARY POLICY (78%); PUBLIC POLICY (78%); ***EURO (***77%); ECONOMIC POLICY (77%); CENTRAL BANKS (77%); PENSIONS (74%); FOUNDATIONS (73%); SOCIAL SECURITY (72%); PENSION FUNDS (67%).

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

**Industry:** MONEY POLICY (78%); ***EURO*** (77%); CENTRAL BANKS (77%); AGE PROVISIONS (74%); PENSION FUNDS (67%)

**Person:** MARIO DRAGHI (93%)

**Geographic: *EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (79%); ***EUROPE*** (91%); GERMANY (73%)

**Load-Date:** August 15, 2019

**End of Document**

[***France's tallest (1.69 m) general was born 250 years ago today; WHY IT IS WRONG TO HONOUR NAPOLEON!***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5WTM-41G1-JBK9-22CR-00000-00&context=)

Bild

Thursday 15 August 2019

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**Section:** 189; p. 7; ed. 189

**Length:** 543 words

**Byline:** Alexander Von Schönburg

**Body**

Today is also my birthday. I share it with the famous Napoleon. But that is not an honour for me...

Napoleon Bonaparte (1769 - 1821) came from a family of minor nobility in Corsica and became the self-proclaimed "Emperor of the French". He conquered half of ***Europe***, was a dictator of the worst kind, yet he still enjoys great veneration - not only in France.

Hitler comparisons are always inappropriate. In this case, however, the parallels are undeniable. Hitler even visited Napoleon's grave in conquered Paris in 1940. Both considered themselves the chosen ones, called by fate to rule the world. They hated the old elites, harboured a strange contempt for their own people and ruthlessly sacrificed tens of thousands of young people.

When Napoleon set off for Russia in the spring of 1812 with 600,000 men - a similarly insane campaign to Hitler's "Operation Barbarossa" - he proudly claimed that he would be back by autumn. Napoleon's generals begged him to have the horses shod with winterized studs. Napoleon remained stubborn.

More than 500,000 young men in Napoleon's Grande Armée died that winter of 1812, most of them freezing and starving to death.

"But that's what the young people are there for!" Hitler is supposed to have said when his generals again advised him against a pointless holding battle. Napoleon saw it the same way.

Basically, Napoleon is the prototype of the modern dictator. Coming to power through the first military coup of the modern era, he was also the first to systematically use propaganda and to use the judiciary, police and church as pillars of his dictatorship.

Napoleon believed in "final victory" until the end - even when he was defeated after the Battle of Waterloo. Even in forced exile on the island of St Helena, he was firmly convinced that he was invincible.

WHAT WAS NAPOLEON LIKE AS A PERSON?

A unique source is Clemens Prince von Metternich (1773 - 1859), Foreign Minister of Austria-Hungary. nich Foreign Minister He held countless talks with Napoleon.

Metternich admired Napoleon for his ability to get to the point without mincing words.

Above all, however, he was amazed by his spitefulness in dealing with people - especially women. Metternich also describes his tendency towards irascibility and violence.

WHY IS NAPOLEON STILL REVERED?

According to philosopher Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel (1770 - 1831), the most famous Stuttgart native after Jürgen Klopp, there is only one measure of historical greatness: the depth of the traces someone leaves in history. According to this, Napoleon was great. He changed the face of ***Europe***. The "Holy Roman Empire of the German Nation" no longer existed after Napoleon's campaigns, but suddenly there were new countries and borders. He created a completely new legal system, the "Code civil", civil law. With it, he shaped not only modern France, but all of ***Europe***. Even the ***European*** Jews, who until then had been de facto without rights, owe it to him that they were granted civil rights everywhere Napoleon invaded - including Germany.

Nevertheless, the man drove hundreds of thousands to their deaths for his megalomania. There is no excuse for that.

Image HISTORY

**Graphic**

Napoleon Bonaparte, born on 15 August 1769 in Corsica's capital Ajaccio. Died on 5 May 1821 in exile on St Helena, an island in the South Atlantic. His opponents liked to ridicule him as a "little man", although his height of just under 169 cm was normal for the time. The most famous painter of his time, Jacques-Louis David, was paid to depict Napoleon in magnificent paintings as the new Caesar. This famous equestrian painting hangs today in the Louvre in Paris. !

Photo: PICTURE ALLIANCE/CPA MEDIA

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** BIBU

**Subject:** THIS DAY IN HISTORY (89%); PUTSCHE (77%); DEATH & DYING (75%); ANTIQUE (60%); CIVIL RIGHTS (50%).

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

**Geographic:** PARIS, FRANCE (73%); ROME, ITALY (54%); STUTTGART, GERMANY (54%); CORSICA, FRANCE (58%); ***EUROPE*** (90%); FRANCE (90%); RUSSIAN FEDERATION (56%); GERMANY (54%); HUNGARY (54%); AUSTRIA (54%); ST. HELENA (53%)

**Load-Date:** August 15, 2019

**End of Document**

[***DEFENCE ACT; The Chancellor breaks away from the Nato promise***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5WTM-41G1-JBK9-22BR-00000-00&context=)

Bild

Thursday 15 August 2019

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**Section:** 189; p. 2; ed. 189

**Length:** 302 words

**Body**

Stralsund - The US government will not like to hear that.

At the readers' forum of the "Ostsee-Zeitung", Chancellor Angela Merkel (65, CDU) said: "We want to reach 1.5 percent by 2024". After that, "we will also go further".

SHOULD BE: In 2024, 1.5 percent of the gross domestic product should flow into the defence budget (2019: 1.35 %). Merkel explicitly referred to a NATO decision from 2014, in which only the aspiration "in the direction of two percent" by 2024 had been fixed.

BUT: The German government has already interpreted the 2014 summit decision quite differently. The online dossier of the Ministry of Defence states that the two-percent target "essentially provides for all NATO allies to spend two percent of their respective national gross domestic product on armament measures by 2024 at the latest".

The USA, whose President Donald Trump (73) is pushing for the two per cent target to be met, also understands the decision quite differently: that the two per cent is due by 2024 at the latest.

Trump's former special assistant Cliff Sims (35, best-selling author) criticises the federal government for "leaving us and our ***European*** allies hanging in 2024. Any reasonable person understands that the intent of the agreement was for the allies to spend the decade meeting their 2024 commitment". Cliff's bitter rebuke: "Friends don't make promises and find a way to get out of them later."

AND: According to the finance ministry's financial plan, defence spending will rise to 1.37 per cent in 2020, but then fall to 1.24 per cent by 2023. This means that not only the 1.5 percent envisaged by Merkel is on the line, but also Germany's credibility in the world.

**Graphic**

Chancellor Angela Merkel (65) in the cabinet yesterday with Finance Minister Olaf Scholz (SPD, 61)

Photo: ODD ANDERSEN/AFP

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** BIBU

**Subject:** GERMAN CHANCELLORS (90%); POLITICS (90%); HEADS OF STATE & GOVERNMENT (90%); DEFENCE SPENDING (90%); DEFENCE & MILITARY POLICY (90%); GERMAN POLITICAL PARTIES (78%); DEFENCE MINISTRIES (78%); WRITERS (73%); GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT (71%); FINANCE MINISTRIES AND AGENCIES (64%)

**Industry:** DEFENCE ISSUES (90%); DEFENCE POLICY & MILITARY POLICY (90%); DEFENCE MINISTRIES (78%); WRITERS (73%); FINANCE MINISTRIES AND AUTHORITIES (64%).

**Person:** ANGELA MERKEL (88%); DONALD TRUMP (79%)

**Geographic:** NORTH AMERICA (79%); GERMANY (58%); ***EUROPE (***58%)

**Load-Date:** August 15, 2019

**End of Document**

[***COMMENT; A resounding slap in the face!***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5WTM-41G1-JBK9-22BT-00000-00&context=)

Bild

Thursday 15 August 2019

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**Section:** 189; p. 2; ed. 189

**Length:** 151 words

**Byline:** Frank Schneider

**Body**

The repatriation agreement with Greece was sold to the Germans as an effective regulation to stop certain illegal entries into Germany.

The government celebrated it as a great success. Critics were sceptical from the beginning.

But now everything is getting even more insane: an Afghan who was returned to Greece on the basis of the new agreement when he entered Bavaria illegally must now be flown back to Germany at taxpayers' expense. This was the decision of the Munich Administrative Court.

What applies now? Dublin Agreement, national asylum law, ***EU Return Directive***, Schengen Border Code and bilateral administrative agreements? How are federal police officers supposed to react at all at our border in the case of illegal entry?

This emergency decision by the Administrative Court is a resounding slap in the face for the Minister of the Interior and the Chancellor.

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** BIBU

**Subject: *EUROPEAN UNION*** (88%); JUDICIAL DECISIONS & RULES (88%); GUIDELINES & COMMENTS (73%); POLITICAL ASYLUM (73%); EU GOVERNMENT (53%)

**Geographic:** DUBLIN, IRELAND (72%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (79%); BAVARIA, GERMANY (58%); GERMANY (73%); GREECE (73%).

**Load-Date:** August 15, 2019

**End of Document**

[***Little Britain; hundreds of thousands of English people live in Spain, watch the BBC, eat fish "n" chips and live very well in and off the EU. Nevertheless, many voted for Brexit. What Boris Johnson is doing now, however, makes them nervous***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5WXT-HVV1-DXX2-P0Y5-00000-00&context=)

Süddeutsche Zeitung

Friday 30 August 2019

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**Section:** Page Three; Munich; Bavaria; Germany; p. 3

**Length:** 2813 words

**Byline:** BY CATHRIN KAHLWEIT

**Body**

Hundreds of spectators have made themselves comfortable on a little wall between the road and the beach and stare up the hill into the semi-darkness, where a small procession approaches dragging itself from the large roundabout: at the front, women dressed in black lace, behind them a priest all in white, and hovering above their heads on a gilded pedestal in the middle of a bed of flowers: the Virgin Mary.

Muffled drumbeats and the sounds of a thinly manned brass band accompany every step. The group moves to the beach, where a boat made of brushwood is thrust into the tides to burn in the waves. Spaniards and tourists from the beach hotels clap. The British, who live in the surrounding settlements, film. There is a strong smell of burning paste.

Flames leap high, priest, virgin and chapel parade away to the beat of drums, while a honey-yellow, huge moon rises on the horizon. Fireworks go off over the endless white and yellow terraced housing estates along the coast, over pools, palm trees and screaming cicadas. Viva Maria.

Finally, something is happening in Orihuela Costa, 70 kilometres south of Alicante. A bit of exoticism, Spanish customs with Catholic decor. The British are thrilled: the procession does well on Facebook, something to make their friends in Manchester, Bristol and Sheffield envious, impressions from an everyday life in which the Spaniards usually only appear as waiters, postmen or cleaning ladies. These are scenes from a commune far from home, where the British set the tone. They are in the majority and the true locals, by now.

The Cafetería Magani up on the hill, directly at the big roundabout, is one of their many meeting places, it is situated between Irish pubs, British estate agents' offices, British law firms, English hotels and Scottish music pubs. In the mornings, when the heat is over the city, Jan, Derik, Brenda and Jean meet here, all pensioners and - except for Jean - here for ages. They are on first-name terms, they know each other in the community. The waitress puts beer and white wine spritzers on the table. Alcohol is cheap in Spain, and the day is long, none of them has a car, and where should they drive to? 'People sit and talk', says Jan, 'it's boring here. But familiar.

Spain is home. Or should we say: home is the Britain they brought with them, provided with sun and beach and actually never left?

There are communities like this all over Spain: residents from all over the world, but especially many British. Some of these places are entirely British. And whether you're visiting athletes, entrepreneurs, war veterans, political activists or pubs, wherever your journey takes you through the great community, Britain and the news from home travels with you.

But with Brexit and a possible no deal, a deep uncertainty has crept into the *happy life* under the southern sun. The fronts are the same as at home, the debates are the same, but until now everything was far away, unreal somehow. In the meantime, Brexpats on the Mediterranean, like everywhere else in ***Europe,*** are getting nervous: how high is the price they have to pay? News from London is being assessed to see what it means for the Brits abroad. Prime Minister Boris Johnson's surprise coup to shut down parliament for weeks - a stirring because it increases uncertainty. And because the pound continues to fall.

The four in the Cafetería Magani greet each other left and right, they are between seventy and eighty, all regular customers. The heart of the group: Jan Perry, former commercial clerk, in the country for 13 years, fan of British supper clubs and Spanish cigarettes. Cock of the walk: Derik Shields, ex-vocational school teacher, immigrated 16 years ago, speaks five Chinese dialects and is just learning a sixth, which he likes to brag about. He also knows Spanish. This makes him an exception among the British who have settled in Spain. Many get through without ever learning the local language. Are they a couple? "God forbid," says Jan with a sideways glance at Derik, "I haven't had a man or sex for 20 years.

Age President is Brenda Purnell, fond of animal-shaped costume jewellery and owner of three dogs. They are easier to live with than men. Her husband, she says, "took her to the Costa Blanca 24 years ago. But he's long dead'. The chick, because she has only been in the country for three years and is therefore still too new for the old stories: Jean Hill, shy, a little depressed. She had come because her daughter had also moved, but unfortunately we rarely see each other. She won't want to be in the photo later, she is ashamed because she wants to go back as soon as the house is sold again.

The topics at the table: the rubbish, the big pipe burst recently, the taxis that used to always stand in front of the Magani but now intercept customers in front of the new shopping centre. I waited two hours for a taxi yesterday," says Jan. "Two hours! The four rant about their host country. They are patriots, after all. Still. Jan about Brenda: 'She's a true Brit, she hates it here.' Jan about Jean: 'She misses her friends, she misses England, it's too hot for her here.' They read local English newspapers, eat English food, watch the BBC, are staunch Tories. But back? God forbid. Brenda hasn't been to Britain for years. "What would I do there?

Nobody knows for sure whether between 800,000 and one million Britons live in Spain. Only about 300,000 have officially registered with the authorities, they pay taxes in the country and can use the Spanish health system without paying extra. The rest are simply there, ***EU freedom of travel***, ***EU freedom of establishment*** and the ***EU health card***, intended for emergencies on holiday, make it possible. For some, the holiday home has become a permanent solution. Others take flight when it gets too hot. Swallows' are the names of those who commute. Brexpats - these are the ones who have come to stay.

Just under a million, that's three times as many Britons as there are Spaniards living in the Kingdom in reverse, and more Britons than in all the other ***EU countries*** put together. Spain is the favourite destination of British pensioners, more than a hundred thousand have moved here. The reasons are always the same: the weather, the cost of living, the community. If you're looking for a connection here, you'll find it. There are plenty of sociable neighbours, a lively club life, gin and tonic, fish "n" chips. And 300 days of sunshine a year on top.

Leaving ***the EU*** is okay, Jan and Brenda think: too many immigrants in England, too much bureaucracy in Brussels. But: "If that means I have to leave, then we'll start a revolution. A revolution! The Spanish government has promised that the rights of the British will remain untouched if London does the same with the Spanish citizens in the Kingdom. 'It would be even nicer,' says Derik. After all, we finance the whole place with our money here in the region. But the deal with Brussels is dead. Johnson is heading for a crash.

No Deal? Since the 2016 referendum, the value of the pound has been falling steadily, but now it is plummeting. Jan's pension of just over 1000 ***euros*** was worth only 950 ***euros in*** July. Next month it might be 920," she says. That hurts. In addition, London has announced that the free movement of people guaranteed by the ***EU will*** be suspended after No Deal. That means: strict controls, ***EU citizens*** would no longer be able to travel and live on the island without problems. Then, conversely, Madrid should also tighten the rules.

Many, many things could become more complicated for the British in the ***EU*** if Johnson gets serious. Like all citizens of third countries, they would have to leave the country for three months after 90 days. Pets would have to be quarantined on entry because the ***EU pet passport would*** not apply. The automatic pension increase, which also applies abroad, would be stopped. Commuting would become more difficult. Until now, it was almost like taking a bus: A plane every hour. And: After No Deal, Britons in the ***EU*** would have to pay for doctor's visits and operations. That will be expensive.

The outgoing British Ambassador to Spain, Simon Manley, recently urged his fellow citizens in a farewell message to register in Spain in order not to lose their right to stay and free health insurance. This is my last message to you! A year ago, he had still asserted that a hard Brexit was not expected. The embassy had held dozens of information events on driving licences, taxes, settlement rights. All wastepaper.

He can't imagine living in England any more, Derik says. She can't even afford to live in England nowadays, Jan moans. British pensions are among the lowest in ***Europe***. In Spain, she can "buy steaks, go out to eat. Cigarettes cost half the price here'. Small houses, three rooms, kitchen, bathroom, terrace, sometimes with a pool, cost between 80,000 and 150,000 ***euros*** here. That would be enough for Brenda with her pension of 800 pounds, which she saved up as a pub landlady. She wouldn't get far with that in her old home country. I don't want to leave. But I couldn't leave," she says, "even if I wanted to.

The British are coming and staying, despite the falling pound, despite the uncertainty. Still. His international clientele is betting that house prices on the coast will soon drop drastically because the Brexpats are going home, says real estate agent Jamie Percival, who has his office near the Cafetería Magani. In the 2008 financial crisis, many Britons who could no longer pay their mortgages had simply locked up their houses and dropped the key in the letterbox at the bank. But now: "Business as usual. They are coming, they are buying. More rather than less.'

Many Brexpats sympathise with leaving the ***EU***. Even though it harms them. And even though they are far away from the real or alleged problems in the old homeland. It is an attitude that one encounters all the time in Britain as well: I think Brexit is good and ignore the fact that it could have a negative impact on my life.

The board of the Royal British Legion, the veterans' association, meets in the Calle de la Paz. A rifle hangs on the wall. In the province of Alicante alone, the association has 1500 members. There are organisational matters to discuss, but the news from the island cannot be ignored. After all, the association also cares for the disabled and needy, donating wheelchairs or stair lifts. Will pensions also be paid abroad in future, what about the pension claims of relatives, of war wounded? So many questions.

Kevin Reardon, 71, chairman and former soldier, is a Remainer. But the others are Leave supporters. Eddie Coleman, 74, a reservist and fundraiser for the group, thinks Johnson's tactics are great, "the man is only doing what is necessary". The Brexit opponents in parliament are traitors in his eyes. Out is right, they agree, 'no ifs, ands or buts'. They want no political union, no illegal immigrants, no foreigners who are on the British people's pockets. Even though they themselves are immigrants in Spain - ***European*** idea? Eddie can't find it strange when someone lives in the ***EU*** and yet votes against it. I don't live in the ***EU***, the ***EU*** is not a country. I live in Spain,' he says.

In psychology, this is called cognitive dissonance: perceptions and insights that contradict each other are covered up with self-deception, realities are suppressed. After all, it is difficult to understand: Foreigners who live in an ***EU country*** as well-liked permanent residents with many advantages cannot want Britain to leave the ***EU.*** Can they?

They also wonder about '***Eurocitizens***', 'Brexpats in Spain' or 'Bremain in Spain'. Brexit? A madness. They are against it. The common goal of the initiatives, Facebook groups and political activists is as idealistic as it is self-serving: "We are campaigning for Britain to remain in the ***EU*** and for the rights of British migrants in Spain to be protected," says Bremain.

The head of the association, Susan Wilson, listens daily to the concerns of her compatriots. Everyone who voted Leave here, and that was definitely a minority, doesn't know enough or still thinks it won't be so bad. She is appalled by the latest news from London. Johnson wants to chill Parliament in order to push through his No Deal, she fears. Just as the government excluded us Brits abroad from the debate on Brexit and ignored our interests, so now it is excluding MPs'.

Do what? Apply for a passport? Become Spanish? Madrid bans dual citizenship, so that would be an either-or. Unthinkable for most Britons.

Andy Theaker and Sharon Whyler live in Dolores, a village on the dusty plain behind the sea. They earn their money by parking motorhomes that their owners leave when they are out of the country. They hate the idea that their lives, their peaceful coexistence, their easy money-making, their friends in Spain and their parents in England are threatened by "this hatred of foreigners, of migrants, this anti-Muslim thing". Brexit, says Sharon, is "just the obsession of Britons who think foreigners are taking their jobs". And Johnson's policy only makes things worse. Andy is really angry. He is destroying democracy.

From their house you can see a karstic mountain range in the distance, the garden: a collection of pots with cacti. Dreariness with a view, the neighbourhood here is also mainly British. How did they get to Dolores? I don't know. Most of them are Leavers. "Crazy, isn't it? How can you voluntarily shoot yourself in the foot?' Sharon has blocked the worst hardliners from the neighbourhood on Facebook. People say hello to each other on the street. That's all.

Andy and Sharon are integrated, as far as one can be in their tourism-dominated world: they go to Spanish restaurants, have Spanish friends, pay taxes to the Spanish state. They make an effort - out of conviction. He has been in the country for seven years, she for eight. But they can't speak Spanish. And they wouldn't want a Spanish passport. He doesn't like the idea that he should negate his British identity, says Andy.

The British identity is enthusiastically cultivated, lived and celebrated along the Spanish coast. At the 'Emerald Isle la Florida', a few kilometres north of the Magani, British families swim and play, there is a daily entertainment programme, pop songs, charity. Pimm "s, British summer cocktails, are served at the bar. Right next to the pool and clubhouse, the senior team of the Emerald Isle Lawn Bowls Club Costa Blanca trains.

It's about 35 degrees, but that doesn't bother the old men much. For hours they play a kind of boules with balls that are heavier on one side than the other and roll with an impact side. This requires special finesse when aiming the 'wood' at the 'jack', as it is called here in the trade. There are dozens of bowls teams along the coast. Wearing white is compulsory, talking politics is allowed. Remainers, leavers, non-voters stand on the green, arguing is amicable. After all.

A fellow player says that he couldn't get an appointment at the city council to register before the Brexit date, 31 October, everything was booked up. General agreement: Yes, too late, unfortunately, it should have been done earlier, stupid, but things are not as bad as they seem. Then you'll have to go home and you won't be able to spoil the games for us,' one jokes.

Mel O "Dell, the team captain, looks at the faces of his friends and finally says something they can all agree on: "Whatever the outcome, finish it. Somehow. But quickly.'

**Sure she misses England. But going back? God forbid. "What would I do there?**

**Slowly they realise that many things could become more complicated. Especially with the dog passport**

**They don't want strangers in England. That they themselves are immigrants in Spain: so what**

**No deal, and then? Apply for a passport, become Spanish? Unthinkable for most**

**Graphic**

Come to stay: The British love the Costa Blanca. Life is affordable and there are 300 days of sunshine a year. Photo: Pablo Blazquez Dominguez / Getty Images

The fact that Boris Johnson wants to shut down Parliament for weeks is not so great for Derik Shields, Jan Perry, Brenda Purnell (from left) and many Brexpats in Spain's bed castles. Especially as the pound keeps falling. Photos: Reuters, ck

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject:** SOCIAL NETWORKS ON THE INTERNET (90%); STRENGTHS (90%); BREXIT (89%); CELEBRATIONS & PARADAS (78%); CHRISTIANITY & CHRISTIANS (76%); EUROPEAN ***UNION (75%)***

**Company:** FACEBOOK INC (55%)

**Ticker:** FB (NASDAQ) (55%)

**Industry:** NAICS519130 INTERNET PUBLISHING & BROADCASTING & WEB SEARCH PORTALS (55%); INTERNET & WWW (90%); SOCIAL NETWORKS ON THE INTERNET (90%); WEBSITES & WEB PORTALS (90%); KNEIPS (85%); INTERNET SEARCH PORTALS (74%)

**Person:** BORIS JOHNSON (79%)

**Geographic:** MANCHESTER, ENGLAND (58%); SHEFFIELD, ENGLAND (56%); ***EUROPE (***57%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (57%); SPAIN (90%); UNITED KINGDOM (90%); ENGLAND (57%); SCOTLAND (56%).

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

**End of Document**

[***'Really excellent'; At the EU hopes for much better cooperation with Rome***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5WXT-HVV1-DXX2-P0Y4-00000-00&context=)

Süddeutsche Zeitung

Friday 30 August 2019

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

**Length:** 530 words

**Byline:** KAROLINE META BEISEL

**Body**

In Brussels, at least one person will be pleased that Giuseppe Conte will probably be allowed to remain prime minister: "Council President Donald Tusk very much appreciates not only Conte's contributions to ***EU summits***, but also the way he is acting as prime minister in the very difficult political situation in Italy," a high-ranking ***EU official*** said last week. The two worked 'really excellently together'. Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker also seems to appreciate the Italian: He sends him his 'warmest wishes', a spokeswoman said on Thursday.

In addition to the joy about Conte's stay, many people in Brussels are also relieved that Matteo Salvini will no longer be part of the future government. The former interior minister had too often crossed the line, especially on migration policy. The *Eleonore* and the *Mare Ionio* bear witness to this: private sea rescue boats waiting for permission to dock in the Mediterranean. Salvini had refused entry to such boats in recent months. On Thursday, the Interior Ministry at least allowed women, children and sick people on the Italian *Mare Ionio* to go ashore. The sea rescuers now hope that Rome will soon relax the rules for everyone - although the Five Star Movement had often supported Salvini's policy.

The new Italian government is also taking part in a meeting with a few ***EU countries to*** be held on 19 September in Malta to discuss how to deal with boat refugees. At the last meeting of interior ministers in Helsinki, Salvini had still remarked that it was remarkable that France and Germany wanted to find a solution for Italy without having talked to Italy about it. Nevertheless, a pan-European solution to this question is not in sight. The reservations in other ***EU states*** are too great: "How migrants are distributed in the ***European*** Union should not depend on the means of transport people use to reach the ***EU,***" says one diplomat.

The change of government in Italy is also likely to raise the question of the future of the Mediterranean operation "Sophia". When the mission against criminal smugglers was still underway with boats in the Mediterranean, the Italian command sent the boats to sea areas where there were no smugglers at all, in order to prevent people rescued from distress at sea from being automatically brought to Italy, complained Ursula von der Leyen, then still Defence Minister. The current mandate for the mission expires at the end of September. Discussions on its continuation are to begin in the coming week, said ***EU foreign policy chief*** Federica Mogherini in Helsinki on Thursday.

Mogherini, herself Italian, did not want to answer another question on Thursday: whether she might stay on as commissioner in Brussels. Italy is the only country that has not yet proposed a candidate for the post to Ursula von der Leyen.

**The Mediterranean operation 'Sophia' to be reconsidered**

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject: *EUROPEAN UNION*** (92%); POLITICS (90%); HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT (90%); PUBLIC POLICY (90%); TALKS & MEETINGS (89%); INTERNATIONAL GOVERNMENTAL TALKS (72%); IMMIGRATION (68%); JEWELLERY (66%)

**Person:** URSULA VON DER LEYEN (92%); DONALD TUSK (79%); JEAN-CLAUDE JUNCKER (58%)

**Geographic:** ROME, ITALY (92%); BRUSSELS, BELGIUM (88%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (97%); BRUSSELS CAPITAL REGION (93%); ***EUROPE (***92%); ITALY (90%); BELGIUM (88%); FRANCE (79%); GERMANY (59%); MALTA (58%).

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

**End of Document**

[***Quite a few confidants; With the appointment of some posts, the new Ukrainian president raises eyebrows***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5WXT-HVV1-DXX2-P103-00000-00&context=)

Süddeutsche Zeitung

Friday 30 August 2019

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

**Length:** 625 words

**Byline:** FLORIAN HASSEL

**Body**

**Warsaw** - After the youngest president, Ukraine also has the youngest head of government in its history. At its first session, the new parliament elected the 35-year-old lawyer Alexei Goncharuk as the new prime minister. The election was considered a formality in view of the absolute majority of the presidential party "Servants of the People" of 254 votes out of 424 parliamentary seats. Goncharuk is known for his many years of work in a group for economic reforms. Since May, he has advised President Volodimir Selensky on economic issues and accompanied him on several trips at home and abroad.

The new foreign minister will be Vadim Pristaiko, who had been deputy foreign minister since 2014 and Selensky's foreign policy adviser in the presidential office since May 2019. Andrei Zagorodnyuk, a military reformer, will be the new Defence Minister. Ivan Bakanov, a childhood friend and former business partner of Selensky's - with no military or intelligence experience - will be the new head of the domestic and foreign intelligence service SBU, which has been rocked by abuse of office and several affairs. The new head of the equally scandal-ridden Prosecutor General's Office will be Ruslan Ryaboshapka, a respected reformer with experience in justice and anti-corruption reforms. Oxana Markarova remains Finance Minister.

The new parliament is also controlled by Selensky's confidants. His party leader Dmitry Razumkov was elected speaker of parliament, and party strategist Ruslan Stefanchuk was elected deputy speaker. Representatives of the presidential faction are to head 19 of 23 committees in the new parliament. The respected anti-corruption specialist Anastasia Krasnosilska is to head the corresponding committee.

Igor Tkachenko, until now general director of the popular TV channel 1+1, is to head the media committee - an appointment that has raised eyebrows among observers. 1+1 is owned by the controversial oligarch Ihor Kolomoiskij, whose support was a decisive factor in Selenskij's election as president. Kolomoiskij's previous lawyer Andrij Bohdan has already been head of the presidential administration since May and is considered the second most powerful man in Ukraine.

Several parliamentarians of the 'Servants of the People' are also linked to Kolomoisky, his companies or his party. According to the future chairman of the Finance Committee, Danilo Hetmantsev, a law is being prepared that would make an amnesty on undeclared assets possible in exchange for a tax of five per cent - this would also benefit oligarchs like Kolomoiskij who have acquired billions in assets under sometimes questionable circumstances or transferred them abroad.

President Selensky introduced dozens of bills on Thursday, including one that would regulate possible impeachment proceedings against the president - an election campaign promise of his. The abolition of immunity for parliamentarians is to be voted on. This would require a constitutional amendment, which in turn would require two-thirds of the votes in parliament. President Selenskij would have to rely on other parliamentary groups for this. According to the incoming vice-president of parliament, Stefantschuk, the presidential faction is working on 465 bills, many of which provide for constitutional amendments.

The second largest parliamentary group is the pro-Moscow opposition platform "For Life" with 44 deputies, and the third largest is ex-President Petro Poroshenko's "***European*** Solidarity". Former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko leads the 25-member faction "Fatherland". The reform party "Golos" has 17 deputies.

**Page 4**

**465 bills are apparently planned. Several of them provide for constitutional amendments**

**Graphic**

Newly elected Ukrainian MPs take selfies in parliament. Photo: AP

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject:** HEADS OF STATE & GOVERNMENT (95%); PRESIDENTS OF STATE (92%); LEGISLATIVE BODIES (90%); CORRUPTION (90%); POLITICS (90%); CHANGES IN SENIOR MANAGEMENT (90%); PUBLIC POLICY (90%); LEADERS (89%); LEGISLATURE (89%); INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES (78%); MINISTRIES OF JUSTICE (78%); POLITICAL PARTIES (78%); ARMED FORCES (78%); VOTERS & ELECTIONS (78%); FINANCE MINISTRIES AND AGENCIES (77%); SCANDALS (77%); PROFESSIONAL MISCONDUCT (75%); NEGATIVE NEWS ABOUT PEOPLE (75%); PROSECUTORS (74%)

**Industry:** STRENGTH FORCES (78%); FINANCE MINISTRIES AND AUTHORITIES (77%)

**Person:** PETRO POROSHENKO (79%)

**Geographic:** WARSAW, POLAND (79%); UKRAINE (93%); ***EUROPE (***79%)

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

**End of Document**

[***PARLIAMENTARISM; In the name of the people***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5WXT-HVV1-DXX2-P0YJ-00000-00&context=)

Süddeutsche Zeitung

Friday 30 August 2019

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

**Length:** 841 words

**Byline:** BY STEFAN ULRICH

**Body**

A bizarre phenomenon of these years is that nations are demolishing their own most important political works. The USA, under Donald Trump, is destroying the American world order. Many ***Europeans are*** falling into nationalism and endangering the ***EU***. And the UK is in the process of dismantling perhaps its most valuable contribution to world history: parliamentary democracy, despite its monarchy. Yet this indirect form of popular rule is essential to dampen agitation, explore compromises and prevent abuse of power.

But British Prime Minister Boris Johnson has no interest in that. He is attracted by the motto: "The winner takes it all". So he is now imposing a forced recess on the MPs in London so that they don't get in the way of his plan to complete Brexit quickly, even without an exit treaty with the ***EU***.

In the most important decision for the British in decades, their MPs are thus sidelined. Yet it was England that, with the Bill of Rights 330 years ago, established the right of MPs to meet regularly and to have a say on taxes - and thus on important matters of state. Today, the Brexiteers around Johnson are putting at risk not only Britain's economic and political role in ***Europe*** and the world, but also its unity and democratic model.

The turmoil in Britain is a symptom of a disease currently afflicting many democracies. Populists seek to weaken parliaments in favour of strong men who appeal directly to the will of the people. If the leader - whether his name is Trump, Johnson or Matteo Salvini - embodies the people and executes their will, why should he be controlled by a parliament that fractures that will into factions and thus weakens, even distorts it? With this line of argument, Johnson undermines parliament. Trump calls on representatives of the people who disagree with him to leave the US. Italy's Lega leader Salvini demands that he be given 'all powers' or that the parliament elected until 2023 be dissolved immediately in order to elect one more favourable to him.

They propagate the formula: People + Leader = National Greatness. A formula that can lead to totalitarianism.

The populists' propaganda is based on a lie, the lie of the unified will of the people. Yet every free election reveals that the people are not a monolith, but a rock of many kinds, full of fractures and cracks. To deny this, populists resort to a trick: they claim to represent the *true* will of the people. Anyone who opposes them is inevitably a traitor. The traitors can make up the majority of the population. The idea that the will of the people is found as a compromise by representatives of the people in parliament is alien to populists.

But it is precisely this principle of parliamentary democracy that has proven its worth over decades in many states, for example in Western Europe. And it will become even more valuable. For the problems that states have to face are becoming more and more complex and difficult to understand, whether they concern trade agreements, pension systems, the control of internet corporations or the UK's ***exit from the EU.*** They are difficult to resolve by a yes or no referendum. Often, the best solution lies in the intermediate path, which can only be explored in parliament. And it is usually fatal when close referendums like the one on Brexit result in one half of the citizens getting everything and the other half getting nothing. That can tear a nation apart, as the British are demonstrating.

Especially in hysterical times of filter bubbles, anti-social networks and orchestrated lies, strong parliaments could contribute to calming and objectification. To do so, however, they must take a self-critical look at themselves. Some parliaments, the Italian one for example, have not entirely unjustifiably fallen into the disrepute of a 'caste' that serves its own well-being more than that of the country. Corruption eats away at parliamentarianism and leads to calls for strong leaders. Excessive lobbying, in Brussels, or even in Berlin, undermines citizens' trust in the will of parliamentarians to serve the common good. And sometimes parliaments present such an image of vicious partisanship that voters turn away in disgust from 'politics' and 'the elites'. This can be seen in Rome or in Washington. And the House of Representatives in London also proved incapable of compromise on Brexit and looked bad.

It is up to parliaments and parliamentarians to regain trust and respect. Then they can prevent populists like Johnson, Salvini or Trump from encroaching, disregarding the separation of powers and possibly establishing authoritarian systems of rule.

**Johnson, Trump, Salvini: Indirect democracy, guarantor of power control, is in danger**

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject: *EUROPEAN UNION*** (90%); POLITICS (90%); LEGISLATIVE BODIES (89%); PRIME MINISTERS (78%); HEADS OF STATE & GOVERNMENT (78%); BREXIT (77%); REFERENDUMS (72%); BRITISH PRIME MINISTERS (70%); VOTERS & ELECTIONS (61%); HISTORY (56%); TRADE AGREEMENTS (50%)

**Organization: *EUROPEAN*** UNION (55%)

**Person:** BORIS JOHNSON (79%); DONALD TRUMP (79%)

**Geographic:** LONDON, ENGLAND (73%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (93%); UNITED KINGDOM (91%); ***EUROPE (***90%); NORTH AMERICA (79%); ITALY (73%); ENGLAND (58%); WESTERN EUROPE (58%)

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

**End of Document**

[***Conte wants to quickly appoint ministers; Italy's prime minister wants to overcome 'political instability'.***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5WXT-HVV1-DXX2-P0XR-00000-00&context=)

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Friday 30 August 2019

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

**Length:** 233 words

**Byline:** SZ

**Body**

**Munich -** Acting Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte has announced a "new chapter" in the Italian government. It is a very delicate phase for the country and we must put an end as soon as possible to the political uncertainty that has caused this governmental crisis," Conte said on Thursday after head of state Sergio Mattarella charged him with forming a new coalition. A government under the "sign of novelty" should be formed. He wants to present a list of ministers to the president in the coming days. The priority is the preparation of the budget for 2020, which must be submitted to the ***EU Commission*** by October. The country must find a way out of political instability as quickly as possible," said Conte. Italy also wants to become a political weight in ***Europe*** again. Conte already presided over the alliance of the Five Star Movement and the right-wing Lega, which broke up last week. Now he is to lead a coalition of stars and social democrats. Conte announced that he would start consultations with all parliamentary groups on Thursday in order to work out a government programme. If all goes well, he said, in "a few days" he would then dissolve the reservation with which he had accepted the mandate to govern.

**Pages 2 and 4**

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject:** HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT (91%); POLITICS (90%); PUBLIC POLICY (90%); ***EUROPEAN UNION (***78%); PRIME MINISTERS (78%); PRESIDENTS OF STATE (77%)

**Organization: *EUROPEAN*** UNION (53%)

**Geographic: *EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (79%); ITALY (88%); ***EUROPE (***79%)

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

**End of Document**

[***Storm of protest against Johnson; British Prime Minister's plan to close Parliament for five weeks meets with widespread opposition. Tories resign, MPs want to legislate to fight back, activists sue***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5WXT-HVV1-DXX2-P0XP-00000-00&context=)

Süddeutsche Zeitung

Friday 30 August 2019

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

**Length:** 519 words

**Byline:** BY CATHRIN KAHLWEIT

**Body**

**London** - Even a day after the British government announced that it would close parliament for five weeks and not open it with a government statement until 14 October, the waves are still running high. If anything, the storm of protest against Prime Minister Boris Johnson's decision to apply to the Queen for 'prorogation' of the House of Commons has grown louder. Threats, resignations, legal action and resistance measures have been announced as the government defends the decision.

On Thursday morning, for example, the minister responsible for parliament, the Brexit hardliner Jacob Rees-Mogg, told the BBC that the outrage over the unusually long suspension of parliamentary business, which had been justified by the preparation of a new political agenda, was "constitutional and appropriate". He called the outrage "hypocritical", coming mainly from "people who never wanted to leave the ***EU*** anyway". However, Rees-Mogg himself had voted three times against the withdrawal agreement negotiated by ex-Prime Minister Theresa May, while many critics, who call a forced recess for parliament an attack on democracy, had voted for the deal.

The *Times* reported from a cabinet conference call on Wednesday in which Johnson told surprised ministers of his plan. According to witnesses, he had also justified it by saying that he would have more credibility with the ***EU on*** his negotiating position - leaving even in the case of no deal - if the House of Commons could not interfere.

Meanwhile, the leader of the Scottish Tories, Ruth Davidson, who had always vehemently opposed a hard Brexit, and an influential member of the House of Lords, Lord George Young, have announced their resignations. Davidson said she was resigning for personal reasons, but at the same time urged Johnson to keep his promise and negotiate a deal with Brussels. Lord Young, a kind of Conservative whip in the House of Lords, justified his resignation by saying he was "deeply unhappy" about the disempowerment of Parliament. Meanwhile, a cross-party group of House of Commons MPs is discussing how to lift the parliamentary closure and legislate to stop the government from risking No Deal on 31 October. In addition to a lawsuit by MPs in a Scottish court and the lawsuit by businesswoman Gina Miller, who had already succeeded in 2017 with a case that gave parliament more rights in the Brexit process, a Northern Irish activist has now also sued against prorogation. He sees this as a threat to the Good Friday Agreement.

An online petition against Downing Street's action now has well over a million signatures. The House of Commons meets on 3 September. Then the MPs have only a few days to introduce a bill against No Deal. The word from Downing Street is that everything possible will be done to prevent this.

**Pages 3, 4 and 5**

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject:** PRIME MINISTERS (92%); POLITICS (91%); BRITISH PRIME MINISTERS (90%); BRITISH PARLIAMENT (90%); LEGISLATURE (90%); LEGISLATIVE BODIES (90%); POLITICAL PARTIES (90%); RESIGNATIONS (90%); HEADS OF STATE & GOVERNMENT (90%); PUBLIC POLICY (90%); BREXIT (89%); LEGAL ACTIONS (89%); ***EUROPEAN UNION (***78%); WITNESSES (78%); COURT CASES (76%); DELAYS & DELAYS (72%)

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

**Geographic:** BRUSSELS, BELGIUM (58%); LONDON, ENGLAND (58%); BRUSSELS CAPITAL REGION (79%); NORTHERN IRELAND (79%); SCOTLAND (73%); UNITED KINGDOM (73%).

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

**End of Document**

[***COMMENT; Nothing learned***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5WXT-P0K1-DY2B-S05J-00000-00&context=)

Bild

Friday 30 August 2019

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**Section:** p. 2; issue 202

**Length:** 127 words

**Byline:** Julian Röpcke

**Body**

According to the United Nations, 576,000 people from Idlib have become refugees since May alone.

That is 576000 reasons for the German government to do everything in its power to stop the worst mass displacement in eight years of war in Syria by all means.

You would think ...

Because Germany of all countries should know where it leads when people are displaced on ***Europe's*** doorstep: They come to us!

But far from it.

Instead of finally imposing tough Syria sanctions against Russia, the Chancellor and the Foreign Minister leave it at empty words, talking about a "political process" where there is none. They let Assad and Putin do what they do when they are allowed to do it.

The next refugee crisis is thus predetermined.

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** BIBU

**Subject:** POLITICS (91%); ***REFUGEE*** CRISIS IN ***EUROPE*** (88%); HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT (88%); UNITED NATIONS (88%); LEADERSHIP ARTICLES & COMMENTS (73%); REFUGEES (70%); EMBARGOES & SANCTIONS (69%)

**Geographic:** SYRIA (88%); ***EUROPE*** (70%); GERMANY (57%); RUSSIAN FEDERATION (54%)

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

**End of Document**

[***EUCOMMISSION; What Europe makes Europe***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5X21-3PY1-DXX2-P10T-00000-00&context=)

Süddeutsche Zeitung

Saturday 14 September 2019

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

**Length:** 566 words

**Byline:** BY STEFAN KORNELIUS

**Body**

The new ***EU Commission President did*** not receive the most attention this week for her remarkably conflict-free cabinet - it may still be possible to sort out the almost expected problem cases from Hungary and Romania. No, the indignation is particularly high because Ursula von der Leyen has changed the job description of the previous commissioner for migration issues in a terribly flowery and ambiguous way. Now he is supposed to 'protect what ***Europe*** is all about'.

The English translation is: Protecting our ***European*** Way of Life'. Without going into too much semantics and translation help: Anyone who wants to welcome migrants with open arms will hear from this choice of words isolationism, defensiveness and a rhetoric of alienation that is better left to the AfD. Those who actually think the ***European*** way of life is great, because it stands for open borders, the rule of law and the greatest possible tolerance among 28 nations, can even rejoice. At last there is a commissioner who has written the so bitterly demanded ***European*** identity into his brief.

Ultimately, the outrage over the title can be reduced to a tempest in a shot glass. The protective function is the most noble task of a state. It is for this reason that people have joined together to form states - so that they are protected from external and internal dangers, so that they are relieved of the fear of economic threats. What is taught in the basic seminar on constitutional law also applies to the Commission: it guards the ***European*** Treaties and has the task of keeping the association of soon to be 27 states together. A little pride of identity can't hurt. In the last ***European elections,*** by the way, it was almost obligatory for all post-nationalist parties to preach ***European pride*** and praise the ***European*** lifestyle as the alternative to rampant nationalism. And isn't it ***Europe,*** as the bastion of the Western model of democracy, that is now throwing itself against American self-empowerment?

The excitement seems even more exaggerated when one reads the Commissioner's detailed job description. It is about ***Europe*** as a community of justice and values. These are not hollow words - rather, behind them opens up a panopticon of issues that must concern ***Europe:*** Attacks on the rule of law, especially from within its own ranks, but also the attacks that ***Europe has to*** endure from outside, for example in the form of election manipulation.

Nevertheless, migration will be the core topic of this Commissioner, which could have been mentioned in the title. What's more, migration is one of the key topics of this Commission, because it is here that we decide what ***Europe*** really is. The difficult balance between openness, protection and human dignity, but also the search for internal stability, cohesion and enforcement of the law - all this is decided on the topic of economic migration and asylum. This is also what the task list says. In any case, it is undisputed that a uniform asylum and migration policy is still lacking in the '***European*** way of life', no matter what packaging the Commission chooses for the problem.

**Is there a common 'way of life'? Unfortunately not yet when it comes to migration**

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject: *EUROPEAN UNION*** (91%); LEGALITY (89%); INSTITUTIONS OF THE ***EUROPEAN*** UNION (78%); PUBLIC POLITICS (78%); IMMIGRATION (76%); VOTERS & ELECTIONS (73%); ELECTIONS (64%); POLITICAL PARTIES (63%); FRAUD (50%)

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

**Person:** URSULA VON DER LEYEN (72%)

**Geographic: *EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (92%); ***EUROPE (***91%); NORTH AMERICA (79%); HUNGARY (79%); ENGLAND (58%); ROMANIA (58%)

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

**End of Document**

[***BRIEFLY REPORTED; Cultureless EUCommission***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5X21-3PY1-DXX2-P143-00000-00&context=)

Süddeutsche Zeitung

Saturday 14 September 2019

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**Section:** Feature article; Munich; Bavaria; Germany; p. 18

**Length:** 286 words

**Byline:** EPD

**Body**

Cultural associations criticise the fact that there will no longer be a post for culture in the new ***EU Commission.*** In practice, culture already gets far too little attention at the ***European*** level, said Olaf Zimmermann, Executive Director of the German Cultural Council, on Deutschlandfunk radio. The fact that culture is now also being removed from the title of the responsible commissioner means a further devaluation. The German Music Council and the Stage Association also complain about the removal of the portfolio. Until now, the ***EU has had*** a Commissioner for 'Education, Culture, Youth and Sport', the Hungarian Tibor Navracsics. He is also responsible for communication networks, content and technologies. The future Commission President Ursula von der Leyen (CDU) is now planning a portfolio for 'Innovation and Youth'. The Commissioner she intends to appoint for this area, the Bulgarian Marija Gabriel, is also to take care of the protection of cultural heritage and the promotion of the creative industries. The German Music Council had appealed to von der Leyen to give culture a stronger role in the Commission than previously envisaged. Since culture no longer even appears in the title of a directorate-general, it is necessary to "understand culture as a cross-sectional task within the Commission", said President Christian Höppner. A cultural impact assessment for the Commission's projects, which is laid down in the Maastricht Treaty, could contribute to this. The ***European*** Parliament still has to approve the College of the ***EU Commission.*** This will be preceded by a hearing of the designated Commissioners. The new Commission is to take up its work on 1 November.

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject:** INSTITUTIONS OF THE ***EUROPEAN*** UNION (91%); ***EUROPEAN UNION*** (90%); POLICY (78%); LEGISLATIVE ORGANISATIONS (73%); LEADERSHIP (72%)

**Company:** DEUTSCHLANDFUNK (57%)

**Industry:** SIC4822 TELEGRAPH & OTHER MESSAGE COMMUNICATIONS (57%)

**Person:** URSULA VON DER LEYEN (70%)

**Geographic: *EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (94%); ***EUROPE*** (88%); HUNGARY (78%)

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

**End of Document**

[***Orbán's candidate could fail; Many EUMEPs reject ex-minister as commissioner***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5X21-3PY1-DXX2-P120-00000-00&context=)

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Saturday 14 September 2019

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**Section:** Politics; Munich; Bavaria; Germany; p. 10

**Length:** 380 words

**Byline:** MATTHIAS KOLB

**Body**

**Brussels - The** questioning of the ***EU Commissioners-designate*** before the ***EU Parliament***'s committees does not begin until the end of September, but it is already becoming apparent who could fail. On Friday, new allegations against the Hungarian László Trócsányi became known. The 63-year-old is opposed by many MPs because of his role as justice minister in the Fidesz government under Viktor Orbán, where he was responsible, for example, for the criminalisation of refugee supporters and the undermining of media freedom. Trócsányi is to become Enlargement Commissioner under Ursula von der Leyen and would have to emphasise the importance of the rule of law in Northern Macedonia, Serbia or Albania, although this is considered endangered in his home country.

The Hungarian arm of the anti-corruption organisation Transparency International (TI) accuses his law firm of receiving government contracts during his time as minister. In addition, 'Trócsányi & Nagy' represented international companies such as Uber. This information, first reported by *Der Spiegel*, is contained in a dossier prepared by Green ***MEP*** Daniel Freund with anti-corruption activists. Freund, who used to work for TI, told the SZ: "I had to experience myself in Hungary how civil society activists are harassed. Trócsányi was partly responsible for this political climate. That this man, of all people, should be responsible for the enlargement of the ***EU is*** the wrong signal'.

Apart from the Greens, the Social Democrats, the Left and 'Renew ***Europe***' also have considerable reservations about Trócsányi. Critical questions also await Trócsányi, who rejects the accusations in *Der Spiegel,* from the ***European*** People's Party (EPP). Its group leader Manfred Weber told the magazine: "With the Polish and Hungarian candidates, as with the Romanian candidate, there are still question marks that need to be cleared up at the hearings. He refers to investigations by the ***EU anti-corruption agency*** Olaf against Janusz Wojciechowski because of unclear accounting of travel expenses. Social Democrat Rovana Plumb is accused of abuse of office: She was minister responsible for ***EU funds in*** Romania until the end of June.

**Page 4**

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject: *EUROPEAN UNION*** (92%); LEGISLATIVE BODIES (90%); POLITICS (90%); PUBLIC POLICY (90%); CORRUPTION (89%); POLITICAL PARTIES (89%); SURVEYS & POLLS (89%); ***EUROPEAN*** UNION INSTITUTIONS (78%); RULE OF LAW (78%); MINISTRIES OF JUSTICE (77%); CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS (76%); PROFESSIONAL OFFENCES (72%); INVESTIGATIONS (71%); REFUGEES (71%); FREE PRESS (71%); MULTINATIONAL COMPANIES (69%)

**Organisation: *EUROPEAN*** PARLIAMENT (84%); TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL (55%)

**Person:** URSULA VON DER LEYEN (79%); VIKTOR ORBAN (79%)

**Geographic:** BRUSSELS, BELGIUM (58%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (94%); BRUSSELS CAPITAL REGION (79%); HUNGARY (94%); ***EUROPE (79%);*** POLAND (79%); SERBIA (79%); ALBANIA (78%); NORTHERN MACEDONIA (78%); ROMANIA (73%).

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

**End of Document**

[***The ECB is catching many people on the wrong foot'; He has really done it: Mario Draghi has tightened the punitive interest rates again shortly before his departure as ECB president. Some economists welcome this step, others criticise it strongly - even the head of the Bundesbank intervenes.***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5X21-3PY1-DXX2-P15J-00000-00&context=)

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Saturday 14 September 2019

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**Section:** Economy; Munich; p. 28

**Length:** 887 words

**Byline:** BY ALEXANDER HAGELÜKEN AND MEIKE SCHREIBER

**Body**

**Frankfurt/Munich** - Necessary or dangerous? Mario Draghi's presumably last big cash injection as head of the ***European*** Central Bank divides the experts. While the debate is still raging, there are estimates that new rules will save German banks half a billion ***euros*** a year. Analysts predict that the ECB under Draghi's successor Christine Lagarde will soon cut interest rates further and expand bond purchases.

Christian Odendahl considers the new bond purchases and higher penalty interest rates for bank deposits decided on Thursday to be necessary. The ECB had to act," says the chief economist of the Centre for ***European*** Reform, "the politicians did not contribute their share. Draghi expressed concern about the consequences of low interest rates for pension provision. But interest rates could only rise if there was more fiscal policy - a clear hint to the German government, which has long been urged to invest more. Is Olaf Scholz listening?" asks Odendahl. Marcel Fratzscher, head of the German Institute for Economic Research, also demands: "The German government should take the call seriously to make its own contribution to economic stability in ***Europe.*** Germany, however, does not want to increase investments or reduce its trade surplus; other countries are simply not in a position to do so. Therefore, according to Fratzscher, Germany is 'partly responsible for the low interest rates with its excessive saving'. With its decision, which caught many on the wrong foot, the central bank showed that it would not be influenced by political pressure. Against the background of the weak ***European*** economy and the far too low inflation expectations, the ECB had no choice but to loosen monetary policy," Fratzscher said. Now ***Europe is*** facing many more years of zero interest rates.

Jens Weidmann, head of the Bundesbank, revealed how controversial Draghi's cash injection is even within the Council of the ***European*** Central Bank. In my view, however, he overshot the mark," Weidmann told the *Bild-Zeitung,* which had previously described the ECB President as "Count Draghila" who was draining German accounts. Weidmann said that it was important to him that the expansive monetary policy be scaled back again as soon as the inflation outlook allowed it. In any case, I will make sure that interest rate hikes are not unnecessarily put on the back burner. Dutch central bank chief Klaas Knot also criticised the decision: 'This broad package of measures, in particular the resumption of bond purchases, is disproportionate to current economic conditions and there are valid reasons to doubt its effectiveness', he wrote. Austria's central bank chief Robert Holzmann also voiced criticism. On Thursday, ten out of 25 council members were said to have pleaded against the new bond purchases.

The ECB has long since shot its powder," believes Stefan Kooths, head of the forecasting centre at the Kiel Institute for the World Economy. The measures are unlikely to have a positive effect on the economy. On the other hand, the side effects are becoming more and more problematic. In particular, the political willingness to reform is flagging and structural change is being artificially halted. Companies are left on the market that can only earn their cost of capital because of the artificially low interest rates.'

Thursday's decisions make things more favourable for German banks. Although the negative interest rate for banks will now rise, there will be allowances. According to estimates by the Association of German Banks, this will save the institutions around 500 million ***euros*** a year. Without the allowances, the costs would have risen to three billion ***euros a*** year.

Deutsche Bank and Commerzbank benefit particularly strongly because of their high liquidity reserves. According to calculations by the US bank JP Morgan, Deutsche Bank should save around 200 million ***euros***, Commerzbank around 100 million ***euros***. No wonder that their shares rose on Friday: Deutsche Bank was up 2.2 per cent by the afternoon, Commerzbank 3.6 per cent.

Nevertheless, the banks are complaining. The ECB reminds us of a driver who has taken a wrong turn into a dead-end street and yet continues to accelerate," says Hans-Walter Peters, President of the Banking Association. The new bond-buying programme increases investment pressure. In July, German banks held 600 billion ***euros in*** surplus money.

Jörg Krämer, chief economist at Commerzbank, also believes that the ECB measures will hardly help the real economy. But because the central bank sees it differently, it will cut interest rates further in the spring and expand bond purchases, he predicts. The ECB already holds almost a third of the outstanding volume of bonds of some countries like Germany. In the case of Germany, the ECB is likely to reach the current upper limit of one-third at the beginning of 2021. However, the ECB is unlikely to stop buying then, but rather to raise the upper limit. To justify this, it is likely to refer to the ruling of the ***European*** Court of Justice on the bond-buying programme'.

**But from my point of view, he overshot the mark.**

**Graphic**

Outgoing central bank chief Mario Draghi defended his controversial policies in what could be his last major appearance. Photo: Ralph Orlowski/Reuters

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject:** CENTRAL BANKS (92%); EXECUTIVES (91%); ECONOMICS (91%); BONDS & NOTES (90%); EURO ***(***90%); ***EUROPEAN UNION*** (90%); POLITICS (90%); POLITICAL DEBATES (90%); HEADS OF STATE & GOVERNMENT (90%); PUBLIC FINANCE (90%); PUBLIC POLICY (90%); MONETARY POLICY (89%); INFLATION (89%); ***EUROPEAN*** UNION INSTITUTIONS (89%); ECONOMY & ECONOMIC INDICATORS (89%); ECONOMIC POLICY (89%); INTEREST RATES (89%); PENSIONS (72%); RESEARCH INSTITUTES (67%)

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

**Industry:** CENTRAL BANKING (92%); BORROWINGS & BONDS (90%); EURO ***(***90%); MONEY POLICY (89%); INTEREST RATES (89%); OLD-AGE PROVISIONS (72%)

**Person:** MARIO DRAGHI (94%); JENS WEIDMANN (93%); CHRISTINE LAGARDE (72%)

**Geographic:** FRANKFURT, GERMANY (79%); KIEL, GERMANY (57%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (92%); ***EUROPE*** (94%); NETHERLANDS (79%); AUSTRIA (79%); GERMANY (74%).

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[***One in four allowed in; Berlin wants to take in 25 per cent of the refugees who reach Italy by sea***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5X21-3PY1-DXX2-P11D-00000-00&context=)

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

**Length:** 420 words

**Byline:** C. V. BULLION, O. MEILER

**Body**

**Berlin -** In order to relieve the new Italian government and advance the distribution of refugees in ***Europe***, the German government wants to let in every fourth refugee who has landed in Italy after a sea rescue. France, too, is reportedly willing to accept 25 per cent of these migrants. This is the first time that at least a provisional solution for the distribution of refugees in ***Europe is*** emerging. The proposal is to be finalised at the meeting of ***EU interior ministers*** on 23 September in Malta and presented to the ***European*** Council in October.

I have always said that our migration policy is also humane. We will not let anyone drown,' Federal Interior Minister Horst Seehofer (CSU) told the *Süddeutsche Zeitung*. The talks are still ongoing. But if everything remains as discussed, we can take over 25 percent of the people rescued from distress at sea who turn up off Italy. That will not overburden our migration policy.' A regulation originally desired by Seehofer, according to which refugees would first be taken to disembarkation platforms in North Africa, was off the table. You need one or two countries in North Africa that are in favour of this. They don't exist.

France, Germany, Italy and Malta initially want to fix a provisional quota system in Malta. The expectation is that other states will join in," said Seehofer. The planned agreement, which was first reported by *Bild,* would not change anything for Germany. The number of refugees would remain manageable, and Germany had already taken over about a quarter of those rescued from Italy: Nothing will change with regard to this key. According to the Federal Ministry of the Interior, 561 boat people arrived in Germany via Italy in the past twelve months.

The planned regulation would suit Italy's new government. It has long been demanding a binding contribution from its ***European*** partners to the admission of migrants. The recently formed government of Cinque Stelle and Social Democrats wants to distance itself from the political legacy of former Interior Minister Matteo Salvini without giving the impression of being more lax in dealing with illegal immigration. And Berlin wants to make it easier for Giuseppe Conte's government to get started. Further details are to be discussed next Wednesday, during the visit of the new Italian Interior Minister Luciana Lamorgese to Berlin.

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**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject: *EUROPEAN UNION*** (90%); POLITICS (90%); PUBLIC POLICY (90%); IMMIGRATION (89%); TALKS & MEETINGS (78%); POLITICAL PARTIES (78%); GERMAN POLITICAL PARTIES (77%); ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS (77%); REFUGEES (71%)

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

**Person:** HORST SEEHOFER (93%)

**Geographic:** BERLIN, GERMANY (90%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (92%); ***EUROPE (***93%); NORTH AFRICA (92%); FRANCE (91%); ITALY (90%); GERMANY (89%); MALTA (88%).

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**End of Document**

[***There are limits to overtime; many employees work more than is stipulated in their employment contract or collective agreement - and they do not always do so voluntarily. However, there are rules for this in labour law***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5X21-3PY1-DXX2-P15S-00000-00&context=)

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**Section:** Economy; Munich; Bavaria; p. 30

**Length:** 1181 words

**Byline:** BY CATRIN GESELLENSETTER

**Body**

**Munich** - Working to rule, even when the desk is overflowing? This does not seem to be an option for the majority of employees. In a recent survey by the global personnel service provider ADP, around 71 per cent of employees in Germany said they regularly worked overtime. And unpaid. That is top in ***Europe.*** For trade union representatives, this may be a frightening finding. But this practice is not necessarily legally objectionable. A higher number of hours does not always justify a higher salary. What employees should therefore know.

**What is overtime?**

The law itself does not use the term. Therefore, the provisions of the labour or collective agreement are decisive. If employees spend more time on their job than stipulated there, this is called overtime.

**How much overtime is allowed?**

This varies from case to case. The Working Hours Act only stipulates that workers should not normally work more than 48 hours per week. This means that workers could spend eight hours on the production line or in the office from Monday to Saturday without breaking the law. If the employment contract provides for a classic 40-hour week from Monday to Friday, eight hours of overtime per week are therefore allowed without any problems,' explains Stefan Lochner, a specialist lawyer for labour law at Beiten Burkhardt in Munich. In individual cases, working hours can even increase to up to 60 hours per week. The Working Hours Act allows a maximum daily working time of ten hours if it is ensured that the average workload levels off again at eight hours per day within six months,' says the lawyer.

**Do workers have to work overtime even against their will?**

As a general rule, employees only have to work more if the boss orders the extra work and is also allowed to order it. As a rule, however, the employment contract provides for such authorisation in favour of the employer. If the boss then also adheres to the requirements of the Working Hours Act, employees have a bad hand if they refuse to work extra hours. It is true that case law requires employers to take the interests of the workforce into account in such cases. But it takes very good arguments to get out of the obligation when a large order comes in that has to be worked in extra shifts," says Paul Brummer, labour lawyer at Pusch Wahlig Workplace Law in Berlin. If you can't just say that you are celebrating a golden wedding anniversary or have to attend the funeral of a close relative on that day, you risk a warning.

However, the shorter the overtime is scheduled, the greater the employer's obligation to take into account the family situation of his employees. You can't force a single father of two small children to work unplanned overtime if the care of the offspring is not guaranteed. Special rules also apply to pregnant women and severely disabled persons: the former are not allowed to work more than eight hours a day, the latter do not have to work overtime against their will.

**When and how is overtime paid?**

This depends on the content of the employment contract or collective agreement or any company agreements. If these regulations specify specific amounts, overtime must be paid accordingly, but only if the boss has ordered it or at least approved of it. The latter is the case, for example, if the boss tacitly signs the time sheet documenting the overtime," says Brummer. If there is no explicit regulation, there is no general entitlement to remuneration. In such cases, case law differentiates according to whether the employee could expect remuneration under the specific circumstances of the individual case (cf. for example BAG, ref. no. 5 AZR 765/10). Normally, one would assume that employees who work overtime would also receive 'customary remuneration' for it', says lawyer Lochner. In most cases, it can be determined on the basis of the normal weekly working hours and the monthly salary what is to be paid for each extra hour.

However, there are important exceptions to this principle. For example, case law assumes that higher earners whose monthly gross salary exceeds the contribution assessment ceiling in pension insurance may not expect to receive money for overtime. (BAG, ref. 5 AZR 765/10). Consequently, in the absence of contractual rules, they must work longer hours even without consideration. The threshold values are currently 6700 ***euros*** monthly gross in the old and 6150 ***euros in the*** new federal states.

**What applies if the employment contract contains a clause stating that the monthly salary covers 'all overtime'?**

Such a general clause is invalid, so that employees are nevertheless entitled to a 'customary remuneration' within the framework of the general rules. However, compensation rules are not generally prohibited. They just have to meet certain standards. In order for a compensation clause to be legally binding, the employment contract must clearly state the extent to which overtime is compensated with the regular remuneration. In addition, certain limits must not be exceeded,' says lawyer Lochner. In the case of full-time employees, case law usually allows a lump-sum compensation of up to 20 hours of overtime per month. For part-time employees, the rule of thumb is that overtime of up to ten per cent of the hours owed under the contract can be compensated with the regular salary'. The Federal Labour Court has also allowed compensation in cases where the maximum working time of 48 hours per week under the Working Hours Act is not exceeded (Case No. 5 AZR 52/05).

**What changes does the *European* Court of Justice's ruling on time recording bring?**

Until now, employers only had to document when employees worked more than eight hours per day. However, in its judgment of 14 May 2019 (C-55/18), the ***European*** Court of Justice (ECJ) ruled that member states must oblige employers to set up a system that records the total daily working time of employees and documents the extent to which the prescribed breaks and the upper limit for the average weekly working time are complied with. Confidential working time and overtime that is not recorded in detail will then no longer exist, or only to a very limited extent,' says lawyer Lochner. It should become easier for employees to claim compensation for overtime worked.

**Work longer**

In a survey

71 per cent of the

Employees an,

to work overtime on a regular basis - unpaid.

**Graphic**

When the lights are still on late in the evening: many people work far too long - often voluntarily and without pay. Photo: Werner Dieterich/imago/Westend 61

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**Subject:** LABOUR LAW (92%); LAWS ON WAGES & SALARIES (91%); HUMAN RESOURCES (90%); WEEKLY WORKING HOURS (90%); OVERTIME (90%); EMPLOYMENT CONTRACTS (89%); SURVEYS (89%); TRADE UNIONS (77%); FULL-TIME EMPLOYMENT (77%); EMPLOYMENT SERVICES (72%); LAWYERS (71%); SINGLE PARENTS (60%)

**Industry:** EMPLOYMENT SERVICES (72%); LAWYERS (71%)

**Geographic:** BERLIN, GERMANY (57%); BAVARIA, GERMANY (59%); ***EUROPE*** (79%); GERMANY (59%)

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**End of Document**

[***For years the ECB chief has been sucking our accounts dry!; Germany's top banker settles accounts with Count Draghila***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5X21-7DM1-JBK9-245Y-00000-00&context=)

Bild

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**Length:** 671 words

**Byline:** Kai Weise

**Body**

BILD: New bond purchases and even higher penalty interest rates for banks. Do you also think that is necessary?

Jens Weidmann: "The economy has cooled down - especially in Germany, but also elsewhere in the ***euro area***. But such a far-reaching package of monetary policy easing would not have been necessary. In my view, the ECB Governing Council overshot the mark. The economic situation is not really bad, wages are clearly rising and there is no danger of permanently falling prices and wages.

BILD: What does this mean for savers and real estate buyers?

Weidmann: "For the population, this means that those who want to build may get cheaper loans. Savers, on the other hand, are worse off. They can benefit in other ways, for example through a more secure job. In general, however, it is becoming more difficult to provide for old age without taking on more risk. Pension funds and life insurers are feeling this especially."

BILD: Do we now have to bury the hope of interest rates forever?

Weidmann: "After this decision, it is clear that low interest rates will remain with us for quite some time. For me, the perspective that the expansionary monetary policy will be scaled back again as soon as the inflation outlook permits is important. However, the ECB Governing Council has tied itself up for a long time with its latest decisions. In any case, I will work to ensure that interest rate hikes are not unnecessarily put on the back burner."

BILD: Has the ECB's monetary policy done ***Europe*** more good or more harm since the end of the financial crisis?

Weidmann: "The decisive reaction of monetary policy to the financial crisis was right, it prevented worse. However, it has always been important to me that monetary policy does not get caught in the wake of fiscal policy. Because that jeopardises our ability to ensure stable prices. With the decision to buy even more government bonds, this risk has increased and it is becoming increasingly difficult for the ECB to get out of this policy. And it is also clear: the side effects and financial stability risks of the very expansionary monetary policy increase the longer it lasts."

BILD: Will our savings culture and trust in our economic system be lost with zero interest rates?

Weidmann: "It is true that savers are currently being burdened by monetary policy. However, it still makes sense to put something aside and make provisions for later, even with low interest rates. And people continue to save. But I agree with you: when choosing its means, a central bank should make sure that what it does does does not deeply unsettle people. This also includes that people can rely on money retaining its value, i.e. that the central bank is pursuing its goal of price stability."

Frankfurt/M. - New bond purchases, even higher penalty interest rates for banks - when Mario Draghi (72), head of the ***European*** Central Bank, detonated the next money bomb yesterday, HE was sitting just three chairs away: Jens Weidmann (51), Bundesbank president for eight years and chief critic of the outgoing ECB president.

Back in 2011, Weidmann, then the most important financial advisor in the Chancellor's Office, thought it was wrong to buy up government bonds en masse - just like now.

Today, Germany's top banker is not alone in his opinion in the ECB's Governing Council: According to BILD, the committee is deeply divided, and the central bankers of France, Austria, the Netherlands and Estonia also reject the Draghi course. In the BILD interview, Weidmann settles accounts with "Count Draghila"!

This is the Draghi successor

CHRISTINE LAGARDE

SHE will be responsible for ***Europe's*** finances in the future: Christine Lagarde (63, photo). In November, the former French finance minister will replace Mario Draghi (72) at the head of the ***European*** Central Bank - the first woman ever! Experts do not expect Lagarde, IMF chief for eight years until this summer, to leave the Draghi path: The zero interest rate policy will not change.

**Graphic**

The BILD photo montage shows Mario Draghi as "Count Dracula".

Jens Weidmann has been Bundesbank President and member of the ECB Advisory Council since 2011

Photos: JONAS RATERMANN , PROD. DB/ IMAGO, DDP, RONALD WITTEK/ EPA-EFE/ REX, OLIVIER HOSLET/ EPA-EFE/ REX

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

**Industry:** CENTRAL BANKING (91%); BORROWINGS & BONDS (90%); EUROZONE (***90%);*** MONEY POLICY (90%); MONETARY UNIONS (90%); INTEREST RATES (90%); GOVERNMENT BONDS (78%); PRICE CHANGES (76%); INSURANCE (73%); AGE PROVISIONS (68%)

**Person:** JENS WEIDMANN (95%); MARIO DRAGHI (79%)

**Geographic:** FRANKFURT, GERMANY (78%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (92%); ***EUROPE (***92%); GERMANY (73%)

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[***WEEKLY CHRONICLE***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5X21-3PY1-DXX2-P11J-00000-00&context=)

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**Byline:** SZ

**Body**

**ECB President Mario Draghi is digging** deep into his toolbox once again as his term comes to an end due to the gloomy economic outlook. On Thursday, 12 September, the ***European*** Central Bank (ECB) will launch a **comprehensive package to support the economy**, including a further interest rate cut, renewed bond purchases and relief for banks. Interest rates in the ***euro area will*** remain at record lows indefinitely. The ECB Governing Council now assumes that interest rates will 'remain at their current level or lower' until inflation has moved sustainably towards the target level of just below two per cent. At the same time, Draghi is calling on countries like Germany to do more to combat the weak economy. With the decisions, an end to the ultra-loose monetary policy, which has been sharply criticised in Germany in particular, has become a distant prospect, giving the new ECB chief Christine Lagarde a direction to follow. The criticism is harsh, especially from the financial sector. US President Donald Trump also speaks out and accuses the ECB of harming the US economy.

Meanwhile, on Tuesday, 10 September, the Republican US president surprisingly dismissed his **security advisor John Bolton**. He had been in office since April 2018 and was considered a foreign policy hardliner, especially on Iran and North Korea. The feisty 70-year-old is said to have clashed with many key people on Trump's team. Trump said: "A lot of people want the job. It's a great job.'

On the night of Tuesday 10 September, **Prime Minister Boris Johnson's enforced recess of Parliament in the UK** comes into effect. Johnson wants - according to his account - to interrupt the session of parliament until mid-October in order to present his new programme for government. However, a Scottish Court of Appeal declared the forced recess of parliament illegal on Wednesday, 11 September. Boris Johnson's move was made with the intention of cold-calling MPs in the Brexit dispute, the judges justified their decision. The Supreme Court will deal with the case on Tuesday, 17 September.

On Tuesday, 10 September, the **future *EU Commission President* Ursula von der Leyen** declared her intention to implement her central political plans with the help of three experienced politicians from the team of her predecessor Jean-Claude Juncker. The Dutch Social Democrat Frans Timmermans, as Vice-President, is to take care of making ***Europe*** the first climate-neutral continent. At his side are the Danish liberal Margrethe Vestager (Digital) and the Christian Democrat Valdis Dombrovskis from Latvia (Social Market Economy).

**Baden-Württemberg's Prime Minister Winfried Kretschmann (Greens)** wants to run for a third term in the 2021 state elections. The 71-year-old said so in Stuttgart on Thursday, 12 September. Kretschmann has been the first and so far only Green head of government of a federal state since 2011.

The **photographer Robert Frank was** considered one of the most influential photographers of the 20th century. He died in the Canadian city of Inverness on Monday, 9 September, at the age of 94. Born in Zurich in 1924, Frank came to the USA as a young man and photographed people in a completely new way during his travels through the country: spontaneous, undisguised, black and white, documentary. His resulting photo book, 'The Americans', became a classic.

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**Industry:** CENTRAL BANKS (92%); INTEREST RATES (90%); ***EUROZONE*** (78%); MONEY POLICY (78%); CURRENCY UNIONS (78%); BORROWINGS & BONDS (76%)

**Person:** BORIS JOHNSON (92%); MARIO DRAGHI (92%); WINFRIED KRETSCHMANN (90%); DONALD TRUMP (79%); JEAN-CLAUDE JUNCKER (79%); URSULA VON DER LEYEN (79%); VALDIS DOMBROVSKIS (79%); CHRISTINE LAGARDE (56%)

**Geographic:** STUTTGART, GERMANY (79%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (93%); BADEN-WÜRTTEMBERG, GERMANY (73%); ***EUROPE (***92%); NORTH AMERICA (92%); UNITED KINGDOM (91%); DENMARK (79%); CANADA (79%); LATVIA (79%); NETHERLANDS (79%); GERMANY (74%); IRAN (58%); NORTH KOREA (58%); SCOTLAND (58%).

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

**End of Document**

[***So many refugees come across the Mediterranean; ... AND SO MANY END UP WITH US!***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5X21-7DM1-JBK9-245N-00000-00&context=)

Bild

Saturday 14 September 2019

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**Section:** Title page; p. 1; issue 215

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**Byline:** F. Solms-laubach

**Body**

Berlin - In the long-running dispute over refugees arriving in Italy, a ***European*** solution is emerging! France and Germany each want to take in a quarter of the refugees rescued from distress at sea. Another 50 percent will be distributed to Italy, Malta, etc. (BILD reported).

The Federal Ministry of the Interior praises the plan! State Secretary Stephan Mayer (45, CSU): "If it were possible to agree on a distribution key for sea rescue cases among ***EU states*** willing to take in refugees right at the beginning of Ursula von der Leyen's presidency, this would be an important step in the right direction."

These are the government's current figures:

By the end of August, almost 68000 migrants arrived in ***Europe*** via the Mediterranean - e.g.: 5800 arrived in Italy, 28200 on the Greek islands, 7600 across the Turkish-Greek land border.

According to the government report, "migration to the Greek islands in particular continues to be characterised by a sustained and significant increase"! Compared to the same period last year (2018: 20500), an increase of 37%!

The Federal Police registers more "illegal border crossings" from Austria. Here the authority counts up to one third of the average of almost 700 illegal border crossings per week!

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**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

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**Subject: *EUROPEAN UNION*** (78%)

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

**Person:** URSULA VON DER LEYEN (77%)

**Geographic:** BERLIN, GERMANY (59%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (79%); ***EUROPE (***88%); GREECE (88%); ITALY (88%); TURKEY (79%); GERMANY (59%); FRANCE (58%); MALTA (57%); AUSTRIA (57%).

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[***Doom before our eyes; Angela Merkel wants a conference on Libya - the country should not end up like Syria***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5X21-3PY1-DXX2-P11W-00000-00&context=)

Süddeutsche Zeitung

Saturday 14 September 2019

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**Section:** Politics; Germany; p. 10

**Length:** 923 words

**Byline:** D. BRÖSSLER, N. FRIED, D. RAMADAN

**Body**

**Munich/Berlin** - If there is a suitable horror scenario for Libya, it would probably be Syria: Hundreds of thousands of victims, millions of refugees, a country in ruins. What began as a civil war developed into a proxy war in which foreign governments supplied their respective partners with weapons. Angela Merkel warned of similar conditions in Libya in the Bundestag this week. Everything possible must be done to prevent such a proxy war from escalating. It is a matter of "re-establishing statehood in Libya, however difficult that may be".

The North African country has been divided since the 2014 parliamentary elections. Before that, the self-proclaimed revolutionary leader Muammar al-Gaddafi held sway in Libya for more than 30 years. His centralised exercise of power contrasts with the fragmented interest groups in the country today: there is Fayez al-Sarraj. He is the prime minister of the internationally recognised transitional government, but his power in the capital Tripoli is secured by local militias. He is supported by Qatar and Turkey. Opposing him is General Khalifa Haftar, who is supported by Egypt, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Russia. In addition, Libyan society has been divided into tribes for centuries.

Gaddafi once followed a simple principle: carrot and stick. Obedient tribal leaders could count on privileges, disobedient tribes were quieted by force. After the fall of Gaddafi in 2011, the country fell into chaos. At the time, Germany abstained from the decisive vote in the UN Security Council on intervention in Libya. At home, the government came under massive criticism. Now, eight years later, Merkel promises that Germany will "make its contribution".

The German government wants to create the conditions for a Libya conference under the leadership of the United Nations, in which Italy, Turkey and the United Arab Emirates, for example, could participate in addition to the permanent members of the UN Security Council. At the G-7 summit in Biarritz at the end of August, the heads of state and government had, according to Merkel, "an intensive discussion on Libya, which I think was very important".

Expectations that such a conference could be organised in the near future are, however, dampened in Berlin. Until then, Federal Foreign Minister Heiko Maas (SPD) made clear, there is "still a lot of work ahead of us".

In Libya, the crisis has recently intensified: Khalifa Haftar's offensive at the beginning of April led to the largest mobilisation of militias in western Libya since the revolution of 2011. In the meantime, it has stalled. When the warlord Haftar was still scoring military successes, the Chancellor was travelling in the neighbouring countries of the Sahel. There she spoke with the presidents of Niger, Mali, Mauritania, Chad and Burkina Faso about the security situation. The presidents explained to her how much their countries were suffering from militias and terrorists, who were mainly infiltrating from Libya. At the time, Merkel seemed almost dismayed by the presidents' mixture of anger and derision that "the West" was able to shoot up Libya but not to stabilise the country again.

In Libya, violations of the international arms embargo are regularly documented, including by UN member states such as Egypt, Turkey and the United Arab Emirates, which supply their respective militias with weapons. For the states in the Sahel, this means that they have to spend 15 percent of their budgets on security. The money is missing for schools, the fight against climate change and a strategy against demographic development. And from a ***European*** perspective, this means that the pressure to migrate remains. Many of the African refugees end up in Libya, which is considered one of the most important transit countries for refugees. The aid organisation Médecins Sans Frontières described the conditions in the Libyan camps on Friday as "deplorable".

Only a week after her trip to Africa, Merkel received Prime Minister Fayez al-Saraj in Berlin. He had previously broken with French President Emmanuel Macron, accusing him of being too close to his opponent Haftar. Macron, who wanted to force the pacification of Libya shortly after taking office as his first foreign policy trial by fire, has meanwhile gambled away his role as mediator. Although he managed to bring the two opponents, Prime Minister Fayez al-Sarraj and General Khalifa Haftar, together for a summit meeting in Paris in July 2017, what followed was anything but glorious.

The Chancellor's diplomatic offensive is therefore an ambitious undertaking. In contrast to France and Italy, both of which are competing for influence in the Libyan oil and gas sector, Germany is considered a neutral mediator. Also, unlike Macron before her, Merkel consulted with the UN special envoy for Libya, Ghassan Salamé, who now sees the crisis as being solved only if the regional actors are held responsible - and yet: the rifts between powers such as Egypt and the UAE on the one side and Qatar and Turkey on the other are so deep that it is difficult to imagine a clash.

**'The West' could shoot up the state but not stabilise it, say critics**

**Graphic**

Libya's prime minister, Fayez al-Saraj, asked for support in Berlin last May. Now Chancellor Merkel is going on the offensive for the first time. Photo: MACDOUGALL/AFP

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject:** CIVIL WAR (90%); GERMAN CHANCELLORS (90%); WAR & WARLIKE CONFLICT (90%); POLITICS (90%); PUBLIC POLICY (90%); PARAMILITARY & MILITIA (89%); HEADS OF STATE & GOVERNMENT (89%); PRESIDENTS OF STATE (89%); UNITED NATIONS (89%); LEGISLATIVE BODIES (78%); GERMAN POLITICAL PARTIES (77%); GERMAN PARLIAMENT (77%); POLITICAL PARTIES (77%); PRIME MINISTERS (77%); DEFENCE POLICY & MILITARY POLICY (77%); ELECTIONS (77%); ELECTIONS & ELECTION CAMPAIGNS (76%); TERRORISM (73%); VOTERS & ELECTIONS (70%); UNITED NATIONS ORGANISATIONS (69%)

**Industry:** DEFENCE POLICY & MILITARY POLICY (77%)

**Person:** ANGELA MERKEL (94%)

**Geographic:** LIEGE, BELGIUM (79%); TRIPOLI, LIBYA (79%); BERLIN, GERMANY (73%); CENTRAL AFRICA (79%); LIBYA (94%); UNITED ARAB EMIRATES (92%); SYRIA (88%); QATAR (79%); MAURITANIA (79%); NIGER (79%); NORTH AFRICA (79%); CHAD (79%); EGYPT (79%); GERMANY (74%); BURKINA FASO (73%); ITALY (58%); MALI (58%); RUSSIAN FEDERATION (58%).

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**End of Document**

[***Strong man - and now?; Prime Minister Boris Johnson is on the defensive in the Brexit dispute, beset by parliament and judges. Some already see this as a template for taming populists***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5X21-3PY1-DXX2-P0YR-00000-00&context=)

Süddeutsche Zeitung

Saturday 14 September 2019

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

**Length:** 799 words

**Byline:** BY CATHRIN KAHLWEIT

**Body**

There is movement in the deadlocked Brexit debate. On Friday afternoon, it became known that British Prime Minister Boris Johnson would meet the current ***EU Commission President*** Jean-Claude Juncker in Luxembourg on Monday. According to reports, one of the topics to be discussed will be new proposals for the border regime in Ireland, the so-called 'Northern Ireland only' solution. According to this solution, Northern Ireland would essentially continue to abide by the rules of the ***EU's internal market***, with a customs border running between the Irish and British islands. ***EU insiders,*** however, said on Friday that there was still a "very, very long way to go" before an agreement could be reached.

Until now, Johnson had tended to avoid contact with ***EU*** representatives because he saw this as a threat to his hard line, according to which no-deal could only be avoided by a compromise offer from the ***EU side.*** Either the emergency solution for Northern Ireland, the backstop, would go, Johnson had said, or Britain would leave the ***EU*** on 31 October.

However, Johnson can no longer pursue this line in light of the developments of the past two weeks; his position has been dramatically weakened. First the House of Commons had passed a law that would force Johnson to apply for a postponement of the date in Brussels. Then the parliament had denied him the new elections with which Johnson wanted to present himself as a convinced fighter for Brexit. This was followed by a court ruling from Scotland that declared the parliament's five-week forced recess illegal. Next Tuesday it will be decided whether the Supreme Court in London will also follow this ruling. Then Johnson would have to lift the closure of parliament.

The prime minister can get out of this predicament in two ways: He refuses to apply for a postponement in Brussels. But this would mean ignoring parliamentary resolutions and breaking the law. The alternative: Downing Street gets a deal done. That would be a coup, which would require far-reaching compromises from the British side.

Officially, the prime minister had always stressed that he wanted a deal. ***EU chief negotiator*** Michel Barnier, however, expressed scepticism on Thursday: For the time being, he saw 'no reason to resume talks', as the British had not presented a credible proposal. Brussels is also waiting in the new debate on a Northern Ireland solution. It is questionable whether Johnson would be able to get a compromise through the House of Commons, which is still viewed very critically by both the Northern Irish DUP and hardliners in the Tory faction.

Should there be no agreement in London itself - and thus no deal with Brussels, Johnson would have to declare whether he will implement the guidelines of the British MPs. This would open a new round in the power struggle between the executive and the legislature. The speaker of parliament, John Bercow, issued a call to order on this on Thursday. Bercow is popular beyond Britain, but feared in Downing Street. The government does not like the role the Speaker has played in the House of Commons recently: he strengthened the rights of MPs and defended their claim to control the government's actions.

On Thursday, Bercow threatened the Prime Minister that he would not allow him to break the law. If in doubt, he would promote the "creative interpretation of the parliamentary rules of the game" by which the House of Commons stops No Deal and lawbreaking. The only form of Brexit we will have is one that has been approved by Parliament.

The recent victory of MPs had led to a cautious euphoria among all those who saw British democracy threatened by Johnson's populist course. Parliaments and courts, according to constitutional experts, remain a bulwark against encroachment by increasingly autocratic governments. Comparisons were made with other countries - with the loss of power of Lega leader Matteo Salvini, for example, who is facing a new alliance in the Roman parliament. Or also with the House of Representatives in the USA, which repeatedly falls into President Trump's arms.

On the other hand, the examples of Hungary and Poland show how a dismantling of democracy can paralyse parliaments and courts and strengthen the acceptance of an anti-democratic leadership among voters. The British example could also prove that the power of the House of Commons does not have to last: If Johnson wins the next elections with a populist campaign and the reference to a 'blocking attitude' of the MPs, he could force a hard Brexit and limit the power of parliament again.

**Page 10**

**Classification**

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**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject: *EUROPEAN UNION*** (91%); PRIME MINISTERS (91%); BREXIT (90%); BRITISH PRIME MINISTERS (90%); LEGISLATIVE BODIES (90%); POLITICS (90%); POLITICAL DEBATES (90%); JUDGES (90%); HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT (90%); PUBLIC POLICY (90%); BRITISH PARLIAMENT (89%); COURT RULINGS (89%); LEGISLATION (78%); POLITICAL PARTIES (77%); ENDANGERED SPECIES (75%); SUPREME COURT (70%); ELECTIONS & CAMPAIGNS (65%); COURTS (64%)

**Person:** BORIS JOHNSON (92%); JEAN-CLAUDE JUNCKER (79%)

**Geographic:** BRUSSELS, BELGIUM (90%); LONDON, ENGLAND (73%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (95%); BRUSSELS CAPITAL REGION (92%); ***EUROPE (90%);*** NORTHERN IRELAND (91%); UNITED KINGDOM (90%); BELGIUM (73%); LUXEMBOURG (73%); SCOTLAND (58%).

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Saturday 14 September 2019

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**Section:** Other; Munich; Bavaria; Germany; p. 15

**Length:** 227 words

**Byline:** JOACHIM KÄPPNER

**Body**

**Strait of Gibraltar**

Never did the rocky fortress of Gibraltar play a more important role than on 1 July 1940: it was from here that British battleships and the aircraft carrier *Ark Royal* began Operation 'Catapult' and took out the French fleet lying in North Africa. The new regime in Paris, which collaborated with Nazi Germany, refused to surrender or intern the fleet. Catapult' meant that Britain would never bow to the Nazi regime.

Thanks to their impregnable base, the British have ruled the strait between the Atlantic and the Mediterranean since 1704 and still do: recently, the Royal Navy brought up an Iranian tanker here. Although Spain renounced Gibraltar in the Treaty of Utrecht in 1714, it continues to claim it. Gibraltar was of great strategic importance in the wars against Napoleon and Hitler.

Gibraltar, still part of the ***EU*** with the UK, is a centre of offshore finance and an important port. Many refugees attempt the perilous route to ***Europe*** via the Strait of Gibraltar. According to legend, the Rock will remain British as long as Barbary macaques frolic on it. As a precaution, Prime Minister Winston Churchill therefore had the stocks reinforced by monkeys from Morocco.

**Classification**

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**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject:** SECOND WORLD WAR (77%); ***EUROPEAN UNION*** (76%); BRITISH PRIME MINISTERS (72%); PRIME MINISTERS (72%); HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT (71%); MARINE (69%)

**Organization: *EUROPEAN*** UNION (51%)

**Industry:** WATER VEHICLES (90%); MARINE (69%)

**Geographic:** PARIS, FRANCE (72%); ***EUROPE (***91%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (76%); ÎLE-DE-FRANCE, FRANCE (57%); UNITED KINGDOM (90%); NORTH AFRICA (73%); SPAIN (70%); FRANCE (58%); ***EUROPE (***57%); MOROCCO (57%); IRAN (56%)

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[***Last crime episode; investigations against Czech Prime Minister Babiš discontinued***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5X21-3PY1-DXX2-P11X-00000-00&context=)

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Saturday 14 September 2019

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**Section:** Politics; Munich; Bavaria; p. 10

**Length:** 364 words

**Byline:** VIKTORIA GROSSMANN

**Body**

**Munich** - Czech Prime Minister Andrej Babiš is not to be charged. Members of his family and he were accused of subsidy fraud. He allegedly received almost two million ***euros*** illegally for the construction of the Storchennest hotel and conference centre. In return, the entrepreneur allegedly passed off companies belonging to his holding Agrofert as smaller, independent businesses. On Friday, the responsible public prosecutor's office in Prague announced that the criminal prosecution of the six accused would be discontinued. The companies had fulfilled the necessary conditions at the time of applying for the subsidy. Babiš" wife, his daughter and a brother-in-law had also been investigated.

Hundreds of thousands of people have taken to the streets in the Czech Republic this year alone to demand the resignation of the prime minister. One of the reasons was always the Stork's Nest case. This has been occupying the public for four years and had partly developed into a real thriller. Based on an interview with the prime minister's son, the media accused Babiš last year of having his adult child abducted to Crimea so that he could not testify in the Stork's Nest case. Babiš had contributed to this confusion. When he entered parliament with his party Ano in 2013, he denied having anything at all to do with Stork's Nest. Only gradually did he admit that family members were involved. Despite all denials, the current owner, a real estate company, refunded the disputed sum. The Czech police as well as the ***EU authority*** Olaf had come to the conclusion that the suspicion of subsidy fraud was well-founded.

The fact that the public prosecutor's office is now suddenly assessing the eleven-year-old incident differently also triggered fierce criticism in the Czech Republic on Friday. Opposition parties are demanding further investigations and a court ruling. The Prosecutor General now has three months to confirm the legal force of the decision.

**The stork's nest case has been haunting the country for four years now**

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject:** INVESTIGATIONS (90%); CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS (90%); PRIME MINISTERS (90%); POLITICS (89%); PUBLIC PROSECUTORS (89%); PUBLIC POLICY (89%); ***EUROPEAN UNION (***78%); LEGISLATIVE BODIES (78%); HOLDING COMPANIES (78%); POLITICAL PARTIES (78%); LAWYERS (78%); SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED ENTERPRISES (77%); INTERVIEWS (73%); NEGATIVE NEWS ABOUT PEOPLE (73%); ***EUROPEAN UNION*** INSTITUTIONS (64%).

**Industry:** LAWYERS (78%)

**Geographic:** PRAGUE, CZECH REPUBLIC (73%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (79%); CZECH REPUBLIC (91%)

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**End of Document**

[***Seehofer wants to relieve Italy; Berlin wants to take in every fourth refugee who arrives there***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5X21-3PY1-DXX2-P10C-00000-00&context=)

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Saturday 14 September 2019

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

**Length:** 124 words

**Byline:** LION

**Body**

**Berlin -** The German government is prepared to take in every fourth refugee rescued from distress at sea who has landed in Italy. An agreement to this effect is to be adopted at the meeting of ***EU interior ministers*** in Malta on 23 September. It is a first proposal for refugee distribution in the ***EU***. We will not let anyone drown," said Federal Interior Minister Horst Seehofer (CSU) to the *Süddeutsche Zeitung*. If everything remains as discussed, we can take over 25 percent of the people rescued from distress at sea who turn up off Italy. That will not overstretch our migration policy.' Since September 2018, Germany has taken in 561 boat people from Italy.

**Pages 8 and 9**

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

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**Subject:** POLITICS (91%); ***EUROPEAN UNION*** (90%); DISCUSSIONS & MEETINGS (90%); POLITICAL PARTIES (78%); RESCUE ACTIONS (78%); GERMAN POLITICAL PARTIES (77%); IMMIGRATION (73%)

**Person:** HORST SEEHOFER (91%)

**Geographic:** BERLIN, GERMANY (73%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (92%); ITALY (90%); GERMANY (59%); MALTA (57%).

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

**End of Document**

[***Brussels balancing act; hearings of the designated EUCommissioners will show whether Ursula von der Leyen can balance conflicting interests***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5X5D-MMN1-DXX2-P2VK-00000-00&context=)

Süddeutsche Zeitung

Monday 30 September 2019

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

**Length:** 1009 words

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

**Body**

**Brussels** - For Ursula von der Leyen, it's all about the big picture. Barely three weeks after she presented her team for the new ***EU Commission***, the hearings in the ***European Parliament are*** beginning. Now it will become clear whether the CDU politician has found the right mix in consultation with the governments. It was much easier to achieve the balance of women and men than to keep the balance between the Parliament's will to shape things, the interests of the capitals and her own claim to show enough leadership. Compromises will be necessary, because von der Leyen can only start on 1 November if all candidates have been accepted by the committees - and her college has been confirmed by the plenary on 23 October. After being confirmed in July with a majority of only nine votes, she now hopes for broad support; she cannot implement her ambitious goals without the large groups and the member states. It is not only about the competence and integrity of individual candidates, but also about the allocation of portfolios - and of course about power.

**The procedure**

Each candidate has to face three hours of questions from the MPs of the relevant specialised committees. The hearings are livestreamed and begin with a 15-minute statement by the respective candidate, after which the parliamentarians ask questions - larger groups more, smaller groups fewer, but no more than 25 in total. Afterwards, the committee chairs and coordinators of the groups discuss the matter. If less than two-thirds of the committee members are convinced by the candidate, further questions can be asked in writing or the hearing can be continued. The coordinators can also recommend that a new portfolio be assigned. This was the case in 2014 with the Hungarian Tibor Navracsics, who was allowed to become a commissioner, but not for civil rights.

**The shaky candidates**

A Hungarian is also making headlines in 2019: The Legal Affairs Committee is blocking László Trócsányi as Enlargement Commissioner. Like Rovana Plumb from Romania, Viktor Orbán's ex-justice minister has not been able to clear conflicts of interest. On Monday, the committee is to officially explain whether it recommends von der Leyen to ask Bucharest and Budapest to send new candidates or to give the politicians another portfolio.

At the weekend, it became known that allegations of corruption against Belgium's Foreign Minister Didier Reynders are groundless and that the ***EU anti-corruption agency*** Olaf has ended its proceedings against the designated Commissioner for Agriculture Janusz Wojciechowski from Poland. However, Sylvie Goulard from France is still being investigated for possible sham employment of her party in the ***European Parliament***. The possible risk for Macron's candidate: if one candidate each from the Social Democrats and the Christian Democrats is thrown out, the Parliament could also throw out a Liberal candidate. In addition, Dubravka Šuica from Croatia will have to declare her assets of five million ***euros. It*** also raises eyebrows that Josep Borrell, the designated ***EU foreign affairs representative*** from Spain, was punished for insider trading in 2018.

**The dispute over the title of office**

The Greek Margaritis Schinas is to become Commissioner for the 'Protection of our ***European*** Way of Life'. The name caused outrage shortly after it was announced, because Schinas is also to coordinate the ***EU Commission***'s migration policy, which is to be in the hands of the Swedish Ylva Johansson. Many understood Schinas' title as if immigrants were threatening the very ***European*** way of life.

Von der Leyen has already rejected the criticism: The title refers to the values laid down in Article Two of the ***EU Treaty,*** such as human dignity, tolerance and solidarity. Schinas himself cannot change the name. Nevertheless, the dispute is likely to become a topic at his hearing on Thursday evening.

**The Italian and the money**

The former Prime Minister Paolo Gentiloni will become Commissioner for Economic Affairs and will thus be responsible for issues such as tax avoidance by corporations. The Italian Social Democrat will also oversee the Stability and Growth Pact, i.e. the rules that are supposed to prevent ***euro countries from*** running up too much debt. This will play a major role in his hearing on Thursday, because some consider it unfortunate that an Italian, of all people, controls this debt brake. The division of labour with Executive Vice President Valdis Dombrovskis will also be interesting. The Christian Democrat from Latvia is responsible for the ***euro***; Gentiloni is supposed to work under his guidance.

**The three Vice Presidents**

Dombrovskis is one of three executive vice-presidents. This trio is supposed to lead the College of Commissioners together with von der Leyen and coordinate the work on the important projects, such as the fight against climate change. However, the heads of state and government had only instructed the German president to create two prominent posts: one for the Social Democrat Frans Timmermans and one for the Liberal Margrethe Vestager. With the CDU politician von der Leyen, the three large party families would then have been represented at the head of the authority.

However, the German decided to also promote her Latvian party colleague Dombrovskis to executive vice-president. She thus demonstrated independence from the heads of state and government and pleased the Christian Democrats in the ***European Parliament, for*** whom some of von der Leyen's announcements have too green a tinge. The Social Democrats are less pleased about Dombrovskis" rise. They complain that the Latvian and not Timmermans is responsible for the climate investment pot. The fight against global warming is otherwise the Dutchman's task.

The hearing of the top trio is scheduled for 8 October, as a culmination. But extra rounds are quite possible.

**Not everyone is happy with an Italian overseeing the debt brake**

**Graphic**

Ursula von der Leyen's personnel list for the future ***EU Commission*** will be decided by the ***EU Parliament*** this Monday. Photo: Virginia Mayo / AP / dpa

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

**Person:** URSULA VON DER LEYEN (93%); VIKTOR ORBAN (79%)

**Geographic:** BUDAPEST, HUNGARY (79%); BRUSSELS, BELGIUM (73%); BUCHAREST, ROMANIA (58%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (94%); BRUSSELS CAPITAL REGION (92%); ***EUROPE (***92%); FRANCE (79%); CROATIA (79%); POLAND (79%); HUNGARY (79%); SPAIN (73%); BELGIUM (58%); ROMANIA (58%).

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**End of Document**

[***Triumph for Kurz; KURZ' TRIUMPH ...; ... impresses Europe's conservatives ... disenchants right-wing populists ... and puts Germany under pressure in the chancellor question; Is Black-Green now coming to Austria?***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5X5D-SBJ1-JBK9-20MX-00000-00&context=)

Bild

Monday 30 September 2019

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**Section:** Title page; p. 1; issue 228

**Length:** 514 words

**Byline:** Paul Ronzheimer

**Body**

Vienna - What an election victory for Sebastian Kurz (33)!

He achieved what he himself had not expected at this level, and according to the provisional final results, his ÖVP came in at 38.35 percent. His right-wing populist "ex" partner, the FPÖ, plummeted after the Ibiza affair and the expenses scandals, achieving only 17.25 percent (- 8.72 %).

Now Kurz could even form a coalition with the Greens (12.35%) alone!

He impresses ***Europe's*** conservatives with the election result, disenchants the FPÖ. Kurz to BILD: "The result is much better than we had dreamed of. With this victory he is even indirectly putting pressure on the chancellor question within the CDU in Germany.

Already during the election campaign, ***European*** conservatives were interested in Austria: Kurz's modern programme, his rhetoric and substantive priorities are seen by many as forward-looking.

And while he was regularly criticised for cooperating with the FPÖ over the past year and a half, Kurz has now kept the party at arm's length. The crash after the Ibiza scandal video is a disaster for the right-wing populists. Especially against the background that they were in first place for a long time in 2017 - with well over 30 per cent.

In Germany, Kurz's victory is causing discussion about what the CDU can learn from him. A top CDU official: "Kurz has set the issues clearly, people understand him. We in Germany don't manage that as well as he does at the moment." Friedrich Merz (CDU) congratulated on Twitter: "It has been shown once again: With a clear profile, a middle-class party can also win majorities again."

Kurz himself told BILD: "I don't think our election victory will have any impact on Germany, but for us it is a historic day."

Nevertheless, the debate about who should run as the CDU candidate for chancellor in the next federal election could thus be reignited. CDU Health Minister Jens Spahn tweeted yesterday about Kurz: "With the courage to take a stand (...) and the will for political leadership, an impressive election success has been achieved for the People's Party."

For Kurz, the difficult weeks are just beginning. "I will not speculate about coalitions now, we will hold talks with everyone", he explained. Before the election, there had been speculation about a coalition with the Greens and the Liberals, which is still conceivable if Kurz wants to build on a larger majority.

PROBLEM: The Green base is critical of Kurz, especially rejecting his rigid migration policy. It is not clear whether a party conference would vote FOR a coalition.

Besides the Greens, Kurz could also form a coalition with the Social Democrats, but relations with the SPÖ and party leader Pamela Rendi-Wagner are strained.

A continuation with the FPÖ is very unlikely after this result. Also because the party is being rocked by one scandal after another. Kurz would be massively criticised for a continuation - and he would always have to reckon with another break in the coalition.

**Graphic**

Photo: DANIEL BISKUP

Sebastian Kurz after the announcement of the election results with BILD reporter Paul Ronzheimer (r.)

This is what winners look like: Sebastian Kurz and his girlfriend Susanne Thier after the announcement of the first figures

Photos: DANIEL BISKUP, JOE KLAMAR/AFP

Rejoicing at the party headquarters of the ÖVP

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**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

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**Subject:** GERMAN POLITICAL PARTIES (90%); POLITICS (90%); POLITICAL PARTIES (90%); HEADS OF STATE & GOVERNMENT (90%); VOTERS & ELECTIONS (90%); SCANDALS (89%); PARTY CONVENTIONS (78%); PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS (78%); ELECTIONS (78%); ELECTIONS & CAMPAIGNS (78%); PUBLIC POLICY (78%); POLITICAL DEBATES (77%); POLITICAL SCANDALS (76%); GERMAN PARLIAMENT (74%); POLITICAL CANDIDATES (71%)

**Person:** JENS SPAHN (79%)

**Geographic:** VIENNA, AUSTRIA (59%); BALEARIC ISLANDS (90%); GERMANY (90%); ***EUROPE (90%)***; AUSTRIA (74%).

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[***Refugees, Immigrants, Bavaria; Former Prime Minister Günther Beckstein pays tribute to the achievements of displaced persons at the Day of the Homeland in Grafing and warns against nationalism***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5X5D-MMN1-DXX2-P2CV-00000-00&context=)

Süddeutsche Zeitung

Monday 30 September 2019

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**Section:** Ebersberg; Ebersberg; p. 7

**Length:** 760 words

**Byline:** WIELAND BÖGEL

**Body**

**Grafing** - Anyone who does not go hiking or to the Wiesn on a sunny day in September deserves recognition. At least in the eyes of Bavaria's former Prime Minister Günther Beckstein, the keynote speaker at this year's Homeland Day of the expellees' associations. The fact that the nearly 150 visitors found their way to the Stadthalle on such a bright autumn day, "is particularly noteworthy. However, the former Minister President paid even more tribute to the lifetime achievements of the expellees, who had made Bavaria what it is today.

According to Beckstein, despite their terrible fate and the fact that "they were not always welcomed with open arms", the displaced persons who arrived in Bavaria had worked hard and built a new existence for themselves. The diligence and the many skills that the newcomers brought with them 'have done the Free State good'. For, Beckstein told us, today's high-tech state was 'a backward agricultural state' in the 1950s. Its development was decisively shaped by the refugees, who themselves - and their descendants - have long since been considered the 'fourth tribe of Bavaria' alongside the old Bavarians, Swabians and Franconians.

Even more than 70 years later and especially "in a time of globalisation and digitalisation", the concept of home is not outdated and is not a catchword "of the die-hards", said Beckstein. For "we are all at home in many ways", everyone needed "a place where they feel secure". According to the long-standing Minister of the Interior, this also serves social cohesion: "Home makes it possible for people to have a piece of peace with their state". In Beckstein's view, this also includes "a healthy patriotism, but not excessive nationalism".

Because the latter, as the current situation in ***Europe*** also shows, is a cause for concern. Beckstein reminded the audience that the primary goal of ***European*** unification was to guarantee freedom, human and minority rights and to maintain peace on the continent. Beckstein praised that the expellees had always been committed to peace, for example in the Charter of the German Expellees of 1950, which expressly renounced "revenge and retribution", but also demanded a "right to a homeland". This is still in danger today, Beckstein said, "in many parts of the world people are being displaced". In this context, he repeated his criticism that the successor states of Czechoslovakia had never repealed the Beneš Decrees. The decrees issued in 1945 were the basis for the expulsion of Germans and Hungarians from what was then Czechoslovakia.

But home is not just a place, Beckstein said, home is also connected with commitment: "Home is something for which we all have direct responsibility, for which we are committed. He thanked all those who do voluntary work and called for a little more optimism. Because from his many journeys he had always brought back the impression: "All in all, we are doing well in our homeland.

What also and especially applies to the district of Ebersberg was emphasised by District Administrator Robert Niedergesäß and Mayor Angelika Obermayr - both grandparents had come to Bavaria as refugees. German society is marked by displacement," said Obermayr, "but everyone has found a new home. The will of the newcomers to build something for themselves also contributed to this. Obermayr told of a family friend who had refused to get off the refugee train in 1945 until it stopped in a place where there was a school for her children.

Niedergesäß told of his grandparents who had to give up their bakery in Upper Silesia and set up a new one in their new homeland. While his other grandparents, who ran the station inn and butcher's shop in Baldham at the time, helped the refugees. Arriving and being accepted' characterised this time, which most people today can no longer imagine. People who, like himself, "only know war from television". All the more reason, he said, to oppose nationalist currents: There is no alternative to a peaceful ***Europe,***" said Niedergesäß. That is why organisations like the associations for displaced persons are so important, "because they remind us what war, flight and expulsion mean.

**Homeland is what we are all responsible for, what we stand up for.**

**Graphic**

Angelika Obermayr, Ernst Heidenreich, Günther Beckstein, Eva Reif, Franz Kühnel and Andreas Lenz at the Day of the Homeland in the Grafing Town Hall. Photo: Peter Hinz-Rosin

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject:** HEADS OF STATE & GOVERNMENT (90%); HONORARY & VOLUNTARY SERVICES (78%); IMMIGRATION (77%); MINORITIES (77%); GLOBALISATION (69%); MAYOR (60%)

**Geographic:** BAVARIA, GERMANY (90%); HUNGARY (78%); ***EUROPE (***73%)

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

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[***FORUM; For climate and economy; So that the EU does not suffer economically from higher CO[Subscript 2] prices, a border adjustment is needed.***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5X8D-77Y1-JBF1-04SC-00000-00&context=)

Süddeutsche Zeitung

Monday 14 October 2019

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

**Length:** 1139 words

**Byline:** By Gabriel Felbermayr

**Body**

The current debate on climate protection leaves out an important question: How is the international competitiveness of the economy ensured in the face of rising CO[Subscript 2] prices? Only a border adjustment can solve this problem and promote climate protection at the same time.

With its 2.2 percent share of global greenhouse gas emissions, Germany alone cannot save the climate. The ***EU*** is also too small with ten percent. If the CO[Subscript 2] price in ***Europe*** rises significantly above the level in other countries, there is a danger that industrial production will be replaced by imports from abroad. Then domestic emissions fall, but global greenhouse gas emissions could still rise if CO[Subscript 2]-poor domestic production is replaced by CO[Subscript 2]-rich foreign production or a long transport route is added. Then climate policy destroys jobs and value creation in the ***EU*** without contributing to saving the climate. A border adjustment system counteracts this *carbon leakage.*

Carbon leakage is not yet a really big problem because CO[Subscript 2] prices in the industrial sector are around 25 ***euros*** per tonne. However, prices will have to rise considerably in the future - many researchers assume a fivefold increase - in order to achieve the ambitious emission targets. Then leakage will become a serious problem. So that we do not become losers in our own climate policy and also miss the targets behind it, the planned measures for a CO[subscript 2] price on the domestic markets must be complemented by a border adjustment. Imports will have to pay a CO[Subscript 2] price depending on their CO[Subscript 2] content; exports, on the other hand, will be relieved accordingly. The latter is necessary to avoid a double burden if the foreign country applies its own, perhaps lower, CO[Subscript 2] price.

The result is to ensure that all competitors, whether domestic or foreign, have exactly the same conditions. A border adjustment system therefore does not discriminate between goods of different origin, in contrast to a customs duty. The term climate tariff, which is often used, is therefore misleading.

Incidentally, the system works regardless of whether there is a CO[Subscript 2] tax or emissions trading. In the latter, importers have to buy certificates, while exporters receive them.

A ***European*** border adjustment system would create incentives for producers abroad to save CO[Subscript 2] emissions when they export to the ***EU.*** This would be an effective instrument, as the ***EU*** is the second largest importer of goods in the world. Although producers in the ***EU*** would be exempt from the CO[Subscript 2] price for exports, as long as they also sell in the ***EU,*** they still have a strong interest in saving emissions. Foreign governments should find it more attractive to also enter CO[Subscript 2] pricing and apply a border adjustment system. This would allow them to price the emissions of ***European*** companies.

It is often claimed that a border adjustment regime would not be compatible with the rules of the World Trade Organisation (WTO). This is wrong. For many decades there has already been a well-functioning, legally secure border adjustment system: value-added tax. Here, too, imports are charged with the domestic tax rate and exports are exempted.

However, the need for information for a border adjustment system is much greater than for VAT. This is because the basis for tax assessment is the CO[Subscript 2] content of the traded goods, and this is not so easy to determine. It works relatively well for products like steel, but it is very difficult for complex goods that consist of many components. Companies would have to know their supply chains very well, and they would have to be prepared to give truthful information on imports and exports.

To do this, a clever mechanism would have to be devised that would give producers an incentive to provide correct information. The CO[Subscript 2] content of an imported good could be based on a reference value for imports that is initially oriented towards the domestic average value. All foreign producers who prove that the CO[Subscript 2] content of their goods is lower than this average can claim it. Because they thereby reduce the assessment basis of the CO[Subscript 2] price, they have an incentive to disclose their data. With this information, one could recalculate the reference value by removing the reporting companies' imports from the averaging. The reference value increases and new foreign companies have incentives to disclose their CO[Subscript 2] values. Of course, there would need to be a kind of climate TÜV to check the data and issue certificates. There is also an analogy for this in the existing international regulatory framework: if a company from a country with which the ***EU*** has a free trade agreement wants to export duty-free to the ***EU,*** it must prove that it meets so-called rules of origin.

Admittedly, setting up a border adjustment system is complex. But two trends help here: First, there is increasing pressure on companies to know and disclose the CO[Subscript 2] footprint of their goods, even without border adjustment. Consumers and investors want to know how climate-friendly products are. Secondly, blockchain technologies facilitate decentralised, anonymous recording of information and its tamper-proof dissemination. The leakage problem may still be manageable. But if CO[Subscript 2] prices in the ***EU*** rise significantly and industrial value creation then begins to move away on a substantial scale, the pressure to remedy the situation with quick but imprecise climate tariffs could increase sharply. Then the danger of getting caught up in expensive trade wars is high. The ***EU*** should therefore make efforts now to set up a border adjustment system that complies with WTO law.

Central to this is the search for international allies. It is not only ***Europe that*** has the issue on its agenda. For example, in January 2019, a bill was introduced in the US Congress by representatives of both parties to introduce a CO[Subscript 2] price, which - as in all similar attempts so far - includes a border adjustment mechanism. As long as Donald Trump is president of the US, such initiatives will fail. The ***EU*** should be prepared for the time after that.

**The *EU* must seek international allies for the project**

**Graphic**

Gabriel Felbermayr is President at the Kiel Institute for the World Economy (IfW) and Professor of Economics at Kiel Christian Albrechts University.

**Classification**

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**Journal Code:** SZ

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

**Industry:** EMISSIONS (90%); EMISSIONS RIGHTS (78%)

**Geographic: *EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (95%); ***EUROPE*** (92%); GERMANY (74%)

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[***Roman conditions; Two journalists trace the recent crises in Italy***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5X8D-77Y1-JBF1-04S2-00000-00&context=)

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Monday 14 October 2019

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**Section:** Political book; Munich; Bavaria; Germany; p. 13

**Length:** 909 words

**Byline:** WERNER WEIDENFELD

**Body**

One can observe Italy from different perspectives - from the great Roman Empire, to the fascism of Benito Mussolini, to an Alcide de Gasperi and the Treaties of Rome he pushed to create the ***European*** Communities. Italy is the place of the Christianisation of ***Europe*** and the place of many elements of world cultural heritage. But then Italy is also the land of crises, of populist turmoil, of sharp domestic conflicts.

Italy is one of the large member states of the ***European*** Union. That is why the question of its leadership in ***Europe*** comes up again and again. So it was in the 1950s when the great founding awakening took place - then again in the 1960s. France had taken the initiative for the Fouchet plans - the draft of a political union as the crowning achievement of the economic community. Germany joined in - and immediately the idea arose that a third leading power was needed: Italy. And Rome also wanted to take on this responsibility and this role, but such leadership perspectives failed here and later again and again because of Italy's crisis-linked weakness. Italy was always far too preoccupied with itself. In this way, it blocked its own path to ***European*** leadership.

What is the reason for this specific crisis fixation of Italy over the many decades? Why does ***Europe*** have to forego a leadership contribution that Italy should make with Germany and France? Two recent books try to help answer this, both written by authors who combine historical knowledge with journalistic experience.

Lorenz Gallmetzer, born in South Tyrol and a long-time employee of the ORF, first points out correctly that the current upheavals and ruptures in Italy are not identical to the many crises in the past 70 years. And then he also mentions certain international parallels: "The triumph of nationalist, xenophobic populism in Italy, which is directed against all those who have governed up to now, is in line with developments worldwide, from Trump in America to Le Pen and the yellow waistcoats in France to Orbàn in Hungary and Kaczynski in Poland.'' Here he should also have listed the AfD in Germany. However, Gallmetzer emphatically warns against smilingly dismissing the case of Italy as a 'sick special case'. And then names from Mussolini to Berlusconi and Salvini come up.

But how is this phenomenon to be named? The author asks: "Is it fascism? Pre-fascist, totalitarian, autocratic, illiberal, sovereignist or simply populist?' Unfortunately, this elementary question is not answered precisely. Many examples from everyday political life are reported, adding colour to each term of these questions. Breaking taboos and corruption are as much a part of everyday life as the boundless imagination for various creative favours. Mafia money is used as a matter of course. For observers, distrust is indicated. The author comes to the conclusion: 'In hardly any other country is the relationship of the citizens to their elected representatives so shattered and ambivalent at the same time.' And this underpins dramatic anthropological mutations: the dissolution of all traditional social structures. The reader is not left with a hint of confidence after reading this, because from Gallmetzer's point of view, reforms to modernise the country are not in sight. One could argue: Maybe some things can be done faster. The final chapter is dedicated to Interior Minister Matteo Salvini - and he is already no longer in office ...

The second new publication is by Ulrich Ladurner, also born in South Tyrol, who worked as a journalist in Vienna, Zurich and Rome before moving to Hamburg, whose correspondent in Brussels he has been for several years. ***European*** observer sensitivity on the subject of Italy is therefore a given. And so one reads a wealth of examples of that specific mood in a country that is, after all, historically ***European at*** its core. One reads of growing mistrust towards the ***EU***, processes of alienation: feelings dominate the scene. The question of a new form of fascism comes up again and again - and the additional consideration of whether it is not just a specific form of populism after all. The reader remains - further disturbed by the examples and facts - in search of strategic answers to this plethora of problems.

At least in this book one finds some answers to this - even if only on the last pages: ***European*** politics must show greater respect for Italy. ***Europe must be*** more generous. Political participation in the ***EU*** must be significantly improved, and thus the legitimacy of ***Europe must be*** increased. One has to agree with Ladurner: The highly difficult case of Italy is precisely a ***European*** case in its substance.

**Lorenz Gallmetzer**: From Mussolini to Salvini. Italy as a forerunner of modern national populism. Kremayr u. Scheriau, Vienna 2019. 192 pages, 22 ***euros***.

**Ulrich Ladurner**: The case of Italy. When emotions rule politics. Edition Körber, Hamburg 2019. 232 pages, 18 ***euros***.

**Lorenz Gallmetzer and Ulrich Ladurner ask about the problem of fascism**

**Graphic**

That was the world of Matteo Salvini: the interior minister in May in a cheering crowd. He has been out of his ministerial post since September. Photo: MIGUEL MEDINA/AFP

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject:** WRITERS (90%); JOURNALISM (89%); COPYRIGHT (79%); ANTIQUE (78%); ***EUROPEAN UNION (78%);*** POLITICS (78%); ANTHROPOLOGY & ARCHAEOLOGY (64%); CORRUPTION (62%)

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

**Industry:** WRITER (90%)

**Geographic:** ROME, ITALY (93%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (73%); TYROL, AUSTRIA (56%); ***EUROPE (***94%); FRANCE (92%); ITALY (91%); GERMANY (89%); POLAND (79%); HUNGARY (79%).

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**End of Document**

[***Bloody axe; New US tariffs also hit small businesses, for example German tool manufacturers***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5X8D-77Y1-JBF1-04SJ-00000-00&context=)

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

**Length:** 1131 words

**Byline:** HELENA OTT

**Body**

**Munich** - Tobias Schmitt was shocked when he called up the document on his computer, he says. It was 6 October, the day the US government announced against whom it would soon impose new punitive tariffs. For Tobias Schmitt, 39, it was the day his company Adler, a small business from Waghäusel near Karlsruhe, was to be caught up in the maelstrom of global trade conflicts.

Adler produces tools for ***Europe,*** but also for the US market: axes, hatchets, sledgehammers. Soon their import into the US could be taxed at 25 per cent, already next Friday the tariffs are supposed to come into force.

The background is a conflict with which Schmitt's company actually has nothing to do. For 15 years, the ***EU*** has been at odds with the United States over the question of whether their respective aircraft manufacturers, Airbus and Boeing, have been unfairly subsidised. The World Trade Organisation (WTO) answered this question in the affirmative in the Airbus case and authorised the US to impose a 25 per cent tariff on ***EU products*** worth 7.5 billion dollars.

The White House then published an eight-page list of ***EU products that*** are to be tariffed. The US government has specifically picked out individual trades: Wine and cheese from France, whiskey from Great Britain, olives and mussels from Spain. In Germany, producers of optical lenses, coffee roasters and tool manufacturers have been hit: Tool manufacturers.

Unlike the tariffs on steel and aluminium from ***Europe that*** US President Trump has already imposed, the new punitive tariffs have been officially approved by the WTO. Of course, that doesn't help the Adler company. For them, the tariffs come at an inopportune time. The company's US business had been growing in recent months. In the medium term, managing director Schmitt wanted to make ten percent of his turnover in the United States. But in Waghäusel the optimism has faded a little.

Larger companies are less concerned so far. They do not expect "dramatic effects", says a spokesperson for the camera lens manufacturer Carl Zeiss. Adler, on the other hand, is concerned. Compared to Zeiss, the company with its 26 employees is only a crumb in the big German industrial cake. Three years ago, the company succeeded in entering the US market. Today Adler sells 17,000 axes and hatchets a year in the United States. We are not yet so established in the US market that we can simply pass on the tariffs to our US customers,' says Tobias Schmitt. The Adler boss wants to share the burden of the duties with his two US dealers for the time being. That might work for two or three months, but if the tariffs don't come down then, we'll have a real problem,' says Schmitt. The young entrepreneur from Baden-Württemberg does not understand why, of all things, "a traditional German industry" that has nothing to do with aircraft is being held liable.

It is completely unacceptable that the small and medium-sized German tool manufacturers are being dragged into this conflict,' says Michael Kleinbongartz. He is the chairman of the Fachverband Werkzeugindustrie (FWI). With an 8.5 per cent share of exports, the USA is the most important export market for the German tool industry. The association assumes that German tools, despite their high quality, will become practically unsaleable in the USA due to the punitive tariffs.

Wilhelm Hahn, 39, head of the tool manufacturer Wiha from the Black Forest, also fears that his screwdrivers, hammers and pliers will no longer be competitive on the US market due to the tariffs. Unlike Adler, the company generates 70 per cent of its turnover abroad. The USA is among the top three foreign buyers of Wiha tools. Hahn's family business has been active in the US business for much longer - since 1978. But Hahn also believes that US customers would not swallow a price increase of around 20 per cent, but would instead migrate to the American - or even the ***European -*** competition.

Managing directors Hahn and Schmitt find it particularly unfair that ***European*** competitors in the tool business are not affected by the punitive tariffs. In the future, they will have a clear competitive advantage on the US market due to the selective tariffs.

The biggest competitor in the axe business, for example, is based in Sweden. Like Adler, it produces axes in the premium segment. Those German manufacturers who have outsourced their production to Poland, the Czech Republic or elsewhere in the world would also be lucky. They can continue to deliver to the United States without being affected by the tariffs.

Perhaps these selective punitive tariffs are also a reaction to the success of German tool manufacturers on the US market, and the current trade conflict only serves as a welcome pretext', says trade association spokesman Kleinbongartz. In any case, Wilhelm Hahn of Wiha calls on German and ***European*** politicians to 'not only stand up for the automotive and agricultural sectors', but also for tool manufacturers. Germany is not only a country of automobiles, we are also a country of tools," says Hahn. Other ***EU countries*** also produce quality tools, but nowhere in the same volume as in Germany, says Hahn. He is not sure 'whether the politicians are sufficiently aware of the major impact of the German tool industry' in their negotiations with the USA. Screwdrivers, pliers and pipe cutters are "needed in almost all industrial companies".

Axe manufacturer Tobias Schmitt says of himself that he is an optimist. He still has hope that the tariffs will not exceed a

remain in force for half a year. But nothing is certain for him. Every Trump tweet can ruin his calculations from one moment to the next.

The ***EU will*** only have the chance to take countermeasures if the World Trade Organisation also declares Boeing's subsidies illegal. Then the WTO could also allow the ***European*** Union to impose tariffs on imports from the USA. Even before the announcement of the tariff list from the White House, ***EU Commission spokeswoman*** Mina Andreeva said: "We are still ready and willing to find a fair solution, but if the US decides to impose (WTO-approved) countermeasures, the ***EU*** will do the same".

The World Trade Organisation's decision on the Boeing case is expected early next year. From that moment on, Tobias Schmitt hopes, "a deal with dear Mr Trump could be possible again".

**With price premiums of 20 per cent, German quality becomes too expensive for US customers**

**Graphic**

It's not just about axes: German tool manufacturers fear for their sales in the USA. Photo: Jason Abdilla/Unsplash

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**Company:** AIRBUS SAS (56%); BOEING CO (56%); CARL ZEISS AG (52%)

**Organisation:** WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION (83%); ***EUROPEAN*** UNION (57%)

**Ticker:** BOE (LSE) (56%); BA (NYSE) (56%)

**Industry:** NAICS336411 AIRCRAFT MANUFACTURING (56%); SIC3721 AIRCRAFT (56%); NAICS336414 GUIDED MISSILE & SPACE VEHICLE MANUFACTURING (56%); NAICS336412 AIRCRAFT ENGINE & ENGINE PARTS MANUFACTURING (56%); SIC3761 GUIDED MISSILES & SPACE VEHICLES (56%); NAICS327215 GLASS PRODUCT MANUFACTURING MADE OF PURCHASED GLASS (52%); SIC3827 OPTICAL INSTRUMENTS & LENSES (52%); AIRCRAFT MANUFACTURING (77%); AIRCRAFT ENGINES (77%); AEROSPACE SECTOR PERFORMANCE (77%); AEROSPACE INDUSTRY (77%); COFFEE (70%); COFFEE & TEA MANUFACTURING (64%)

**Person:** DONALD TRUMP (79%)

**Geographic:** KARLSRUHE, GERMANY (73%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (93%); BADEN-WÜRTTEMBERG, GERMANY (73%); NORTH AMERICA (92%); ***EUROPE (***88%); SPAIN (78%); UNITED KINGDOM (78%); GERMANY (74%); FRANCE (73%).

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**End of Document**

[***Nato states put pressure on Turkey; Chancellor Merkel calls for an "immediate end" to the military operation against Syria. Several allies announce a weapons freeze. The USA also prepares sanctions***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5X8D-77Y1-JBF1-04NS-00000-00&context=)

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

**Length:** 512 words

**Byline:** BY DANIEL BRÖSSLER AND PAUL-ANTON KRÜGER

**Body**

**Berlin/Munich** - Pressure is growing within Nato on member state Turkey to halt its offensive in northern Syria. In a telephone conversation with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdo&gbreve;an on Sunday, German Chancellor Angela Merkel (CDU) called for an "immediate end" to the military operation. The military operation threatens to displace large parts of the local population, destabilise the region and strengthen the terrorist militia "Islamic State".

Federal Foreign Minister Heiko Maas (SPD) said that the German government would no longer approve any deliveries of weapons to Turkey that could be used in Syria. Similar decisions had previously been announced by the Nato states of France, the Netherlands and Norway, as well as Finland and Sweden. The establishment of an occupation regime in northern Syria is a "border that Turkey must not cross", warned Federal Defence Minister and CDU leader Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer.

In view of dramatic images from Syria, the pressure on the German government to oppose the leadership in Ankara more decisively increased. The restriction of German arms deliveries to Turkey is a first, important step," said SPD parliamentary group leader Rolf Mützenich to the *Süddeutsche Zeitung*. He added, however, that a "common ***European*** understanding on more far-reaching measures in other areas of cooperation is desirable". This applies, for example, to agreements on the customs union and the preferential regulations that apply in this context. Turkey benefits from these in the areas of agriculture, coal and steel. NATO must be prepared to limit the participation of Turkey's representatives in the committees to a minimum," Mützenich demanded. The Turkish government's demand for alliance solidarity must also be "clearly rejected" by NATO.

US Defence Secretary Mark Esper demanded from Turkish Defence Minister Hulusi Akar that Turkey de-escalate the situation before there are "irreparable" consequences. The offensive could have "serious consequences" for Turkey, he threatened. Congress and the US government are preparing sanctions. According to CNN, the commander of the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), Mazloum Kobani Abdi, had earlier demanded to know in a conversation with the US deputy special envoy for the fight against the terrorist militia 'Islamic State' whether the US 'will protect my people'. If not, he would have to make a deal with Russia and President Bashar al-Assad's regime and invite their "planes to protect the region", he said.

Turkey reacted calmly to the stop in arms deliveries announced by Nato partners. It only strengthens us," Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlüt Çavu&scedil;o&gbreve;lu told Deutsche Welle. He again threatened to let millions of Syrian refugees from Turkey cross the border into ***Europe.***

**Pages 4 and 7**

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**Industry:** MILITARY OPERATIONS (90%); ARMY (90%); WEAPONS TRADE (89%)

**Person:** ANGELA MERKEL (92%); ANNEGRET KRAMP-KARRENBAUER (79%); BASCHAR AL-ASSAD (79%)

**Geographic:** ANKARA, TURKEY (79%); BERLIN, GERMANY (58%); TURKEY (95%); SYRIA (91%); ***EUROPE (***88%); NORTH AMERICA (79%); FRANCE (78%); NORWAY (78%); SWEDEN (78%); NETHERLANDS (73%); RUSSIAN FEDERATION (72%); FINLAND (58%).

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

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[***Johnson urges decision in Brexit dispute; British PM wants the EU with a choice: either a deal his way - or none at all***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5X8D-77Y1-JBF1-04NW-00000-00&context=)

Süddeutsche Zeitung

Monday 14 October 2019

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

**Length:** 503 words

**Byline:** ALEXANDER MÜHLAUER

**Body**

**Brussels/London** - A few days before the decisive ***EU summit,*** pressure is mounting in the Brexit negotiations. London and Brussels were still trying on Sunday to find a solution to avert a disorderly ***exit of the*** UK from the ***EU*** on 31 October. At the centre of the dispute is the question of how to prevent controls at the border between Ireland and Northern Ireland. Brussels' chief negotiator Michel Barnier informed the 27 remaining ***EU states*** about the interim status in the evening. In a statement, the ***EU Commission*** described the talks as "constructive", but stressed that much remained to be done. The talks would continue this Monday.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, meanwhile, appealed to critics of his Brexit course for confidence. However, the deputy leader of the Northern Ireland DUP, Nigel Dodds, rejected Johnson's proposal that Northern Ireland enter into a customs partnership with the ***EU to avoid a*** hard border on the island of Ireland. It cannot work because Northern Ireland must remain an equal part of the British customs union," he told the Italian newspaper *Repubblica*. Johnson is dependent on the support of the DUP, because only together with them do the Tories have a majority in parliament. Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn rejected Johnson's plans at the weekend.

The Brexit hardliners among the Tories are also resentful. They are worried that Johnson will be tempted to make far-reaching concessions to the ***EU at*** the last minute. But Brexit-enthusiast Tory Jacob Rees-Mogg called in the *Sunday Telegraph for* confidence in the prime minister. According to Downing Street, Johnson now wants to do everything he can to reach a deal with the ***EU after*** all. According to reports, he is concerned about unrest and terror in Northern Ireland that could erupt in the event of a no-deal Brexit.

According to a report in the *Sunday Times,* Johnson will meet Chancellor Angela Merkel, French President Emmanuel Macron and ***EU Commission chief*** Jean-Claude Juncker this Monday to convince them of his plans. The newspaper reported, citing people familiar with the plan, that the prime minister wants to give the ***EU*** the choice of either agreeing to a deal based on his proposals or agreeing to a mutually agreed separation without a treaty on 31 October.

By law, Johnson is obliged to ask for a further extension of the withdrawal period if there is no agreement at the ***EU summit on*** Thursday and Friday, but whether he will stick to it is open. He has already called a special session of parliament for Saturday. At the beginning of this decisive Brexit week, Queen Elizabeth II is to deliver the so-called Queen's Speech this Monday. She will read out all the government bills that the Prime Minister has presented to her. The Queen has no influence on the content.

**Page 4**

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

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**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject: *EUROPEAN UNION*** (92%); PRIME MINISTERS (91%); BREXIT (90%); BRITISH PRIME MINISTERS (90%); TALKS & MEETINGS (90%); INTERNATIONAL GOVERNMENT TALKS (90%); POLITICAL PARTIES (90%); HEADS OF STATE & GOVERNMENT (90%); PUBLIC POLICY (90%); LEGISLATIVE BODIES (89%); POLITICS (89%); BRITISH MONARCHS (77%); LEGISLATION (76%); BORDER CONTROLS (76%); PRESIDENTS OF STATES (76%); INSTITUTIONS OF THE ***EUROPEAN*** UNION (73%); GERMAN CHANCELLORS (66%); FRENCH PRESIDENTS (66%)

**Industry:** BRITISH MONARCHS (77%)

**Person:** ANGELA MERKEL (79%); BORIS JOHNSON (79%); JEAN-CLAUDE JUNCKER (79%); JEREMY CORBYN (79%)

**Geographic:** BRUSSELS, BELGIUM (88%); LONDON, ENGLAND (73%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (95%); BRUSSELS CAPITAL REGION (91%); EUROPE (90%); NORTHERN IRELAND (92%); UNITED KINGDOM (90%); ***EUROPE (***73%); FRANCE (73%); ITALY (57%).

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

**End of Document**

[***DORSCH-FISCHER EMPÖRT; The EU is sinking our cutter fleet!***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5X8D-BY01-JBK9-2487-00000-00&context=)

Bild

Monday 14 October 2019

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**Section:** p. 8; issue 239

**Length:** 260 words

**Byline:** Stefan Netzebandt

**Body**

Baltic Sea - "What we created after the Wende is now all threatening to go down the drain," says Andreas Retzlaff on the bridge of his cutter "Moret".

The 48-year-old has been taking the ship from the old GDR fishing fleet on tours of the Baltic Sea since 1995 - for cod fishing.

NOCH.

Because for 2020, the ***EU Commission*** wants to limit the catch to TWO fish per angler per day. Retzlaff: "For that, no one will come from Berlin or Hanover any more." And the cutters would go broke.

The fact is that too much Baltic cod has been fished for decades. Overfishing. According to expert Harry Strehlow of the Thünen Institute for Baltic Sea Fisheries, there are currently about 21,000 tonnes of adult cod in the western Baltic Sea - just enough for the stock to sustain itself through reproduction.

Strehlow: "The cod needs protection, but the quota is too hard." Five to seven fish per angler would also be fine - as in recent years.

What makes Retzlaff and his captain colleagues bitter is that the burden is being shared unequally between anglers and commercial fishermen. Currently, recreational fishermen are still entitled to a good 30 per cent of the catches - next year it would be only 18 per cent.

34 fishing cutters are still in operation. But even they are threatened with closure if the ***EU fisheries ministers*** so decide at the beginning of the week. And what does the responsible German minister, Julia Klöckner (CDU, 46), say? A spokesperson: Support or compensation for the cutter companies is not possible.

With this, a piece of tradition on the Baltic Sea will probably perish ...

**Graphic**

Angler Peter Rinow looks gloomily into the future. A catch restriction on Baltic Sea cutters is likely to put an end to his deep-sea hobby

Peter Rinow pulls the hook out of the mouth of a caught codfish

Photos: PETER MÜLLER

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**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

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**Subject: *EUROPEAN UNION*** (90%); POLITICS (90%); INSTITUTIONS OF THE ***EUROPEAN UNION*** (73%); GERMAN POLITICAL PARTIES (65%)

**Industry:** COMMERCIAL FISHERY (78%)

**Geographic:** HANOVER, GERMANY (56%)

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[***Election of good deeds; The national populist party 'Law and Justice' remains Poland's strongest force***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5X8D-77Y1-JBF1-04WR-00000-00&context=)

Süddeutsche Zeitung

Monday 14 October 2019

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

**Length:** 486 words

**Byline:** FLORIAN HASSEL

**Body**

**Warsaw -** Poland's government has defended its absolute majority in the parliamentary elections and can continue to govern until 2023. According to a forecast by the Ipsos agency, the national populist Law and Justice party (PiS) received 43.6 per cent of the vote. The largest opposition alliance, the Civic Coalition, received 27.4 per cent, and an alliance of three left-wing parties 11.9 per cent. A coalition of the peasant party PSL and the ex-rock singer Pawe&lstrok; Kukiz achieved 9.6 per cent of the vote, the ultra-right alliance Confederation 6.4 per cent. Official results were not expected until this Monday.

According to the forecast, PiS will have 239 seats in the future parliament - eight more than the 460 MPs needed for an absolute majority. The Civic Coalition will have 130 MPs, the Left 43, the Peasants' Party 34 and the Confederation 13. One mandate will go to the representative of the German minority in Poland. In the event that the Confederation misses out on entering parliament after the votes are counted, the remaining parties would benefit and the PiS's absolute majority would be even more pronounced.

However, the PiS is apparently falling short of its self-imposed maximum target, a two-thirds majority that would make constitutional amendments possible. Its mandate majority is also unlikely to be sufficient to override a presidential veto of passed laws. Poland's President Andrzej Duda is also a PiS member, and in recent years he has signed into law a number of unconstitutional laws or laws that contradict ***EU law.***

Both the government and the opposition had previously described the parliamentary election as the most important since the end of communism 30 years ago: the government to make changes permanent, the opposition to reverse the very changes with which the PiS eliminated the independence of the Constitutional Court and several other parts of the judiciary as well as that of other state institutions. Many Poles also considered the election significant: at 61.1 per cent, turnout was about ten per cent higher than in 2015 and almost as high as in the first free election after the end of communism in 1989 (62.7 per cent).

This did not change the result - the confirmation of the PiS government in office. According to the forecast, the PiS got six percent more this time after 37.6 percent in the 2015 election. Since 2015, it has bought the approval of many Poles with social programmes such as a new child benefit. In the summer before this election, further social programmes and tax exemptions came into force; a week before the ballot, PiS leader Jaros&lstrok;aw Kaczy&nacute;ski, Poland's actual head of government, promised a doubling of the minimum wage, a 13th and 14th pension and other benefits.

**Doubling the minimum wage, child benefits and more pensions**

**Graphic**

Roses for the actual head of government, Jaros&lstrok;aw Kaczy&nacute;ski. Photo: REUTERS

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

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**Geographic:** WARSAW, POLAND (79%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (79%); POLAND (94%)

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

**End of Document**

[***EU grants Brexit postponement until the end of January; a disorderly exit of Great Britain is thus averted for the time being. In London, Prime Minister Johnson fights for new elections***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5XCK-YHS1-JBF1-052H-00000-00&context=)

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Tuesday 29 October 2019

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

**Length:** 492 words

**Byline:** MATTHIAS KOLB, ALEXANDER MÜHLAUER

**Body**

**Brussels/London** - The ***EU states*** have agreed on a flexible postponement of the Brexit deadline until 31 January 2020. A chaotic Brexit with unforeseeable consequences has thus been averted for the time being. The ambassadors of the ***EU-27*** voted four days before the end of the previous deadline to grant the British government three more months. Prime Minister Boris Johnson has not yet found a majority in parliament for the revised withdrawal agreement. If the treaty is ratified by the House of Commons and the ***European Parliament*** before the end of January, London could leave the ***European Union*** earlier; the deadline is the first day of the following month.

The ***EU-27*** also agreed that no new Brexit negotiations would take place during the extension and that the United Kingdom should not 'jeopardise' the ability of the ***EU*** and its institutions to act until it leaves. It was also decided that London must propose a candidate for the college of the designated ***EU Commission President*** Ursula von der Leyen.

Officially, Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker's term ends on 1 November, but since the ***European Parliament*** rejected candidates from Hungary, Romania and France, CDU politician von der Leyen cannot take over on time. While Hungary and France have nominated substitute candidates, whom von der Leyen interviewed on Monday, Romania is in a government crisis and has not named any new names so far. It is considered conceivable that the current British ***EU Commissioner*** Julian King will remain in office until his country leaves; he is currently responsible for security. After France's President Emmanuel Macron spoke to Johnson on the phone at the weekend, Paris also agreed to the position of the ***EU-27.*** The ambassador's decision still has to be formalised in a written procedure. Johnson accepted the decision on Monday evening. In his letter to ***EU Council President*** Donald Tusk, he asked that a further Brexit postponement be ruled out.

In London, the House of Commons voted on Monday evening against a government motion for new elections on 12 December. It had already become clear before the vote that the proposal was unlikely to receive the support of the largest opposition party, Labour. Jeremy Corbyn's party abstained by a majority, so that the necessary quorum for the vote was not reached.

The prime minister could have a better chance this Tuesday with a proposal put forward by the Liberal Democrats and the Scottish National Party (SNP). The two parties had offered Johnson to change the law to circumvent the two-thirds majority requirement for early elections. The government was initially reluctant, as the conditions for this could be a lowering of the voting age or other demands. Young Britons are seen as predominantly pro-European.

**Page 5**

**Classification**

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

**Person:** URSULA VON DER LEYEN (90%); BORIS JOHNSON (79%); DONALD TUSK (79%); JEAN-CLAUDE JUNCKER (79%); JEREMY CORBYN (79%)

**Geographic:** LONDON, ENGLAND (90%); PARIS, FRANCE (79%); BRUSSELS, BELGIUM (58%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (96%); BRUSSELS CAPITAL REGION (79%); HUNGARY (92%); ***EUROPE (***91%); FRANCE (90%); UNITED KINGDOM (90%); ROMANIA (73%); SCOTLAND (58%).

**Load-Date:** October 29, 2019

**End of Document**

[***AGRICULTURAL POLICY; Solidarity looks different***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5XCK-YHD1-DXX2-P566-00000-00&context=)

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Tuesday 29 October 2019

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**Section:** Fürstenfeldbruck; Fürstenfeldbruck; p. 5

**Length:** 379 words

**Byline:** BY INGRID HÜGENELL

**Body**

The Junge Union in the district of Fürstenfeldbruck sees its party on the side of the farmers and calls for solidarity with them. If the matter were not so sad, one could almost laugh about it. After all, the CSU is largely responsible for the policies that have forced many smaller farms in the district to give up. The policy of 'grow or give way', which the CSU and the farmers' association have been pursuing for decades, has led to the death of farms, not necessary environmental regulations. The majority of farmers in the district have to earn extra money in another profession. Many main farmers have specialised and produce, for example, potatoes for the production of crisps or maize as cattle feed. The consumer cannot help them at all with regional purchases at Unser Land or the organic market.

The idea of buying regionally is right. But consumers alone cannot save the farmers. Farmers would be helped more if the ***European Union would*** finally stop allocating its subsidies according to area, but would use the money to promote sustainable, environmentally compatible agriculture. This is urgently needed, also as a measure against species extinction and the climate crisis. Because what is really needed is more environmental protection in agriculture, not less. Smaller family farms would also benefit. At the moment, industrialised agriculture receives the most subsidies. In the current negotiations on ***EU subsidies,*** the CSU could stand up for the small farmers. There is no sign of this, nor do the JU spokespersons write anything about it.

In any case, the CSU is losing ground in the district. Karin Sepp, a district farmer, sits for the ÖDP in the Germering city council. District chairman Georg Huber feels so badly represented by the party that he does not want to stand on the CSU list in the district elections. He is drawn to the Free Voters. Huber was also the one who activated all members of the Landtag for an exemption for the agricultural school, including Hans Friedl of the Free Voters. Huber also spoke to the Minister of Agriculture, Michaela Kaniber, himself. The JU is concealing all this, which is of course due to the election campaign. Nevertheless, it is dishonest.

**Classification**

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**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject:** AGRICULTURAL SUBSIDIES (90%); GERMAN POLITICAL PARTIES (90%); GOVERNMENT SUBSIDIES & FUNDING (90%); PUBLIC POLICY (90%); POLITICAL PARTIES (89%); VOTERS & ELECTIONS (86%); ORGANIC FOOD (78%); MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE (78%); SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE (78%); POLITICS (78%); GERMAN STATE PARLIAMENTS (77%); ***EUROPEAN UNION (***77%); ENVIRONMENTAL DIRECTIVES AND REGULATIONS (76%); ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION (76%); INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS ORGANISATIONS (74%); SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED ENTERPRISES (72%); ENDANGERED ANIMAL AND PLANT SPECIES (67%)

**Industry:** AGRICULTURE (91%); AGRICULTURAL SUBVENTIONS (90%); AGRICULTURAL FARMERS (90%); BIO-FARMING (78%); AGRICULTURAL MINISTRIES (78%); SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE (78%)

**Geographic: *EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (92%); ***EUROPE*** (78%)

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**End of Document**

[***Always stay flexible; The remaining EUstates agree to an extension of the Brexit deadline. British Prime Minister Boris Johnson has to break another promise - and Parliament refuses to allow him to call new elections.***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5XCK-YHS1-JBF1-053M-00000-00&context=)

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

**Length:** 791 words

**Byline:** BY MATTHIAS KOLB AND ALEXANDER MÜHLAUER

**Body**

**Brussels/London** - On Monday, Julian King was in Munich. The British ***EU Commissioner*** took part in a meeting with five other ***European*** interior ministers at the invitation of Horst Seehofer. King is responsible for the Security Union in Brussels and was allowed to discuss counter-terrorism, right-wing extremism and the future of the 5G network in ***Europe*** in Seehofer's home.

All important issues. But if London has its way, King should leave Brussels immediately when Jean-Claude Juncker, the ***head of the EU Commission, leaves*** office. This will probably not happen: because Britain will remain in the ***European*** Union longer than Prime Minister Boris Johnson would like, he will have to send a commissioner to Brussels according to the ***EU Treaty.*** This is a consequence of the decision of the 27 remaining ***EU members to*** postpone the Brexit deadline once again - now until 31 January 2020.

This makes the list of promises Johnson has broken longer and longer. He had said that he would never send a Briton to the new von der Leyen Commission, which will take office on 1 December at the earliest. Before that, the ***EU Parliament has*** to approve the squad of commissioners. Johnson may now not send a new commissioner, but ask Julian King to extend his stay in Brussels and face another hearing of ***MEPs. In*** any case, Johnson will have no choice but to accept Brussels' proposed extension of the withdrawal deadline until 31 January. It is precisely this postponement that he had to ask for by law, although he vehemently rejects it.

In order to be able to complete Brexit at least before the end of January, the prime minister now wants new elections to take place as soon as possible. That is the only way," Johnson said in the House of Commons on Monday evening. One must now have the courage and give the people the opportunity to decide. This is the only way to end Labour's resistance and make Brexit a reality, Johnson believes. According to the polls, his Tories would win the election clearly ahead of Labour. No wonder, then, that Johnson introduced a motion in the evening to make new elections possible on 12 December. As expected, he failed. Johnson fell well short of the necessary two-thirds majority. Immediately after the defeat, he announced a new initiative for this Tuesday.

Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn countered that no one could trust the prime minister. Only when a no-deal Brexit was really off the table could the largest opposition party agree to new elections. Labour, however, is deeply divided on the issue. There are many in the party who are at odds with their leader Corbyn because, according to the polls, he has no chance against Johnson and is extremely unpopular with the people.

In addition, like most MPs, Labour MPs are reluctant to lose their mandate prematurely. On the other hand, there are more and more voices in the party calling for new elections. Their argument is similar to Johnson's: only in this way would there be a chance of completing Brexit by 31 January. But here, too, Labour is divided. There are high-ranking party members who want Brexit off the table; others want Britain to stay in the ***EU.*** They hope for a second referendum.

In London, it was therefore considered possible that Johnson would forge a new alliance. The Liberal Democrats and the Scottish National Party had offered to change the law to circumvent the two-thirds majority requirement for an early ballot. The government's initial reaction was cautious, as the price could be a lowering of the voting age. Young Britons are predominantly positive about the ***EU.***

The debates in the House of Commons continue to be followed closely in Brussels. On Monday morning, the ambassadors of the ***EU-27*** needed only fifteen minutes to agree to the flexible extension of the British exit date. In ***EU jargon,*** this is called 'flextension' and means that Britain can leave the ***EU*** quickly as soon as the withdrawal agreement, which was modified in October, has been ratified by both the House of Commons and the ***European Parliament. In*** addition to 1 February 2020, 1 January 2020 and 1 December 2019 are explicitly mentioned as the cut-off dates for the entry into force of the divorce agreement.

Over the weekend, France had given up its blockade; on Friday, Paris had still demanded the shortest possible extension in order to avoid constantly "slipping from one extension to the next". The "oui" from Paris has now avoided a special Brexit summit.

**Labour is split on the question of new elections - if only because party leader Corbyn is so unpopular**

**Graphic**

Britain was supposed to leave the ***EU*** on Thursday. Not everyone in London likes the deadline extension from Brussels. Photo: Kirsty Wigglesworth/AP

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**Organisation: *EUROPEAN*** UNION (57%); ***EUROPEAN*** PARLIAMENT (55%)

**Industry:** 5G (56%)

**Person:** BORIS JOHNSON (92%); JEREMY CORBYN (92%); HORST SEEHOFER (90%); JEAN-CLAUDE JUNCKER (79%)

**Geographic:** BRUSSELS, BELGIUM (90%); LONDON, ENGLAND (73%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (97%); BRUSSELS CAPITAL REGION (93%); BAVARIA, GERMANY (59%); BELGIUM (90%); ***EUROPE (***90%); UNITED KINGDOM (88%).

**Load-Date:** October 29, 2019

**End of Document**

[***Now it's your turn; Mario Draghi was not without controversy as ECB chief. At his departure, he is nevertheless celebrated like a saviour. His successor Christine Lagarde takes on a difficult task***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5XCK-YHS1-JBF1-04T2-00000-00&context=)

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

**Length:** 941 words

**Byline:** BY CERSTIN GAMMELIN AND MARKUS ZYDRA

**Body**

**Frankfurt** - Around half past three in the afternoon on this Monday, Mario Draghi looks visibly moved. One almost fears that a tear might show in the corner of the eye of the outgoing President of the ***European*** Central Bank. He is sitting in the front row of the auditorium; the French President has just placed him in a row with the great founders and humanists of ***Europe***; Robert Schuman, Konrad Adenauer, Alcide De Gasperi he lists. Draghi not only receives thanks as a farewell, it actually sounds as if Macron and also German Chancellor Angela Merkel are heartily celebrating a saviour, that of the ***Eurozone***.

Merkel had spoken before the Frenchman and made one of those casual appearances that one often sees from her since she no longer has to explain the electoral defeats of the CDU as party leader. She addresses the Roman "Mario", his family present, in a very personal way. She says that Frankfurt and Rome have been connected for a long time, namely by the Limes; there are 'traces of Roman life everywhere' in the Main metropolis. And then she says a sentence that can be understood ambiguously in Germany: You are moving in the good tradition of leaving traces here as Romans.

There are a handful of places in the Main metropolis that would be suitable for celebrating a proper farewell. The Alte Oper, for example, on which the phrase 'Dem Wahren Schoenen Guten' is immortalised. Former ECB President Jean-Claude Trichet said farewell in these stately rooms of the opera. That was eight years ago, a picture from that evening shows him with Christine Lagarde, who is now his successor. This Monday, Trichet and Lagarde will come through the revolving door at the main entrance of the ECB Tower to pay their respects to Mario Draghi, whose term of office ends at the end of October, for his performance at the head of the central bank.

Draghi is not celebrating his official farewell in the Old Opera House in Frankfurt, but on the ground floor of the ***European*** Central Bank in the east of the city. The receptionists therefore have the box seats when Draghi leads Chancellor Merkel and French President Emmanuel Macron on the blue carpet into the central bank's bistro. There, around the corner to the right of the reception, the employees drink their midday coffee unmolested on normal working days.

But on this Ciao day, dozens of journalists line the high reception hall; they are allowed to stand exactly 100 centimetres from the blue carpet. One is almost startled when yellow waistcoats appear 30 minutes before the bosses. But that is all in order. The security people have to measure again with a folding rule; a dedicated cleaner tirelessly went about her work with the hoover to keep the carpet clean. So there is humanity at the ECB. Draghi doesn't want any pomp to say goodbye, he is saying goodbye where he worked.

The former head of the International Monetary Fund, Christine Lagarde, takes over a difficult task from the Italian. Draghi led the ***eurozone*** out of the financial crisis with an iron hand. Macron and Merkel mention his famous phrase, which he said in London in 2012. He will save the ***euro,*** 'whatever it takes'. The German Chancellor sends an ironic remark afterwards. As is customary in Germany, the Federal Constitutional Court also dealt with the sentence," she says. And then 'essentially' agreed with the sentence.

Draghi's determination to enforce his loose monetary policy in an emergency, even against powerful central banks like the Bundesbank, has however divided the highest decision-making body, the ECB Governing Council. The central bank must redefine its monetary policy, and Lagarde, a lawyer, not an economist, must moderate this new beginning. Lagarde, who takes office on Friday, has already announced that she wants to do things differently than Draghi. In future, she wants to address the whole of ***European*** society, and no longer just "the traditional expert audience". In her written hearing before the ***EU Parliament,*** Lagarde referred to "young people" or "civil society organisations" whose "concerns" the central bank will listen to more attentively.

On Monday in Frankfurt, however, there was no sign of this, on the contrary. The bosses kept to themselves; no questions were allowed of those who steered ***Europe's*** destiny and now solemnly accompanied the handover from Draghi to Lagarde. The ECB regrets that it had to give in to security concerns. It is not easy to provide security; there have been concerns from the capitals. And so the chairs that had been provided had to be removed again. The impression that the French government could dictate to the formally independent central bank how it organises events is vehemently denied. No, there was no political influence, the ECB asserts. Such a transition is not easy to organise.

Before everyone toasts behind closed doors and switched-off cameras, Lagarde says she admires Draghi, especially his "wisdom and determination". Draghi warns once again that what is needed now is 'more ***Europe***, not less'. Then the Roman handed the Frenchwoman the big meeting bell, which Lagarde could use to keep order in the ECB Governing Council. I have never needed it.

**Questions are not allowed to those who guide the destiny of *Europe***

**Graphic**

Kiss left, kiss right: Christine Lagarde, new ECB chief, bids farewell to her predecessor Mario Draghi in Frankfurt. Photo: Reuters

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**Journal Code:** SZ

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**Industry:** CENTRAL BANKS (90%); ***EUROZONE*** (89%); INTERNATIONAL CURRENCY FUND (77%); CURRENCIES (77%); CURRENCY UNIONS (77%)

**Person:** MARIO DRAGHI (97%); CHRISTINE LAGARDE (90%); ANGELA MERKEL (88%)

**Geographic:** FRANKFURT, GERMANY (90%); ROME, ITALY (90%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (94%); ***EUROPE*** (90%); FRANCE (88%); GERMANY (59%).

**Load-Date:** October 29, 2019

**End of Document**

[***Stoiber: Orbán's medal is an appreciation of work***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5XCK-YHS1-JBF1-04XH-00000-00&context=)

Süddeutsche Zeitung

Tuesday 29 October 2019

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**Section:** Bavaria; Munich West; Bavaria Region; p. 11

**Length:** 183 words

**Byline:** DPA

**Body**

**Munich/Budapest** - Despite the recent differences between his party and Hungary's head of government Viktor Orbán, ex-CSU leader Edmund Stoiber wants to be personally decorated by the latter. Hungary has always belonged to the heart of ***Europe*** for me. I therefore understand the award of the Grand Cross of Merit as an appreciation of my decades of intensive work to consolidate the Bavarian-Hungarian friendship and to integrate Hungary into a united ***Europe***', Stoiber said in Munich on Monday. He stressed that both CSU leader Markus Söder and EPP parliamentary group leader Manfred Weber had congratulated him on the honour planned for 8 November. Stoiber is to receive the Grand Cross of Merit of the Republic of Hungary from Orbán on that day. The longstanding good relationship between the CSU and Orbán has cooled noticeably in the past two years. During the ***EU election campaign,*** CSU Vice-President Weber had declared that he did not want to be elected ***head of the EU Commission with the*** votes of Orbán's ***EU-critical*** Fidesz party.

**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 (77%); VOTERS & ELECTIONS (68%)

**Organization: *EUROPEAN*** UNION (55%)

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

**Geographic:** BUDAPEST, HUNGARY (73%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (90%); BAVARIA, GERMANY (89%); HUNGARY (92%); ***EUROPE (***90%).

**Load-Date:** October 29, 2019

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[***He's back; Italy's right-winger Salvini works on political comeback***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5XCK-YHS1-JBF1-053W-00000-00&context=)

Süddeutsche Zeitung

Tuesday 29 October 2019

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

**Length:** 655 words

**Byline:** OLIVER MEILER

**Body**

**Rome** - The small central Italian region of Umbria has experienced many earthquakes in its history; it lies in a seismically active zone. Political quakes, on the other hand, have been rare in this left-wing stronghold. For half an eternity, the communists and their heirs ruled unchallenged in Perugia, the capital. Now the hard right has won the recent regional elections.

Donatella Tesei, 61, a senator of Matteo Salvini's Lega and former mayor of Montefalco in Umbria, becomes the new president of the region. Tesei was supported by the entire right-wing alliance, including the post-fascist Fratelli d "Italia and the bourgeois Forza Italia. She beat her rival, the entrepreneur Vincenzo Bianconi, by twenty percentage points - 57.5 to 37.5 per cent - far more clearly than was expected.

For Salvini, who was ousted from power in the summer after a botched political manoeuvre, this is a triumph with national appeal. He spoke of a "historic victory". The government in Rome is down for the count, he said, and soon he will be back. That was what this regional election was about: a contest between the new government forces and Salvini's right.

Bianconi, who lost the election in Umbria, had been the joint candidate of Cinque Stelle, Partito Democratico and the left-wing Liberi e Uguali party, which currently govern Italy together. They had appointed him as front-runner late in the game, by which time a catch-up campaign was almost hopeless. Even Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte took part in an election campaign event to give the new alliance more weight.

None of this has helped, and perhaps Conte's appearance was even counterproductive. All the parties involved are now asking themselves whether the entire electoral coalition was not already a mistake.

With 37 percent, the right-wing Lega is now Umbria's strongest force. Its result is just below that of the ***European elections*** in May, so Salvini's favourability among the people has remained stable since his fall. The Social Democrats were able to hold their ground compared to the recent elections, although this ballot was only necessary after their regional government became embroiled in a scandal over allegedly illegally awarded contracts and posts in the health sector and had to resign. The Five Stars collapsed: they still managed 7.4 per cent. In the 2018 parliamentary elections, they had won 27.5 per cent of the vote in Umbria.

The Five Star Party in particular is now wailing. Their leader, Foreign Minister Luigi Di Maio, has long been criticised within the party. He is accused of creating unnecessary trouble and therefore leading the movement erratically. But the fall of the Cinque Stelle is also damaging Prime Minister Conte. He is not a registered party member, but the Five Stars had brought him to the top of the government. Conte said he was aware of the defeat in Umbria - meaning from afar. It had no influence on the fate of the national government.

That is not guaranteed. After their 'cold fusion' in August, Cinque Stelle and the Social Democrats have still not found common ground. They quarrel over trivialities. In any case, Italians do not get the impression that a jolt is going through their country. Matteo Renzi, ex-prime minister and former leader of the Partito Democratico, is also responsible for this. Ever since he left the party and founded Italia Viva with his 40 or so parliamentarians, he has been taunting everyone. Hardly a week goes by without the newspapers predicting the break-up of the cabinet. Renzi did not want to join the electoral alliance in Umbria either; it probably seemed too fragile to him, not quake-proof. So in the end Salvini had it easy.

**The star of the Italian right speaks of a historic result**

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject:** POLITICS (90%); ELECTIONS (90%); VOTERS & ELECTIONS (90%); PUBLIC POLICY (90%); ELECTIONS & CAMPAIGNS (89%); POLITICAL PARTIES (78%); PRIME MINISTERS (78%); HEADS OF STATE & GOVERNMENT (78%); MAYORS (76%); RESIGNATIONS (75%); SCANDALS (73%)

**Company:** ALLIANZ SE (54%)

**Ticker:** ALV (FRA) (54%); ALV (BIT) (54%)

**Industry:** NAICS524126 DIRECT PROPERTY & CASUALTY INSURANCE CARRIERS (54%); NAICS524113 DIRECT LIFE INSURANCE CARRIERS (54%); NAICS523920 PORTFOLIO MANAGEMENT (54%)

**Geographic:** ROME, ITALY (92%); ITALY (88%)

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[***Juncker's to-do list; Unfinished business ahead of the EUsummit in focus***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5W17-1M81-F10G-K16K-00000-00&context=)

Süddeutsche Zeitung

Thursday 2 May 2019

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

**Length:** 603 words

**Byline:** ALEXANDER MÜHLAUER

**Body**

**Brussels** - When the heads of state and government travel to the ***EU summit*** in Sibiu, Romania, next week, they want to finally put the crises of the past years behind them. This applies above all to Brexit, which is keeping the ***European Union*** busy longer than planned, but also to all the other issues that are paralysing ***Europe. In*** Sibiu, the focus will be on the future of the Community, essentially on the question of how the ***EU*** can maintain its place in the world. To this end, Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker has compiled a paper of more than 80 pages. In addition, there are various annexes, one of which is likely to be the focus of particular attention: "Unfinished business: the 10 most important ***EU issues awaiting*** final agreement".

In his discussion paper for the summit in Romania, Juncker on the one hand takes stock of his term of office, which ends in autumn. On the other hand, he puts his finger in the wound. For many laws proposed by the Commission are stuck in the ***EU gears.*** In this respect, the ten unfinished points are something like a set of specifications for Juncker's successor. There is, for example, the reform of the ***European*** asylum system, which has been stalled for years. The ***EU Commission*** insists on adopting rules to cope with future migration crises. But the 'balance between solidarity and responsibility' proposed by Brussels still divides the member states. A way out is not in sight, not even at the summit in Sibiu.

There is a similar stalemate on the migration issue as there is on economic and financial policy. The refugee crisis and the ***euro crisis*** have shown one thing: ***Europe*** is only capable of making radical decisions when there is an acute crisis,' says an ***EU diplomat***. And so Juncker's call for a common deposit guarantee for savings in the ***euro area is*** likely to fall flat once again. The so-called completion of the banking union remains unfinished for the time being. As for the future of the common currency, there is the never-ending conflict between Germany and France over the question of what good economic policy should be in the first place.

Part of this dispute is also the attempt by Berlin and Paris to harmonise the taxation of companies. This has been attempted for years - but without success. Nevertheless, in its summit paper, the ***EU Commission*** reiterates the demand for a common corporate tax in the ***European*** Union. In addition, there is the proposal of a digital tax, rejected by the ***EU states, which is*** supposed to make corporations like Apple, Google and Amazon pay higher taxes to the treasury in ***Europe.*** Instead of working on a ***European*** solution, the ***EU states are*** currently trying to reach an agreement at the level of the OECD countries - i.e. also with the USA.

As the first point of the 'unfinished tasks', Juncker has at least set an issue that the ***EU*** can solve on its own: the budget framework for the years 2021 to 2027. This must be adopted by the end of 2020 at the latest. There is much more at stake than just money. The negotiations on the multiannual financial framework basically bring together all the issues that concern ***Europe.*** After all, the allocation of funding can be linked to all kinds of conditions - for example, to values such as the rule of law or solidarity in taking in refugees. However, there are unlikely to be any such concrete discussions in Sibiu. Juncker's successor will be responsible for that.

**Radical decisions are only taken in acute crises, says an *EU diplomat***

**Classification**

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**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject: *EUROPEAN UNION*** (93%); TALKS & MEETINGS (92%); INTERNATIONAL GOVERNMENT TALKS (92%); POLITICS (90%); HEADS OF STATE & GOVERNMENT (90%); PUBLIC POLICY (90%); INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORGANISATIONS (89%); MONETARY UNIONS (89%); ECONOMIC POLICY (87%); ***EUROZONE*** (78%); REFUGEE CRISIS IN ***EUROPE*** (78%); INSTITUTIONS OF THE ***EUROPEAN*** UNION (78%); TAXES & TAXATION (78%); DIGITAL ECONOMY (76%); BREXIT (73%); ***EURO CRISIS (***73%); CORPORATE TAX (73%); ***EURO*** (69%); CURRENCIES (69%); REFUGEES (66%)

**Company:** APPLE INC (62%)

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

**Ticker:** AAPL (NASDAQ) (62%)

**Industry:** NAICS423430 COMPUTER & COMPUTER PERIPHERAL EQUIPMENT & SOFTWARE MERCHANT WHOLESALERS (62%); NAICS334413 SEMICONDUCTOR & RELATED DEVICE MANUFACTURING (62%); NAICS334112 COMPUTER STORAGE DEVICE MANUFACTURING (62%); NAICS334111 ELECTRONIC COMPUTER MANUFACTURING (62%); SIC5045 COMPUTERS & COMPUTER PERIPHERAL EQUIPMENT & SOFTWARE (62%); SIC3674 SEMICONDUCTORS & RELATED DEVICES (62%); SIC3577 COMPUTER PERIPHERAL EQUIPMENT, NEC (62%); SIC3572 COMPUTER STORAGE DEVICES (62%); SIC3571 ELECTRONIC COMPUTERS (62%); COMPUTER SOFTWARE (90%); CURRENCY UNIONS (89%); ***EUROZONE*** (78%); DIGITAL ECONOMY (76%); ***EURO CRISIS (***73%); ***EURO (***69%); CURRENCIES (69%)

**Person:** JEAN-CLAUDE JUNCKER (94%)

**Geographic:** PARIS, FRANCE (79%); BRUSSELS, BELGIUM (73%); BERLIN, GERMANY (58%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (99%); BRUSSELS CAPITAL REGION (92%); ***EUROPE (***94%); FRANCE (79%); BELGIUM (78%); ROMANIA (73%); GERMANY (59%).

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

**Length:** 1394 words

**Byline:** BY LEILA AL-SERORI AND THOMAS KIRCHNER

**Body**

**United in anger**

**The right-wing parties criticise Islam, reject the Brussels 'technocracy' and consider climate change a 'lie'. Is that enough to jointly 'change the rules in *Europe*', as Lega leader Salvini has said? The closing of ranks is rather unlikely**

In the past, the agreements took place in the back room and fuelled conspiracy theories. Today, when ***European*** nationalists and ***EU sceptics*** meet - as in Koblenz in January 2017, in Paris in February or in a Milan hotel in mid-April at the invitation of Lega leader Matteo Salvini - they no longer shy away from the open stage. They invite the media to spread their message to the pro-European centre-left parties: We are united, we are becoming more powerful, be afraid. Salvini announces a "nationalist international", a populist alliance.

This Thursday, Salvini will meet Viktor Orbán in Budapest. The Hungarian prime minister is still in the group of the ***European*** People's Party (EPP) with his Fidesz, but the relationship with this party family is heavily strained and membership is currently suspended. Italian Interior Minister Salvini is therefore likely to try to win Orbán over to his alliance, or at least to selective cooperation. Surveys predict parties to the right of the Christian Democrats to win seats of just under 25 per cent in the ***European*** Parliament. If, contrary to expectations, they succeed in forming a joint parliamentary group, they would be clearly ahead of the Social Democrats and almost on a par with the Christian Democratic EPP.

Across the continent, ***EU opponents have*** become more attractive to voters. They are represented in several national governments, from Poland to Austria to Italy. There is hardly a national parliament left without right-wing populist MPs - after Sunday's elections with Vox even in Spain, which until now seemed immune to the shift to the right.

In the ***European Parliament***, on the other hand, the right's impact has so far been limited. The most successful networking initiative so far was the founding of the ***Europe of*** Nations and Freedom (ENF) group in 2015, which unites nationalists: Salvini's Lega, Marine Le Pen's French Rassemblement National, the Austrian FPÖ and Geert Wilders' Dutch Freedom Party. At the time, however, neither the Lega nor the FPÖ were represented in their national governments. Their ambitions today have grown. So should the pro-Europeans really be afraid? Can the right even manage to 'change the rules in ***Europe***', as Salvini tones?

To be able to judge this, one has to take a closer look. So far, the ***EU sceptics*** and opponents in the Parliament are divided among three groups. Four, to be precise, if you include the EPP with Orbán's Fidesz. Then there are the ***European*** Conservatives and Reformers (ECR, 73 of the current 751 seats), which includes the British Tories, the Polish PiS and ex-AfD politicians like Bernd Lucke, as well as the ***Europe of*** Freedom and Direct Democracy Group (EFDD, 43 seats), which is dominated by the Italian Cinque Stelle and the British Ukip and where the last remaining German AfD MEP Jörg Meuthen has also found a place. Even further to the right is the aforementioned ENF alliance (34 seats). Clear right-wing extremists like the German NPD MP Udo Voigt do not belong to any parliamentary group.

After the elections, it will look different. EFDD loses Ukip after Brexit and will probably dissolve. It is open to whom the Five Stars will join. Both EKR, which the foreseeably very strong Dutch Forum for Democracy of Thierry Baudet wants to join, and ENF will gain. Salvini wants the merger to start from ENF under a new name, and is courting EKR members in particular. Some, such as the True Finns and the Danish People's Party, present at the meeting in Milan, are interested, but the Polish PiS has already declined.

The great closing of ranks is therefore rather unlikely; presumably it will remain with two right-wing factions that cooperate selectively. Whether this works better than before depends on the extent to which they can overcome their serious differences in content. They all share a hatred of the Brussels "technocracy", they want to give more power back to the nation states, curb migration into the ***EU*** and abolish the ***euro.*** They also have in common a harsh criticism of Islam and a supposed commitment to the "little people" who would be excluded by the elites. And almost all of them are upset about the alleged "lie" of climate change. In this way, they are hitting a nerve with more and more voters, as the Anglo-Dutch expert Ian Buruma points out. He explains the popularity of the right-wing populists as an act of defiance against progressive politics, which is increasingly arguing in moral terms. Those who do not follow suit, for example in environmental, minority, asylum or gender policy, are portrayed as "stupid or morally contemptible". Buruma compares this to a child who does not want to eat its spinach, even though its mother says it is healthy: "It is a rebellion against virtue politics.

But there are also fractures between the populists. While Salvini wants to distribute those refugees who reach ***Europe among*** the ***EU states***, Eastern European nationalists like Orbán are opposed to this. The Italians' offensive debt policy is suspicious to northern European populists. The protectionism that Le Pen and Salvini stand for is also viewed with great scepticism by AfD and PiS. And the proximity of Salvini and others to Vladimir Putin's Russia causes frowns in Poland. Not to be forgotten are also the constraints of the right at the Länder level. For example, FPÖ leader Heinz-Christian Strache did not show up at Salvini's big announcement in Milan at the beginning of April. His party does want to join the alliance, but Strache, unlike in the past, cannot be too aggressive if he does not want to jeopardise his participation in government with the conservative ÖVP.

How a common agenda could be formed out of these contradictions is unclear. Some observers, however, see a change in strategy. Instead of working towards an end to the ***EU,*** the nationalists now prefer to reform the Union from the right, i.e. to transform it into a "***Europe of*** fatherlands" in which Brussels would take the reins out of their hands.

However, the shift to the right is unlikely to succeed via the ***European*** Parliament. In Brussels and Strasbourg, the additional right-wing MEPs will make themselves heard loudly, but will not be able to achieve much in terms of content. The pro-European majority of the centre-left parties will remain too large and too stable for that. For the nationalists, the path via the second legislative ***body of the EU***, the Council of Member States, promises more success. Depending on the subject matter, a single ***EU member*** or a comparatively small coalition can block a project there. That is why the electoral victories of national populist parties in the member states are more dangerous for the ***EU*** than a right-wing march in parliament.

In addition, there is the influence from outside, which is difficult to assess, be it from the Kremlin, which is interested in the success of the ***Europe splitters*** and supports some in an opaque way, or through right-wing networks overseas. The left-liberal website Open Democracy reports of a lobby organisation based in Madrid that is said to channel several million dollars from ultra-conservative circles in the USA to right-wing parties in ***Europe*** - Vox in particular has been supported.

And Steve Bannon, former chief strategist of the US president, has also been trying for months to bundle the right-wing forces in ***Europe*** and is apparently giving election campaign support. His Brussels-based organisation 'The Movement' is working on Salvini's alliance. Le Pen and others have distanced themselves from Bannon, not least because national laws severely limit campaign aid from abroad.

Read an interview with Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán at sz.de/orban

**Right-wing populists gain ground as a reaction of defiance against increasingly progressive politics**

**Instead of working towards an end to the *EU,* right-wing parties want to reform it**

**Graphic**

***EU opponents*** among themselves: Marine Le Pen (Rassemblement National), Matteo Salvini (Lega), Geert Wilders (Partij voor de Vrijheid) and Harald Vilimsky (FPÖ) at an appearance in 2017. Photo: Thomas Frey/dpa

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

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

**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%)

**Person:** MARINE LE PEN (79%); VIKTOR ORBAN (79%)

**Geographic:** BUDAPEST, HUNGARY (79%); PARIS, FRANCE (79%); MILAN, ITALY (78%); BRUSSELS, BELGIUM (58%); KOBLENZ, GERMANY (58%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (94%); BRUSSELS CAPITAL REGION (79%); RHINELAND-PALATINATE, GERMANY (58%); ÎLE-DE-FRANCE, FRANCE (56%); ***EUROPE (***93%); POLAND (90%); HUNGARY (90%); ITALY (88%); FRANCE (73%); UNITED KINGDOM (73%); AUSTRIA (73%); NETHERLANDS (58%); SPAIN (58%)

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**End of Document**

[***Better to stay under cover; Far from London, the Tories have to pay for May's policies***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5W17-1M81-F10G-K16P-00000-00&context=)

Süddeutsche Zeitung

Thursday 2 May 2019

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

**Length:** 871 words

**Byline:** CATHRIN KAHLWEIT

**Body**

**Winchester** - Martin Tod and Rose Burns are content, successful people. On the one hand. Tod, an affable 54-year-old with an Austrian wife and a job that took him abroad a lot, runs a small men's health charity and is a councillor for the Liberal Democrats. Burns, 67, a rotund, energetic criminal lawyer, sits on the city council for the Tories. Both live in Winchester. The small town, about an hour southwest of London, is one of those communities that wrap themselves around the metropolis like a golden ring and where Londoners retire after making their money in the City: crazy property prices, nice high street, magnificent cathedral, bucolic countryside. Of course, Winchester also has its poor neighbourhoods, too little industry, too much traffic. But its ideal location between the capital and the sea makes it a little paradise.

On the other hand, Rose Burns is quite unhappy at the moment, politically speaking. It would be an understatement to say that she is under a lot of pressure. When she hands out flyers for the Conservative Party in her St Bartholomew neighbourhood, she avoids addressing potential voters; she prefers to just shove her leaflets through door slots. Tory sympathisers, she says, now dare not put party signs in their front gardens or stickers on their windows - for fear of stones flying through windows or dog excrement in the letterbox. Such is the anger at the party that promised Brexit - and failed to deliver.

Meanwhile, when Martin Tod knocks on the doors of St Paul residents, as he has done regularly in recent weeks, he is met with delighted faces and positive reactions. "Stop this Brexit nonsense," says Andy Buggy, who runs call centres in the Philippines and India, as Tod wanders through his little kingdom with his campaign flyers in hand and the bright yellow Liberal Democrat rosette as a badge of recognition on his lapel.

Tod has it easier than Burns, because he is not a Tory. This Thursday, local elections will be held in the Kingdom. Almost every year, a portion of the seats in the local councils and county councils on the island are redistributed; this time it is about a third.8,300 seats are up for grabs, of which the Conservative Party currently holds more than half.

Polls predict the Tories will lose 800 of these councillors, which is bad enough. A landslide defeat, so to speak. But worse is what preceded the election: frustration, anger, outrage, physical attacks. Election workers were shouted at, threatened, beaten. The fact that Theresa May has led the country into a dead end after two years of negotiations is also blamed on local party representatives who would like nothing better than to discuss holes in the pavement and the establishment of a youth café in their neighbourhood.

The majority in Winchester voted Remain three years ago, i.e. to remain in the ***EU,*** while the surrounding area voted to leave. Just under half of the city council is made up of Liberal Democrats, who were the only party to fight for the ***European Union in*** the referendum - and since. But: 23 councillors come from the Tories. Still.

Burns expects to lose her seat this Thursday. After all, she herself is angry with those in London, is a Remainer herself. She thinks May has made Brexit her personal crusade - and failed. What is she supposed to say to people when they don't want to talk about the riverside resort but about the ***EU elections that*** are now taking place in the UK after all, or about Boris Johnson, whom she thinks is a liar? The other day, she says, she got an email from a grassroots Tory organisation; whether they were in favour of May leaving? And if so, whether she would vote for any of the following twelve candidates? Names from the cabinet and party VIPs followed. None were included whom Rose Burns from Winchester thinks is solid and honest. So what should she tell her voters?

Martin Tod has it easier. He can say he has always been against Brexit, as has always been the LibDems' party line. He can say that he is also standing for the ***European elections*** in three weeks' time, and that he thinks the ***EU is*** not only the lesser evil, but a good thing. Tod knows that the LibDems, whom some had already written off, are on the up this time - partly because the new Remain party Change UK, made up of prominent ex-Tories and ex-Labour politicians, is not yet contesting the local elections. Rose Burns, on the other hand, knows that her party will suffer massive losses, which would be even greater if Nigel Farage's new Brexit party contested.

Farage, however, will not join until the ***European elections.*** Then it will be really bitter for the Tories.

**Polls show Conservatives facing disaster in local elections**

**Graphic**

Brexit also determines the local elections in the Kingdom. Photo: Melville/Reuters

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**Subject:** POLITICAL PARTIES (90%); CITIES (90%); BREXIT (89%); POLITICS (89%); ELECTIONS & CAMPAIGNS (89%); VOTERS & ELECTIONS (89%); PUBLIC POLICY (89%); ELECTIONS (78%); ***EUROPEAN UNION*** (73%); POLLS & SURVEYS (60%); MEN (57%); PROPERTY PRICES (54%)

**Industry:** PROPERTY PRICES (54%)

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

**Geographic:** LONDON, ENGLAND (90%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (78%); PHILIPPINES (79%); INDIA (73%); AUSTRIA (73%)

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[***FREE TRADE; Ceta as an opportunity***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5W17-1M81-F10G-K18T-00000-00&context=)

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

**Length:** 759 words

**Byline:** BY NIKOLAUS PIPER

**Body**

A special form of xenophobia is the fear of foreign goods that allegedly endanger one's own prosperity. Donald Trump knows how to exploit this fear, but other populists from both the left and the right also know how to play the protectionist game. Now that, thanks to Trump, the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) no longer stands a chance, protests in Germany have recently been directed primarily against Ceta, the ***EU***'s agreement with Canada. Although Ceta is in force, it has not yet been ratified by all states and is still bitterly opposed. The list of opponents of the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement - its official title - is long. It ranges from environmental organisations to the Left, the Greens and the Free Voters in Bavaria to the AfD. The protests are mainly directed against a new arbitration court, which Canadian investors in the ***EU*** and ***European*** investors in Canada can appeal to under Ceta, for example, if they believe they would be expropriated in whole or in part by a provision.

Critics see this court as a 'parallel justice' that could undermine environmental and social standards. The Belgian government appealed to the ***European*** Court of Justice over these concerns. The judges should examine whether the whole thing is at all compatible with ***EU law.***

Now the opinion of the ECJ is available. It is refreshingly clear. According to the judges, the Ceta Treaty is of course compatible with ***EU law.*** The envisaged arbitral tribunal does not establish a parallel justice system, it may deal with Ceta and nothing else. What's more, the agreement makes provisions to ensure that democratically adopted laws and regulations are not compromised, 'particularly in the areas of protection of public safety, protection of public morals, protection of human and animal life and health, protection of food safety, protection of plants, protection of occupational safety, protection of product safety, consumer protection or protection of fundamental rights'.

The ECJ also refuted concerns that Ceta would create a special right of action for corporations. Not only large, but also small and medium-sized enterprises and even individuals would have access to arbitration if they felt that their rights under Ceta had been ignored in Canada or the ***EU.***

The ECJ's opinion has significance far beyond the relationship with Canada. It can objectify the debate and it creates the conditions for the ***EU to*** conclude such agreements with other states. The presidency of Donald Trump and the rise of the People's Republic of China show that the ideal of free world trade is no longer shared by important players. This makes it all the more important to legalise trade relations between states that are willing to do so. After Canada, the next step will be an agreement with Japan.

One must not forget why investment protection agreements were invented in the first place. Their aim was to make foreign investment possible in countries with underdeveloped legal systems. The first one was concluded as early as 1959 between the Federal Republic of Germany and Pakistan. Today it is clear that such agreements are also useful between states with equally developed legal systems.

Foreign investments help the world grow together. They increase productivity in the countries and companies involved. Investment protection provides legal certainty, and the instruments of this protection need to be modernised on an ongoing basis. It is easy to overlook the fact that the trade court, as Ceta establishes it, is a major step forward compared to the arbitration committees that have been customary in such agreements up to now. A change proposed by the Scientific Advisory Council to the Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology is worth considering: In future, investor protection should only be available for direct investments, i.e. for entrepreneurs who invest their money in concrete buildings and machines. If the protection is extended to buyers of shares and bonds, the rules could be abused by speculators.

In any case, Ceta is a big step forward. It was made possible because the ***EU*** had the right partner in Canada, which is governed by left-wing liberals and has a free-trade mindset. ***Europe*** should not waste this opportunity.

**The proposed arbitral tribunal does not establish a parallel justice system**

**Classification**

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**Journal Code:** SZ

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**Industry:** PRODUCT SAFETY (89%); FOOD SAFETY (72%)

**Person:** DONALD TRUMP (90%)

**Geographic: *EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (95%); BAVARIA, GERMANY (59%); CANADA (92%); ***EUROPE (***88%); GERMANY (79%); PAKISTAN (79%); BELGIUM (73%); CHINA (56%); JAPAN (56%).

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

**End of Document**

[***The Short Summer of Anti-Capitalism; The Right in Europe profit from the weakness of the left. They themselves have a lot to do with the fact that their radiance has faded***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5W17-1M81-F10G-K15K-00000-00&context=)

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

**Length:** 1017 words

**Byline:** SEBASTIAN SCHOEPP

**Body**

The rift in ***Europe*** began in New York in 2008. The collapse of the Lehmann Brothers bank and the resulting world financial crisis had massive repercussions in the ***EU***, especially in Southern Europe.

The dream of harmonising living conditions, wage levels, consumer behaviour and social systems ***across Europe*** on credit, so to speak, was over. Brussels imposed strict austerity measures on Spain, Portugal, Greece and Italy. A storm of protest broke out against the dismantling of social and health systems, which reached a peak in 2011. In Madrid, Athens, but also in Lisbon, Rome and Barcelona, hundreds of thousands took to the streets, in some cases for weeks. New parties emerged, the traditional system wavered.

In Greece, Syriza, the "Coalition of the Radical Left", seized power in 2015; its later finance minister Yanis Varoufakis calls it the "Greek Spring" in retrospect. In Spain, Podemos emerged, ideologically underpinned by the Latin American left populism of the Argentinean Ernesto Laclau. The sociologist, who advised Argentina's president Cristina Kirchner among others, defined populism as self-empowerment in small groups of organised citizens who should bundle their demands under a catchy formula and rally behind a figure who inspires the masses. People like Yanis Varoufakis or Podemos founder Pablo Iglesias thought that this role was written all over them, so to speak.

Anti-capitalism was hip. Blockupy groups camped out in front of the banks in Frankfurt and New York. The Frenchman Thomas Piketty empirically demonstrated the growing inequality of the world. The term "post-Marxism" made the rounds, the reinvention of the left after the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989 seemed successful. In Spain, it was Podemos leader Pablo Iglesias who carried an anti-elite discourse into everyday political language. Since then, the total condemnation of the old system has had a blatant career and is now also found, for example, in the ideologically indeterminable French yellow waistcoats.

Pablo Iglesias spoke of *la Casta,* the caste, for him these are the political lackeys of a neoliberal system who took selfies at the ***EU summit*** while hard-working people suffered the consequences of their decisions. This terminology gave left-wing populism a decidedly anti-European component.

Beppe Grillo's protest party Cinque Stelle in Italy was also directed against the Brussels institutions, but the Five Stars were never left-wing. From the beginning, they saw themselves as fundamentally anti-system, everything should collapse before something new could emerge, sometimes the old Italian anarchism shone through. But little by little, the Cinque Stelle began to hand itself over to the right, until the fall from grace occurred in 2018: the Five Star Party took over the government in Rome with the xenophobic Lega. Since then, the old left-right divide in ***Europe*** seems to be giving way more and more to a confrontation between liberal, market-oriented democracy and identitarian right-wing populist movements.

The left has itself to blame for the fact that its flare-up remained a flash in the pan. From 2012 onwards, the southern European movements looked too longingly to France, where they suspected a leader in the socialist president François Hollande. The Italian philosopher Giorgio Agamben and the social democrat Romano Prodi even began to dream of "Latin Europe", a Romanesque alliance against the cold Calvinist hegemony of the North. But in the end, the Greek Varoufakis remained alone in his attempt to make a new ***European*** solidarity palatable to the ***European*** finance ministers, which was supposed to replace the liberal growth model. He was simply abandoned.

Spain's and Portugal's conservative governments bowed to the austerity measures imposed by Brussels, in France Hollande renounced the planned tax on the rich that would have set a redistribution mechanism in motion. This yielding caused the radiance of the left to fade. The discontented lost their political home, many no longer knew who to vote for - when in the end it was always Merkelism that came out.

The arrival of hundreds of thousands of refugees took the ***European*** debate in a whole new direction in 2015. The right had its theme. They branded open borders not only as a mistake of liberal immigration policy - but also as an expression of the privileges of a mobile, economically successful elite. This combination of xenophobia with originally left-wing, capitalism-critical theses catches all too easily with those who feel they have lost out to globalisation.

This kind of populism has its own characteristics in each country. The Catalan separatists have a strong identitarian and anti-globalisation component. In Hungary, Viktor Orbán presents himself as the defender of the little people. In Poland, the right-wing conservative ruling party PiS weaves left-wing discourses on justice into its programme. The sociologist Didier Eribon has vividly described how the French Front National siphons off once left-wing voter potential in old industrial centres - he blames a left that now belongs to the elite itself for paying little attention to the interests of these people.

Thus, the path taken in 2011 by the - quite justified - critique of institutions now seems to lead more to the right than to the left. Surprisingly, the paths of two pioneering thinkers who have failed in day-to-day politics cross: those of the left-wing lecture traveller Yanis Varoufakis and the US right-wing commentator Steve Bannon, who is now touring the countries of the ***European*** Union, where he is wooing the discontented.

**Anti-capitalism was hip and the reinvention of the left seemed to have succeeded**

**Varoufakis remained alone with his new *European* solidarity - he was let down**

**Graphic**

Former Greek Finance Minister Yanis Varoufakis calls for 'disobedience' in ***European election campaign.*** Photo: Alkis Konstantinidis / Reuters

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

**Person:** YANIS VAROUFAKIS (90%); CRISTINA FERNANDEZ DE KIRCHNER (79%); FRANCOIS HOLLANDE (79%)

**Geographic:** NEW YORK, NY, USA (91%); ROME, ITALY (90%); LISBON, PORTUGAL (79%); ATHENS, GREECE (77%); BRUSSELS, BELGIUM (72%); BARCELONA, SPAIN (57%); MADRID, SPAIN (57%); FRANKFURT, GERMANY (56%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (92%); BRUSSELS, CAPITAL REGION (92%); LATIN AMERICA (79%); ***EUROPE (***92%); FRANCE (90%); ITALY (90%); SPAIN (90%); SOUTHERN EUROPE (90%); GREECE (88%); ARGENTINA (79%); PORTUGAL (78%)

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[***Long-distance duel for the Commission head; CSU man Weber is officially the EPP candidate, but Brexit chief negotiator Barnier also has good chances***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5W17-1M81-F10G-K16R-00000-00&context=)

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

**Length:** 857 words

**Byline:** K. M. BEISEL, M. KOLB

**Body**

**Leuven/Maastricht - There are** only three and a half weeks left until the ***European elections,*** and the leading candidates for the office of ***EU Commission President are in the*** middle of the election campaign. According to the host, Monday evening's event at the University of Leuven in Belgium is not supposed to be part of the campaign: "This is not an election campaign event, because no one who is running for political office is appearing here today". But of course the evening is part of the election campaign, even if the official leading candidates are meeting at the same time 80 kilometres further east, in Maastricht, for their first public debate. For the guest in Leuven is Michel Barnier. It is a very poorly kept secret in Brussels that the Brexit chief negotiator is one of the favourites for the post.

The Frenchman was considered early on to be a contender for the most powerful post the ***EU*** has to offer. In September, however, the 68-year-old announced that he would not run because he wanted to see the Brexit process through to the end. Shortly afterwards, his party, the ***European*** People's Party (EPP), chose Manfred Weber (CSU) as its top candidate. Barnier continued to devote himself to the British. The rumours that he might have other ambitions did not die down, nor did the praise of the heads of state and government for his negotiating skills in the Brexit matter and his ability to make all parties feel heard. I am not a candidate today," Barnier reiterated on French television last weekend - but what is not can still be. His ideas for ***Europe, which*** Barnier presented to the students in Leuven, sounded suspiciously like an election programme. The Brexit only came up that evening insofar as Barnier called on the ***EU not*** only to deal with its own belly button in times of global political upheaval.

The ***EU*** simply has no role to play in the race for global technological supremacy: If we do not act now, the future of our industries, our jobs, our data and our ethical standards will be decided in Washington and Beijing," he said. For the time after the election, Barnier recommends a "contract between the majority in Parliament and the member states", for which the Commission should be responsible. The core points of this treaty should be, among others, a 'Green ***EU*** deal' to make ***Europe*** CO2-neutral by 2050, but also a pact for security. This should not lead to a ***European*** army, as demanded by French President Emmanuel Macron, but to significantly more cooperation between the member states.

As much as the speech on Monday sounded like an election campaign, Barnier cannot run openly because the EPP's top candidate is Manfred Weber. That the Frenchman nevertheless has good chances is due to the fact that it is by no means certain that Weber will be able to rally a majority behind him in the new parliament. Moreover, there are some among the heads of government who do not think much of the top candidate principle, according to which only those who stood for the office in the ***European elections*** can become Commission President.

The fact that Weber, under these circumstances, preferred to skip the first debate in Maastricht in order to attend an event in Munich in honour of the 80th birthday of his mentor Theo Waigel, was registered attentively in Maastricht - and commented on derisively in the Vrijthof theatre. In front of hundreds of students, Dutch Social Democrat Frans Timmermans found it easy to promote himself and a progressive majority and to portray the EPP as hopelessly backward-looking - especially on the issue of climate protection, which is on the minds of many ***Europeans. The*** Green Bas Eickhout accused his compatriot that the ***EU Commission***, of which Timmermans is a member, does not tackle the polluters of air and environment pollution hard enough.

But one moment of the debate in particular is likely to be remembered. All five participants - apart from Timmermans and Eickhout, these were the Liberal Guy Verhofstadt, the Conservative Jan Zahradil and the Leftist Violeta Tomi&ccaron; - pledged to give at least half of the posts to women as heads of the next Commission. When the moderators joked again about the absent Weber, Timmermans took the opportunity to make a statesmanlike gesture towards his fiercest rival: "Let's be fair: Weber also wants 50 per cent women'.

At the next debate on Thursday, the German can then speak for himself: In Florence, Weber will discuss with Timmermans, Verhofstadt and the Greens' Ska Keller. And Barnier? Meanwhile, he is on the road in Weber's home country. Next week, he will give a speech at the Technical University of Munich on Monday. So the long-distance duel continues.

**Heads of state and government praise Frenchman Barnier for his Brexit negotiations**

**Graphic**

The current ***EU Commission President*** Jean-Claude Juncker (left) with Michel Barnier, who could succeed him. Photo: Vincent Kessler/Reuters

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**Geographic:** BEIJING, CHINA (79%); BRUSSELS, BELGIUM (58%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (94%); BRUSSELS CAPITAL REGION (79%); ***EUROPE (***92%); BELGIUM (90%); FRANCE (90%).

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[***Ceta can stay as it is; ECJ declares arbitration in trade agreement lawful***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5W17-1M81-F10G-K198-00000-00&context=)

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

**Length:** 479 words

**Byline:** ALEXANDER MÜHLAUER

**Body**

**Brussels** - The ***European*** Court of Justice (ECJ) has ruled that the controversial dispute settlement mechanism in the trade agreement between the ***EU*** and Canada (Ceta) is legal. The mechanism contained in the agreement is compatible with ***European*** law, the ***EU's*** highest ***judges*** ruled in Luxembourg on Tuesday (Opinion 1/17). The trade pact can thus be implemented as planned. We do not need to make any changes to the text of the agreement," said a spokesperson for the ***EU Commission***. The arbitration procedure enshrined in Ceta can thus also be applied in the free trade agreements with Singapore and Vietnam, the authority explained.

Belgium had doubts about the plan to create a new multilateral commercial court to rule on disputes between investors and states. The government in Brussels therefore turned to the highest ***European*** court. In January, an Advocate General of the ECJ had already ruled that the regulation was legal. After the decision that has now been taken, the Belgian region of Wallonia is also likely to give up its opposition to Ceta. In the federally organised Belgium, all regional parliaments must ratify the agreement. The French-speaking region had spoken out against the treaty in the negotiations with Canada until the very end and almost prevented Ceta. Only when the Belgian government offered concessions, including going to the ECJ, did the Walloons agree. Belgium's Foreign Minister Didier Reynders now welcomed the ECJ decision and the legal certainty it brings.

The judges stated that the creation of dispute resolution tribunals under international agreements was in principle compatible with ***EU law.*** However, as they were outside the ***EU*** legal system, they could not be competent to interpret ***European*** law, but only the rules laid down in the respective agreement. Ceta also contains provisions according to which the arbitral tribunal does not have the right to question democratically reached decisions in the ***EU*** or Canada. This applies in particular to consumer protection. Moreover, access to this court is not only guaranteed for financially strong investors, but also for small and medium-sized enterprises, the judges explained.

The Federation of German Industries (BDI) welcomed the decision. The ***EU*** has the urgent task of enforcing modern investment protection with other third countries as well," said Stefan Mair, member of the board. The trade expert of the environmental organisation Greenpeace, Jürgen Knirsch, criticised the ECJ opinion: 'This will allow companies to bypass national and ***EU courts in the*** future'.

**Comment**

**The Belgian region of Wallonia had spoken out against the pact with Canada until the very end**

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject:** COURTS OF THE ***EUROPEAN*** UNION (99%); INSTITUTIONS OF THE ***EUROPEAN UNION (***92%); ***EUROPEAN UNION (***91%); COURTS OF JUSTICE (91%); TRADE AGREEMENTS (91%); INTERNATIONAL COURTS & TRIBUNALS (91%); TRADE PROMOTION (90%); JUDGES (90%); EU REGULATION (78%); ***EUROPEAN LAW (78%)***; COURT DECISIONS & ORDERS (78%); INTERNATIONAL TRADE TRIBUNALS (78%); CONSUMER PROTECTION LAW (78%); FREE TRADE AGREEMENTS (77%); NATURE AND ANIMAL PROTECTION ORGANISATIONS (77%); ENVIRONMENTAL DIRECTIVES AND REGULATIONS (69%); CONSUMER PROTECTION (68%); SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED ENTERPRISES (61%); ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION (60%)

**Geographic:** BRUSSELS, BELGIUM (73%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (95%); BRUSSELS CAPITAL REGION (92%); WALLONIA, BELGIUM (90%); CANADA (94%); BELGIUM (92%); ***EUROPE (***90%); SINGAPORE (79%); VIETNAM (79%); LUXEMBOURG (78%).

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[***No to nationalists and populists; Speakers at the well-attended May Day rally in the Lindenkeller emphasise the importance of the upcoming European electionsbut demand the elimination of deficits such as wage dumping and fixed-term employment contracts.***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5W17-1M81-F10G-K0D6-00000-00&context=)

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**Section:** Freising; Freising; p. 10

**Length:** 698 words

**Byline:** BY JOHANN KIRCHBERGER

**Body**

**Freising** - At the well-attended May Day rally in the Lindenkeller, which was musically accompanied by the rock cabaret "Die Ruam", DGB District Chair Guido Hoyer spoke out in favour of a just ***Europe based on*** solidarity, against social cuts and right-wing agitation. The DGB's motto for 1 May - "***Europe***. But now the right way' - showed that a lot was going wrong in ***Europe*** at the moment, said Hoyer. For example, in half of the member states there was no co-determination in companies, youth unemployment was alarmingly high, dumping wages were being paid and every possible trick was being played with working hours. Many people are turning away from this neo-liberal ***Europe*** and falling into the arms of right-wing pied pipers. A fundamental change of course is therefore necessary.

Deputy District Administrator Robert Scholz emphasised the "unifying project" of ***Europe***, which guarantees freedom, democracy and peace. Scholz defended the often-criticised ***Europe-wide*** invitations to tender for public contracts. He said that these did not bring any disadvantages and were not a great additional expense. ***Europe*** means diversity "and that is why it is worth voting". Eva Bönig, Freising's second mayor, also emphasised the importance of ***Europe***. We are all ***Europe***', she said, which is why people have to stand up against nationalists and populists. It is not enough to hope for a better future in the privacy of one's own home, "we must defend this ***Europe*** together and take to the streets for a ***Europe of*** solidarity and justice".

The main speaker in the Lindenkeller was the trade union education officer Wolfgang Veiglhuber, who made a historical excursion into the 1 May movement and explained the hostility of the right towards the trade unions. May Day remains important, he called out to all sceptics. What was needed was joint action by the trade unions in ***Europe***, he said, advocating a strengthening of collective bargaining policy and calling for more democracy and more rights for the ***European*** Parliament. What was needed was a fundamental change in ***European*** politics, Veiglhuber said, in the ***EU Parliament*** not the interests of the countries but those of the workers had to be bundled.

Veiglhuber also criticised himself. It is "dramatic" when in Bavaria only 13 per cent of the workers are organised in trade unions and only 33 per cent of them vote for the SPD, the Left or the Greens. The DGB must activate its members, be more visible again and show "that we are an unruly organisation".

Hoyer defended the minimum wage and spoke out strongly against temporary jobs. Hoyer said that the Grand Coalition's idea of restricting the 'objective-free' limitation of employment contracts was all very well, but that such limitations should not be restricted, but banned. Hoyer was also critical of the fact that more and more employers were "indulging in the fun of tariff evasion". This leads to worse working conditions and lower wages. At present, only 53 per cent of employees in Bavaria were paid according to collective agreements, compared to 83 per cent 20 years ago. This wage evasion must stop", he said and demanded a law on the awarding of collective wage contracts. In order to prevent wage dumping, at least in public contracts, only companies that pay their workers according to collective agreements should be considered by the state. Eva Bönig said that nobody could live on the minimum wage. Preventing the payment of the minimum wage is a crime.

The speakers agreed that something had to be done against land speculation and against rent-seeking. Some people are making more and more profit, others can no longer afford their flats," Hoyer said. Leaving everything to the free market does not work. Investors wanted to make a profit and not build affordable housing. Robert Scholz also spoke out against land speculation. In the meantime, speculation had reached "alarming proportions, even in our country".

**We must take to the streets for a *Europe of* solidarity and justice', demands Eva Bönig.**

**Graphic**

Trade union education officer Wolfgang Veiglhuber called for more democracy and rights for the ***European*** Parliament at the May Day rally in Freising's Lindenkeller. Photo: Marco Einfeldt

**Classification**

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**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

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**Organization: *EUROPEAN*** UNION (94%)

**Geographic: *EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (92%); BAVARIA, GERMANY (74%); ***EUROPE*** (96%)

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[***Clean solutions; The whole world is talking about a price on carbon dioxide to make climate protection economically attractive. But how can such a surcharge be levied? And without overburdening the socially disadvantaged? There are ideas for this***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5W17-1M81-F10G-K18V-00000-00&context=)

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

**Length:** 1155 words

**Byline:** BY MICHAEL BAUCHMÜLLER

**Body**

**Berlin** - Suddenly it is there, the price on carbon dioxide - at least in the political debate. The Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor have addressed the issue at citizens' dialogues these days, both still with quiet doubts. She does not want a tax on CO[Subscript 2], Angela Merkel explained in Schwedt, a refinery site. My approach is to go for certificates'. And in Erfurt, Olaf Scholz, vice-chancellor and, as finance minister, responsible for all kinds of taxes, said: There are many proposals, but none that is convincing. Above all, the project should not lead to 'a real additional burden on the people'. But how could it be done? An overview.

**Why even have a**

**CO[Subscript 2] Price?**

Behind this is an idea of economists: what harms the environment should become more expensive, what benefits it should become cheaper. Germany is lagging behind the climate targets, especially in transport and buildings. If energy sources such as heating oil, petrol or natural gas were to become more expensive, this could motivate consumers and the economy to change course: They could install more economical heating systems, swap their cars for local transport more often or buy a more fuel-efficient car. Moreover, such a price can be easily collected directly from mineral oil dealers, natural gas suppliers or petrol station operators. It is known how much carbon dioxide is produced when a litre of oil, gas or petrol is burnt. But how do you levy such a price?

**Option 1: A tax**

**on carbon dioxide**

So far, German energy taxes have been rather unsystematic. At present, light heating oil, for example, is taxed at a much lower rate than the more climate-friendly gas. Coal is taxed particularly favourably. This could be changed if taxes were recalculated according to the respective CO[Subscript 2] emissions. In this way, it would no longer be the litre of heating oil or the cubic metre of gas that would be taxed, but the associated emissions. If CO[subscript 2] emissions are to be priced quickly, this is the only realistic way,' says Patrick Graichen of the Berlin think tank Agora Energiewende. The starting point would be an imaginary price per tonne of carbon dioxide, which would then be extrapolated to fuel and heating. Of course, this price would have to be high enough to provide an incentive to switch to more economical cars or heating systems,' says Graichen.

**Option 2: A trade**

**with certificates**

That is the idea that Merkel would obviously prefer. A model for this already exists, in the ***EU***. Since 2005, power plants and factories here have had to trade emission rights. It works like this: The ***EU*** sets a maximum amount of emissions that melts away from year to year. Certificates are only available for this amount. This creates an artificial scarcity that causes the price of emission rights to rise bit by bit. This makes it economically attractive to reduce CO[Subscript 2] emissions.

Such a trade could also be set up nationally for the transport and heating sectors," says Ottmar Edenhofer, head of the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research. In that case, there would also be national caps for their emissions, which would be derived from the local climate targets. Oil traders, petrol stations and gas suppliers would have to purchase the corresponding certificates if they wanted to sell fossil energy. At the moment we are still calculating whether this would be more advantageous than a tax,' says Edenhofer, who is currently examining options for CO[Subscript 2] pricing on behalf of the Chancellor's Office.

**Results in a national**

**Price sense?**

Currently, there are already a number of national CO[Subscript 2] prices. Great Britain has introduced a minimum price for emission rights in the electricity sector, France and Sweden CO[Subscript 2] surcharges on existing energy taxes, Switzerland a CO[Subscript 2] levy on heating oil and natural gas. On top of that, a ***European*** solution, such as an extension of the existing emissions trading system, would take years to implement. Perhaps this is also what some of those who are now arguing for a ***European*** solution have in mind. It is much more important that we fulfil our obligations within the ***EU,***" says climate economist Edenhofer. The ***European*** rules provide the framework for a German CO[Subscript 2] price.' After all, they also prescribe greenhouse gas caps for each member state. However, different states could cooperate on the CO[Subscript 2] price. France and the Netherlands have already indicated a willingness to do so.

**How high would such**

**be a prize?**

The level of the price ultimately determines whether it works for the climate. In a statement for the Environment Committee, for example, the association 'CO[Subscript 2] Levy' proposes a starting price of 40 ***euros*** per tonne of carbon dioxide, which increases by five ***euros*** a year - up to a price of 190 ***euros***. The later the start, the higher the starting level should be,' writes the association. You don't even need to start with a low price," says Agora's Graichen. At 20 ***euros,*** the difference at the petrol station is less than between Sunday evening and Monday morning. He proposes 50 ***euros*** per tonne - and a mechanism based on the Swiss model: there, the price rises if climate targets are missed.

**What happens to**

**the income?**

With a CO[Subscript 2] price of 50 ***euros,*** 15 billion ***euros*** can quickly add up - raised also from commuters or tenants who have to turn over every cent twice. In France, this was one of the issues that sparked the protests of the yellow waistcoats. This is why Scholz is also calling for a revenue-neutral solution: what the state takes in, it should give back to the citizens. There are many possibilities.

In Switzerland, for example, the CO[Subscript 2] surcharge on heating fuels is largely distributed to the citizens. This year, every Swiss citizen will receive 76.80 Swiss francs, the equivalent of 67 ***euros*** - and really per capita. The advantage: poorer families who heat smaller living spaces and drive smaller cars get back more than they paid in. For richer families it is the other way round. It would also be conceivable to lower the electricity tax or the eco-electricity levy. After all, everyone uses electricity. All citizens would be relieved, and climate-friendly alternatives such as the e-car or the heat pump would be favoured. And finally, the state could also grant subsidies from the revenue, for example to enable commuters to use a fuel-efficient car. A mix of different relief measures would also be conceivable.

Whatever politics does, it must justify what it does with the money," says Edenhofer. If, in the end, we succeed in creating a credible mechanism, and if we create a social compensation for the CO[Subscript 2] price, for example by lowering the electricity tax, then we need not worry about the yellow waistcoats.

**Graphic**

Up to now, heating oil that is refuelled here has been taxed at a much lower rate than more climate-friendly gas. That could soon change. Photo: Hauke-Christian Dittrich/dpa

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject:** POLITICS (90%); POLITICAL DEBATES (90%); PRICES (90%); TAXES & TAXATION (90%); ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION (90%); CAR EMISSIONS (89%); GERMAN CHANCELLORS (89%); EMISSIONS (89%); EMISSION RIGHTS (89%); ***EUROPEAN UNION*** (89%); ECOLOGICAL FOOTPRINT (78%); PETROLEUM TAX (77%); EXCISE TAX (77%); ECONOMICS (76%); EXECUTIVES (66%); RESEARCH INSTITUTES (61%)

**Industry:** NATURAL GAS (90%); NATURAL GAS PRODUCTS (90%); VEHICLE FUELS (90%); HEATING OIL (90%); CAR EXHAUSTS (89%); EMISSIONS (89%); EMISSION RIGHTS (89%); VEHICLE TRAFFIC (88%); PETROL (78%); PETROL STATIONS (78%); PETROLEUM TAX (77%); PETROLEUM REFINERIES (76%); NATURAL GAS DISTRIBUTION (67%).

**Person:** ANGELA MERKEL (90%)

**Geographic:** ERFURT, GERMANY (79%); BERLIN, GERMANY (73%); POTSDAM, GERMANY (57%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (88%); THURINGIA, GERMANY (79%); GERMANY (79%).

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

**End of Document**

[***For a more social EuropeHundreds of thousands attend Labour Day rallies***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5W17-1M81-F10G-K163-00000-00&context=)

Süddeutsche Zeitung

Thursday 2 May 2019

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

**Length:** 497 words

**Byline:** DPA/REUTERS

**Body**

**Leipzig/Hamburg** - On Labour Day, the trade unions warned of increasing wage evasion and also want to make the public sector more accountable. The federal, state and local governments should only award their contracts to companies that pay collectively agreed wages, demanded leading trade union representatives at several rallies on Wednesday. Tens of thousands of people took to the streets at demonstrations organised by the Confederation of German Trade Unions (DGB). The protests remained largely peaceful until late in the evening.

Traditionally, the labour and trade union movement mobilises on 1 May for better working conditions and higher wages. Labour Day has been celebrated for almost 130 years. In Germany, there were mass demonstrations for the first time on 1 May 1890. This year, according to the DGB, 381,500 people took part in the 481 events nationwide. In several cities there were also protests against appearances by right-wing extremist or right-wing populist groups.

Just four weeks before the elections to the ***European*** Parliament, the rallies were held under the motto '***Europe***. But now the right way'. DGB leader Reiner Hoffmann called for a more social ***Europe*** that would offer its citizens protection and security and create better living conditions. Verdi leader Frank Bsirske also called for participation in what he sees as a landmark election. Climate change, financial crises, refugee movements, terrorism and international trade conflicts require more cooperation, he said in Hamburg.

The content of the rallies was shaped by digitalisation in many companies and the dwindling importance of collective agreements. Hoffmann warned that digitalisation, globalisation and climate change would rapidly change the world of work. We must not leave this structural change to the markets and companies alone. This would require financial leeway for public investments.

In Berlin and Hamburg, radical left-wing groups had called for 'Revolutionary May Day Demonstrations' for the evening. The situation in Berlin remained largely peaceful until late in the evening. At the traditional 'Revolutionary May Day' demonstration with around 5,000 participants, there were isolated incidents of bottles being thrown at police officers and scuffles. The police were nevertheless satisfied and spoke of a day without major incidents. Several people were temporarily arrested.

Rioting broke out again in Paris. On the fringes of a trade union rally in the south of the capital, militants threw stones and other objects at the security forces, who used tear gas and stun grenades, French media reported. By evening, at least 330 people had been arrested and at least 220 were taken into police custody, according to the BFMTV channel, which cited the authorities. At least 38 people were injured.

**At least until late evening, the protests remained largely peaceful**

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject:** TRADE UNIONS (92%); WAGES & SALARIES (90%); PUBLIC POLICY (90%); PROTESTS & DEMONSTRATIONS (89%); ARRESTS (85%); ***EUROPEAN UNION*** (78%); LAWS ON WAGES & SALARIES (78%); LEGISLATIVE BODIES (78%); GLOBALISATION (78%); POLITICS (78%); ELECTIONS (78%); RIOTS (77%); RACISM & XENOPHOBIA (76%); CITIES (74%); NEGATIVE NEWS ABOUT PEOPLE (73%); VOTERS & ELECTIONS (73%); TERRORISM (71%); INSTITUTIONS OF THE ***EUROPEAN*** UNION (68%); ELECTIONS & CAMPAIGNS (68%); ECONOMIC CRISIS (66%); TRADE DISPUTES (51%)

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

**Geographic:** HAMBURG, GERMANY (90%); PARIS, FRANCE (79%); BERLIN, GERMANY (73%); LEIPZIG, GERMANY (58%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (79%); ÎLE-DE-FRANCE, FRANCE (50%); ***EUROPE (***94%); FRANCE (79%); GERMANY (59%).

**Load-Date:** May 3, 2019

**End of Document**

[***A lieutenant colonel for danger prevention; No less than three Bavarian AfD politicians could enter the EUThe top candidate is former soldier and diplomat Bernhard Zimniok. In the election campaign, he is relying on the tried and tested issues of refugees and Islam - but it is questionable whether they will catch on again in this vote.***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5W17-1M81-F10G-K1F4-00000-00&context=)

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**Section:** Bavaria; Munich West; Bavaria Region; p. 19

**Length:** 1106 words

**Byline:** BY JOHANN OSEL

**Body**

**Munich** - When asked, Bernhard Zimniok shows the blue booklet, his diplomatic passport. It shows a man with a moustache, a kind of souvenir for the man with the short grey hair, who is now one or two decades older. Zimniok, 65, studied communications engineering, is a retired lieutenant colonel and worked for several years at the German embassies in Syria and Pakistan, as an adviser, "Legationsrat 1. Klasse". Now he is the top candidate of the Bavarian AfD in the ***European elections***, fifth on the nationwide list. Shamelessly, Zimniok is annoyed, political opponents have already questioned his career, which is why he shows his passport when requested. However, the Foreign Office confirms the career when asked by the SZ.

When Zimniok talks about his missions, he comes across a bit like a retired geography teacher, especially when you are shown photos to accompany an interview: a marriage market in a Pakistani village, a weapons forge, cockfights - or of Babo the monkey he was looking after at the time. If you talk to him for a longer time, negative memories dominate; and that is where his views on Islam and migration come from. In principle, we are transporting a world view into the country that is not compatible with our society, in which everyone wants to and can realise themselves," says the AfD candidate. And: "Strategically, uncontrolled migration is a threat to ***Europe***.

With him, the AfD can play on its core issue: Refugees. The Bavarian parliamentary group leader Katrin Ebner-Steiner congratulated Zimniok on his "realistic picture of the people, the different cultures and political problems in the world" after he had achieved a good position in the list in Magdeburg. On the net, Bavarian AfD people are also currently invoking a 'fateful election'. There are several reasons for this: Firstly, they have to come to terms with the setback they experienced in the state elections; only ten percent, leading representatives had been aiming for 20 percent. The quarrel in the state parliamentary group has hardly improved the mood since then. Secondly, however, the ***pan-European*** right-wing populist front, which is forming with the Lega of the Italian Matteo Salvini, among others, offers a new faction perspective. Thirdly, the Bavarians have to make up for the ***EU election in*** 2014, when none of the parties in the Free State (at that time mainly ***critical of*** the ***euro***) managed to get into parliament. This time, even three Bavarians could succeed, besides Zimniok from Munich, Markus Buchheit (seventh place, Munich) and Sylvia Limmer (ninth place, Bayreuth). Now the election campaign has started for Zimniok, all the speeches and morning pauses in district associations. In May, he will speak together with Björn Höcke from Thuringia at the 'southern German wing meeting' in Greding. There is apparently no fear of contact with the far-right camp, even though Zimniok says he does not belong to any party tendency.

He joined the AfD in 2015. At Munich Central Station, he saw refugees throwing away beer cans and a poor pensioner collecting them. That was his 'key moment'. Sometimes he also reported another 'key moment': when he and his wife were harassed by foreign louts while shopping; perhaps there are two key moments. In any case, before that, he had taken a noncommittal look at parties here and there, even at Pegida - the AfD then convinced him.

Zimniok, who was born in Upper Palatinate, was already a candidate in the 2017 federal election, but was unsuccessful; he decided not to run in the state election, saying that regional issues were not his focus, but foreign, defence and security policy. And Islam: Zimniok can speak for hours on the subject, but he has now "streamlined" the main lecture to one and a half hours. He does not believe "that you can develop a ***Euro-Islam, the*** religion does not allow for that". Germany is threatened by Islamisation: If only a few percent of the newcomers are militant Islamists whose defining element is Sharia law, that's enough to cause riots. That would be maybe 10,000 people, and then a group dynamic can quickly develop.' In Pakistan, he said, he had 'physically experienced' how 'hundreds of angry people can be brought to the village square in five minutes. They say: someone has insulted Muhammad and there are riots'. In the AfD, they eagerly take up such descriptions.

He pleads for border protection and deportation, he wants to 'dismantle incentive systems, no 24-hour welfare state, stop the rolling train'. The soldier often comes through in his speeches: "Worst-case scenario", "robust enforcement", "danger prevention", "pushing back Islam". The hard word suits him better than the easy one. At the political Ash Wednesday in Lower Bavaria, he was presented to a larger audience for the first time. But the attempt to joke did not work. Slogans like 'Merkelland is burnt down', an aping of migrant youth slang, sentences about refugees in carnival who 'cut off heads' instead of ties - these were laughed at, not laughed at. Zimniok says that he "might sometimes throw out a provocative sentence, for temporary attention". During the list election in Magdeburg, he said, alluding to a quote by Gloria von Thurn und Taxis: "The African just likes to snack". With this, he said, he simply wanted to draw attention to the population development in Africa.

No matter how the election campaign goes, Zimniok is probably safe in parliament. At the same time, however, there are problems with the vote-catching process. We can't really get our people out on the streets any more," complains an AfD man from Lower Bavaria, who is used to something different from previous election campaigns. The third election year in a row is 'exhausting', the refugee issue no longer concerns the grassroots. More so on Facebook, where AfDers post almost every crime committed by migrants from Flensburg to Lake Constance with the call that they could 'change that on 26 May'.

Another sensitive issue for AfD campaigners is the "Dexit" question. Citizens have the drama in Great Britain in front of their eyes, which puts a party that is considering Germany's ***exit from the EU*** in need of explanation. Zimniok is confronted with this at meetings. When he formulates his opinion, it sounds acrobatic: "If the ***EU*** cannot be fundamentally reformed in the coming years, then - and only then - the AfD's ***European election manifesto*** calls for an exit as the last consequence.

**A German *exit from the EU*? This question could still become tricky for the AfD**

**Graphic**

AfD politician Bernhard Zimniok once travelled to Damascus and Islamabad for work. In Germany, he warns against 'Islamisation'. Photo: Toni Heigl

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**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject:** LEGISLATIVE BODIES (90%); POLITICS (90%); POLITICAL CANDIDATES (90%); PASSPORTS & VISAS (90%); VOTERS & ELECTIONS (90%); GERMAN STATE PARLIAMENTS (89%); ***EUROPEAN UNION*** (89%); ELECTIONS (89%); ELECTIONS & ELECTION CAMPAIGNS (89%); FOREIGN OFFICES & DIPLOMATIC SERVICES (78%); INTERVIEWS (78%); DIPLOMATIC SERVICES (76%)

**Organisation: *EUROPEAN*** PARLIAMENT (84%); ***EUROPEAN*** UNION (54%)

**Industry:** Passports & VISA (90%)

**Geographic:** MAGDEBURG, GERMANY (57%); BAVARIA, GERMANY (90%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (90%); THURINGIA, GERMANY (58%); ***EUROPE (***90%); SYRIA (79%); PAKISTAN (72%).

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

**End of Document**

[***Against the "Alliance of the Sedentary"; Many people follow the call of the alliance "Bunt statt Braun" and demonstrate in Eichenried against the AfD. Meanwhile, prominent speakers of the right-wing party make the audience in the hall jeer with crude and dull statements.***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5W17-1M81-F10G-K08S-00000-00&context=)

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Thursday 2 May 2019

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

**Length:** 923 words

**Byline:** BY PHILIPP BOVERMANN

**Body**

**Eichenried** - A painting of a roaring deer hangs in front of the entrance to the large hall of the "Stangl" inn. On this Monday evening, it can be seen as an indication of the event, because today the AfD is roaring its theses on the ***European elections into the*** microphones. A man who has mastered the right-wing party's interplay of staging - one moment the proud twelve-footer, the next the hunted deer - has been announced in a big way: Alexander Gauland.

In his speech against the 'agents of globalisation', Gauland will call for an 'alliance of the sedentary'. In addition to these 'sedentarists' - who are sitting inside having a wheat beer and listening to how their ancestral rights are allegedly being stolen from them - about 250 counter-demonstrators have come to Eichenried this evening, according to the police. They stand outside the Stanglwirt in the rain, on the other side of the B 388 federal road that runs alongside the inn. Again and again, passing motorists honk their horns to show their solidarity, whereupon cheers break out each time in the colourful wall of umbrellas.

The sedentary people with the blue AfD caps, who went out for a smoke, stare darkly at the crowd that greeted them with whistles. Some are filming the counter-demonstrators, probably to signal: we'll remember you. A man in green plastic trousers and a green hat breaks away from the group at the inn, crosses the street and heads for Helga Stieglmeier of the Erdinger Greens, who is standing with a megaphone in front of the "Bunt statt braun" banner. It happens very quickly: Suddenly there is a commotion in the crowd, police officers pull the man away.

The police report is running, says Stieglmeier, when the situation has calmed down. It was not the only one that day. The police will later report criminal charges of assault, insult and coercion. Stieglmeier can hardly be heard during the demonstration because a loudspeaker is blaring "Die Internationale", the battle song of the international workers' movement. And this in Eichenried is also a first, says the Green Party leader. Her wet hair hangs down her face, but she is beaming. The mayor of Moosinningen, Pamela Kruppa from the CSU, had come by earlier and thanked her for her commitment.

Inside the inn, the large hall is packed. The police estimate the number of participants at 350, and the speeches are broadcast live into the normal guest room. The mood in the hall is exuberant. There was a standing ovation when the AfD district chairman Wolfgang Kellermann surprisingly announced Gottfried Curio, a member of the Bundestag. In his speeches, Curio likes to use terms like "degenerate" or fantasises about a "right of the knife" on the streets. This has made him enthusiastic fans within the AfD. For many, he is the main attraction of the evening.

But Gauland is the first to speak. He chooses a 16-year-old girl as the target for his mockery: Greta Thunberg, the Swedish climate activist, had been "built up in a professional campaign to become a young saviour" for the "climate religion". Of course, the AfD rejects this, it's all a big conspiracy, but Gauland nevertheless presents a solution to the problem that is supposedly not one: 'If you really wanted to make climate policy in the sense of the Greens, you would first have to fight the population explosion in Africa and Asia'. That is pure Gauland. He is not concerned that his statements make sense, but that they have a dull effect.

Katrin Ebner-Steiner, the parliamentary group leader in the Bavarian state parliament, takes over after him. She speaks about the "Bavarian special path" of the AfD. Unlike in the socialist-influenced east of Germany, rural structures had anchored the "idea of competition" in the Bavarian population. The 'Liberalitas Bavariae', which Ebner-Steiner crudely reinterprets as neoliberal, is now threatened and with it the entire Bavarian way of life: the Bavarian dialect, Bavarian independence and tradition, even the Bavarian holidays, 'of course also the beer' and the Oktoberfest. Ebner-Steiner does not say a word about the disputes within the AfD parliamentary group.

Then it is Bernhard Zimniok's turn. The Bavarian candidate for the ***European elections introduces*** himself with the announcement that 'those who don't know me will get to know me'. He was married - "to a woman" - and a "convinced diesel driver", for which he received much applause. He also knows a lot about development policy, Islam and terrorism because he used to work in Africa. When he announced that he would try to get into the ***EU Parliament***'s terrorism committee and fight for the Antifa to be declared a terrorist organisation, the hall cheered enthusiastically. Someone waves a German flag. This is "applied populism", remarks Kellermann, the district leader, appreciatively.

Finally, Gottfried Curio, a member of the Bundestag, is allowed to unfold long and wide contexts of fear. The ***EU*** is a 'dangerous would-be regime' that is engaged in the 'planned exploitation of the Germans'. He compares it to a wild flat-sharing community, "where everyone helps themselves to the fridge, but no one feels like taking out the rubbish". What exactly he means by 'rubbish' he leaves to the imagination of his listeners.

**Police take up criminal charges for assault, insult and coercion**

**Graphic**

The alliance 'Bunt statt Braun' had called for a counter-demonstration. About 250 people protested against the event in pouring rain. Pegida activist Michael Stürzenberger reported for an Islamophobic online medium from Eichenried, Helga Stieglmeier answered him through a megaphone (left). The hall at the Stanglwirt was packed. At least 350 listeners had come to see Alexander Gauland (right) and other AfD politicians live. Photos: Renate Schmidt

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject:** POLITICS (89%); GERMAN POLITICAL PARTIES (88%); NEGATIVE NEWS ABOUT PEOPLE (77%); GLOBALISATION (75%); ENVIRONMENTAL MOVEMENT (75%); GERMAN PARLIAMENT (73%); ELECTIONS (72%); ELECTIONS & CAMPAIGNS (72%); VOTERS & ELECTIONS (72%); MAYORS (65%)

**Company:** ALLIANZ SE (58%); OJSC MEGAFON (54%)

**Ticker:** ALV (FRA) (58%); ALV (BIT) (58%); MFON (RTS) (54%); MFON (LSE) (54%)

**Industry:** NAICS524126 DIRECT PROPERTY & CASUALTY INSURANCE CARRIERS (58%); NAICS524113 DIRECT LIFE INSURANCE CARRIERS (58%); NAICS523920 PORTFOLIO MANAGEMENT (58%); NAICS517312 WIRELESS TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIERS (EXCEPT SATELLITE) (54%); NAICS517311 WIRED TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIERS (54%); SIC4812 RADIOTELEPHONE COMMUNICATIONS (54%); PUBS (90%); TELECOMMUNICATIONS (90%)

**Geographic:** SWEDEN (79%)

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

**End of Document**

[***Thousands turn out for May Day demonstration; DGB trade union confederation criticises state government***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5W17-1M81-F10G-K1GK-00000-00&context=)

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**Section:** Munich; Munich West; Bavaria Region; p. 3

**Length:** 384 words

**Byline:** LINUS FREYMARK

**Body**

The President of the German Trade Union Confederation (DGB) in Bavaria, Matthias Jena, sharply criticised the Bavarian state government in his speech at the Labour Day demonstration of the trade unions on 1 May at Marienplatz. Jena accused the coalition of CSU and Free Voters of being a 'black-orange hole' for workers in Munich and Bavaria. He said that the state government was not sticking to the goals it had set itself for the protection of workers, but that its policies would contribute to loosening already existing legal regulations on the minimum wage, thus causing the gap between rich and poor to widen. He called for a different tax policy to counter this development and to be able to push ahead with projects such as social housing.

The organisers had expected 4,000 protesters in advance, but according to the DGB, around 5,500 demonstrators actually gathered on Marienplatz. The police estimated the number of participants at around 4800. At around ten o'clock, the demonstration started in front of the DGB building on Schwanthalerstraße, then the participants marched with chants and loud drumming along Sonnenstraße, Sendlinger Tor and Oberanger to the rally on Marienplatz. There, in addition to Jena, Mayor Dieter Reiter (SPD) also spoke. Reiter stressed that 250,000 people in Munich still live below the poverty line and promised that the city leadership would continue to pursue the goal of reducing this number: "Politicians cannot be satisfied with this, and they will not be!

In view of the upcoming ***European elections,*** both Reiter and Jena made clear the importance of a united continent in solving global challenges. The ***EU*** brings many advantages for workers and ensures the preservation of jobs, said Jena. He urged the demonstrators to vote in the ***European elections*** on 26 May. Every year on 1 May, trade unions hold events in the city centre to demonstrate for fair working conditions on Labour Day. This year's event was held under the slogan '***Europe***. Do it right now!

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject:** PROTESTS & DEMONSTRATIONS (91%); GERMAN POLITICAL PARTIES (90%); TRADE UNIONS (90%); POLITICS (90%); POLITICAL PARTIES (90%); VOTERS & ELECTIONS (89%); EVENTS CALENDAR (78%); ELECTIONS (77%); POOR POPULATION (76%); ELECTIONS & CAMPAIGNS (76%); POVERTY & HOMELESSNESS (75%); MINIMUM WAGE (73%); MAYORS (71%); ***EUROPEAN UNION (70%);*** TAXES & TAXATION (54%)

**Industry:** CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY (78%)

**Geographic:** JENA. GERMANY (92%); BAVARIA, GERMANY (90%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (79%); ***EUROPE*** (79%)

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

**End of Document**

[***Front page***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5W18-1PD1-JBK9-202G-00000-00&context=)

Bild

Thursday 2 May 2019

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**Section:** Title page; p. 1; issue 101

**Length:** 160 words

**Body**

London - Assange sentenced

The founder of the Wikileaks disclosure platform, Julian Assange (47), has been sentenced to 50 weeks in prison for violating his bail conditions in the UK.

Tel Aviv - Anti-Semitic violence on the rise

The number of anti-Semitic acts of violence worldwide has increased significantly, according to a study by Tel Aviv University. According to the study, 387 serious cases were registered last year (2017: 342 cases).

Brussels - ***EU*** against Romania

After the relaxation of the criminal law on corruption in Romania, the ***EU Commission*** announced countermeasures. What exactly is planned remained open at first.

Berlin - More children in foster care

According to the Federal Government, the number of children in foster families has increased significantly. It increased from 60,000 in 2008 to more than 81,000 in 2017.

Lotto - - Winning numbers

4, 16, 27, 31, 38, 47; Super Number: 6; Game 77: 4 5 5 1 9 9 8; Super 6: 5 6 2 5 6 0 (o. G.)

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** BIBU

**Subject:** ANTISEMITISM (90%); ***EUROPEAN UNION (90%);*** FAMILY (90%); RACISM & FEMINIMACY (90%); WHISTLEBLOWER (90%); WIKILEAKS CONTROVERSE (88%); CORRUPTION (73%); INSTITUTIONS OF THE ***EUROPEAN UNION*** (70%); POLITICS (70%)

**Person:** JULIAN ASSANGE (90%)

**Geographic:** TEL AVIV, ISRAEL (72%); LONDON, ENGLAND (59%); BRUSSELS, BELGIUM (55%); BERLIN, GERMANY (54%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (90%); BRUSSELS CAPITAL REGION (55%); ROMANIA (70%); UNITED KINGDOM (59%).

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

**End of Document**

[***ISLAMIC STATE; Greetings from the Hydra***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5W17-1M81-F10G-K15Y-00000-00&context=)

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

**Length:** 575 words

**Byline:** BY PAUL-ANTON KRÜGER

**Body**

Chancellor Angela Merkel's schedule has become macabrely topical this week. Hours before she received the new Iraqi Prime Minister Adil Abdel-Mahdi in Berlin, the Islamic State (IS) terrorist militia released a video that in all likelihood shows its leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, who had already been pronounced dead several times. It is the first clip since summer 2014, when al-Baghdadi proclaimed himself caliph from the pulpit of the Nuri Mosque in Mosul at the height of his power. So now again this spectacular sign of life at another turning point for IS.

Baghdadi may appear weakened, as does his organisation - neither is at the end of the line. Merkel will also hear this from the heads of state of those five countries in the Sahel zone whom she wanted to meet on Wednesday evening at the start of her trip to Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger. Despite the ***European-African*** peace mission in Mali with the participation of the German Armed Forces, despite international support, these states are suffering from more and more terror. Baghdadi explicitly praised attacks there. At the same time, important migration routes on the way to the Mediterranean pass through these states. What happens on the edge of the Sahara has a direct impact on ***Europe,*** just like the events in Syria and Iraq.

IS has suffered a devastating military defeat in Iraq and Syria and lost its proto-state, which at times was as big as Britain. Thousands of battle-hardened jihadists have now gone underground. Merkel said that no one assumes that IS has 'disappeared'. But President Donald Trump has ordered the withdrawal of US troops from Syria, is scaling back America's engagement, and ***Europe is*** making no move to take a stronger role.

Once before, when the IS predecessor organisation al-Qaida in Iraq was considered defeated in 2010, the jihadists showed the longer breath. They returned all the better organised and in all their brutality in 2014. Today, they are again finding hiding places in the desert along the Euphrates. If the military pressure subsides, all stability will be gone.

There are always similar problems that favour the rise of the jihadists: a weak central state that has lost control over entire regions, incompetent, corrupt governments, arbitrariness, a lack of rule of law and conflicts between religious and ethnic groups. The list could be continued. Above all, however, it applies not only to Syria or Libya, and to some extent to Iraq and also Egypt, but to almost all states in the Sahel all the way to the Horn of Africa. Jihadist groups, often with links to al-Qaeda, have established themselves in the Sahel since the civil war in Algeria, which, like Sudan, is currently being shaken by a popular uprising. Some have joined IS since 2015.

Followers of the caliph recently carried out the attacks in Sri Lanka. The ideology of IS is still unfolding appeal, the organisation is undergoing a metamorphosis into a many-headed hybrid: Underground organisation, globally active terror franchise network, radicalisation machine. The Islamic State has proven its mutability time and again. It would be foolish to underestimate it now.

**The terror network may have taken a beating, but it will come back again**

**Classification**

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**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject:** GERMAN CHANCELLORS (90%); ISLAMIC STATE IN IRAQ AND THE LEVANT (90%); HEADS OF STATE & GOVERNMENT (90%); CALENDAR OF EVENTS (90%); AL-QAIDA (89%); WAR & ARMED CONFLICT (89%); RELIGION & FAITH (89%); TERRORIST ATTACKS (89%); TERRORIST ORGANISATIONS (89%); PRESIDENTS (88%); ARMED FORCES (88%); ETHNICITY & ETHNICITY (78%); INSURGENCY & REBELLION (77%); IRAQ WAR (77%); PRIME MINISTER (77%); DESERTS (74%); ETHNIC GROUPS (73%); PEACEKEEPING (73%); RULE OF LAW (73%); CIVIL WAR (65%); POLITICAL CORRUPTION (50%)

**Organization: *EUROPEAN*** UNION (55%)

**Industry:** STRENGTHS (88%)

**Person:** ABU BAKR AL-BAGHDADI (94%); ANGELA MERKEL (88%); DONALD TRUMP (74%)

**Geographic:** BERLIN, GERMANY (58%); EAST AFRICA (79%); NORTH AMERICA (92%); IRAQ (90%); SYRIA (90%); AFRICA (87%); ALGERIA (73%); LIBYA (73%); SUDAN (73%); EGYPT (73%); ***EUROPE (***71%); MALI (71%); BURKINA FASO (58%); NIGER (58%); SRI LANKA (58%); UNITED KINGDOM (55%).

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

**End of Document**

[***Merkel promises help to Sahel countries***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5W17-1M81-F10G-K1CW-00000-00&context=)

Süddeutsche Zeitung

Thursday 2 May 2019

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

**Length:** 315 words

**Byline:** DPA

**Body**

**Berlin** - Chancellor Angela Merkel (CDU) has promised Burkina Faso and the states of the G5 Sahel regional organisation support in the fight against Islamist terrorism and for more stability. Burkina Faso is also facing great challenges in view of a population growth of three percent and the deteriorating security situation, Merkel said on Wednesday at the start of a three-day trip to West Africa after talks with President Roch Marc Kaboré in Ouagadougou, the capital of Burkina Faso. Besides Burkina Faso, the G5 group also includes Mali, Niger, Mauritania and Chad.

After the meeting with Kaboré, Merkel stressed that the unrest and deteriorating security situation also had a lot to do with the crisis in Libya and the developments in Sudan. Kaboré demanded a common stance from ***Europe to*** solve the crisis in Libya. The Libyan issue must be solved urgently, he said, otherwise the threat will be exacerbated, for example by arms smuggling into the region.

Germany stands by Burkina Faso in its cooperation in the security sector, Merkel said. However, the Chancellor continued to reject arms deliveries. She then discussed with all five presidents of the G5 Sahel regional organisation how the group's work could be made more effective. The main issue is the G5 anti-terrorist force, which is supposed to fight the growing Islamist terrorism in the region with up to 5,000 men. Experts consider their approach to be ineffective.

Germany will help Burkina Faso to expand the capacity of the police and the gendarmerie and provide about 10 million ***euros*** for their equipment, Merkel announced. The Federal Government is also offering advice from the Bundeswehr to the tune of 7 to 10 million ***euros,*** and initial negotiations on this have begun.

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject:** GERMAN CHANCELLORS (91%); GERMAN POLITICAL PARTIES (90%); POLITICS (90%); POLITICAL PARTIES (90%); HEADS OF STATE & GOVERNMENT (90%); TERRORISM (90%); PUBLIC POLICY (90%); SMUGGLING (77%); COUNTER-TERRORISM (77%); TALKS & MEETINGS (76%); POPULATION & DEMOGRAPHICS (73%); ILLEGAL WEAPONS (73%); POPULATION GROWTH (72%); PRESIDENTS OF STATE (71%)

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

**Person:** ANGELA MERKEL (92%)

**Geographic:** OUAGADOUGOU, BURKINA FASO (88%); BERLIN, GERMANY (58%); EAST AFRICA (79%); WEST AFRICA (79%); CENTRAL AFRICA (79%); BURKINA FASO (91%); LIBYA (90%); ***EUROPE (***79%); MAURETANIA (78%); SUDAN (78%); CHAD (78%); GERMANY (74%); NIGER (73%); MALI (58%).

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**End of Document**

[***Kurz in the picture; Austria's chancellor is 'unhappy' about the Wolf case***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5W17-1M81-F10G-K18J-00000-00&context=)

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Thursday 2 May 2019

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**Section:** Media; Munich; p. 15

**Length:** 266 words

**Byline:** LALSE/RPR

**Body**

It took Sebastian Kurz a while to find clearer words: 'Threats against journalists' have no place, Austria's chancellor said at a press conference on Wednesday. He was "unhappy" with the conflict between ORF presenter Armin Wolf and his coalition partner FPÖ. It was 'not good for the country'. But he did not want to make his coalition partner look so naked, as FPÖ leader Heinz-Christian Strache was standing next to him. Among journalists, too, things were 'getting tougher and tougher'. Those who praised the government were immediately attacked by their colleagues. The Chancellor saw this as a "problematic development" and said that more "pluralism" was needed.

The trigger for the upheavals was a studio discussion with the FPÖ's ***top European candidate***, Harald Vilimsky, who felt defamed. The FPÖ envoy to the ORF Foundation Council, Norbert Steger, then recommended that the ORF presenter take a sabbatical, while other party colleagues even demanded that he be thrown out. Strache tried to calm the waters somewhat at the press conference, saying that it was "a pity that the conflict situation has escalated so much", but criticised the Vilimsky interview. We can take criticism", and journalists also have to take criticism. But threats have no place here.

Kurz *ZiB2,* where it had all begun. Until then Kurz had not commented on the incident - and also in *ZiB2 it was* mainly about the tax reform, he did not say anything clear about the FPÖ and Wolf.

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject:** PRESS CONFERENCES (94%); AUSTRIAN FEDERAL CHANCELLORS (91%); POLITICAL PARTIES (90%); FREE PRESS (78%); FREE CANCELLATIONS (71%); TAXES & TAXATION (70%); TAX REFORMS (50%)

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

**Geographic:** AUSTRIA (73%); ***EUROPE*** (58%)

**Load-Date:** May 3, 2019

**End of Document**

[***More than a lesson; The European Parliament has fought for the rights of a fully-fledged parliament over the decades. The voters should use this***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5W4D-KNK1-JDHD-W089-00000-00&context=)

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Friday 17 May 2019

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**Section:** Opinion page; Munich; Bavaria; Germany; p. 5

**Length:** 1215 words

**Highlight:** By Christoph Vedder

**Body**

The ***European Union*** is only as capable of acting as its member states allow it to be. Those who are disappointed with the ***EU*** should therefore strengthen the ***European*** Parliament as the only directly democratically elected body in the power triangle of Commission, Council and Parliament. The ***EU*** shapes our lives, currently in areas such as data protection, consumer protection, social security, environmental protection, telecommunications - not to mention the rule of law and peace. It serves the interests of its citizens. It is not just symbolism when, since the Treaty of Lisbon, the ***EU Parliament is*** described as representing 'the citizens of the Union' and no longer 'the peoples'. Voting means having a say.

With 520 million inhabitants, the ***EU is*** the third largest political entity in the world. It has to master global challenges in competition with China, the USA and Russia. It exercises important competences delegated to it by the member states and therefore needs not only democratic legitimacy and control, but also political impetus and ideas - this is also a function of a parliament. A strong ***EU*** needs a self-confident Parliament.

The ***EU*** is democratically legitimised in two ways: directly through the parliament elected by the citizens; indirectly through the ministers from the member states working in the Council of Ministers, who in turn are indirectly legitimised - in Germany through the election to the Bundestag. The ***European Parliament*** and the Council work together on an equal footing in ***EU*** legislation: as a bicameral system as in many states.

The ***EU***'s system of government has become parliamentary. Since 2014, the President of the ***EU Commission*** has been elected by the Parliament, and the Commission as a whole then also requires the approval of the MEPs. Since 2014, the citizens have de facto indirectly elected the Commission President via "top candidates" - not much different from the Federal Chancellor in Germany. The heads of state and government are not bound by the election results when nominating the Commission President, but politically they can hardly disregard them.

So, contrary to some prejudices, the ***European Parliament*** is important - and too important for an election as a reminder. Since the first direct election 40 years ago, it has gained more and more powers. Since 2009, it has had an equal say with the Council in the "ordinary legislative procedure". In the ***EU***'s important tasks, no law is passed without the consent of the Parliament. Where such approval is not required, it 'gives its opinion'. Its opinions are not legally binding, but the other ***EU institutions*** cannot override them politically.

Even though ***MEPs*** are elected in the member states according to national quotas - 96 in Germany - the Parliament does not operate according to national groupings, but according to political groups in which parties with political affinities across states come together. There are currently nine political groups. The ***European*** People's Party and the Social Democrats together have an absolute majority so far - but probably not after the elections on 26 May. There will be coalitions. The Parliament is thus the place where ***European*** integration par excellence is lived.

For a long time now, the ***EU Parliament has*** no longer been a retreat for deserving old politicians, but a forum for ambitious ***European politicians***. From a 'consultative assembly' consisting of delegates from the national parliaments, it has emancipated itself into a fully-fledged parliament, a counterweight of the member states in the Council and a check on the Commission.

Every ***EU citizen*** has one vote in the ***European Parliament*** elections. However, each vote does not have an equal weight of success. A member of the EP elected in Germany represents around 855,000 citizens, while an MEP from Malta represents only 70,000, so the vote of a Maltese has greater weight. This is criticised time and again. However, an equal voting weight of all voters is not feasible at the ***European*** level. If one were to apply the Maltese representation factor to all member states, based on the current six MEPs from Malta, the ***European*** Parliament would have to grow to 7563 MEPs, 1260 of them from Germany. Even if Malta had only one MEP, the EP would no longer consist of 751, as it does today, but of 1262 members, 410 of them from Germany.

The number of ***MEPs*** per member state follows the principle of 'degressive proportionality'. It prevents MEPs from a few large Member States from gaining a majority. The minimum number of six MEPs per state also has the effect that those elected in small member states also represent the political spectrum of their country and not just the governing party. This basic decision and the need not to let the size of the ***EU Parliament get*** out of hand justify a restriction of electoral equality, which is also not guaranteed in the ***European*** Charter of Fundamental Rights. The ***EU Parliament is*** therefore not undemocratic, as is claimed.

If, however, an equal weighting of all votes were to be sought in the future, this could only be realised through a uniform ***European*** electoral law with ***European*** parties, transnational lists and cross-border constituencies. ***European elections*** according to a uniform electoral law in the EU, as originally envisaged in the ***EU treaties,*** have so far remained utopian.

***European elections*** are about what the ***EU*** can or should do. They are not a plebiscite on national governments or issues. This election campaign is also the wrong place for fundamental opposition to the ***EU.*** The ***European Parliament*** performs only ***European*** tasks. The British MEP Nigel Farage could do nothing for Brexit there. However, the 2019 ***European elections in*** the UK are understandably being turned into a vote on Brexit and the ruling political class.

After the Shakespearean drama performed in London, Brexit brings us another - legally inevitable - absurdity. The United Kingdom will take part in the ***European elections.*** However, depending on when the Brexit takes place, the MEPs thus elected will not even take up their mandate or they will still participate in the formation of the parliamentary group and the election of the Commission President and Commission, but will leave on the day of the Brexit, at the latest on 31 October 2019, the day before the new Commission takes office. The expected success of Farage's Brexit Party fizzles out, at least in ***Europe***.

Those who do not vote on 26 May, or who vote in protest, should not complain about the state of the ***EU.*** Those who want to critically improve something in it should not miss this opportunity. Voting means helping to shape it. And: ***Europe*** must turn back to its future.

Christoph Vedder, 71, taught as a professor of ***European***, international and public law in Augsburg.

**In the important tasks of the *EU,* MEPs co-determine all laws**

**The success of the British Brexit Party in the *European elections* will fizzle out in the end**

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**Subject: *EUROPEAN UNION*** (94%); LEGISLATIVE BODIES (92%); POLITICS (92%); INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORGANISATIONS (90%); PERMITS (89%); LEGISLATION (89%); POLITICAL PARTIES (89%); HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT (89%); INSTITUTIONS OF THE ***EUROPEAN*** UNION (78%); CONSUMER PROTECTION LAW (78%); POLITICAL CANDIDATES (77%); RULE OF LAW (77%); PRESIDENTS (77%); ELECTIONS (77%); VOTERS & ELECTIONS (76%); GERMAN PARLIAMENT (72%); CONSUMER PROTECTION (71%); ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION (56%)

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

**Industry:** TELECOMMUNICATION (72%)

**Geographic:** LISBON, PORTUGAL (79%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (95%); ***EUROPE*** (94%); GERMANY (89%); RUSSIAN FEDERATION (58%); CHINA (56%)

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**End of Document**

[***European Thought flights; weekend of events with extensive cultural programme to attract visitors to the EUelection***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5W4D-KNG1-JDHD-W4P9-00000-00&context=)

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**Section:** Freising; Freising; p. 9

**Length:** 518 words

**Byline:** BY KERSTIN VOGEL

**Body**

**Freising** - Only a little more than a week to go before the citizens of the ***European*** Union are called upon to elect their common parliament. The election campaign has long been in full swing in the district of Freising, too, and most politicians are concerned that the turnout might be too low.

In Eching, for example, seven parties and groups have organised an event to promote the election, in Hallbergmoos a joint election fair is also planned for Saturday, 18 May, on the town hall square, and the Mayor of Freising, Tobias Eschenbacher, is calling on people to take part in the election and make use of their democratic right to vote: ***Europe*** concerns us all! So let's all have a say in where the common path takes us! The town of Freising has several ***European*** town twinning arrangements, linking Freising with Arpajon (France), San Candido (South Tyrol), Maria Wörth, Obervellach and Waidhofen/Ybbs (all Austria) and Škofja Loka (Slovenia).

In addition to local politicians, several other local actors have recently been campaigning for the election of the ***EU Parliament.*** In a joint project entitled '***Europe Days*** in Freising', the two Freising cultural associations 'Kultur-gut!' and 'Modern Studio', the Kreisjugendring Freising, the Weihenstephan-Triesdorf University of Applied Sciences and the *Süddeutsche Zeitung newspaper are involved in a* small series of events on the ***European elections,*** which already set a first small highlight with the 'Fish Bowl Discussion' for young people in the youth centre last week.

This Saturday, 18 May, the two associations 'Kultur-gut!' and Modern Studio, in cooperation with the Kreisjugendring and the Süddeutsche Zeitung, will also be staging an installation called 'Gedankenflüge' (Thought Flights) in the form of banners in Freising's Amtsgerichtsgarten from 3 pm onwards. The opening will be addressed by Hubert Hierl, cultural advisor of the Freising city council, accompanied by the clarinet trio of the music school.

Finally, on Sunday, 19 May, a varied cultural programme on the theme of ***Europe will*** take place as an action of all partners at the Freising Schafhof, the ***European*** Artists' House of Upper Bavaria: There will be readings, dialogues between old and young, a photo exhibition by the Kreisjugendring and the Weihenstephan-Triesdorf University of Applied Sciences, poetry slam with the cultural prize winner of the district, Philipp Potthast, and lots of music - among others with the Vöttinger Chorgemeinschaft, Saxadonna, Lisa Fitzek, the Coro Latino, the clarinet quartet of the Freising Music School, the Frei-Sänger, the Abseits-Chor and Beleza.

At around 3 pm, Mayor Tobias Eschenbacher will address the organisers and the audience. The accompanying programme also includes a simulation game by the Kreisjugendring on the topic of ***Europe***, a guided art tour and a lecture on the topic of promoting gifted students. The Café Botanica team in the Schafhof will be providing catering.

The details of the programme can be found on the internet: [*www.kultur-gut-freising.de.*](http://www.kultur-gut-freising.de.)

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**Organisation: *EUROPEAN*** UNION (83%); ***EUROPEAN*** PARLIAMENT (55%)

**Industry:** FESTIVALS & ARTS EXHIBITIONS (76%); EXHIBITIONS (72%)

**Geographic: *EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (90%); BAVARIA, GERMANY (59%); TYROL, AUSTRIA (58%); ***EUROPE (***91%); SLOVENIA (79%); FRANCE (73%); AUSTRIA (58%).

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**End of Document**

[***Still in the spotlight; On the open stage the candidates for the office of the EUCommission President. After the election, however, this personnel issue will be dealt with behind the scenes.***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5W4D-KNK1-JDHD-W08V-00000-00&context=)

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

**Length:** 1211 words

**Byline:** BY LEILA AL-SERORI, MATTHIAS KOLB AND ALEXANDER MÜHLAUER

**Body**

**Brussels** - The plenary hall of the ***EU Parliament has*** never been seen so dressed up. On Wednesday evening, the heart of ***European*** democracy was transformed into a huge television studio. More than 50 broadcasters aired the debate with the six candidates for the ***European elections who*** want to succeed Jean-Claude Juncker as ***head of the EU Commission.*** The fact that the debate was only shown on Phoenix in Germany was probably due to the fact that Frans Timmermans and Manfred Weber were allowed to contest two extra duels on German television, one of them on Thursday on ZDF. The debate in Brussels was the only one in which all the leading candidates took part. Even though they all declared their support for the ***EU***, there were clear differences - not only in terms of content.

**Frans Timmermans**

More passion, more experience, more jokes: as in all debates of the past weeks, it quickly becomes clear that the Social Democrat from the Netherlands has done most of the campaigning. In the ***European Parliament, as in the*** ZDF studio, he appears statesmanlike in suit and tie - just as befits his office as First Vice-President of the ***EU Commission.*** The 58-year-old delivers the best line when he cites Brexit as a warning example of giving nationalists too much space: "Britain today is like Game of Thrones on steroids. Timmermans always calls for lowering the voting age to 16, more ambition in the fight against climate change and ***Europe-wide*** minimum wages. It is not only in Brussels that the ex-Foreign Minister is appreciated for his competence; his multilingualism flashed briefly during the debate when he answered the leftist Nico Cué in perfect French on Wednesday. His command of German is so good that he can compete with Weber on German television. There, they both plead for more support for Africa so that people have fewer reasons to make their way to ***Europe***. The conditions are unacceptable: "Every person who drowns in the Mediterranean leaves a scar on ***Europe's*** soul. Timmermans is committed to the Kilma policy: he wants to campaign for a ban on short-haul flights - from Frankfurt to Stuttgart, for example - and to invest more in the railways. The Dutchman remains an outsider, but his self-confidence has risen further.

**Manfred Weber**

Neither in the ZDF debate nor in Brussels does the man from Lower Bavaria wear a tie, his jacket is open. Manfred Weber, 46, top candidate of the ***European*** People's Party (EPP), presents himself as the good friend from next door and is nowhere near as eloquent and aggressive as Timmermans, with whom he has been on familiar terms for years - and whom he always addresses as "Frans" on ZDF. During the debate in the ***European Parliament,*** the CSU politician showed understanding and appealed to the others' ability to compromise. Weber will also need this when it comes to rallying a majority behind him after the ***European elections.*** He has a chance that the EPP will once again be the strongest group in the parliament. But this time he will have to forge a coalition with three or even four party families that would elect him Commission President. His programme is well known: stronger protection of the ***EU's external borders***; an economic and financial policy that adheres to the deficit rules; and in the fight against global warming, he relies on innovation instead of new taxes. Weber is also critical of short-haul flights and assures the German public: "Climate policy is a matter for the boss. He promises the young voters that as head of the Commission he will have the controversial copyright reform 'revised' if there is censorship on the internet. In the debate on a ***European*** army, Weber takes a more forceful stance than Timmermans when he says: "I want it.

**Margrethe Vestager**

Actually, she is not a top candidate at all. The 51-year-old Dane is part of a seven-member top team put together by her party, Alde. The Liberals reject the top candidate system mainly because they have allied themselves with Emmanuel Macron. France's president is considered a Vestager fan, but is against the automatism of the winning party's top candidate claiming to become Commission president. But tactical manoeuvres aside, it is pretty clear who the Liberals would most like to see at the helm of the Commission from within their circle: Vestager. In the Brussels debate, she can only really score points in the policy areas she is familiar with: Competition and taxation. When asked what she considers a tax haven, she answers: "Places where everyone pays taxes". Applause.

**Jan Zahradil**

The Czech has a special role in the field of competitors: he is the only Eastern European and as a representative of the '***European*** Conservatives and Reformers' (ECR), the 56-year-old wants to give the member states much more rights. In his view, the same old recipes of an 'ever closer union', i.e. ever closer integration in as many areas as possible, are unsuitable for meeting the challenges of the 21st century. He calls himself a "***Europe realist***" and points out that the Czechs are happy to be ***EU members but do*** not want to introduce the ***euro.*** Zahradil's ECR group includes, for example, the British Tories and the Polish ruling party PiS, which rail much more aggressively against Brussels bureaucrats than the ***MEP***. His mild ***criticism of the EU is*** nothing compared to what the populists from the ranks of the FPÖ, Matteo Salvini's Lega or Marine Le Pen's Rassemblement national are likely to spread in the ***European*** Parliament in future.

**Ska Keller**

Ska Keller is the only one who is doing the whole round of top candidates for the second time. In 2014, she entered the race as the front woman of the ***European*** Greens. At 37 years old, Keller is also the youngest of the candidates; the German has been in the ***European Parliament*** since 2009. Accordingly, she appears confident, but her statements sometimes seem a little rehearsed. Keller gets most emotional on the subject of climate change. We can't wait any longer," she appeals to the Brussels round. The instruments to make the economy more environmentally friendly are there - they just have to be used. She takes particular aim at Weber: his EPP would block many projects. That is also the difference to her Greens: Some only talk, we really want to act.

**Nico Cué**

Nico Cué, 63, gets most emotional when he talks about his life story. He was born in Spain, his family once fled the Franco dictatorship and has lived in Belgium ever since. On migration issues, the leftist is therefore extremely liberal; immigration is an opportunity, says Cué, and he himself is the best example of this. He has no chance of winning the office of head of the Commission, but he could play a role when it comes to securing majorities for the other candidates. On the Brussels stage, for example, Timmermans is trying hard to get the Greens and the Left on board when he brings a bloc against climate change into play. Whether he succeeds will be seen after the polls close. Then the competition will take place behind the scenes, no longer in the spotlight.

**Graphic**

Evening in blue: Lots of light effects and dramatic music accompanied the debate of the leading candidates for the ***European elections in*** Brussels. Photo: ARIS OIKONOMOU/AFP

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

**Person:** JEAN-CLAUDE JUNCKER (79%)

**Geographic:** BRUSSELS, BELGIUM (90%); PHOENIX, AZ, USA (79%); STUTTGART, GERMANY (79%); FRANKFURT, GERMANY (57%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (94%); BRUSSELS CAPITAL REGION (94%); BAVARIA, GERMANY (59%); ***EUROPE (***93%); BELGIUM (88%); AFRICA (79%); GERMANY (59%); NETHERLANDS (58%); UNITED KINGDOM (58%).

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[***ANGELA MERKEL; Mandatory programme Europe***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5W4D-KNK1-JDHD-W086-00000-00&context=)

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**Byline:** BY DANIEL BRÖSSLER

**Body**

Once upon a time, Angela Merkel could at least rely on Mark Rutte. The Dutch prime minister has not been in power as long as Merkel, but he has been for almost ten years. The Chancellor knows him as a not exactly enthusiastic, but reliable ***European***. As someone with whom one can forge alliances. Now Rutte is back in an alliance - but against Merkel. The fact that the Dutchman praised her as a "personal friend" in the Chancellery on Thursday does not change anything. The liberal is one of those who want to prevent Manfred Weber, the leading candidate of the ***European*** Christian Democrats, from becoming president of the ***EU Commission*** after the ***European elections.*** Merkel, in turn, is at Weber's beck and call.

That is Merkel's situation right now when it comes to ***Europe.*** She has to figure out how to get her man through against all odds, and how to limit the damage if it doesn't work. She has just admitted in the *Süddeutsche Zeitung* that she is worried about ***Europe*** and that she feels a 'heightened sense of responsibility' to take care of ***Europe's*** fate. A 'heightened' feeling - in Merkel's rather unemotional linguistic world, that's something. The only question is: what? At any rate, it is not the application for a follow-up post in Brussels that some have long longed for. She made that clear after the meeting with Rutte.

For several reasons, one can believe her. Firstly, because her original words had not really meant anything else. Imagine if Merkel had said the opposite: that she was not very worried about ***Europe*** and that she did not feel she still had to invest a lot of energy here. That would not be a recommendation for Brussels either, but it would certainly not be one for a little while longer in Berlin. A German head of government who, a few days before the ***European elections, did*** not see the seriousness of the situation in the ***EU*** and also did not see any increased responsibility to continue to address this situation, would no longer be sustainable.

It is true that Merkel, with her experience, would be better qualified than anyone else for a job such as ***president of the EU Council.*** But with her experience, no one knows better than Merkel how little this job would have to offer her. She has successfully and unsuccessfully pulled every conceivable string in this Union. For her, it is now only a matter of settling her ***European policy*** legacy. One of her achievements is that the ***EU has moved to the*** abyss in the ***euro*** and financial crisis, but no further. What will remain, however, is her shared responsibility for deep cracks, such as those that have come to light in the refugee crisis. What the bottom line will be will be decided after the ***European elections***. Then the increased sense of responsibility should finally translate into an increased will to shape the future.

That is what she is responsible for. Not for a Brussels office she doesn't want. Former Chancellor Gerhard Schröder justifies his closeness to Kremlin leader Vladimir Putin and his jobs in the pipeline business by saying that, after all, it is his own life that is at stake. As soon as Angela Merkel says goodbye to the Uckermark after more than twice as long in the chancellery, she will be entitled to claim this for herself.

**The Chancellor will one day be judged by the state of the *EU***

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

**Person:** ANGELA MERKEL (96%); MARK RUTTE (79%); VLADIMIR PUTIN (56%)

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[***Fighting for EuropeSeven political groups from the municipality of Eching make a joint appearance to campaign for a strong turnout in the elections on 26 May and for further development of unification.***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5W4D-KNG1-JDHD-W4K3-00000-00&context=)

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**Section:** County; Erding; p. 8

**Length:** 529 words

**Byline:** BY KLAUS BACHHUBER

**Body**

**Eching** - Colourful national flags on the tables, a trumpet intro of the ***Eurovision anthem*** and a canon in five languages sung by the entire audience: In a cross-party joint event in the community centre, seven political groups from Eching, under the direction of the adult education centre, promoted ***Europe in the*** run-up to the elections to the ***European*** Parliament. The ***European*** idea is the most important civilisational advance of the last century," said the joint declaration, "a strong ***Europe*** stands for freedom, democracy, peacekeeping, prosperity and social justice.

The aim was to 'make the case for a colourful and strong ***Europe***', said Doris Fähr, head of the Adult Education Centre. The event was intended to motivate people from all parties to vote on 26 May. SPD, Bündnis 90/Die Grünen, FDP, Freie Wähler, ÖDP, "Bürger für Eching" and "Echinger Mitte" joined forces. The CSU was the only party that refused to participate and was not present at the event.

Each of the participating parties had prepared a main topic, from the ***Euro*** (FW) to peacekeeping (Citizens for Eching) to agriculture (Greens), democracy (Echinger Mitte) and social aspects (SPD). Karl Kühbandner, lecturer for literature, history and politics at adult education centres, gave an overview of the origin, development and structure of the ***European*** Union and its institutions in a lecture.

We must fight for this ***Europe***', he appealed as a result of the historical tour. He called for "a further development of unification". This could only succeed, however, if the heads of government of the ***EU states*** "see themselves as ***Europeans*** and not only as representatives of their nations". In ***European*** cooperation, "the virtue of solidarity seems to be lost", he diagnosed.

The ***European*** Parliament has 'more rights than many believe', Kühbandner analysed, 'but also many deficits that prevent people from being motivated to take part'. The joint statement of the seven groups called for "further development of democracy in ***Europe***, with more plebiscitary elements, with more opportunities for participation by individual citizens".

Visitors gave up-close impressions of ***Europe.*** Mayor Sebastian Thaler contributed a potpourri of the most bizarre ***EU regulations,*** from cucumber curvature, the regulation of which has been abolished again since 2009, to the determination of the maximum electrical conductivity of honey or the definition of trees based on the knotholes per surface, which has been used for 40 years.

On the other hand, rules that come from the ***EU,*** such as the single currency or uniform mobile phone tariffs, are indispensable, the mayor emphasised. He was already looking forward enormously to the uniform clothing sizes that had just been prepared. For him, "***Europe*** is a matter of course", said the 32-year-old, "my generations no longer know closed borders".

**Only the CSU did not want to participate and was not present at the event.**

**Graphic**

Seven political groups in Eching campaigned for participation in the ***European elections.*** To this end, they spoke on key issues. Photo: Efm

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**Industry:** MOBILE TELEPHONE (50%)

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[***Self-defence; In an increasingly aggressive and unpredictable world, Europe must Europe assert itself. In the Brussels apparatus, the personnel for this fight is currently being sorted out.***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5W4D-KNK1-JDHD-W07V-00000-00&context=)

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**Section:** Page Three; Background; Germany; p. 3

**Length:** 2601 words

**Byline:** BY MATTHIAS KOLB, STEFAN KORNELIUS AND ALEXANDER MÜHLAUER

**Body**

If you want to understand the machine, you have to leave the press room in the basement of the Commission, get into the lift, make a few stops on the working floors and finally go all the way to the top, to the 13th floor. *The* 13th floor, which they usually talk about in whispers on the floors below. Up there, you should not turn left into the Presidential Wing, but right into one of the corridors with the remarkably low ceilings. At some point, you finally stand in the office of the Secretary General in front of a picture that you have seen a few times in this house.

The picture shows 28 ladies and gentlemen in front of a midnight blue background. The dark suits of the gentlemen lend the ensemble an almost consecrated character, the ladies wear discreet colours. However, there is this strange restlessness in the picture: grins, laughter, pumped-up upper bodies, nervous twirling of the wedding ring. Only the man in the middle stands a little bent over, his hands behind his back, as if to say apologetically: so that's the troupe, I can't help it.

The picture shows the Commissioners of the ***European*** Union. It hangs in many rooms and in the corridors, as if the apparatus needed to be reminded every now and then of whom it serves. But perhaps the picture is also meant to mislead, to convey an impression that does not correspond to reality. Perhaps it is meant to distract from the fact that there is an apparatus within the apparatus, and that this inner apparatus has developed a remarkable life of its own. Now that the lifetime of this Commission is coming to an end, this construction says everything about the world, ***Europe***, Donald Trump, Xi Jingping and in the end - power.

To put it briefly: the apparatus has risen, it wants to survive, it has tasted power and found that it tastes it. ***Europe*** has suddenly arrived in the world.

There are no photos of this apparatus within the apparatus, because power cannot be photographed. But you can sense this power on 13 floors, which sometimes calls itself a political commission or comes under the guise of a strategy group, which sometimes bears the name of the Secretary General Martin Selmayr or is called 'world political capability' in ironic German. For French or British ears, that's an awful lot of syllables at once.

The gentleman in the middle of the picture, by the way, is Jean-Claude Juncker, the President, whose stooped posture can also be observed at this moment in the hall-like press room in the basement of the building. Three weeks before the ***European elections,*** Juncker is making one of his very rare appearances in front of the cameras. He wants to take stock.

Cameras are such a thing because Juncker's step is clumsy and unsteady. Sciatica, they say in the machine. A year ago, Juncker was filmed at a Nato summit when he swayed dangerously, almost collapsed. Now, however, he wants to get another message out to ***Europe***, shortly before the election and at the end of his term. It is about success, jobs, investments. He holds on to the lectern and routinely reads from the speech sheet: promises made, promises kept. It would be the sad picture of a 64-year-old man who has been robbed of much strength by political life, if it were not for this biting sarcasm flashing up again and again, but also the gift for self-irony with which a speaker shows how confidently he deals with himself.

Juncker is a mocker and a joker, he can associate at lightning speed and uses irony like a foil. Maverick is what they call such a guy in English, a mixture of maverick and ingenious madman. Just then, Juncker declares German, with typical derision, to be a minority language in ***Europe*** worthy of protection, because only very few ***EU correspondents*** can follow Juncker's German without a headset translation. Then he comes to the climax of his balance sheet, it is about ***Europe in the*** world, about the competition between China and the USA in trade matters, which is in reality a race for first place in the scramble for world power. And that's where Juncker packs this multi-silver into his words, now delivered in English: World-political-capability.

That is what it is about: the self-assertion of a continent in an aggressive world. It's about the protection and survival of a community of states with a reputation for being good for everyone, but not for hurting anyone. It is about keeping ***Europe*** alive and breathing a new purpose into it. And despite all the intrigues and power struggles, it is a success story from Brussels, where an apparatus is making remarkable attempts to become a world power.

February 2017, a Friday afternoon in Brussels. A man is standing at the reception of the ***EU Commission*** and wants to speak to Martin Selmayr. At this point, Selmayr is Juncker's left and right hand as head of cabinet. All the papers pass over his desk, his influence is considerable. He does not have an appointment, the visitor says, but he has to see Selmayr. That is unusual, but it is even more remarkable that the visitor is the right-hand man of Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. When someone like that knocks unannounced, the need must be great.

Tokyo and Brussels have been negotiating a free trade agreement for seven years, but no progress has been made. Until now. Because a few weeks ago the situation changed dramatically, Donald Trump is in the White House. His first victim: Japan and all the other states that have concluded the Trans-Pacific Agreement with the USA. Trump pulls out, he terminates the treaty. The ***Europeans*** know: This will be uncomfortable for them, too.

And so the envoy sits with Selmayr in his office, it's all about the grand strategy. The two talk for a good two hours, the outlines of a very symbolic agreement are drawn. And two days later the call comes. Abe is ready for a meeting with Juncker. The Japanese will come to Brussels as early as March. Both sides have been negotiating for seven years, and now things are moving incredibly fast.

Juncker travels to Tokyo to seal the ***EU***'s biggest free trade agreement with Japan. The ***European anthem is*** played at the reception. When he visits Trump in the White House three weeks later, Trump tells him: "I don't want you to make a deal with Japan, I want you to make a deal with me".

Juncker then does the same. It is the end of July when he appears before the press with Trump in the White House Rose Garden and says, not without pride: "We have a deal. Juncker has managed to do what the German chancellor and the French president failed to do: he has tamed Trump. He has concluded a kind of truce with him. As long as Brussels and Washington negotiate with each other, there will be no new tariffs.

Two days after the visit to Washington, Trump calls Juncker. He is apparently in a good mood, having dinner with his wife Melania and says: "Jean-Claude, I love you, you're perfect. Great guy!' What do the two of them have in common? Mavericks, that's what.

When that famous photo was taken at the G7 summit in Canada - all the heads of government, led by Angela Merkel as a kind of Joan of Arc, besiege Trump - Jucker sits on the sidelines and murmurs: Don't go, don't do him that favour. Apparently Juncker reads the president quite well.

You can't write about Juncker without mentioning Martin Selmayr. Or, as quite a few people in Brussels say: you don't even have to write about Juncker, Selmayr is enough. One thing is certain, anyone who talks about the politicisation of the Commission, who talks about the ***EU***'s instinct for self-preservation and about the new consciousness of power, must start with the Secretary General of the Commission.

The Secretary General is the highest of a good 30,000 civil servants. Selmayr has a complex reputation, to say the least. He is seen as workaholic, almost obsessive, detail-oriented and meticulous, tactical and devious. Attributes are many, probably as many as the man has enemies.

If the 13th floor is only talked about in whispers, it's because of Selmayr. The man is 48, has spent his working life in or near the apparatus. On a shelf in his office are pictures, they show Willy Brandt kneeling in Warsaw, Helmut Kohl and François Mitterrand hand in hand at Verdun, Angela Merkel and Emmanuel Macron arm in arm. On the coffee table is a coffee-table book with photographs of the world, and he ties his shoelaces twice. History, the view from above and steadfastness - that is one side.

The other is the apparatus. Selmayr has created a network that bypasses the established constructs. When Juncker became Commission President, perhaps his smartest move was to divide the 27 commissioners into specialist areas and put a vice-president in front of them. This tamed the madness of offices. Selmayr also quickly created a system of crisis management. As soon as a problem arose, a task force took over. He selects them, he controls them: Greece, refugees, Brexit, China - whatever becomes relevant for ***Europe*** ends up in a task force and thus with him.

Someone who has known the apparatus for many years, who has been at all the summits and has helped to lay out the winding paths of power in Brussels, says respectfully: The Commission has an excellent team of civil servants, but they have no ambitions, they see themselves as guardians of the treaties. Selmayr and Juncker have broken with this, this old ***Europe*** no longer exists.

In Brussels, Selmayr is therefore met with a mixture of suspicion and admiration. Almost everyone thinks they know that the Secretary General is the real ruler in the official building, the Berlaymont - and Juncker is his puppet. Juncker derisively calls Selmayr his monster. Others speak of the Berlaymonster.

But the story is too good to be true. Basically, the two only work together. Selmayr is an organiser, strategist, enforcer; Juncker is the swashbuckler who amazes even critics with his experience and political instinct. In day-to-day business, the Luxembourger relies on the system of rule that his adlatus has perfected.

No wonder, then, that Juncker has linked his political fate to that of his confidant. When Selmayr, then head of the cabinet, was first promoted to deputy secretary-general, then within hours to secretary-general, the protest was great. Juncker himself makes the matter a question of fate. If he goes, I go," he said. At least that was honest.

It's hard to say what will happen after Juncker's departure. The apparatus is now attuned to Selmayr, but no new Commission president can afford a Secretary General with such power and political ambitions. Actually. Or is it just that?

The masterpiece of self-assertion came in April. The Commission had long been sour on its supporting role in the relationship with China, and Beijing was sorry to exploit the fragmentation of the ***EU.*** There were no rules on investment, transparency was non-existent. ***Europe*** allowed itself to be gutted like a dead animal. When the robot manufacturer Kuka was bought by investors in 2016, the mood changed. Now, almost three years later, a summit visit is on the agenda. Time to clarify the situation.

Brussels is systematically preparing for the showdown. The goal is an agreement with clear commitments, an end to technology theft and unfair subsidies, equal access for ***Europe's*** companies to the Chinese market. All this is to be included in the final declaration, signed by Prime Minister Li Keqiang, Juncker and Council President Donald Tusk. But will the Chinese accept this imposition? It is also about their advantage and their economic system.

The road to unity begins with a complaint: Angela Merkel, the German chancellor, complains at the summit last October that the heads of state and government did not consult for a second about the upcoming meeting with the Southeast Asian Asean states. Officials interpret the admonition as a call to action - and set up a China task force.

After the turn of the year, consultations are intensified, the usual coordination channels bypassed. A handful of MEPs from the Commission and the ***EU***'s External Action Service, usually strictly separated, meet at short notice to brainstorm. Among them again: Martin Selmayr, but also the top German diplomat Helga Schmid, herself Secretary General of the foreign policy experts.

The working group writes an eleven-page paper declaring China a 'strategic rival'. Strategic Outlook' is the unwieldy title of the 'Joint Communication', but it contains political explosives. Clearly, the new self-confidence is being conveyed to Beijing. For unlike the diplomats of the ***European*** External Action Service, the ***EU Commission has*** instruments of torture at its disposal: punitive fines, the scrutiny of foreign investments, access to the domestic market. Or, as one of the diplomats says: "In the External Action Service, the strongest weapon is an explanation. In the Commission, it is money.'

At the ***EU summit in*** March, Council President Donald Tusk will then issue the slogan: Let's be tough when the Chinese come, and in case of doubt, no final declaration is better than a waxy one. The message was heeded - the member states, otherwise always ready for separate deals with China, sense that ***Europe's*** self-image is now at stake.

Negotiations with the Chinese are immediately conducted at a higher level to avoid delaying tactics. For 51 hours, "at crazy hours" via video line to Beijing, the ***EU***'s chief negotiator struggles to find words and sentences. For the first time, Brussels gives an ultimatum, sets deadlines. Beijing's diplomats react desperately, but they deliver. Before the summit, they always come up with new formulations, on Friday, on Saturday, on Sunday. But the Brussels China Group is also playing all the tricks. Quotes from the ***EU ambassadors***' meeting minutes are launched via the expert website Euractiv to send subtle messages to the Chinese.

When Premier Li boards the plane on the eve of the summit in Beijing, nothing has been decided, officials speak of a 'nailbiter' - the negotiators are biting their fingernails in anticipation. But the new toughness is paying off. China does not want to open a second front in the trade war. ***Europe's*** conditions are accepted. In the end, Li signs. And they celebrate their victory.

A year ago, Juncker spoke for the first time at the Matthiae-Mahl in Hamburg about ***Europe*** being 'not designed for global political capability'. He threw the term at the audience, a bit of Kant satire, a bit of German theory hype. It was also mockery. But then Juncker became serious: "Others are withdrawing. Spaces are becoming empty and I would like ***Europe*** to really take over these empty spaces. ***Europe has*** to do that because the world is looking at us.

**Juncker's last message before the election: promises made, promises kept**

**The German is considered to be hard-working, detail-oriented, meticulous, tactical and, that too, sneaky**

**The trade war with China? Was also a test for the Council, the Commission, the Member States**

**Graphic**

Despite all the intrigues, despite all the divisions: The majority of people are proud of the common ***Europe*** and show it, as here in Prague a few days ago. Photo: MICHAL CIZEK / afp

One is considered a strategist, the other his puppet, but it's not that simple: Martin Selmayr (l.) and Jean-Claude Juncker in Brussels. Photo: Mayo / AP

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

**Person:** JEAN-CLAUDE JUNCKER (94%); DONALD TRUMP (57%); XI JINPING (57%)

**Geographic:** BRUSSELS, BELGIUM (57%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (79%); BRUSSELS CAPITAL REGION (79%); ***EUROPE*** (93%); FRANCE (73%); UNITED KINGDOM (55%).

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[***A paradise is rebuilding; Luxembourg is struggling to abandon the tax avoidance business model. The country is slowly changing, but still makes its money with other people's money***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5W4D-KNK1-JDHD-W0GM-00000-00&context=)

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**Length:** 1610 words

**Byline:** BY BASTIAN BRINKMANN, THOMAS KIRCHNER, MAURITIUS MUCH AND RALF WIEGAND

**Highlight:** Tax haven Luxembourg: Even in the year five after the Lux Leaks, rich Germans are still channelling money across the border

**Body**

This is theatre. The corporations pretend that their Luxembourg shell companies are real companies. The Luxembourg tax authorities pretend to believe it. And the rest of the ***European*** Union pretends that none of this is a thing.' This is how the *Süddeutsche Zeitung* reported on a visit to Luxembourg in November 2014. At the time, research led by the International Network of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ) revealed how more than 300 multinational companies such as Ikea or Amazon had concluded highly advantageous tax deals with the Luxembourg authorities to push their levies down to near zero.

Lux-Leaks was the name of the scandal on the big stage, the portrait of a tax haven in the heart of ***Europe***. And today, almost five years later? Has the final curtain fallen on the tax avoidance theatre? Reporters from SZ, NDR and WDR, in cooperation with the French newspaper *Le Monde* and the Belgian partners *Le Soir* and *De Tijt,* have now analysed the Luxembourg company register in detail: According to this analysis, Luxembourg continues to be very attractive for German companies and wealthy citizens. Until recently, 20 of the 100 richest Germans had or have companies in the Grand Duchy.

Tax experts draw a critical balance. According to a new, as yet unpublished study by the Tax Justice Network, Luxembourg remains one of the top ten locations for companies seeking to avoid taxes. Luxembourg is one of the most aggressive corporate tax havens in the world," says Markus Meinzer of the Tax Justice Network, which researches financial transparency. It has maintained its tax rulings to this day, some of which have been deemed illegal by the ***European Commission.*** These tax rulings were at the centre of the Lux leaks: an official in the Grand Duchy had used such rulings to allow countless corporations to engage in daring tax constructions. The rulings were like a joker for the companies, they guaranteed low tax rates for several years.

The extent to which Lux-Leaks still preoccupies the country and its politicians can be seen in Jean-Claude Juncker. The outgoing ***EU Commission president is*** considered the architect of Luxembourg's tax system, and was once finance minister and prime minister there. When the findings from Lux-Leaks appeared in 2014, Juncker was just new in office as head of the ***EU***. Asked about the biggest mistakes of his tenure as Commission president, Juncker surprisingly named his delayed reaction to the revelations first: "It took me a week too long to respond".

Juncker apparently did not realise at first what a big problem Lux-Leaks posed for him as well. As finance minister and later as head of government, he had not only allowed the controversial tax-saving schemes for large international companies, but also torpedoed attempts at the ***European*** level to end the practice.

Juncker's answer then, after a week, sounded like this: He was not the 'architect' of the agreements with large corporations, but 'politically responsible'. Therefore, he would now propose ***EU-wide*** rules for an automatic exchange of information on tax agreements with corporations. Besides Luxembourg, "more than twenty other ***EU countries***" had similar tax agreements for corporations. And Juncker still insisted a year after the Lux leaks that he had 'not invented any system of tax evasion, tax evasion or tax avoidance at the expense of other ***European*** states'. Architect, my arse.

Its own ***EU Commission*** later came to different conclusions. In two cases - Amazon and a French energy company - the tax deals were illegal, the authority decided. It is responsible for ensuring that competition between companies in ***Europe*** remains fair. Luxembourg had to claim 250 million ***euros from*** Amazon and 120 million from the energy company Engie. Both cases are not yet legally binding; Luxembourg is having them examined by the highest ***EU courts.*** The Commission also investigated the Luxembourg construction of McDonald's, but came to the conclusion that it did not violate ***EU law.*** Morally, however, the matter is clear: "It remains to be said that McDonald "s did not pay any taxes on its profits - and that does not comply with the principle of tax justice," said Margrethe Vestager, the competition commissioner in charge.

The trouble for the Grand Duchy began with the Lux Leaks revelations that shocked the country. "It was clear to all politicians that the business model was no longer sustainable in this form," says journalist and tax expert Laurent Schmit. And it just so happened that new politicians came to power at exactly that time. In 2013, Luxembourgers voted Juncker's Christian Democrats out of office, the first time they had done so since 1979. The conservatives had built Luxembourg up as a tax haven for decades. But now a coalition of Social Democrats, Liberals and Greens runs the country. And the new government expressed itself quite differently: "The trickery must stop," affirmed Social Democrat Foreign Minister Jean Asselborn. The Liberal Finance Minister Pierre Gramegna told his spokesman that Luxembourg was "at the forefront of the global movement for more transparency in tax matters and to fight harmful tax competition".

But can the new parties even reverse the work of their predecessors? Or can they only shake off the dirty image? Some say: Luxembourg is trying. Others say: it's not enough.

The Grand Duchy received praise from Pascal Saint-Amans, the tax director of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). He expressly welcomed the "constructive and positive attitude" that Luxembourg was playing in the OECD programme for global tax fairness. Luxembourg had announced that it would be one of the first countries to introduce the OECD's new transparency rules. The controversial tax rulings were given a legal basis in Luxembourg for the first time.

A committee of enquiry of the ***European*** Parliament came to a more critical verdict two months ago. The non-partisan report on tax evasion and tax avoidance ranks Luxembourg among the bad boys in the ***EU***, in a row with Malta, Cyprus, the Netherlands and Ireland. These states have financial vehicles that often exist only to exploit loopholes, the report says. The countries live at the expense of other member states. Their tax systems allow for "aggressive tax planning". At least the parliamentarians acknowledged that Luxembourg wants to reform its double taxation agreement with the USA, from which McDonald "s had benefited. The Grand Duchy's refusal to give the investigating committees access to documents was also not well received. The statements from Luxembourg on tax justice were therefore "not credible", said ***MEP*** Sven Giegold (Greens). The country is too often 'on the brakes'.

There is a lot at stake for the Grand Duchy. The financial sector is the small state's most important industry, billions flow into the country every year. Luxembourg is barely visible on a world map, but if all the capital parked here were visible, the Grand Duchy would be easy to spot from outer space. Many savers do not even know that their fund is also located in Luxembourg.

Therefore, the willingness to compromise has its limits. For example, the entire Luxembourg Parliament opposed the proposal by ***EU Finance Commissioner*** Pierre Moscovici in 2016 to harmonise corporate taxation ***across the EU*** and to introduce a common tax base. Small countries would be unduly disadvantaged by the plan. Small countries like: Luxembourg.

After all, a year ago the Supreme Court overturned the fine imposed on Frenchman Antoine Deltour. The former employee of the auditing firm Pricewaterhousecoopers had leaked the documents that made Luxembourg's tax policy public and was initially charged with theft. Now, on appeal, the Luxembourg Supreme Court granted him special status as a whistleblower.

New tones were also heard when ***EU Commissioner*** Pierre Moscovici proposed at the beginning of 2019 to abolish the unanimity principle in tax matters, which has so far prevented substantial progress on this issue. Finance Minister Gramegna reacted predictably defensively, saying that this would push individual states "into a corner" and "strengthen nationalism". But the new leader of the co-governing Social Democrats, Franz Fayot, tells the SZ: "Politically, we can no longer afford to use the veto. We have to get away from tax competition in ***Europe.***

According to Nicolas Mackel of the lobby group Luxembourg for Finance, the Lux Leaks revelations have not harmed the country economically. On the contrary, he says, Luxembourg is successfully developing a new business model "based on know-how and skill". 58 banks, financial funds and fintech companies have recently moved to Luxembourg due to Brexit. The question now, experts say, is how many international firms will actually stay in Luxembourg, whether they are willing to hire more staff and relocate more functions to Luxembourg than in the most blissful letterbox company days - the days of the great Luxembourg theatre.

**Jean-Claude Juncker has only belatedly realised how big the Lux Leaks problem is**

**Luxembourg only cooperates to a limited extent in the fight against tax evasion**

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject:** TAX AVOIDANCE (91%); ***EUROPEAN UNION (***90%); BUSINESS & MANAGEMENT (90%); RICH (90%); TAX AUTHORITIES (90%); TAXATION (90%); INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS ORGANISATIONS (89%); MULTINATIONAL COMPANIES (89%); POLITICS (89%); ARCHITECTURE (78%); FINANCE MINISTRIES AND AGENCIES (78%); ***EUROPEAN*** UNION INSTITUTIONS (78%); JOURNALISM (78%); PRIME MINISTERS (78%); RESEARCH REPORTS (77%); EXECUTIVES (73%); SCANDALS (70%); HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT (67%)

**Industry:** TAX AUTHORITIES (90%); ARCHITECTURE (78%); FINANCE MINISTRIES AND AUTHORITIES (78%); PERFORMING ARTS CENTRES (78%)

**Person:** JEAN-CLAUDE JUNCKER (95%)

**Geographic: *EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (95%); LUXEMBOURG (95%); ***EUROPE (***91%); FRANCE (79%); BELGIUM (73%)

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

**End of Document**

[***Noichl's wake-up call for the comrades; The Bavarian SPD top candidate for the European elections makes an energetic appearance in Wolfratshausen***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5W4D-KNG1-JDHD-W4J8-00000-00&context=)

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Friday 17 May 2019

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**Section:** Wolfratshausen; Wolfratshausen; p. 7

**Length:** 554 words

**Byline:** VERONIKA ELLECOSTA

**Body**

**Wolfratshausen** - The red salon in the Flößerei is full to bursting. Many SPD supporters from the surrounding area, average age 60, have gathered. They are probably the last who still believe in their party. Someone is snoring in the back rows. So loud that it reaches the front. And Maria Noichl, the SPD's ***top candidate for Europe in*** Bavaria, briefly steals the show. And that is actually not easy. Because Noichl shows stage presence and takes her audience with her from Wolfratshausen to Brussels, into the heart of the ***EU***. She shakes the hands of the guests who were just holding the beer glass. There is a cheerful pub atmosphere in the Flößerei. People are among themselves here. The top candidate also manages to bring the snorer back from his sleep.

In order to be able to offer Noichl a stage, the local associations of Icking, Geretsried, Schäftlarn and Wolfratshausen joined forces, said Beatrice Wagner, deputy chairperson of the SPD Icking. More guests meant more coverage and thus the possibility of bringing in more prominent speakers. The Bavarian SPD has been having a hard time for a long time and since the last state election it has been even a bit harder. According to Martin Bruckner, chair of the Geretsried SPD, joint events are now intended to strengthen the local associations. In addition, supra-regional issues can be discussed. Big issues in a cosy inn.

The time to discuss big issues like ***Europe*** is now. Maria Noichl, a member of the ***European*** Parliament since 2014, has not lost touch with her local comrades. When she speaks, she also likes to be a bit cruder, which does not detract from her authenticity. ***Europe*** is like marriage, she repeats again and again. There is a divorce treaty with Great Britain, only the furniture collection doesn't work yet. The other country, Hungary, has received a red card from the ***European*** Parliament for violations of the rule of law, freedom of the press and the protection of minorities. One country wants to leave, the other is cheating," she says. And just as there are differences in care work between the sexes in a marriage, ***Europe*** is fighting against large gaps in justice: Noichl talks about the wage gap between Eastern and Western Europe and the concentration of wealth among a few. The concentration is a cancer in ***Europe***.

She supports disarmament and student initiatives on climate protection. Whatever she talks about, she earns applause. She is not at a loss for answers, even when confronted with questions from the audience. On the CO[Subscript 2] tax, for example, of which she is a proponent, and on ***Europe's*** powerlessness in the face of Orbán. Or on the refugee debate, a topic she has left out. We need a new Africa policy, a new climate policy. Many things have to change, but not from the ground up,' she says. The final appeal to the audience, by now awake and excited, is exhausted in the call to go to the polls, which one does not forget so quickly: "On 26 May, the bike ride will have to wait and so will the pottery market, because it is an election of destiny. Let's vote for a feminist-partisan style of politics, where I don't have to sit on the horse with a naked torso like Putin.'

**Graphic**

Bavarian SPD top candidate Maria Noichl spoke about Brexit and Hungary, wages and climate protection in the raft. Photo: Harry Wolfsbauer

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject:** GERMAN POLITICAL PARTIES (90%); POLITICAL PARTIES (90%); ELECTIONS (90%); VOTERS & ELECTIONS (90%); ***EUROPEAN UNION (89%);*** LEGISLATIVE BODIES (89%); POLITICS (89%); ELECTIONS & ELECTION CAMPAIGNS (89%); PUBLIC POLICY (89%); GERMAN STATE PARLIAMENTS (78%); POLITICAL DEBATES (78%); CALENDAR OF EVENTS (76%); INSTITUTIONS OF THE ***EUROPEAN*** UNION (75%); EQUAL PAY (75%); ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION (71%); RULE OF LAW (70%); DIVORCE & DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE (64%); MINORITIES (62%)

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

**Geographic:** BRUSSELS, BELGIUM (58%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (92%); BAVARIA, GERMANY (89%); BRUSSELS CAPITAL REGION (79%); ***EUROPE (***94%); HUNGARY (79%); BELGIUM (58%); UNITED KINGDOM (58%); WESTERN EUROPE (58%).

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

**End of Document**

[***Back and forth; The USA wants to impose punitive tariffs on car imports from Europe from Europe - for the time being. In exchange, President Trump now threatens to cap imports***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5W4D-KNK1-JDHD-W0C8-00000-00&context=)

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Friday 17 May 2019

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**Section:** Economy; Munich; Bavaria; Germany; p. 26

**Length:** 716 words

**Byline:** MAX HÄGLER, CLAUS HULVERSCHEIDT

**Body**

**New York** - The relief on the stock markets was palpable when the news leaked out on Wednesday afternoon: US President Donald Trump will refrain from imposing punitive tariffs of up to 25 percent on car imports from ***Europe*** and Japan, at least for the time being. Instead of this Friday, a decision will now be made in November. The shares of car manufacturers immediately shot up in Frankfurt.

Only hours later, however, it became clear that there was a huge catch: Trump wants to use the next six months to impose a contractual "limit" on car deliveries to the USA on the ***European*** Union and Japan. In other words, those who want to avoid tariffs will have to "voluntarily" limit their exports or build cars in the USA that have been produced in ***Europe in*** the past. In such a system, growth is only possible to a limited extent.

What is fatal for the car manufacturers, however, is the reasoning that Trump will probably announce in a decree this Thursday or Friday, according to a report by the Bloomberg news agency. According to the report, the many US car imports threaten the country's national security because they put pressure on domestic companies and hinder their innovative strength. However, the Ministry of Commerce did not want to explain how it came across this somewhat strange connection.

This is hardly surprising, because the government's argumentation is considered an extremely shaky construct even in the United States itself. The matter is clear: cars are not a threat to national security,' the US industry association AAM, which includes foreign car manufacturers as well as General Motors and Fiat-Chrysler, recently declared. In fact, it is questionable why the innovative strength of an industry should be in danger, which, with the electric car manufacturer Tesla, has one of the most innovative suppliers in the world and is pushing foreign competitors ahead of it.

Of the approximately 17.2 million cars sold in the USA last year, 8.2 million came from abroad, i.e. almost half. By far the most important countries of origin were Mexico, Japan, Canada, Germany and South Korea, with deliveries from Mexico alone being six times as high as those from Germany. The German share was around 5.5 per cent, with a good 450,000 passenger cars delivered. If, however, the value of the vehicles is taken as a basis instead of the number, the share rises to 9.5 per cent, since German manufacturers mainly ship luxury cars to the USA. At the same time, it is also true that BMW's US subsidiary, for example, produces considerably more cars in the United States than it brings into the country from other plants around the world.

Behind Mexico's high import share of a good 32 percent are mainly brands of American, Asian and ***European*** manufacturers that have production in the Central American country. BMW, for example, will officially open a new plant in Mexico next month. Unlike ***Europe*** and Japan, Mexico, Canada and Korea are not currently in the US president's sights because they have already agreed to new trade rules.

The German car industry was torn in the face of the news from the USA. The preliminary waiver of tariffs is good, but the industry is still unsure how to assess a volume cap. It is clear that neither tariffs nor quotas fit in with the approach of free and fair world trade. At his company's annual general meeting, BMW boss Harald Krüger announced in staccato style what the company was doing in the "important market" of the USA: "We are securing almost 70,000 jobs. Our largest factory is in Spartanburg. It has been there for 25 years. Nine billion ***euros have*** been invested so far, the company is the largest car exporter in the United States, and seven out of ten parts are purchased locally. In short: "We are strengthening the American economy. Now only Donald Trump needs to understand that.

**Mexico, Canada and South Korea have already agreed to new trade rules**

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject:** VEHICLE AND EXPORT (91%); IMPORT TRADE (90%); STATE AND GOVERNMENT HEADS (90%); CUSTOMS DUTIES (90%); ***EUROPEAN UNION (***77%); US PRESIDENTS (77%); TRADE MINISTRIES & CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE (72%); NATIONAL SECURITY (66%)

**Company:** FIAT CHRYSLER AUTOMOBILES NV (57%); GENERAL MOTORS CO (53%)

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

**Ticker:** FCAU (NYSE) (57%); F (BIT) (57%); GM (NYSE) (53%)

**Industry:** NAICS336111 AUTOMOBILE MANUFACTURING (57%); SIC3711 MOTOR VEHICLES & PASSENGER CAR BODIES (57%); SIC3523 FARM MACHINERY & EQUIPMENT (57%); NAICS336112 LIGHT TRUCK & UTILITY VEHICLE MANUFACTURING (53%); SIC3714 MOTOR VEHICLE PARTS & ACCESSORIES (53%); AUTOMOTIVE MANUFACTURING (92%); VEHICLE IMPORT & EXPORT (91%); CAR BUILDERS (90%); VEHICLE MANUFACTURING (90%); VEHICLE SECTOR OVERVIEW (90%); TRANSPORTATION MANUFACTURING (90%); MOTOR VEHICLES (89%)

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

**Geographic:** NEW YORK, NY, USA (79%); FRANKFURT, GERMANY (73%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (79%); NORTH AMERICA (94%); MEXICO (93%); ***EUROPE*** (91%); JAPAN (88%); ASIA (79%); CANADA (79%); CENTRAL AMERICA (74%); GERMANY (59%); SOUTH KOREA (58%).

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

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[***Merkel rules out move to Brussels; Chancellor does not want to be available 'for any further political office, no matter where it is' after the end of the legislative term***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5W4D-KNK1-JDHD-W071-00000-00&context=)

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

**Length:** 515 words

**Byline:** DANIEL BRÖSSLER

**Body**

**Berlin** - German Chancellor Angela Merkel (CDU) has firmly rejected all speculation about a possible move to Brussels. 'What I said in connection with my departure from the party presidency applies: that I am not available for any further political office, no matter where it is, not even in ***Europe,***' Merkel said in Berlin on Thursday after talks with Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte. In an interview with the *Süddeutsche Zeitung,* Merkel had previously expressed concern for ***Europe*** and said she felt 'an even greater sense of responsibility' to look after the fate of the ***EU.***

I gave the interview as German Chancellor and I believe that it is right for me as German Chancellor to increase my efforts for a good, functioning ***Europe*** rather than not in view of the situation we have', Merkel explained. Rutte made it clear that he did not want to push his 'personal friend' Merkel into a ***European*** office, for example as Council President. So far, it is not clear who could succeed the incumbent Donald Tusk. Only current or former heads of state or government are eligible. She has made her intentions very clear about what she wants to do after her term in office, and we have respected that,' Rutte said of Merkel. He himself is not available for the post either.

The meeting of the two was marked by the upcoming ***European elections*** and the already emerging conflict over who should become ***EU Commission President.*** Merkel emphasised her support for the leading candidate of the ***European*** People's Party (EPP), the CSU politician Manfred Weber. Dutch liberal Rutte, in turn, is one of a number of heads of government who, like French President Emmanuel Macron, have made it clear that they do not feel bound by the top candidate principle championed by the ***EU Parliament.*** "We belong to different political groupings, but we all agree that we need results for a strong ***Europe,***" Merkel said.

Merkel and Rutte emphasised the common ground on economic and trade issues. They were concerned about protectionist tendencies, said Merkel. They also want to work together to achieve the climate targets for 2030 and "climate neutrality by 2050". France and the Netherlands, together with others, had launched a paper for more ambitious climate targets before the ***EU summit*** last week and did not initially involve Berlin.

Merkel countered the impression of increasing tensions with Macron in an interview with the SZ. There had been "inconsistencies". But on core issues they were on a "very similar wavelength". In a reaction to the interview with the SZ, Macron said he believed in "fruitful confrontation, that is, one proposes, one tests the partner". In the end, a compromise is reached.

**Page 4**

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject:** HEADS OF STATE & GOVERNMENT (95%); GERMAN CHANCELLORS (93%); POLITICS (92%); GERMAN POLITICAL PARTIES (90%); INTERVIEWS (90%); POLITICAL PARTIES (90%); PUBLIC POLICY (90%); ***EUROPEAN UNION (***89%); LEGISLATIVE BODIES (78%); TALKS & MEETINGS (78%); ELECTIONS (78%); FRENCH PRESIDENTS (71%); INTERNATIONAL GOVERNMENT TALKS (66%); PRESIDENTS (66%); ELECTIONS & CAMPAIGNS (64%)

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

**Person:** ANGELA MERKEL (95%); DONALD TUSK (79%); MARK RUTTE (79%)

**Geographic:** BERLIN, GERMANY (88%); BRUSSELS, BELGIUM (73%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (94%); BRUSSELS CAPITAL REGION (92%); ***EUROPE*** (95%); FRANCE (92%); NETHERLANDS (90%); BELGIUM (88%).

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

**End of Document**

[***Not with us; Donald Trump is lashing out at China's Huawei Group and could cut it off from access to US technology. Why this could be dangerous for the network supplier***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5W4D-KNK1-JDHD-W0C2-00000-00&context=)

Süddeutsche Zeitung

Friday 17 May 2019

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**Section:** Economy; Munich; Bavaria; Germany; p. 25

**Length:** 904 words

**Byline:** BY CHRISTOPH GIESEN, HELMUT MARTIN-JUNG AND GEORG MASCOLO

**Body**

There is no addressee. But it is clear against whom this decision is directed: in the midst of the trade conflict, US President Donald Trump has issued a decree granting his government extensive possibilities to take action against foreign telecom companies. Specific countries or companies are not mentioned. However, the measure is likely to be aimed at the Chinese network supplier Huawei. The company and several of its subsidiaries have been placed on a list that requires them to obtain approval from the US government before buying American technology.

The US has been warning its allies for months against using Huawei technology to build the new mobile phone standard 5G. The Americans fear that Huawei could be forced by Chinese legislation to grant the government in Beijing access to customer data. Washington also does not rule out sabotage - such as the deliberate shutdown of parts of the digital infrastructure. Huawei vehemently denies the accusations.

The Department of Commerce in Washington now has 150 days to issue corresponding regulations. Depending on the interpretation, things could get tight for the Chinese company. In the best case, Trump's ban merely aims to reduce Huawei's access to key technologies. In the past, the company had bought several small American companies, and Huawei also supports research at US universities. That should pretty much be the end of it.

It could become more difficult for Huawei if the decree is interpreted particularly strictly and American companies are no longer allowed to do business with Huawei. Production would then be in serious danger. Because in order to equip 5G base stations, so-called high-frequency chips made of silicon carbide are needed. Three companies dominate the world market: Wolfspeed and Qorvo from the USA and the Dutch company NXP, which is listed on the New York Stock Exchange and must also submit to the decree.

What happens when you are suddenly cut off from the American chip supply was experienced last year by the Chinese company ZTE, whose ribbons were at a standstill for months. If the same happens to Huawei, network expansion could be delayed in several countries. So far, the time advantage has always been the main argument for using Huawei technology.

The Chinese reaction followed promptly on Thursday, albeit a little more subtly than expected. The foreign office in Beijing confirmed that two Canadians who had been detained for months had been transferred to pre-trial detention. Former diplomat Michael Kovrig and businessman Michael Spavor were arrested last December, shortly after Meng Wanzhou, Huawei's chief financial officer, was detained at Vancouver airport on charges of bank fraud related to Iran sanctions - at the request of the US .

Since then, Sino-Canadian relations have been extremely tense. Kovrig 'worked as a spy, stole Chinese state secrets and classified information', the official Xinhua news agency quoted the Communist Party's legal committee as saying in March. Spavor had been his most important contact and had provided him with secret information. Diplomats in Beijing consider the accusations to be fabricated.

Recently, the conflict seemed to have calmed down to some extent: The British National Security Council leaked out that Huawei is not to be excluded in principle from 5G expansion in the UK, but only from the core network. Similar considerations are also being made in Germany. Numerous ***European*** governments have signalled in recent weeks that this could also be their course: strict checks, no Chinese technology in the most sensitive parts of the network. But also no general ban, which could lead to an economic war with China.

Signs were even registered that the USA might accept defeat. The US ambassador in Berlin, Richard Grenell, had still openly threatened to restrict intelligence cooperation in March. However, information reached the German government through other channels that the US intelligence services did not want to change anything about the cooperation. The move was not coordinated, they said. The decision in London was in line with this: the wiretapping service GCHQ is the closest partner of the US intelligence service NSA, and the British know Huawei's software and hardware best thanks to years of testing. Those who wanted to continue doing business with Huawei undisturbed in ***Europe*** could easily hide behind the British decision.

Now the confrontation is back. What impact it will have on ***Europe cannot*** yet be assessed. Huawei is a 'gigantic Trojan horse', a US official just told ***European*** diplomats. The old continent is about to make a historic mistake. No one knows what is coming now, the logic of the Cold War does not work. Back then, trade was minimal. Today, China cannot produce without US chips. And the US and the rest of the world cannot without China.

**The Chinese reaction followed promptly, but was somewhat more subtle than expected**

**Graphic**

What's in the cupboard? A Huawei employee shows a server during a tour at the company's cybersecurity lab, located on the corporate campus in Dongguan. Photo: Kevin Frayer/Getty

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject:** ECONOMIC NEWS (90%); TRADE CONFLICTS (89%); POLITICS (89%); LEGISLATION (78%); PERMITS (77%); EMBARGOES & SANCTIONS (77%); EXECUTIVES (77%); HEADS OF STATE & GOVERNMENT (77%); U.S. PRESIDENTS (77%); DATA THEFT (74%); MINISTRIES OF COMMERCE & CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE (72%); SMALL & MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (72%); POLITICAL PARTIES (72%); ARRESTS (64%); ESPIONAGE (62%)

**Industry:** 5G (89%); TELECOMMUNICATIONS (77%); DATA THEFT (74%); MOBILE COMMUNICATIONS (71%)

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

**Geographic:** PEKING, CHINA (93%); NEW YORK, NY, USA (79%); VANCOUVER, BC, CANADA (79%); BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA (79%); NORTH AMERICA (94%); CANADA (92%); CHINA (91%); NETHERLANDS (78%); IRAN (58%).

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

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[***Wealthy Germans are drawn to Luxembourg; despite its own protestations, the Grand Duchy continues to benefit from extremely low tax rates. 20 of the 100 wealthiest German citizens are represented there with companies***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5W4D-KNK1-JDHD-W075-00000-00&context=)

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

**Length:** 511 words

**Byline:** BY M. MUCH AND R. WIEGAND

**Body**

**Munich** - Luxembourg is still the financial centre of choice for many wealthy Germans when it comes to avoiding taxes. According to research by *Süddeutsche Zeitung*, NDR and WDR, 20 of the 100 richest Germans have companies in the Grand Duchy's commercial register, including such well-known business giants as Klaus-Michael Kühne, Theo Müller, Alexander Otto and the Reimann family.

Four and a half years after the so-called Lux Leak revelations, it has become clear that Luxembourg - despite all the protestations of the government there to change its own financial policy - is still luring people with an extremely low tax burden. In November 2014, reporters from the SZ, together with colleagues from the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ), uncovered how multinational corporations were using Luxembourg shell companies to push their tax burden below one per cent in some cases.

Since then, there have been repeated spectacular data leaks from tax havens, including those in ***Europe***. Nevertheless, the problem still exists. Pierre Moscovici, the ***European*** Union's finance commissioner, lamented in an interview with SZ, NDR and WDR that Luxembourg still offered 'advantages for aggressive tax planning'. Cooperation with the government has been good since the Lux Leak revelation, but although there has been progress, that does not mean 'that everything is done'.

The data that reporters from Germany, France and Belgium have now analysed comes from the freely accessible commercial register of the Grand Duchy. In the course of the research, they were processed in such a way that they could be searched for persons or addresses. In this way, for example, companies of the Reimanns in Luxembourg could be researched.

The Reimanns are one of the most secretive German billionaire dynasties, but almost everyone knows the brands of their group: Clerasil, Jacobs coffee or Colgate are among them. The Luxembourg-based JAB Holding Company, founded by the Reimanns in 2011, paid only 1.1 million ***euros in*** taxes on around 338 million ***euros in*** profits in 2017 - less than half a percent. The company said on request that the companies bundled in the holding would pay taxes in their respective countries; JAB was not in Luxembourg for tax reasons. Belgian tax expert Denis-Emmanuel Philippe, on the other hand, says that in his view there is 'no obvious reason to be in Luxembourg other than the good tax environment'.

The outgoing ***EU Commission President*** Jean-Claude Juncker, who was head of government in the Grand Duchy for many years, is considered the inventor of this 'tax environment'. Luxembourg's Foreign Minister Jean Asselborn defended his country against criticism: "I think Luxembourg has shown that it has understood", he said in view of the investigations by SZ, NDR and WDR. His country was 'moving onto a different track' without the financial centre or the companies associated with it having collapsed.

**Economy**

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject:** TAXES & TAXATION (93%); POLITICS (90%); RICH (90%); TAX AVOIDANCE (90%); ***EUROPEAN UNION (89%);*** HOLDING COMPANIES (89%); PUBLIC POLICY (89%); INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS ORGANISATIONS (78%); JOURNALISM (78%); HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT (78%); MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS (77%); ECONOMIC POLICY (77%); FOREIGN RELATIONS (76%); DATA THEFT (76%); TAX STRUCTURING (72%); DATA BREACHES (68%)

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

**Industry:** DATA DISTRIBUTION (76%); TAXATION (72%); DATA PANNING (68%)

**Person:** JEAN-CLAUDE JUNCKER (79%); PIERRE MOSCOVICI (79%)

**Geographic: *EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (92%); LUXEMBOURG (97%); ***EUROPE (***90%); BELGIUM (88%); FRANCE (79%); GERMANY (59%)

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

**End of Document**

[***Tax advantage? Not at all; major German corporations give a lot of reasons why they need to set up companies in the neighbouring Grand Duchy. Tax optimisation is not one of them. Four examples of the tricks companies use to reduce their tax burden in Luxembourg***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5W4D-KNK1-JDHD-W0GP-00000-00&context=)

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Friday 17 May 2019

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**Section:** Economy; Background; Munich; Bavaria; Germany; p. 29

**Length:** 1806 words

**Byline:** MAURITIUS MUCH, JAN WILLMROTH

**Body**

**Frankfurt/Munich** - In autumn 2003, Theo Müller has had enough. In an interview with *Der Spiegel,* he speaks of "tax insanity" and adds: "I am being expropriated, robbed, call it what you like. The reason for the anger of the dairy billionaire with brands like Müller-Milch and Weihenstephan is the inheritance tax of 30 percent in Germany. Should he die, his descendants would have to pay around 200 million ***euros*** - the entrepreneur is moving with his family from his home village southwest of Augsburg to Lake Zurich. There, there is no inheritance or gift tax if children or spouses benefit.

It is not the only sacrifice Müller makes to protect his assets from the German tax authorities. In 2011, Müller founded the Theo Müller S.e.c.s. group of companies in Luxembourg as a holding company for his corporate empire, which today includes more than 100 companies. Several companies are based in Luxembourg. Optimally, only a fraction of the taxes payable in Germany are due there.

The border between Germany and Luxembourg is 135 kilometres long, but fiscally the neighbours are worlds apart. That is why a lot of money still crosses the short border: a total of 20 of the 100 richest Germans have companies in Luxembourg, research by *Süddeutsche Zeitung*, NDR and WDR shows in the commercial register of the Grand Duchy. They hold real estate, group-owned insurance companies, investment funds. Profits in Luxembourg are taxed at a lower rate than elsewhere, interest and dividends are at best completely tax-free.

Holdings are the most common, example: Theo Müller. His group of companies, dominated by the holding company in Luxembourg, was taxed at an effective rate of only 5.78 percent in 2017, compared to 5.64 percent the year before. Reporters from SZ, NDR and WDR were able to view the annual financial statements in the Luxembourg company register. The Theo Müller group of companies - annual turnover according to its own figures 5.9 billion ***euros*** - did not answer questions specifically, but stated that it always fulfilled its tax obligations in full.

The tax advantages that rich Germans use in the Grand Duchy are legal in principle. However, "tax optimisation" harms the home countries if the tax burden there is reduced by shifting profits. But in any case, few confirm that they go to Luxembourg because of the tiresome taxes.

The JAB Holding Company, for example, claims that it does not operate in Luxembourg for tax reasons. The company was founded in 2011 by the Reimann family, which never appears in public but makes billions in sales with well-known brands such as Sagrotan, Calgon, Clerasil, Jacobs coffee or Senseo. Directly or indirectly, the Luxembourg umbrella company has shares in over 250 companies worldwide.

This corporate structure allows several tax loopholes to be exploited with the help of Luxembourg. For example, company managers and a board of advisors are offered stock options, for which the holding company set aside 200 million ***euros in*** 2018 and almost 600 million ***euros*** the year before. 'Granting share options to company managers can be interesting for tax purposes in Luxembourg,' explains Denis-Emmanuel Philippe. The Belgian lawyer and tax expert took a look at some company structures for SZ, NDR and WDR: These share options can lead to deductible expenses under Luxembourg tax law. In plain language, this means that even if the options are not redeemed until years later, they immediately reduce the company's earnings and tax burden. This is not possible in Germany.

In addition, dividends from the subsidiaries can be channelled tax-free to two Austrian companies of the Reimanns via the Luxembourg holding company. By passing on the profits, the parent company reports losses which further reduce the tax burden in Luxembourg.

Because such tax exemptions are possible there, JAB only had to pay 1.1 million ***euros in*** taxes on around 338 million ***euros in*** profits in 2017, according to the balance sheet - not half a percent. But, as I said, JAB is not in Luxembourg for tax reasons. Moreover, the treatment of stock options as liabilities does not yield any tax advantages. Also, corresponding taxes would be paid by the companies of the group in the respective countries.

Alexander Otto, the youngest scion of the Hamburg entrepreneurial family with the Otto catalogue, is also very internationally active. As head of ECE Projektmanagement, Alexander Otto is something like Germany's Mister Shopping Centre. 142 shopping worlds are in operation across the country, with several more under construction.

Otto has also been a partial owner of the Brazilian shopping centre operator Sonae Sierra Brasil since 2014, through a holding company in Luxembourg. Although this company has no employees and a rather empty balance sheet, it distributes almost all of its millions in proceeds to the shareholders every year. The company has no other task than to pass on profits in a tax-optimised manner. There is no significant business activity to be seen in the annual financial statements,' says independent balance sheet expert Carola Rinker, who analysed the company structure for SZ, NDR and WDR.

Year after year, millions flow through the books of Otto's Luxembourg subsidiary - profits from the Brazilian malls, booked tax-free in Luxembourg. However, Otto says that taxes have already been paid in Brazil. It is not a model for tax optimisation.

Incidentally, Alexander Otto is also one of the patrons of Hamburger SV, which has sunk into the second Bundesliga, a fate he shares with another of Hamburg's entrepreneurial greats: Klaus-Michael Kühne. The logistics billionaire, majority owner of the major freight forwarder Kühne + Nagel, makes relatively frank and intensive use of holding companies in tax havens. As a German, Kühne lives in Switzerland, the headquarters of his group. Kuehne + Nagel Germany employs about 15,000 people at 130 locations. Of the handful of companies in Luxembourg, some have hardly any employees, but measured against this they seem to be disproportionately important.

One company in particular, called Kuehne + Nagel Investments S.à.r.l., stands out. It collects profit distributions from other group units in which it has a direct stake, and most recently paid out about 60 million ***euros*** in dividends annually. According to register extracts, the company states as its purpose to grant loans within the corporate group.

Until one and a half years ago, this special purpose vehicle handled amounts of more than 800 million ***euros***, which it distributed to group subsidiaries, often in high-tax countries. According to the final report for 2016, it lent about 500 million ***euros*** to the German subsidiaries of Kuehne + Nagel. For the most part, the loans were repaid within one year - an unusually short period for such high loan sums. Most of the money lent by the Luxembourg holding company came from another subsidiary in the zero-tax haven of Bermuda. This trick saved taxes because the German subsidiaries paid interest to the holding company in Luxembourg. This reduced the taxable profit in Germany. In Luxembourg, only little tax has to be paid on the interest. The model was discontinued at the end of 2017.

For Markus Meinzer, board member of the Tax Justice Network, which researches questions of financial transparency, the matter is clear: "Here, the established and aggressive corporate tax havens of Luxembourg, Switzerland and Bermuda are conflated into a highly complex financing model, the effect of which can only be an aggressive avoidance of taxes. The group, on the other hand, gives operational reasons, such as the favourable geographical location, for the Luxembourg site. The intra-company loans from Luxembourg were granted for reorganisation and to finance acquisitions; moreover, holding companies in Luxembourg are not tax avoidance companies because the subsidiaries have already paid profit taxes.

Well-meaning people would describe what one of ***Europe's*** largest logistics service providers is doing as 'tax-optimised' in the sense of the group and its financiers. Experts like Meinzer, however, see it as a strategy to artificially reduce the profits of subsidiaries - in order to avoid taxes.

**5.9 billion *euros in* turnover, no six per cent in taxes - milk is not the only thing that counts**

**Theo Müller**

Almost 50 years ago, Theo Müller, 79, took over his father's dairy with four employees. Today, his group of companies is a major global player with billions in sales and 27,500 employees. Müller turned buttermilk into a bestseller; with slogans like 'Alles Müller, oder was?' and Gerd Müller or other prominent advertising faces, the company became famous. Because of the threat of inheritance tax, Müller (photo: dpa) has been living in "exile" in Switzerland since 2003, as he says.

**Klaus-Michael Kühne**

The heart of Klaus-Michael Kühne, 81, belongs to Hamburg. He has invested millions in the now relegated Hamburger SV and the Elbphilharmonie concert hall, and a logistics university bears his name. But the native Hanseatic has been paying taxes in Switzerland for decades. That is also where his logistics company Kühne + Nagel moved its headquarters 50 years ago. He once said that he had nothing against taxes. I would just like to have the feeling that they are for the right people.

things are spent.' Photo: dpa

**The money from Brazil flows into accounts in Luxembourg: Otto thinks this is good**

**Alexander Otto**

There is hardly a shopping centre or mall in Germany that is not backed by Hamburg-born

Alexander Otto, 51, is standing. His father

Werner had founded the family fortune with a mail-order company and the famous 'Otto catalogue'. Similar to Klaus-Michael Kühne, Alexander Otto (photo: dpa) also supports HSV financially. He was even a member of the football club's supervisory board for a time. Most recently, Otto donated millions to save the tennis tournament at Hamburg's Rothenbaum.

**Reimann family**

There are no photos of the Reimanns.

The family is considered even more publicity-shy than the Albrechts, who are behind Aldi. The Reimanns, whose rise began with the Benckiser chemical factory,

come from the area around Mannheim and Heidelberg. Renate Reimann-Haas, Wolfgang Reimann as well as their cousins Matthias Reimann-Andersen and Stefan Reimann-Andersen belong to around

90 per cent of the group of companies. It includes such well-known brands as

Senseo, Calgon or Colgate.

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject:** TAXES & TAXATION (92%); HOLDING COMPANIES (90%); LIMITED PARTNERSHIPS (90%); TAX STRUCTURING (90%); RICH (89%); TAX AVOIDANCE (89%); SECURITIES & OTHER INVESTMENTS (87%); FINANCIAL RESULTS & REPORTING (78%); INTERVIEWS (78%); CORPORATE STRUCTURES & OWNERSHIP (78%); CORPORATE SALES (78%); ESTATE TAX (77%); GIFT TAX (77%); DIVIDENDS (76%); FINANCIAL RESULTS (76%)

**Company:** UNTERNEHMENSGRUPPE THEO MUELLER GMBH & CO KG (58%)

**Industry:** NAICS312111 SOFT DRINK MANUFACTURING (58%); SIC2023 DRY CONDENSED & EVAPORATED DAIRY PRODUCTS (58%); TAXATION (90%); SECURITIES & OTHER CAPITAL ASSETS (87%); INCOME TAX (77%); REAL ESTATE TRADE (70%)

**Geographic:** BAVARIA, GERMANY (59%); LUXEMBOURG (95%); GERMANY (89%); BELGIUM (73%)

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

**End of Document**

[***AUGSTEIN'S WORLD; Pro Brexit; There are countless studies that show that Britain leaving the EU will hurt everyone involved, first and foremost the UK. But one who is smart and not a demagogue is still in favour. A meeting with Lord Salisbury***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5W4D-KNK1-JDHD-W0C4-00000-00&context=)

Süddeutsche Zeitung

Friday 17 May 2019

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**Section:** Economy; Munich; Bavaria; p. 26

**Length:** 946 words

**Byline:** FRANZISKA AUGSTEIN

**Body**

Brexit is a matter of feeling: that's what many Germans think, especially those who have a thing for England. On the other side of the English Channel, so the widespread opinion, an insular mentality prevails, in which an argument from the 17th century - 'my home is my castle' - is combined with maritime considerations, as Shakespeare already expressed them: He praised 'this jewel, set in the silver sea, which does her service of a wall'.

That is why, many ***pro-EU people*** think, a good majority of English people have allowed themselves to be taken in by irresponsible, elitist high earners posing as politicians and believe everything they have been promised: If the UK no longer had to pay net into the ***EU***, infinite money would be saved, which would then go to the health service; finally free from the ***EU,*** the country would be able to build much better trade relations with all over the world. This was - evident from the start - partly lying, partly unsubstantiated future buzz. Faced with the obvious choice of whether the English have lost their minds or are emotionally national, Anglophiles choose the second.

Robert Gascoyne-Cecil, the seventh Marquess of Salisbury, cannot afford to make a purely emotional decision: he owns extensive estates in England, including more than 40,000 sheep; his main business is the management of several properties in London and elsewhere. He owns several houses around London's Leicester Square, which he has had refurbished along with the square. He also owns more than one historic country mansion. Hatfield House is open to the public, with some parts still standing from the 1480s, the rest having been knocked together to make a new building in the early 17th century. Elizabeth I was brought up in Hatfield House and received the news that she was to become Queen there in 1558. Naturally, the roof had to be kept in good condition. So: Lord Salisbury is watching the money. And yet he is in favour of Brexit.

The meeting with him takes place in his townhouse in London. The furnishings are not pompous in the Empire style, they are English-old and dignified-elegant. Three dogs come to greet him: a large one, a medium-sized one and a small, cuddly one. As far as ***Europe is concerned,*** the Lord would have preferred the small version, namely, as he says, '***Europe*** à la carte'. Even when he was still an elected Tory MP in the House of Commons, he voted against Britain's accession to the EC in 1975.

But where the ***EU*** exists now, he argues, it would have been better to suggest to the states which initiative they want to join: 'Science, defence, oh almost everything: the countries that want to join could have agreed on that.' What he dislikes is the 'top-down democracy, this Napoleonic structure'. He is alluding to France and its President Macron: in reality, he does not want to reform his country, his ***European policy is*** only aimed at having France subsidised by Germany and other countries.

Lord Salisbury speaks as if he has just read the new book by the acclaimed historian Peter Frankopan. It is called 'The New Silk Roads' (Rowohlt-Berlin). Frankopan explains that 1000 years ago, the centre of the world was in Asia. What power and influence has been taken over by the West since then is now being reclaimed. The Western world has to adjust to this. Accordingly, Robert Gascoyne-Cecil thinks that after the first industrial revolution around 1800, a second, a digital revolution is now underway. And in his view, the ***EU*** is not in a position to meet the challenges from the Asian region. Therefore, he said, Britain needs to loosen its anchors to the ***EU in order*** to be able to move freely: "Then originality can spark. With the ***EU,*** we are in a dead end.'

The British Foreign Secretary, Jeremy Hunt, recently told the BBC flatly that Britain is a 'global power'. Lord Salisbury, for his part, does not want to represent a global power at all. His ancestors came from Wales: "In the Middle Ages we were gangsters. We came to London from Wales, in the 15th century, in Henry VII's retinue, so to speak, to better ourselves.' What he wants is for his country to be able to do business freely, without regard to ***EU*** requirements.

Lord Salisbury concedes that the ***EU has*** not had all that much influence on British affairs. Immigration policy has been determined by the ***EU*** - which has led to people from Eastern European countries coming to do what no Briton wants to do any more: Harvest work for little pay, for example. The Lord sees it that way too. Another point: without the ***EU***'s competition rules, the British government might have come up with the idea of keeping ailing companies afloat from the state. Lord Salisbury agrees with this too.

When asked how the Lord envisions Britain's future, he says: the country must compete with other countries in terms of taxation so that companies may locate in the UK. He advocates international competition in the division: where will the least taxes be due? Whether this will benefit ordinary employees and whether it is a good idea in the long run? One might doubt it. The doubts will come up at this point in a fortnight.

**The continent cannot yet cope with the digital revolution, says Lord Salisbury**

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject: *EUROPEAN UNION*** (91%); BREXIT (90%); POLITICS (89%); BRITISH PARLIAMENT (78%); POLITICAL PARTIES (75%); HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT (75%); PUBLIC POLICY (75%); PRESIDENTS OF STATE (72%)

**Geographic:** LONDON, ENGLAND (90%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (94%); ***EUROPE (90%);*** FRANCE (90%); UNITED KINGDOM (90%); ENGLAND (88%); GERMANY (59%).

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

**End of Document**

[***Leslie Mandoki & his Super-Stars; STRONG VOICES FOR EUROPE!***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5W4D-RGX1-DY2B-S0W8-00000-00&context=)

Bild

Friday 17 May 2019

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**Section:** Last page; p. 12; issue 114

**Length:** 213 words

**Byline:** Janina Kirsch

**Body**

Tutzing - These stars unite their voices for ***EUROPA***!

It is an exceptional project that has never existed before: In cooperation with BILD and producer Leslie Mandoki (66), music greats like Peter Maffay (69), Vicky Leandros (66) and the Scorpions have joined forces. Together they re-recorded a 30-year-old song - "Mother ***Europe*** 2019" - just in time for the ***European elections*** (23 to 26 May). THE MESSAGE: Only together are we strong!

For Mandoki, who fled from Hungary to Germany in 1975, it was a matter of the heart. He told BILD: "30 years ago we had an incredible feeling of happiness. The Berlin Wall was gone, we were a united Germany and ***Europe was*** also finding its way back to each other. That feeling has faded."

The music legend warns: "NOW is the time to raise our voices!"

Here you can find the song

As of today, "Mother ***Europe*** 2019" is available for download and streaming on all major online music platforms via the following link: [*https://lnk.to/MotherEurope2019*](https://lnk.to/MotherEurope2019)

All proceeds will go to the BILD charity "Ein Herz für Kinder".

The video for the song is available directly via our AR code (r.)!

Download BILD app

Open VIDEO PHOTO menu

Point your mobile phone at the red and white video button

**Graphic**

LESLIE MANDOKI (l). with KLAUS MEINE (70, r.) and RUDOLF SCHENKER (70) from the Scorpions. They musically shaped the German reunification with their anthem "Wind of Change": "***Europe*** is our home. For our generation and also the generations to come, it is important to support diversity and people coming together."

Mega-star VICKY LEANDROS (66, "I love life") has Greek and German citizenship: "We ***Europeans*** share culture, common values - and we should keep that!"

PETER MAFFAY (69, "Over Seven Bridges") was born in Romania, today he lives on Lake Starnberg: "The song 'Mother ***Europe***' is an emotional statement about a united ***Europe to*** which there is no sensible alternative. Any other decision would be a step backwards!

Pop singer CASSANDRA STEEN (39, "City") grew up as the daughter of a US soldier with her grandparents on an army base in Germany: "'Mother ***Europe*** 2019' stands for cohesion - that you respect each other despite differences and look around the corner."

Singer-songwriter HEINZ RUDOLF KUNZE (62, r., here with LESLIE MANDOKI) was born in the refugee camp Espelkamp near Minden (Westphalia): "If ***Europe*** doesn't speak with one voice, it will lose out to America, Russia or China in the future."

RENNIE HATZKE (63), AARON STROBEL (61), TIM WILHELM (41) and MICHAEL KUNZI (60, from left) from Münchener Freiheit ("Without You") have a clear opinion: "***Europe*** stands for peace and for freedom. It is the cradle in which we are all weighed, in which we are all brothers and sisters. We are ***Europe***!"

Photos: LARS BERG, FRANK ZAURITZ

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** BIBU

**Subject:** WELFARE ORGANISATIONS (73%); ELECTIONS (73%); ELECTIONS & ELECTION FIGHTING (73%); VOTERS & ELECTIONS (73%).

**Organization: *EUROPEAN*** UNION (94%)

**Geographic: *EUROPE*** (88%); GERMANY (70%); HUNGARY (57%)

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

**End of Document**

[***Expensive mistrust; Before the European election the interest rate differential between Italian and German government bonds is widening. The election campaign of the right-wing nationalist deputy prime minister Matteo Salvini is a major contribu***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5W4D-KNK1-JDHD-W0CS-00000-00&context=)

Süddeutsche Zeitung

Friday 17 May 2019

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**Section:** Economy; Munich; Bavaria; p. 27

**Length:** 762 words

**Byline:** BY OLIVER MEILER

**Body**

**Rome** - The "spread" is back. Anyone who clicks, scrolls and zaps through the Italian media will come across this term everywhere: 'Lo spread'. This is usually accompanied by a score that, depending on its level, makes the headlines swell or swell. More than 200 points are considered high. 300 is critical, 350 really threatening.

Spread' - this refers to the difference in interest rates between Italian and German government bonds. It is an indicator of whether investors consider Italy economically stable and politically reliable enough to invest their money there. German Bunds are the benchmark, the gold standard, so to speak, and the spread reflects the gap between them. Since the populists of Lega and Cinque Stelle have been in power in Rome, it has been constantly high. Shortly before the ***European elections,*** however, it is now growing again strongly - or as the Italians say: "It's flaring up again. To almost 300 points.

This has a lot to do with some of the statements made by Matteo Salvini, the deputy prime minister and interior minister of the right-wing nationalist Lega. On his campaign tour through the country, he appears in a different piazza every few hours and is talking a lot at the moment. When asked if Italy would stick to the Maastricht deficit limit of three per cent of gross domestic product, Salvini said: 'Not only can you break this shackle, you have to'. On the level of public debt: "130 or 140 per cent (*of total economic output, ed.*) - I don't care, we just keep going. Italy must be ready to take courageous decisions to fight unemployment and poverty in the country, Brussels will not stop him.

No matter? On another occasion, Salvini said: I'm going to put the spread on my breakfast sandwich". And: 'I'm not interested in decimals, I'm only interested in Italians'. Of course, such sayings serve above all as political propaganda. Salvini is constantly looking for a fight with Brussels in order to mobilise his ***Eurosceptic*** voters. The financial markets reacted immediately, investors dumped Italian papers in large numbers, interest rates rose. Since Rome had to refinance another tranche of public debt on the same day, that operation alone cost about eight million ***euros*** more than planned.

Afterwards, an economist appeared on a private television channel who explained to the viewers with a lot of patience that it does not matter how high the spread and interest rates are when a country is as dramatically indebted as Italy. With eight million ***euros,*** he said, a storm-ravaged lake in the Dolomites, for example, could be restored. In general, it is striking how experts try to explain to the citizens as vividly as possible what the figures are all about. No one can imagine anything less than 2359 billion ***euros.*** That's how high Italy's national debt is right now, and the trend is growing. The online newspaper *Linkiesta* calls this figure 'our yoke' - 'the heart of all our problems'. With such a mountain of debt, every political turbulence turns into an earthquake.

Italy spends about 70 billion ***euros*** every year to service its loans. In 2018, as Italy's central bank calculated, the distrust of the markets, the spread, cost the Italians more than two billion ***euros*** extra. No slogan, no provocation is without consequence. Salvini's government colleagues are now trying their best to calm the markets and Brussels in order to limit the damage. Italy's economy is stagnating, which makes everything even more explosive.

Luigi Di Maio, the other deputy prime minister and leader of the Five Star Party, says he already guarantees that Italy will not incur more debt. We are the rational force in this government'. That has been different before. The non-party economy and finance minister Giovanni Tria sent the secretary-general of his ministry to London to keep investors happy. And Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte, who is closer to the Cinque Stelle than to the Lega, surprised everyone with an admission. It will be difficult to balance the budget in the autumn without raising VAT. Later he added: "But we will manage. Probably the Lega had pushed him to add this. One should not even talk hypothetically about new taxes so close to the elections.

**Page 4**

**Salvini's government colleagues try to reassure the markets and Brussels**

**Graphic**

Interior Minister Matteo Salvini stokes financial market scepticism in his election campaign speeches - which can cost Italian taxpayers millions of ***euros in*** a single day. Photo: Angelo Carconi/AP

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject:** VOTERS & ELECTIONS (91%); BONDS & NOTES (90%); POLITICS (90%); GOVERNMENT BONDS (90%); ELECTIONS (90%); GOVERNMENT DEBT (89%); ELECTIONS & CAMPAIGNS (89%); SECURITIES & OTHER INVESTMENTS (89%); GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT (77%); ECONOMIC NEWS (77%); BUSINESS NEWS (72%); ECONOMICS (72%)

**Industry:** BONDS (90%); GOVERNMENT BONDS (90%); SECURITIES & OTHER CAPITAL ASSETS (89%); BANKING AND FINANCIAL OVERVIEW (70%)

**Geographic:** ROME, ITALY (93%); BRUSSELS, BELGIUM (70%); ITALY (94%)

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

**End of Document**

[***BRIEFLY MENTIONED; Broad Alliance for Europe***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5W4D-KNK1-JDHD-W08G-00000-00&context=)

Süddeutsche Zeitung

Friday 17 May 2019

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

**Length:** 229 words

**Byline:** RIKE

**Body**

**Berlin** - A broad alliance of trade unions and employers, the two Christian churches, the Coordinating Council of Muslims, the Central Council of Jews as well as environmental, cultural and sports organisations have issued a joint appeal to vote 'pro-European' in the ***European elections*** on 26 May. It is the second appeal of this 'Alliance for Cosmopolitanism'. We must not allow right-wing populists to gain strength and spread their hatred of others through the ***European Parliament,***" says Josef Schuster, President of the Central Council of Jews. Nurhan Soykan, spokesperson of the Coordination Council of Muslims, calls on "especially Muslim voters in Germany" to "cast their vote for tolerance, diversity and humanity in ***Europe*** and for a democratically open society". Cardinal Reinhard Marx, President of the German Bishops' Conference, emphasises: "Narrow-mindedness and nationalism do not go well with Christian convictions. Reiner Hoffmann, President of the German Trade Union Confederation, called for ***Europe to be*** protected "from those who are now crying out for new border fences with their nationalist slogans". The president of the employers' association, Ingo Kramer, calls it "fatal to leave ***Europe*** idly in the hands of anti-European forces".

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject:** CHRISTIANITY & CHRISTIANS (90%); TRADE UNIONS (90%); LAW ENFORCEMENT ORGANISATIONS (78%); POLITICS (78%); RELIGIOUS LEADERS & OFFICIALS (78%); ELECTIONS (73%); VOTES & ELECTION COMPLAINTS (72%); VOTERS & ELECTIONS (72%).

**Company:** ALLIANZ SE (91%)

**Organisation: *EUROPEAN*** UNION (94%); ***EUROPEAN*** PARLIAMENT (55%)

**Ticker:** ALV (FRA) (91%); ALV (BIT) (91%)

**Industry:** NAICS524126 DIRECT PROPERTY & CASUALTY INSURANCE CARRIERS (91%); NAICS524113 DIRECT LIFE INSURANCE CARRIERS (91%); NAICS523920 PORTFOLIO MANAGEMENT (91%)

**Geographic:** BERLIN, GERMANY (58%); ***EUROPE*** (93%); GERMANY (59%)

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

**End of Document**

[***Hans-Lothar Merten, expert on tax havens, explains how Luxembourg became what it still is today - and what role German banks play.***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5W4D-KNK1-JDHD-W06T-00000-00&context=)

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**Section:** Economy; Munich; Bavaria; Germany; p. 28

**Length:** 925 words

**Byline:** INTERVIEW: BASTIAN BRINKMANN  
  
Jean-Claude Juncker in November 2014 on Lux Leaks   
  
Juncker in September 2015 before an ***EU special committee on*** Lux leaks   
  
Juncker in May 2019 looking back on his first reaction to Lux-Leaks

**Body**

**Munich** - Safe deposit boxes in Switzerland and letterbox companies on Caribbean islands: Hans-Lothar Merten, 77, has been dealing with tax havens for a long time. For many years he published the standard work *Tax Havens,* which summarised the advantages and disadvantages of the various offshore countries. The journalist lives in Munich. In 2017, he published the book 'Vertreibung aus dem Paradies: 100 Jahre Steueroasen zwischen Nummernkonten, Briefkastenfirmen und Karibikinseln'.

**SZ: How did Luxembourg become a tax haven?**

Hans-Lothar Merten: German banks have boosted Luxembourg. The banks put up posters all over Germany, which is what made Luxembourg known and interesting as a refuge for private investors in the first place. Before the interest income tax was introduced in 1993, there was a capital flight movement of German investors. At that time, not only the money of the rich, but also the smallest assets went to Luxembourg. People went to Luxembourg with their money in the boot, mainly people from Hesse, Rhineland-Palatinate and North Rhine-Westphalia. They wanted to be able to drive across the border quickly themselves. At that time, coupons were still cut, so it was about securities in physical form.

**What does a country like Luxembourg gain from becoming a tax haven?**

It is a job creation programme. Banks and investment companies have thousands of employees. Most of them come from abroad, because Luxembourg cannot provide so many employees. And of course these companies, even if they pay little tax, leave money in the country - through hotel accommodation, dinners and so on.

**Switzerland and Luxembourg are probably the most popular tax havens for Germans. What distinguishes the two countries?**

Switzerland has been known as a tax haven since the First World War. In Luxembourg, these things were only ramped up in the eighties. The quality of Swiss banks has always been good. Luxembourg only developed there. But then they were good. Especially because many German banks moved over. They brought some of their clients with them.

**And well-paid jobs in the financial sector.**

Exactly. Luxembourg has courted the banks. The legislature went along and offered interesting tax constructions for large private assets. Even today, Luxembourg is one of the largest fund financial centres in the world. And Luxembourg held on to banking secrecy for a long time, as did Austria, by the way. Investors there were able to save on interest tax.

**After all, banking secrecy has been passé in the *EU* for a few years now.**

For smaller private investors, Luxembourg had already become uninteresting: because of the tax CDs, because of the large-scale raids on the banks. They suddenly had the jitters. Large fortunes didn't care. They use a tax trick via so-called life insurance shell companies, they can still do that today. That is also asset management, they can put real estate, shares and funds in it.

**So with banking secrecy, Luxembourg has only given up something that no one used any more anyway?**

In principle, yes. The Luxembourg financial sector then focused on large assets - and on companies.

**What makes Luxembourg interesting for corporations? The country has won Amazon, for example.**

Until the Lux leaks, companies sometimes paid 0.001 percent tax, which means: nothing at all. And for German companies, Luxembourg is on their doorstep. They can drive over and hold a meeting in an hour. In Luxembourg they also get quick decisions. Companies don't have to wait long to register anything. In Germany, it sometimes takes months to get a licence. In Luxembourg, it's quick. The administration is cooperative. Luxembourg courts taxpayers, even if they pay little tax.

**The Lux Leaks were received rather negatively within Luxembourg, often along the lines of: foreign media are being unfair to us. Why do tax havens react so sensitively to criticism?**

They have no sense of injustice when you evade taxes. Companies also have no sense of injustice. They simply try to generate the highest possible return for their shareholders. Tax minimisation is part of that. That's why they don't see a problem. The Luxembourgers knew what they were doing. What is saved in taxes in Luxembourg is taken away from other countries.

**Tax evasion and tax avoidance are increasingly in the focus of politics. Are the tax havens now under attack?**

In ***Europe,*** we have different tax rates in the countries. As long as you can't manage in the ***EU to*** bring the rates for corporate tax to a uniform minimum, for example 18 percent, there will always be attempts to find loopholes in ***Europe as*** well. There is a whole industry that takes care of this - and it is highly paid. These are the large auditing firms, which will always try to find something for their clients, whether in the ***EU*** or worldwide. The ***EU Commission*** should have taken tougher action here. But not much is happening because we in ***Europe have*** to unanimously decide to change tax regimes. Malta, Cyprus, the Netherlands, Luxembourg will block such laws.

There was no illegal

Practice that

would be known to me.'

Lux-Leaks is a

Unword.'

I would have immediately

should answer.

That was a big

Mistake.'

**Graphic**

Illustration: Stefan Dimitrov

Hans-Lothar Merten is a trained banker and expert on tax havens. Photo: Stephan Rumpf

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject:** TAXES & TAXATION (90%); SECURITIES & OTHER CAPITAL ASSETS (88%); RICH (77%); EUROPEAN ***UNION (76%);*** EMPLOYMENT (65%); OPEN INVESTMENT FUNDS (65%)

**Industry:** SECURITIES & OTHER CAPITAL INVESTMENTS (88%); WEALTH MANAGEMENT (73%); OPEN INVESTMENT FUNDS (65%)

**Geographic: *EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (79%); NORTH RHINE-WESTPHALIA, GERMANY (79%); HESSE, GERMANY (73%); RHINELAND-PALATINATE, GERMANY (73%); BAVARIA, GERMANY (59%); LUXEMBOURG (95%); CARIBBEAN ISLANDS (91%); AUSTRIA (73%).

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

**End of Document**

[***ITALY; Poison of populism***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5W4D-KNK1-JDHD-W087-00000-00&context=)

Süddeutsche Zeitung

Friday 17 May 2019

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

**Length:** 591 words

**Byline:** BY ULRIKE SAUER

**Body**

Italy? No, thank you! Get involved with a quarrelsome government coalition that makes ***Europe's*** most important debt country increasingly insecure? No way! This is how more and more people think and act when it comes to their money. A week ago it was Blackrock's turn: the world's largest financial investor surprisingly jumped out as buyer of the crisis bank Carige. For the investment professionals in New York, the Italian risk seemed too great in view of zero growth and rising debt. Now the Roman government will probably order the taxpayers to rescue the savings bank.

Blackrock's withdrawal is not an isolated case. Potential investors also withdrew from Alitalia. It is hardly conceivable that someone under the command of the nationalist government of Lega and Cinque Stelle will step into the breach at the bankrupt airline. The coalition partners are now flirting with re-nationalisation.

The flight from Italy is mainly hitting the state itself. Foreign investors have increasingly sold Roman government bonds in recent days, driving up interest rates. The wave of selling was triggered by Lega leader Matteo Salvini's election campaign rhetoric: "It is my duty to break the ***EU rules,***" said the interior minister. He would be forced to increase the budget deficit to more than three percent. An increase in the debt ratio to more than 140 percent was also necessary. This is just propaganda. But it is expensive. The rise in interest rates since the government came to power a year ago has cost Italy's taxpayers four billion ***euros***. The coalition has saved this sum in 2019 on schools, which are neglected anyway.

For the ***European elections,*** Salvini and Cinque Stelle leader Luigi Di Maio present themselves with a disastrous economic record. With their idea of boosting growth through an expansive budgetary policy and thus pushing down the exorbitant debt ratio, the hasbarians have failed in the face of reality. They have stifled the upswing. The ***EU Commission*** expects 0.1 per cent growth for Italy in 2019, putting it far behind in last place in ***Europe.*** The financial situation is threatening. Finance Minister Giovanni Tria is giving a helpless performance alongside the riot brothers Salvini and Di Maio. The rivalry between the coalition parties in the permanent conflict is blocking the country. The conclusion is obvious: there are no such things as the promised simple solutions. With their cluelessness and arrogance, the Lega and Cinque Stelle have driven the world's eighth largest economy into isolation. The International Monetary Fund describes Italy as a risk to the world economy.

Italians are paying a high price for the populists' hoax - but the bluff is not being called. In the polls before the ***European elections,*** the coalition parties are ahead by a wide margin. What's going on? Why don't Italians vote with their wallets? The poison of populism is having a devastating effect in the third largest ***euro country.*** But it is apparently not hurting enough. Sad as it is, that will soon change. If the government has not broken up by then, the torment will become unbearable in October at the latest: then Rome will have to find 35 to 40 billion ***euros to*** plug the budget holes in 2020. Otherwise, investors will turn off Italy's money tap.

**With cluelessness and arrogance, the government is driving the country into isolation**

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject: *EUROPEAN UNION*** (89%); POLITICS (89%); GOVERNMENT BUDGETS (89%); ELECTIONS (89%); PUBLIC FINANCE (89%); VOTERS & ELECTIONS (87%); EUROZONE (***78%)***; NATIONALISATION (78%); PUBLIC DEBT (78%); BONDS & NOTES (77%); GOVERNMENT BONDS (77%); SECURITIES & OTHER INVESTMENTS (77%); ECONOMY & ECONOMIC INDICATORS (77%); FOREIGN INVESTMENT (76%); INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND (76%); PUBLIC POLICY (75%); CURRENCIES (72%); SURVEYS & POLLS (71%); EU REGULATION (66%); ***EUROPEAN*** UNION INSTITUTIONS (66%); RANKINGS (61%)

**Industry:** BUDGETS (89%); STATE BUDGETS (89%); ***EUROZONE*** (78%); BONDS & BONDS (77%); STATE BONDS (77%); SECURITIES & OTHER CAPITAL INVESTMENTS (77%); INTERNATIONAL CURRENCY FUND (76%); CURRENCIES (72%)

**Geographic:** ROME, ITALY (93%); NEW YORK, NY, USA (79%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (93%); ITALY (94%); ***EUROPE (***88%).

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

**End of Document**

[***BRIEFLY MENTIONED; Johnson wants to succeed May***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5W4D-KNK1-JDHD-W0GS-00000-00&context=)

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Friday 17 May 2019

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

**Length:** 105 words

**Byline:** REUTERS

**Body**

**London -** Brexit supporter and former British Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson is set to run as a candidate to succeed Prime Minister Theresa May as leader of the Conservative Party, according to a media report. "Of course I will," Johnson said, according to a BBC report. Johnson had resigned in July in protest at May's actions in the Brexit negotiations. May herself has said she wants to leave office before the next phase of Brexit talks begins. Johnson was one of the toughest advocates of his country leaving the ***EU***.

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject:** BREXIT (90%); POLITICS (90%); PRIME MINISTERS (90%); HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT (90%); PUBLIC POLITICS (90%); POLITICAL PARTIES (88%); RESIGNATIONS (88%); ***EUROPEAN UNION (***73%)

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

**Geographic:** LONDON, ENGLAND (58%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (79%); UNITED KINGDOM (58%)

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

**End of Document**

[***Seehofer's order; The Interior Minister defends his return law, the opposition in the Bundestag compares him to Viktor Orbán***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5W4D-KNK1-JDHD-W08F-00000-00&context=)

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Friday 17 May 2019

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

**Length:** 706 words

**Byline:** BY CONSTANZE VON BULLION

**Body**

**Berlin -** Disenfranchisement, 'Orbánisation', dismemberment of fundamental rights - three migration laws were on the agenda in the Bundestag on Thursday. And the opposition left no doubt that it considers the plans of Federal Interior Minister Horst Seehofer (CSU) intolerable.

At noon, the debate focused on the so-called Orderly Return Act. It is intended to ensure that asylum seekers who have been rejected and are obliged to leave the country leave the country. In more than half of the cases, this is not the case because migrants go to court, passports are missing, countries of origin do not take back their citizens or a person cannot be found on the day of deportation. Seehofer wants to change that.

We are improving the conditions considerably so that the obligation to leave the country can be enforced," he said in the Bundestag on Thursday. The "phenomenon of absconding at the time of deportation" is a major obstacle to repatriations. Seehofer's law targets migrants who authorities believe are responsible for not being able to be deported.

Those who are deceptive about their identity, who do not help to obtain their passport or who do not agree to voluntary return to their country's embassy are to receive only a 'toleration for persons with unclear identity' - with considerable consequences. The sanctions are: Prohibition of employment, residence requirement, prevention of consolidation of residence and also the possibility of imposing fines,' said Seehofer.

Where there is a "risk of absconding", persons who are obliged to leave the country can also be taken into "preventive detention". However, the term 'risk of absconding' has now been expanded. Not only 'deceiving' with regard to identity is to be considered as an indication of this. Those who miss an appointment at the foreigners authority without an excuse, conceal the fact that they have their own money or cannot show a fixed address, may also be subject to 'preventive detention'. Judicial powers are to be restricted. In addition, dangerous persons and criminals are to be deported more quickly. Instead of a prison sentence of one year, a sentence of six months' imprisonment should suffice to be deported.

Seehofer's plan to threaten refugee helpers who prevent deportations with imprisonment was abandoned under pressure from the SPD. In the civil service, however, such cases are threatened with criminal prosecution. The joint placement of deportation prisoners and criminals in ordinary penal institutions also caused trouble. ***EU law*** prohibits this, and the justice ministers of the Länder protested. Only criticism is "not enough", said FDP Secretary General Linda Teuteberg on Thursday. The Länder must build more detention places for deportees.

The Left and the Greens were harsh. The Orderly Return Act has dismembered the remaining rights of refugees beyond recognition," said Ulla Jelpke, a politician from the Left Party, in the Bundestag. The restriction of judicial powers is "not acceptable at all". Filiz Polat, the Greens' spokesperson on migration policy, spoke of a "catalogue of disenfranchisement". Seehofer's draft was a "step towards the Orbánisation" of Germany. Mathias Middelberg (CDU), the spokesperson on domestic policy for the CDU/CSU in the Bundestag, rejected these accusations as "unspeakable". The AfD complained that Seehofer had been "softened up". It was a "deportation avoidance law".

The citizenship law was also discussed. Those who have two citizenships and have fought for a foreign terrorist militia are to lose their German passports. The "Foreigners Employment Promotion Act" by Labour Minister Hubertus Heil (SPD) was also discussed. According to this law, tolerated persons should have access to job-related language courses six months after their entry. Those who are still in the asylum procedure should also be able to attend integration courses. The CSU has criticised the proposal. This would devalue asylum decisions.

**Anyone who misses an appointment at the Foreigners' Registration Office must expect preventive detention.**

**The rights of refugees are 'fragmented beyond recognition', the left criticises**

**Graphic**

Seehofer in the Bundestag. His law introduces the status of 'toleration for persons with unclear identity'. Photo: B. von Jutrczenka/Dpa

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject:** GERMAN PARLIAMENT (92%); DEPORTATION (90%); LEGISLATION (90%); LEGISLATIVE BODIES (90%); POLITICS (90%); PUBLIC POLICY (90%); GERMAN POLITICAL PARTIES (89%); PRISON SENTENCES (89%); POLITICAL PARTIES (89%); JUDGES (89%); CITIZENSHIP (89%); SENTENCING (89%); IMMIGRATION (78%); POLITICAL DEBATES (78%); CITIZENSHIP LAW (78%); CRIMINAL LAW (78%); EMBARGOES & SANCTIONS (77%); ***EUROPEAN UNION (77%);*** MINISTRIES OF JUSTICE (77%); REFUGEES (76%); TRIALS (75%); CONVICTIONS (75%); ***EU REGULATION (***73%); ***EUROPEAN LAW (***73%); POLITICAL ASYLUM (71%); PRISONS (70%); FINES & PENALTIES (66%)

**Person:** HORST SEEHOFER (95%); VIKTOR ORBAN (79%)

**Geographic:** BERLIN, GERMANY (58%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (79%); GERMANY (59%)

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

**End of Document**

[***Trump issues decree against Huawei***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5W4D-KNK1-JDHD-W073-00000-00&context=)

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Friday 17 May 2019

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

**Length:** 81 words

**Byline:** RTR

**Body**

**Washington** - US President Donald Trump had declared a "national state of emergency" in telecommunications by decree, giving the green light for measures against the Chinese corporation Huawei and other telecommunications companies. The Federation of German Industries is calling on the German government not to follow suit. The ***Europeans*** must maintain their "own course".

**Economy**

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject:** HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT (90%); US PRESIDENTS (88%); POLITICS (73%)

**Industry:** TELECOMMUNICATION (87%); TELECOM SERVICES (71%)

**Person:** DONALD TRUMP (78%)

**Geographic:** NORTH AMERICA (79%); ***EUROPE*** (78%); CHINA (73%)

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

**End of Document**

[***Political law; EUCourt slams German prosecutors for not being sufficiently independent of politics. The judgement is tough, right and forward-looking***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5W7M-5FB1-JDHD-W478-00000-00&context=)

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Saturday 1 June 2019

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**Section:** Opinion page; Munich; p. 5

**Length:** 932 words

**Highlight:** By Heribert Prantl

**Body**

The ruling is a hammer. The ***European*** Court of Justice has banned German public prosecutors from issuing ***EU arrest warrants.*** And this ruling not only affects the future, it also applies to the past: all ***EU arrest warrants*** already issued by German public prosecutors' offices have thus burst, and that is after all 5600; 1600 of them in Bavaria! Reason: The German public prosecutor's offices are not independent, as required by ***European*** law. All ***European arrest warrants*** from Germany must now be quickly reissued by a truly independent authority, a German judge, and then reentered into the Schengen system. As long as this is not the case, the operation of the German criminal justice system is at a standstill: the fraudster from Munich who was arrested in Paris would first have to be released there; and the knifeman from Frankfurt who is in Belgium will not be transferred to Germany for the time being.

This is a shameful story. The German public prosecutor's office, which prides itself on its effective prosecution, cannot help it; the German legislator has made its soup: the laws on the basis of which public prosecutors work in this country are as old as the hills; they have not met ***EU standards for a*** long time. The position and internal structure of the public prosecutor's office are defined in the Judiciary Act, according to rules that have reached the venerable age of 139 years. That is why the age-old images of the public prosecutor's office are still popular: it is the 'cavalry of justice'. This is true to a certain extent: A troop fighting on horseback still existed when the working rules for the prosecution that apply today were created. Horses are on the reins; prosecutors too - they are bound by instructions externally and internally. Internally: to instructions from the head of the authority. Externally: to instructions from the minister.

Especially the latter bothers the ***European*** judges immensely. It has also been bothering the professional associations of public prosecutors for a long time, who protest at their conferences against the dependence on politicians for instructions. Politicians have not given a damn. They have pointed out that such instructions are very rare. That may be true. But these are always the tricky procedures. They run through the history of the Republic - Strauß, Kohl, Wulff, Gysi, Edathy, Maas. And if there are supposedly hardly any instructions in practice, then the dependence on instructions could have been removed from the law a long time ago. This will have to be done now. The German public prosecutor's office will have to be made so independent that it doesn't look like a leper in ***Europe*** - and quickly.

The right to issue political instructions is one of the birth defects of the German public prosecutor's office. It owes its life 'to the government's need to secure influence on the administration of criminal justice at all times'. Thus wrote the *Juristenzeitung* as early as the Weimar period. This influence can manifest itself in various ways. Firstly, investigations are not carried out where they should be. Secondly, investigations are carried out where they should not be. Thirdly, necessary investigations are stifled again.

Actually, the issuing of the ***European*** Arrest Warrant was a routine procedure. In this country, the national arrest warrant issued by the judge was previously advertised by the public prosecutor on a form ***throughout Europe.*** However, even such a routine procedure can be politically highly sensitive - as has been shown in the case of Carles Puigdemont. On the basis of a ***European*** Arrest Warrant issued by the Spanish judiciary, the separatist leader was arrested by German authorities in Schleswig-Holstein in 2018 while in transit from Finland to Belgium. Now the whole system of the ***European Arrest*** Warrant is based on trust. The ***EU state*** that arrests and surrenders a wanted person assumes that the other state that issued the arrest warrant and requested the surrender of the wanted person will abide by the rules of the rule of law. If doubts grow about this, the business basis for the ***EU arrest warrant*** collapses.

The ***European*** Court of Justice's ruling against the German public prosecutor's office was announced one day after the ***European elections.*** That may be a coincidence - but it is a telling coincidence. There are fears that states like Hungary or Poland, which are moving further and further away from the rule of law, will use the ***European*** arrest warrant for political purposes - and have political opponents arrested abroad. In this respect, the judgement against Germany is a preventive judgement: an example is being made of the German rule of law in order to warn massive threats to the rule of law. But at the same time, the ***EU Court of Justice would*** not have been able to make an example of Germany if German law did not provide a hook for it.

The hanger-on must be removed. And this action should also be an occasion to reform the judicial structures in Germany. The dependence not only of the public prosecutor's office but of the entire judiciary (here it concerns the day-to-day administrative operations) on the executive contradicts the separation of powers. Independence requires self-administration. Courts and public prosecutors' offices do not have to be administered by the ministry; they can do that themselves. Independence requires the unleashing of the judiciary.

**The ruling against Germany is a warning shot in the direction of Hungary and Poland**

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject: *EUROPEAN*** UNION COURTS (99%); PROSECUTORS (94%); ***EUROPEAN UNION (***90%); TRIBUNALS (90%); JUDGMENTS (90%); INTERNATIONAL COURTS & TRIBUNALS (90%); MINISTRIES OF JUSTICE (90%); ARRESTS (90%); PUBLIC POLICY (90%); POLITICS (89%); JUDGES (89%); CRIMINAL LAW (88%); EXTRADITION (78%); INVESTIGATIONS (78%); TRIALS (78%); LEGISLATIVE BODIES (78%); INSTITUTIONS OF THE ***EUROPEAN*** UNION (78%); CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS (78%); STANDARDS & UNITS OF MEASUREMENT (73%)

**Geographic:** PARIS, FRANCE (79%); FRANKFURT, GERMANY (58%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (94%); BAVARIA, GERMANY (74%); ***EUROPE (***95%); GERMANY (74%); BELGIUM (58%).

**Load-Date:** June 1, 2019

**End of Document**

[***Greens call for climate programme; Sven Giegold sets conditions for approval of new EUCommission***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5W7M-5FB1-JDHD-W47R-00000-00&context=)

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Saturday 1 June 2019

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

**Length:** 563 words

**Byline:** STEFAN BROWN

**Body**

**Berlin** - In the current struggle for the new leadership of the ***EU Commission, it*** is still completely unclear who will come out on top. What is certain, however, is that after the end of the dominance of conservatives and socialists in the ***European*** Parliament, other groups will also try to influence the selection of the top personnel. This applies not least to the Greens, who have been particularly successful in Germany. They want to link their support for one of the three current candidates for the office of Commission President to their climate policy convictions. It remains to be seen whether this will succeed.

The leading candidate of the German Greens, Sven Giegold, demands a "binding programme of projects for the next five years" for a "yes" vote of his Green parliamentary group, with which the climate and environmental protection in the Union is to be intensified. Giegold told the *Süddeutsche Zeitung that* only those who can reliably promise this can count on the support of the Green parliamentary group.

Above all, Giegold calls for binding decisions that can quickly reduce greenhouse gas emissions. We will no longer be fobbed off with mere symbolic politics. For Giegold, this also means that in future all new ***EU laws*** should not only be subject to a subsidiarity check, but also to a climate check. Only in this way can it be ensured that the

all actors in the ***EU*** start to rethink and everyone thinks about the climate policy consequences of their actions. Giegold described agricultural policy as the biggest problem. Without a new ***EU agricultural policy*** that reduces greenhouse gas emissions and protects biodiversity and animal welfare, I cannot imagine a Green vote," the politician stressed.

In detail, according to Giegold, this means above all that area payments should only be granted if higher standards than before are met, especially in animal welfare and the use of pesticides. In addition, the Green politician demands that new and clear steps be taken on social issues as well. Giegold, who has been fighting vehemently against tax dumping in individual ***EU states for*** years, demands among other things that the new ***EU Commission*** must very quickly present a proposal for ***European*** minimum tax rates for companies. Hardly anything contradicts the idea of justice as much as the fact that companies with billions in turnover are still able to pay only a fraction of the taxes they would have to pay given the tax loopholes in individual ***EU states.***

of their sales should actually pay in the interest of the common good, so

the Green politician.

Finally, Giegold demands that the ***EU*** strictly examine all member states with regard to democracy, the rule of law and fundamental rights and also sanction them in the case of blatant violations. Otherwise, the Union runs the risk of permanently jeopardising its liberal, cosmopolitan character.

Whether the Greens will ultimately be needed to confirm the new Commission President is by no means certain. Conservatives, Socialists and Liberals could settle this among themselves in the coming weeks. In view of the open conflicts, however, every vote could count in the end.

**Graphic**

Green Party top candidate Sven Giegold. Photo: AFP

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject: *EUROPEAN UNION*** (91%); PERMITS (90%); ***EUROPEAN*** UNION INSTITUTIONS (90%); POLITICAL PARTIES (90%); PUBLIC POLICY (90%); GERMAN POLITICAL PARTIES (89%); CLIMATE CHANGE (89%); POLITICS (89%); ***EU REGULATION (***78%); LEGISLATIVE BODIES (78%); RULE OF LAW (78%); TAX AVOIDANCE (78%); SOCIAL CONCERNS (77%); POLITICAL CANDIDATES (77%); HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT (77%); PRESIDENTS (76%); ***EUROPEAN LAW (***73%); ENVIRONMENTAL DIRECTIVES AND REGULATIONS (73%); ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION (72%); PESTICIDES (50%)

**Industry:** AGRICULTURAL (73%); AGRICULTURE (69%); Pesticides (50%)

**Geographic:** BERLIN, GERMANY (58%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (97%); ***EUROPE*** (94%); GERMANY (59%)

**Load-Date:** June 1, 2019

**End of Document**

[***Enough is enough; Debt dispute with Italy: Brussels prepares criminal proceedings against Rome***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5W7M-5FB1-JDHD-W4B5-00000-00&context=)

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**Section:** Economy; Munich; Bavaria; Germany; p. 23

**Length:** 480 words

**Byline:** ALEXANDER MÜHLAUER

**Body**

**Brussels** - In the debt dispute with Italy, the ***EU Commission is*** likely to decide on the first step towards an excessive deficit procedure next Wednesday. According to ***EU diplomats,*** the Brussels authority will probably establish what has been obvious for months: the government in Rome is not doing enough to reduce the country's massive mountain of debt. In accordance with the Treaty on the Functioning of the ***EU,*** the Commission is preparing a report on the matter. In any case, there is virtually no doubt in Brussels that there will be criminal proceedings.

The Italian government had until midnight on Friday to respond to a reminder from the ***EU Commission.*** Brussels, however, did not expect the response from Rome to change anything in the economic assessments of the authority. According to the Italian media, the government will not give in anyway, but merely point out that Italy is suffering from weak growth ***throughout Europe,*** which has been triggered by international trade disputes. The assumption in Rome is that the fulfilment of election promises, such as the citizen's income and the return to early retirement, will get the economy moving again.

Not only the ***EU Commission*** thinks this is wishful thinking. Italy's central bank chief also criticised the populist government's debt policy. Increasing the public deficit is not the right way to boost the country's sluggish economy, Ignazio Visco said on Friday. Hoping for a temporary stimulus by increasing the public deficit could prove counterproductive, the head of the Banca d "Italia said. Instead, the country needs a "careful" budget policy and more effective instruments than subsidies and transfer payments, he said. Visco warned that the government's target debt ratio of 132.6 per cent of economic output for 2019 was probably set too low. The head of the central bank sees one reason for this in the expected privatisation proceeds of a good 18 billion ***euros***, which are apparently too high.

The ***European*** Commission expects the national debt to rise to 133.7 and 135.2 percent of economic output this year and next. This actually obliges the authority, according to ***European*** rules, to open criminal proceedings against Italy. It was already foreseeable in December that this would happen, when the Commission refrained from taking such a step. According to ***EU diplomats, the*** reason was political: Brussels did not want to give the government in Rome an opportunity to abuse a deficit procedure for election campaign purposes before the ***European elections.***

**Italy's central bank chief also criticises the populist government's debt policy**

**Graphic**

Increasing the government deficit is not the right way to boost the country's sluggish economy, critics say. Photo: Alessia Pierdomenico/Bloomberg

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject: *EUROPEAN UNION*** (91%); ***EUROPEAN*** UNION INSTITUTIONS (90%); POLITICS (90%); ECONOMIC NEWS (89%); GOVERNMENT DEBT (89%); CENTRAL BANKS (89%); PUBLIC FINANCE (89%); PUBLIC POLICY (89%); INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORGANISATIONS (78%); GOVERNMENT BUDGETS (78%); ECONOMIC NEWS (78%); ELECTIONS (76%); PRIVATISATION (73%); GOVERNMENT SUBSIDIES & FUNDING (73%); TRADE DISPUTES (72%); VOTERS & ELECTIONS (72%); EARLY RETIREMENT (71%)

**Industry:** CENTRAL BANKS (89%); BUDGETS (78%); STATE BUDGETS (78%)

**Geographic:** ROME, ITALY (94%); BRUSSELS, BELGIUM (90%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (94%); BRUSSELS CAPITAL REGION (94%); ITALY (94%); BELGIUM (91%); ***EUROPE*** (91%).

**Load-Date:** June 1, 2019

**End of Document**

[***Dispute? Not us; On his inaugural visit to Berlin, US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo praises the transatlantic partnership - and calls on the Germans to take a much tougher stance against Iran and China.***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5W7M-5FB1-JDHD-W47F-00000-00&context=)

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Saturday 1 June 2019

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

**Length:** 1186 words

**Byline:** BY DANIEL BRÖSSLER

**Body**

**Berlin** - Heiko Maas has a lot on his list, but the most important thing is not on it. Dear Mike," he begins, "welcome to your first visit as Foreign Minister here in Berlin. We are very happy about it. So much so that Maas receives Pompeo not in the sober Foreign Ministry on Werderscher Markt, but in the dreamy splendour of Villa Borsig on Tegeler See. The nice setting is the unspoken, but in a way the most important message on this day. Pompeo took a year with his inaugural visit. And he cancelled an appointment scheduled more than three weeks ago at short notice because he thought a trip to Iraq was more important. All not so bad, the backdrop is now supposed to say. The close relationship between ***Europe*** and the USA is not only in our mutual interest. It is also the expression of a deeply felt friendship,' says Maas.

Of course, this "deeply felt friendship" is complicated. One day before Pompoe's visit to Berlin, German Chancellor Angela Merkel was awarded an honorary doctorate by Harvard University. On this occasion, she gave a very fundamental speech (*see text opposite*). She called for courage and "truthfulness towards others and - perhaps most importantly - towards ourselves". This includes "that we do not call lies truths and truths not lies". The Chancellor did not mention Trump's name once, but the fact that the cheering audience at Harvard could hear criticism of the US president was certainly not unintentional. In terms of foreign policy, the last years of Merkel's chancellorship have been marked by this balancing act: on the one hand, sticking to the counter-design to nationalism and bluster, on the other hand, limiting the damage in relations with the most important ally.

This is exactly what Villa Borsig is about, because the list of disagreements is long. The US is angry because Germany is far from the NATO two-percent target in defence spending. They are demanding that the German government halt construction of the Nordstream 2 Baltic Sea pipeline, which is also highly controversial in ***Europe***, and they are at cross purposes with Germany and others over the Iran nuclear deal. Trump has pulled out of the deal - Germans, British, French, Russians and Chinese want to save it.

Pompeo is considered a hardliner, but the central message seems to go down well with the guest. He praises the "beautiful place", apologises for the postponement of the visit and begins with a few warm words about 30 years since the fall of the Berlin Wall. Then, however, he quickly gets down to business with a matter that seems to be even more important to the Americans these days than the German defence budget or the German-Russian gas pipeline. He hopes that Germany will stand up to "Chinese corruption and espionage". The US expects its allies to exclude the Chinese Huawei group from building the 5G mobile network. Pompeo also reiterated the US agenda on Iran, calling the country the 'number one sponsor of terror in the world'.

For Maas, the challenge now is to avoid a dispute on the open stage without agreeing with Pompeo on the matter. We agree that we must prevent Iran from reaching for nuclear weapons," he says. But "it's also no secret that we have different views on how to get there". He explained to Pompeo why, from Germany's point of view, the nuclear deal with Tehran would enhance international security. In fact, despite an Iranian ultimatum, the German government is still trying to preserve the agreement. Recently, Maas sent his Political Director Jens Plötner to Tehran to keep the Iranians in line. Efforts are currently focused on trying to preserve at least a small economic benefit of the agreement for Iran, which has already lost a large part of its revenue from oil sales, in the face of massive US sanctions.

To this end, a payment channel called Instex is to be set up, which will make it possible to conduct business without dollars and away from US access. We will do our best to enforce the US sanctions regime," Pompeo clarifies. However, there are goods such as medicines that are not subject to sanctions. If the trade in such goods is handled via Instex, that is "unproblematic". That is all that matters, confirms Maas. But the establishment of Instex has not yet proved to be quite so unproblematic. Companies with US business prefer not to have anything to do with the new payment channel. It is uncertain whether it will be possible to process the first transactions via Instex in the next few weeks, as the Iranians have promised.

Maas was asked at the press conference whether Germany could play a mediating role. In the matter of Iran, Germany is "in extraordinarily close exchange" with the USA, the Foreign Minister evades the question. It is "good to have dialogue and also to use it, especially in a very tense situation in the whole region, to possibly also ensure that tensions are reduced bit by bit". Pompeo, on the other hand, at least does not indicate a desire for any kind of German mediation role or other assistance. The situation is somewhat different with regard to Syria. There, Pompeo says, they are trying to find a "political solution" and are striving for something like a "buffer zone" that protects Turkey from terrorist attacks, but also the Kurds in the north of Iraq. They are interested in ***European*** support here. The Bundeswehr, Maas explains, is deployed in Jordan with Tornado reconnaissance flights and air-to-air refuelling until October. Everything else will have to be discussed and decided in the Bundestag at the appropriate time. On this point, at least, Maas seems to want to accommodate the USA. Before extending the mission, however, he would have to overcome resistance in his SPD parliamentary group.

As the meeting in Villa Borsig draws to a close, little has changed on the main issues. Pompeo does not want to rule out sanctions because of Nordstream 2, and on the issue of Huawei he is once again clear. It must be ensured that data networks in which US information flows are trustworthy and do not fall into the hands of the Chinese Communist Party. If a company does not fulfil the security guarantees, it has little chance of being awarded the contract, Maas merely agrees.

Later, Pompeo has a brief appointment with Merkel. They talk, she says, in a 'spirit of partnership'. Pompeo praises Germany as a "great, important partner and ally". Now there would also be an opportunity to congratulate Merkel on her honorary doctorate in front of the cameras. It passed unused.

**Pompeo does not want to rule out sanctions over Nordstream 2 gas pipeline**

**Graphic**

In the 'spirit of partnership': Pompeo is received by German Chancellor Angela Merkel on Friday. Photo: Sean Gallup/Getty

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject:** FOREIGN RELATIONS (90%); FOREIGN OFFICES & DIPLOMATIC SERVICES (90%); HEADS OF STATE & GOVERNMENT (90%); GERMAN CHANCELLORS (89%); POLITICS (89%); PUBLIC POLICY (89%); FOREIGN POLICY (77%); INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS (77%); CORRUPTION (72%); US PRESIDENTS (71%)

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

**Industry:** 5G (70%); MOBILE COMMUNICATION (50%)

**Person:** ANGELA MERKEL (92%)

**Geographic:** BERLIN, GERMANY (90%); CHINA (90%); GERMANY (89%); ***EUROPE (***88%); IRAN (88%); NORTH AMERICA (79%); IRAQ (73%); RUSSIAN FEDERATION (73%).

**Load-Date:** June 1, 2019

**End of Document**

[***Upset (continued from page 11); 730,000; refugees the EUSophia' mission has helped 730,000 refugees. Now the naval mission has ended.***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5W7M-5FB1-JDHD-W48R-00000-00&context=)

Süddeutsche Zeitung

Saturday 1 June 2019

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**Section:** Book Two; Munich; Bavaria; Germany; p. 12

**Length:** 293 words

**Body**

**Adama, 27, Ghana.**

At four o'clock in the afternoon, our boat capsized and fuel flowed into the sea. The petrol burned the skin. We were only rescued at two in the morning. I cannot feed my children in Ghana, so I decided to cross the sea to give them a future from ***Europe.*** I grew up by the sea, as a child I played football on the beach. When I see the sea now, it makes me cry. I will never

go back in.'

**Jacob, 32, Ghana.**

The boat engine failed and chaos broke out. From 11 o'clock until midnight I was floating in the water. On my escape I had been put in a prison, I was sold as a slave, now I was floating in the Mediterranean. Everyone was trying to cling to something. I

I thought: that "s it, that "s it. Dozens of dead bodies were floating around me, I knew I could be next. I have always loved the sea. Today, when I look at it, all I see is death.

**Jamado, 22, Senegal.**

I have had a very difficult escape. I crossed Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger and Libya. In Libya, they put me in prison twice. When my parents died, I had decided to flee to Italy. My younger brother had also made his way to Libya. When I arrived there, I was told that he had died in the desert after robbers had taken away his food and water. When we arrived in

When we set sail, there were 150 of us on board. Halfway there, the engine failed. Only 16 people survived the escape.

**400.000**

**People wait alone in the North African country of Libya for their chance to flee across the sea to *Europe.***

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject: *EUROPEAN UNION*** (90%); DEATH & DYING (88%)

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

**Industry:** VEHICLE FUELS (90%)

**Geographic: *EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (57%); LIBYA (90%); ***EUROPE (***72%); NORTH AFRICA (58%); SENEGAL (58%); ITALY (56%); BURKINA FASO (54%); MALI (54%); NIGER (54%).

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**End of Document**

[***SATURDAY SESSAY; The curse of size; There is a trend towards market power and monopolies in the US. This could hurt consumers, slow down innovation and depress wages. Europe should not overlook the warning signs***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5W7M-5FB1-JDHD-W49W-00000-00&context=)

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Saturday 1 June 2019

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

**Length:** 1701 words

**Byline:** BY ALEXANDER HAGELÜKEN

**Body**

After the Second World War, economists and politicians were relatively unanimous: the cartels and monopolies that spread in many countries in the 1920s and 1930s were devastating. Economically anyway, but in Germany also politically, because powerful companies promoted the rise of Adolf Hitler. The mantra of the post-war era was competition. In Germany, as in the US, strong laws and authorities emerged to encourage competition and limit corporate power.

It is precisely this historical insight that is being ignored today, argues US lawyer Tim Wu in his book 'The Curse of Greatness'. In the United States, the *Anti-Merger Act of* 1950 has been riddled for decades by ideology, corporate lobbies and reluctant authorities: "We recklessly allow global monopolies and oligopolies in finance, media, aviation and telecommunications, not to mention the growing size of digital platforms".

Is there a dangerous trend emerging? This thesis is worth discussing because people have a lot at stake. Market power usually drives up prices for customers. It can slow down innovation and investment and thus the entire economy. And it can increase inequality through huge profits and grant political influence at the expense of the general public.

The dominance of the internet corporations has been lamented for some time. Google dominates search engines, Facebook social media, Amazon increasingly commerce. Platforms profit from the network effect: the more people are on Whatsapp or Facebook, the more attractive it becomes for others to be there too, which pushes back competing offers. Competition regulators still lack a conclusive answer to this. The same applies to the question of whether a huge treasure trove of data gives corporations advantages that rivals can hardly catch up with.

What is new is that in the USA in particular, a monopoly trend is also being observed outside the digital sphere. The four largest retail groups have doubled their market share in recent decades. For products as diverse as cigarettes, building materials, medicines or trucks, the two largest suppliers now control 60 to 80 per cent of the business, according to the Open Markets Institute. While small businesses used to be the biggest employers in the country, today they are companies with more than ten thousand jobs.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) is also concerned about what may be happening worldwide. People are worried that the power of big companies could be responsible for sluggish economic growth and rising inequality,' write the Washington economists. They examined the profit margin that nearly one million companies in 27 countries add to their manufacturing costs. In industrialised countries, the margin has increased by eight percent since the turn of the millennium, particularly strong among service providers and in the use of digital technology. The IMF notes that this market power is squeezing wages' share of the national economic pie - in favour of profits. And: those who can increase profits through high prices are less interested in turnover. They therefore reduce investments - bad for economic growth.

The IMF concludes that the economic damage is still relatively limited at present. However, "if the increasing market power of companies is not limited, it could be more damaging to growth and wages in the future", the organisation warns.

It seems important to differentiate between the two. In ***Europe there are*** no signs of monopolisation like in the USA, which is probably largely due to the tougher approach of the antitrust authorities. Justus Haucap, former chairman of the Monopolies Commission, says: "In Germany there is no discernible general trend towards market power. The IMF also sees differences between the world regions. Companies in emerging markets, for example, are hardly posting higher profit margins than before. US companies, on the other hand, are even posting margins twice as high as the average for industrialised countries.

No wonder that concerns are already much greater in the US than elsewhere. According to Tim Wu of New York's *Columbia University,* concentration is increasing in three quarters of all industries. The top dogs are apparently changing the structure of the economy: they are scaring off start-ups. The share of firms less than one year old has halved. The new giants are good for their managers and major shareholders, but bad for almost everyone else,' columnist Dave Leonhardt concludes in the *New York Times.* He warns that the giants are using their considerable resources to influence politics in their favour.

This raises the question of where the largest economic power besides China is heading - and what damage is being done. In the USA, but also elsewhere. ***Europe*** boasts of its strong competition authorities, which, for example, carried out several abuse proceedings against Google. On the other hand, it cannot be overlooked that the digital platforms also have a lot of power in ***Europe*** despite such actions.

Justus Haucap argues that digitalisation partly brings more competition, for example when customers can compare more prices via the Amazon marketplace than before. However, the Düsseldorf economist sees a clear need for action: The time has come to ask whether the state does not have to limit the power of digital companies more. Haucap proposes three steps in an expert opinion for Federal Minister of Economics Peter Altmaier. Cartel authorities should be allowed to intervene before a platform becomes dominant, for example. If a merger is to be approved, they should also be able to look at the overall strategy of the buyer - in this case, Facebook might have been prohibited from swallowing the chat service Whatsapp in 2014 and thus expanding its dominance in social media. And thirdly, competitors should be allowed to access the data treasure trove of digital corporations under certain circumstances, which SPD leader Andrea Nahles is also demanding. This could mean that Rewe or Edeka, for example, could gain insight into the anonymised shopping data of Amazon customers in order to stay in business as competitors. Haucap: These three things should be addressed so that there is no greater tendency towards monopolisation.

***Europe in*** general should be vigilant that the trend towards size does not get out of hand. After the prohibited merger of the train divisions of Siemens and Alstom, there is a push to no longer leave such decisions to the ***EU Commission*** alone. National governments want more influence. They are likely to exercise it frequently in the interests of the corporations. This threatens to weaken competition supervision.

There is another reason why ***Europe*** should be vigilant. Already in the past, American economic trends later spilled across the Atlantic, from fast food to supermarkets to digital platforms. Why should this time be any different?

This is already becoming apparent among the so-called superstars, according to a study by the Bertelsmann Foundation. The phenomenon describes highly digitalised companies that are successful with a fraction of the staff of conventional companies. The researchers discovered a dominance of individual German freight forwarders, wholesalers, clinic and waste companies. These firms make high profits and depress the share of wages across the industry. Each worker thus lost an average of 2000 ***euros in*** income over several years.

This fits with the research of US economist David Autor, who discovered a parallel between market power and pressure on wages some time ago. While companies are getting bigger, the wage share in industrialised countries has shrunk from 70 to less than 60 per cent. "Since the modern era of takeovers, profits have exploded while family incomes have stagnated and inequality has increased," notes journalist Dave Leonhardt. This adds an important argument to the traditional arguments against concentration: Workers suffer when some companies become more and more dominant.

So what can be done to stop the trend towards monopoly? The IMF calls for pushing competition in the spirit of the historical consensus after the Second World War: Easier market entry for young firms, stronger taxation of profits from market power, strengthening supervision. The Munich economist Dalia Marin proposes that competition regulators cooperate globally to get a grip on the new corporate giants.

The decisive thing would probably be to reflect politically on the whole that the economy could again develop in the direction of disastrous size. And that this must be decisively stopped again, as it has been at other times. The USA in particular, which already has a clear monopoly trend, demonstrated this several times. At the beginning of the 20th century with the break-up of John Rockefeller's Standard Oil, in the 1980s with the break-up of the telecom giant AT&T.

Shortly afterwards, however, President Ronald Reagan proclaimed his neoliberal revolution. Since then, US policy has become increasingly passive towards corporate power. The bigger the corporations get, the more they influence policy in their favour - at the expense of the general public. This is the great danger. Louis Brandeis, a constitutional judge at the time Standard Oil was broken up, already saw it. Brandeis coined the term "the curse of greatness", after which Tim Wu titled his book. And he warned how giant corporations threaten our society: "We have to make a choice. We can have democracy or concentrated wealth in the hands of a few. But not both.

**For many products, the two largest suppliers control the business**

**THE DEVELOPMENT**

Corporations are getting bigger and bigger

**THE DANGER**

This harms the national economy

**THE SOLUTION**

Politicians and citizens must stand up against this,

before the giants get too much power

**While profits explode, family incomes stagnate**

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**Company:** FACEBOOK INC (54%); GOOGLE INC (54%)

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

**Ticker:** FB (NASDAQ) (54%)

**Industry:** NAICS519130 INTERNET PUBLISHING & BROADCASTING & WEB SEARCH PORTALS (54%); INTERNET & WWW (90%); INTERNET SEARCH PORTALS (90%); INTERNET SOCIAL NETWORKS (90%); WEBSITES & WEB PORTALS (90%); INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND (88%); MARKET SHARE (76%); INTERNET SEARCH ENGINES (75%); SOCIAL MEDIA (75%); TELECOMMUNICATIONS (75%)

**Geographic:** GERMANY (89%); ***EUROPE*** (79%); NORTH AMERICA (79%)

**Load-Date:** June 1, 2019

**End of Document**

[***Germany gives in on climate protection; Before the EUsummit, Berlin backs target, Europe greenhouse gas neutral by 2050. The European Union has a good chance of becoming a pioneer again.***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5WC1-P8W1-JDHD-W4FN-00000-00&context=)

Süddeutsche Zeitung

Monday 17 June 2019

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

**Length:** 537 words

**Byline:** BY MICHAEL BAUCHMÜLLER

**Body**

**Berlin** - Shortly before this week's ***EU*** summit in Brussels, Germany also supports the goal of a climate-neutral ***EU*** by 2050, according to Germany's response to the ***European*** Council, which is available to the *Süddeutsche Zeitung.* In it, the federal government has also entered the target year 2050 for climate neutrality. A corresponding long-term strategy is to be adopted by the beginning of next year at the latest.

'Climate neutrality' does not mean the renunciation of all greenhouse gas emissions. It means that, on balance, the ***EU*** may no longer produce any climate-damaging gases. It can therefore compensate for remaining emissions, for example through reforestation. Industry could also capture carbon dioxide and store it underground. The Commission had already presented a strategy for all this last winter - but so far it has not received any backing from the Council.

In the circle of member states, Germany has so far tended to put the brakes on. When a group of eight states - in addition to France and the Benelux countries, Denmark, Sweden, Spain and Portugal - recently committed to the stricter ***EU target*** before the ***EU Council in*** Sibiu, Romania, Berlin stood on the sidelines. At the Petersberg Climate Dialogue in Berlin in mid-May, Chancellor Angela Merkel had made support for the target conditional on the German climate cabinet coming up with a "reasonable answer" as to how it could be achieved. She said she wanted "not just to say yes, but to back it up and to pursue it in a well-founded manner". This yes is now coming a little faster.

This increases the likelihood that the Council will unite behind the higher goal. In this way, the ***EU*** wants to be back at the forefront of the movement internationally - in time for a special meeting of heads of state and government to which UN Secretary-General António Guterres is inviting in New York in September. According to documents obtained by the SZ, Italy, Austria, Finland, Slovenia, Latvia and Greece are also pushing for climate neutrality by 2050, in some cases with the addition: 'at the latest'. Only last week, the outgoing British Prime Minister Teresa May presented an ordinance according to which Great Britain, too, is to become greenhouse gas neutral by 2050. And at the meeting of the ***EU's Mediterranean neighbours in*** La Valletta, they also supported the stricter target, including Cyprus and Malta. It is a matter of jointly tackling "accelerated climate change in the Mediterranean basin", according to the joint declaration.

Only Eastern European countries remain cautious. While they do not reject the goal itself, they shy away from a year. Even the Paris climate agreement only speaks of 'the second half of this century'. That is fine with countries like Poland and Hungary. Environmentalists are now demanding that Germany convince these countries as well. Angela Merkel's agreement to this principle is the first step," says Sebastian Mang, who follows ***EU climate policy for*** Greenpeace. The real test for the chancellor is whether she succeeds in getting the other ***EU countries on*** board, too'.

**Pages 4, 5**

**Classification**

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**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

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**Subject: *EUROPEAN UNION*** (94%); EMISSIONS (90%); TALKS & MEETINGS (90%); INTERNATIONAL GOVERNMENT TALKS (90%); INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORGANISATIONS (90%); CLIMATE CHANGE (90%); ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION (90%); PUBLIC POLICY (90%); GERMAN CHANCELLORS (89%); POLITICS (89%); HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT (89%); EVENTS CALENDAR (89%); ***EU REGULATION (***78%); UNITED NATIONS (78%); PRIME MINISTERS (76%); GRANTS (74%); NATURE AND ANIMAL CONSERVATION ORGANISATIONS (73%); REFORESTATION (71%); BRITISH PRIME MINISTERS (63%)

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

**Industry:** EMISSIONS (90%); RECOVERY (71%)

**Person:** ANGELA MERKEL (92%)

**Geographic:** BERLIN, GERMANY (90%); NEW YORK, NY, USA (79%); PARIS, FRANCE (79%); VALLETTA, MALTA (72%); BRUSSELS, BELGIUM (58%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (96%); BRUSSELS CAPITAL REGION (79%); BENELUX COUNTRIES (78%); ÎLE-DE-FRANCE, FRANCE (52%); ***EUROPE (***92%); GERMANY (91%); UNITED KINGDOM (88%); EASTERN EUROPE (79%); POLAND (79%); SWEDEN (79%); SLOVENIA (79%); HUNGARY (79%); FRANCE (78%); LATVIA (78%); BELGIUM (73%); DENMARK (73%); ROMANIA (73%); SPAIN (73%); CYPRUS (73%); FINLAND (72%); GREECE (72%); ITALY (72%); AUSTRIA (72%); MALTA (58%)

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**End of Document**

[***She dares to do something; Margrethe Vestager has achieved what few in Brussels have: She stands out. And she is asserting herself. Now the Dane wants to become the head of the EU***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5WC1-P8W1-JDHD-W4G2-00000-00&context=)

Süddeutsche Zeitung

Monday 17 June 2019

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**Section:** Page Three; Munich; Bavaria; Germany; p. 3

**Length:** 2279 words

**Byline:** BY ALEXANDER MÜHLAUER

**Body**

On the day before the ***European elections,*** Margrethe Vestager is sitting in an office building on Schumanplatz and could say what everyone in Brussels believes anyway. That she wants to succeed Jean-Claude Juncker. That she wants the most powerful job the ***EU*** has to offer: Commission President. But Vestager doesn't say a word about that. She would much rather talk about how ***Europe*** can maintain its place in the world. That's why she was invited to breakfast by a think tank on this Wednesday morning at half past seven.

Good morning,' she says and smiles. Vestager, 51 years old, short hair, flower dress, is wide awake. The Dane talks about the power of the big digital corporations that influence the daily lives of many citizens around the world from America. She talks about friendships that are changing through social networks. She talks about how she shops on the internet and how big the treasure trove of data is that she leaves behind. And then she asks the question whether ***Europe*** should simply accept the power of the corporations. Or whether ***Europe's*** ideas are not different from those in the USA, China or India.

Her answer is clear. Margrethe Vestager has tangled with the most powerful companies in the world. With Google, Facebook, Apple, Amazon. She has shown that there is a state authority that sets limits for these companies. As ***EU Commissioner*** for Competition, Vestager is an advocate for 500 million ***Europeans***. She advocates that all companies in ***Europe*** must abide by the same rules, including those from Silicon Valley. Perhaps that is why it is so easy to talk to her about ***Europe's*** place in the world: because she defends it.

Margrethe Vestager is what the ***EU*** would like to be. Courageous, self-confident, tough on issues. In her almost five years in Brussels, she has achieved something that can be said of very few of her colleagues: She stands out, even outside ***Europe***. Donald Trump, for example, called her a 'tax lady who really hates the United States'. She says in response: Anyone can do business in ***Europe,*** but you have to play by the rules.

Four days after her appearance, Vestager comes to the plenary hall of the ***European*** Parliament. It is still early on this election night, elections are still being held in Italy, Spain, Sweden. Vestager carries a large shoulder bag and trainers. While the other candidates for Juncker's successor wait for the first projections, she stands in the Parliament, surrounded by cameras and reporters. She is beaming, because this much can already be said: her liberal party family has done well, which is also due to the fact that Emmanuel Macron's new Renaissance Movement has joined in. France's president will not announce the new alliance until election day.

No wonder, then, that Vestager is also waiting until this Sunday in May to make her commitment. Only on this day does she say that she wants to succeed Juncker. First she talks to a news agency, then she gives several television interviews. It is after midnight when Vestager takes the stage. She seems liberated, although the power struggle is only just beginning. Then Vestager says it again for all to hear. She is now officially on Macron's side.

Together with the liberal prime ministers of the Benelux countries, the French president has made a pact. Together they want to end the dominance of the ***European*** People's Party (EPP) and prevent its top candidate Manfred Weber. The CSU man claims the post for himself, after all, the EPP is once again the strongest force in the ***EU Parliament***. It is an automatism that Macron wants to interrupt. Vestager is supposed to help him. Unlike the EPP, the Social Democrats and the Greens, the Liberals did not run with her as a top candidate, but with her as part of a team. While Weber still denies the Danish woman the label of top candidate, the Greens and Social Democrats already declared on election night that they very much see Vestager as one.

The situation is complicated, as is so often the case in the ***EU*** compromise machine. Only this much is clear: so far Manfred Weber has not succeeded in rallying a majority behind him. Three weeks after the ***European elections, it is still*** open who will be Commission President. There is no majority for anyone. Neither in the ***European*** Council, the body of heads of state and government that proposes the candidate; nor in the ***European*** Parliament, which ultimately elects the Commission President.

That means Margrethe Vestager is fully in the running. Moreover, she can keep a low profile, doesn't have to commit herself, can let things run their course. Like a week ago, when she appeared in the press room of the ***European*** Commission to prohibit the planned merger of two steel companies. It has been clear for a month that this would happen. There was no need for a press conference. But it is hardly about steel. It's about the commissioner who wants to get to the top. So Vestager stands at the lectern of the bunker-like glass palace in the ***European Quarter,*** smiling a lot. When asked about the haggling for the post, she says: "Indeed, I am still a candidate".

She knows that the pressure is not so much on her as on Manfred Weber. He is negotiating with the other leaders of the Social Democrats, Greens and Liberals in order to be able to present a kind of government programme for the new Commission leadership before the ***EU summit on*** Thursday. But even if the parties can agree on content, that does not mean they can do the same on personnel. Last time, the EPP and the Social Democrats had a clear majority. It took three months and three summits before Jean-Claude Juncker was chosen as Commission President.

At first glance, Brussels seems pretty paralysed right now. No one dares to come out of hiding. But alliances are being forged, lists of names are being drawn up and discarded again. It is a battle for power, influence, vanity. Vestager is experienced enough to play this game.

In the autumn of 2014, she was transferred from Denmark to Brussels because she was becoming dangerous for the then head of government. She was no stranger to Brussels. Margrethe Vestager comes from Borgen, as the Danes call Christiansborg Castle in Copenhagen, the Danish political cocoon where parliament and government are based. Everybody knows everybody else there, everybody knows something about everybody else that they shouldn't know. The makers of the Danish TV series ,,Borgen' discovered Vestager as a model for the main character Birgitte Nyborg. The actress Sidse Babett Knudsen then also accompanied Vestager at work. The result is the Danish version of the US series 'House of Cards'. Vestager considers the series to be a precise portrait of Danish politics. A world in which you don't have to please everyone to achieve something.

Vestager is just 30 when she takes over as education and church minister. When it became known that she had not had her eldest daughter baptised, the uproar was great. The Church Minister refuses to baptise her child? Vestager explains that her husband and she had decided that their children could later decide for themselves whether they wanted to be baptised.

Margrethe Vestager is the child of two pastors. She grew up in West Jutland, the family is political. Margrethe's great-grandfather was a co-founder of the party Det Radikale Venstre, and her parents were also involved in it. The party is liberal on economic issues, left-wing on social policy and green on climate issues. Vestager can also be categorised in this way.

In her time in Copenhagen, she is Minister of Economic Affairs, Minister of the Interior, Vice-Head of Government. Vestager pushes through what she thinks is right, and does so quite harshly. This includes social reform. There are always angry protests against the neoliberal 'ice queen'. The long-term unemployed, whose salaries she has cut, hand her a sculpture that stands in her Brussels office, an outstretched middle finger. Vestager calls it 'the fuck finger'. She understands conflict as a distinction. Next to the finger she has placed a bust of Bismarck.

In general, her office is full of messages. There are the many wooden camels to remind her to be patient. There are family photos on the sideboard. Her husband, teacher Thomas Jensen, to whom she has been married for more than 20 years. The three daughters. Karlo, the golden retriever. And then she also knits, preferably elephants. Why elephants? They are friendly, live in communities, the women are in charge and they have a good memory.

Anyone who meets Vestager in her office sits at a long solid wooden table. There was also a table in her parents' pastor's house, so big that there was always a seat free. Neighbours, tramps, professors came and discussed until late at night. Margrethe often sat there and listened. She learned that you have to stand by your own opinion. And fight for your convictions. That's exactly what several corporate leaders have had to learn. Tim Cook of Apple, Eric Schmidt of Google, even bosses from ***Europe*** know her stubbornness only too well, for example those of Siemens and Alstom. Vestager prohibited their planned merger of the train divisions. The economics ministers in Paris and Berlin were outraged. But the commissioner was not deterred.

The case with which she attracted the most attention is Apple. In January 2016, Apple CEO Tim Cook flew to Brussels on a private jet. Vestager is investigating Apple for opaque tax deals with Ireland. She wants to listen to Cook, but the Apple boss is said to have acted arrogantly and rebuffed her. The commissioner does not want to say anything about this. Only this much: Some come up with easy things, some come up with more difficult things.

She appears before the press at the end of August 2016 with an almost provocative nonchalance. She stands in the press room of the ***EU Commission*** and speaks in a calm, clear voice. Apple, says Vestager, paid 0.005 per cent tax in Ireland. She pauses briefly between each zero. If it got away with such a tax rate, Vestager says, she would take a second look at her tax bill. Apple is supposed to pay 13 billion ***euros in*** back taxes to the Irish tax office. Plus interest.

Apple boss Tim Cook is beside himself after this performance. Never before has an authority confronted him in such a combative manner. He calls the Commission's accusations "political crap". He is convinced that "it was a politically motivated decision without any legal or factual basis". Vestager rejects the criticism. In the end, a court case will decide who is right. Apple, that much is certain, is something of a case of a lifetime. A case that will help her. Perhaps all the way to the top of the ***EU Commission***?

Whether this will work depends on many imponderables. Besides the post of Commission President, there are other jobs to be distributed. A president is also being sought for the ***European*** Council, the ***EU Parliament*** and the ***European*** Central Bank. Brussels has its own power arithmetic for this. The core variables are gender, party affiliation, origin. Last but not least, political stance - and how one presents it.

Vestager knows how to sell her concerns well. In Brussels, it is hard to find anyone who criticises her work. Only some southern European colleagues are disturbed when she tells them that she once weighed 95 kilos. After the birth of her second daughter, she changed her diet and started jogging. She tells this to anyone who will listen. And some Eastern European heads of government don't like Vestager because, in their view, she insists too much on adherence to the rule of law. She is also too liberal on environmental and socio-political issues. And among leftists, the Dane is considered too business-friendly. From the Weber camp, one hears these days that she appears arrogant.

Vestager's chances of succeeding Juncker also depend on whether the liberal heads of government stick to her as a candidate or whether some of them do not have their own ambitions for a top job. It is also open whether the presumably new prime minister in Denmark will support Margrethe Vestager. Politically, the Social Democratic election winner Mette Frederiksen is far from her views. The liberal policy on foreigners that Vestager advocates is in contrast to what Frederiksen promised the voters. Personally, too, it would probably need a debate. Only: can a Danish head of government say no when another Dane can get the most powerful job in the ***EU***?

As always, it will depend on whether the French president and the German chancellor reach an agreement. Macron's affection for Vestager can be taken for granted, even if he mentions other candidates and also has his sights set on the post of head of the Central Bank for a Frenchman. Merkel must first support her candidate and compatriot Manfred Weber. Should he fail, she could probably make friends with Vestager. People close to the chancellor say Merkel appreciates her courage.

**Three weeks after the election, there is still no majority. Not even for Manfred Weber**

**She says Apple paid 0.005 per cent tax in Ireland. She emphasises each zero**

**It is not only about them. It is also about whether Merkel and Macron come to an agreement**

**Graphic**

Donald Trump called her the 'tax lady who really hates the United States'. And Margrethe Vestager? She let him know that anyone can do business in ***Europe*** - if they play by the rules. Photo: imago images / Reporters

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**Company:** GOOGLE INC (56%); FACEBOOK INC (55%); ALLIANZ SE (50%)

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

**Ticker:** FB (NASDAQ) (55%); ALV (FRA) (50%); ALV (BIT) (50%)

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**Person:** JEAN-CLAUDE JUNCKER (93%); DONALD TRUMP (76%)

**Geographic:** BRUSSELS, BELGIUM (88%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (94%); BRUSSELS CAPITAL REGION (90%); ***EUROPE (***92%); NORTH AMERICA (90%); BELGIUM (88%); FRANCE (58%); INDIA (58%); SWEDEN (58%); SPAIN (58%); CHINA (55%); ITALY (52%)

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[***Nightmares in Le Bourget; The tariff dispute between the USA and Europe Europe overshadows the air show, while the conflict over government aid for Boeing continues to smoulder. Airbus, meanwhile, hopes for a Eurofightersuccessor and civilian orders***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5WC1-P8W1-JDHD-W4K2-00000-00&context=)

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**Byline:** BY JENS FLOTTAU

**Body**

**Paris** - Dirk Hoke, Airbus board member for defence and space, didn't want to give too much away. Only this much: there will be good news at the Paris Air Show next week, he said at a reception. And it could look like this: On Monday, the German and French governments will announce that they have agreed on the next step in the development of the planned joint FCAS fighter aircraft system, allowing the industry to move into more concrete planning. FCAS is supposed to replace aircraft like the ***Eurofighter*** one day, it is the multi-billion project on which a large part of the growth fantasies of the ***European*** defence industry is based.

The only question is how much the beautiful appearance conveyed by the fair at Le Bourget airport is deceptive. For there is a very real danger that the project will at least be delayed, if not prevented altogether, by political conflicts. Just as the aviation industry's most important trade fair is overshadowed by political disputes that do not only affect the defence sectors: In the civil business, there is the threat of a trade conflict with the USA, which Airbus boss Guillaume Faury describes as a 'disaster for everyone' if it cannot be prevented. And the industry is watching with bated breath to see who will be the next prime minister of the UK and whether he will pursue a hard Brexit that could disintegrate the integrated structure of the ***European*** aircraft industry.

FCAS stands for Future Combat Air System and is to consist of a new combat aircraft, drones and the infrastructure necessary for integration. The basic idea is that Germany and France work together this time and do not develop competing aircraft like the ***Eurofighter*** and the *Rafale* (Dassault) again. Pursuing the project also presupposes that the two countries agree on common export guidelines. However, this is currently a major source of conflict: unlike France, Germany refuses to export to Saudi Arabia because of the alleged murder of journalist Jamal Kashoggi. The main issue is a border security system developed by Airbus.

If this is not resolved, none of the French-German projects will be implemented," Hoke fears. This will have 'drastic consequences' for ***European*** industry. Hoke believes that the issues must be 'resolved by the middle of next year'. But the current federal government is divided on the issue, and it is questionable whether it will even still be in office by the middle of next year.

In civil business, the big conflict looms earlier. Since 2004, the ***European Union*** and the USA have been fighting over alleged illegal state aid in two separate proceedings before the World Trade Organisation (WTO). Fifteen years later, these are nearing their conclusion - the WTO has found more or less serious breaches of the rules on both sides. The case against the ***EU*** and Airbus is about nine months further along - the US could impose punitive tariffs on Airbus imports on its basis. "We are starting to perceive this as a serious threat, but we believe that they can still be prevented," Faury said in an interview.

Faury's nightmare would be that the US would introduce tariffs in the next few months, which American airlines would have to pay if they took delivery of Airbus jets. ***Europe would*** not be able to react until 2020, when the EU-initiated case against the US and Boeing aid is concluded. It's a game in which there would be short-term winners on one side or the other, but in the end it would be a disaster for everyone. ***Europe*** would retaliate, no party would accept being punished with tariffs without doing the same and escalating things further,' he says. But a look at US President Donald Trump's trade policy, in which the threat of punitive tariffs plays a major role, does not bode well from Airbus' perspective.

The uncertainty in aviation now extends beyond the political environment. Both Boeing and Airbus have received more cancellations than new orders since the beginning of the year. Boeing is suffering from two special factors: the company had to take a large order for more than 100 aircraft from India's Jet Airways out of its inventory - Jet has ceased operations due to a lack of funds. Most importantly, Boeing continues to be overshadowed by the grounding of the *737 Max.* The company has still not submitted the final software version of the Maneuvering Characteristics Augmentation System (MCAS) to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). MCAS is believed to have played the central role in two *Max crashes* that killed 346 people. While there are indications that the FAA may lift the ban in July. But other authorities such as the ***European*** Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) have reserved the right to examine the system in detail themselves. And even the major American airlines are now planning without their *Max fleets* until September.

Airbus is also currently experiencing a lull in orders - according to sales director Christian Scherer, however, this will change at the Aerosalon in the course of the week. In particular, orders for the short- and medium-haul *A220* (formerly Bombardier *C-Series*) and the long-haul *A330neo are* expected. Most importantly, Airbus is likely to launch a new variant of the highly successful A320neo family. The *A321XLR* is said to have a range of up to 4600 nautical miles. This corresponds to about 8,500 kilometres or ten hours of flight time and is sufficient for connections from ***Europe*** to the Midwest of the USA. Airbus believes it can revolutionise the transatlantic market with the aircraft, because the relatively small jet (around 200 seats in the long-haul configuration) will make possible routes that have too few passengers for wide-body aircraft. It would be another sign of how much the strategy for the segment has changed. It was only in February that Airbus decided to discontinue the unprofitable giant *A380* jet.

By 2023 or 2024, the *XLR* could be fully developed. This would make the aircraft available several years before the planned *New Mid-Market Airplane* (NMA), which Boeing is currently preparing and which competes with the *XLR.* Originally it was considered conceivable that Boeing would announce the official programme launch at Le Bourget. But that was before the *Max crisis*. Now *NMA is in* danger of being delayed, with more and more experts believing that the original 2025 deadline can no longer be met.

**Boeing continues to suffer from the '737 Max' grounding**

**Graphic**

A Boeing '787 Dreamliner' from Air Tahiti at the Le Bourget air show. Photo: PASCAL ROSSIGNOL/Reuters

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**Company:** AIRBUS SAS (91%); BOEING CO (58%)

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

**Ticker:** BOE (LSE) (58%); BA (NYSE) (58%)

**Industry:** NAICS336411 AIRCRAFT MANUFACTURING (91%); SIC3721 AIRCRAFT (91%); NAICS336414 GUIDED MISSILE & SPACE VEHICLE MANUFACTURING (58%); NAICS336412 AIRCRAFT ENGINE & ENGINE PARTS MANUFACTURING (58%); SIC3761 GUIDED MISSILES & SPACE VEHICLES (58%); FIGHTER & BOMBER AIRCRAFT (91%); AIRCRAFT ENGINES (78%); DEFENCE & MILITARY POLICY (78%); AIRPORTS (75%); DEFENCE INDUSTRY (73%)

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[***FORUM; Correcting three things; The new EUParliament must make a new start in budgetary policy.***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5WC1-P8W1-JDHD-W4JT-00000-00&context=)

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**Byline:** By Friedrich Heinemann

**Body**

Even though the debate about ***Europe's*** top jobs is currently dominating the headlines, there are more important issues for the new ***European*** Parliament. Parliament and Council must reach an agreement on the ***EU***'s financial framework for the years 2021 to 2027 by the end of next year at the latest. This decision will have a decisive impact on the Union's policy in the coming decade and is of far greater importance than the nationality or party affiliation of the ***EU Commission President***.

A significant correction is urgently needed in this far-reaching course-setting. The ***European*** budget has long suffered from a serious imbalance. Two thirds of all funds still flow into the 'Common Agricultural Policy' (CAP) and the Structural Funds. In contrast, the budgets for overarching ***European*** tasks for the future, from climate to migration to defence policy, are far too small. In fact, the ***EU budget*** should concentrate on financing those policies that really create ***European*** added value. In fact, even in the 21st century, Brussels is still financing economically, ecologically and socially nonsensical transfers to often very wealthy farmers. Equally dubious are parts of the structural funds, where Brussels pays for projects even in wealthy regions of rich member states.

Who bears responsibility for this misguided spending structure of the ***EU budget***? A widespread myth in the ***European*** Parliament attributes the responsibility solely to the Council and the egoism of national governments. According to this self-view, the Parliament is reform-oriented, but repeatedly fails because of the national actors in the Council with their narrow perspective. This view is distorted and obscures the Parliament's share of responsibility for the ***EU***'s failed ***budgetary policy***. It is true that in ***EU financial negotiations,*** national governments focus one-sidedly on the returns to their respective countries. Agricultural subsidies and structural funds on the ground seem much more attractive than the protection of external borders or a development aid project in Africa. The benefits of distant projects may be great for ***Europe***, but they are too indirect and not very visible to be a real priority for national politicians and their voters.

However, the view that the ***European*** Parliament is supposedly more reform-oriented is wrong. Since the Lisbon Treaty, the Parliament has been on an equal footing with the Council in agricultural legislation. Parliament has used this increase in power as a stout defender of the status quo in the area of major transfer policies. Parliamentarians are also happy to mobilise ***EU funds*** for their constituency at home.

At the same time, key positions in parliament are far too often occupied by interest representatives. This is particularly true for the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development, which is important in questions of agricultural subsidies. Members of this committee often have a close relationship to agriculture due to their professional background. It is not uncommon for them to be farmers themselves or to have held positions in agricultural associations or ministries in their home countries. In the last legislative period, even parliamentarians who personally receive substantial ***EU subsidies as*** farmers sat on the Agriculture Committee and had a significant influence on agricultural legislation. In addition, the parliamentary groups disproportionately send representatives to the Agriculture Committee who come from countries with a particularly strong support for traditional agriculture.

A parliament that opens up the decisive committee to lobbyists to this extent is clearly not really interested in an unbiased review of this policy. Imagine if Parliament had ***European*** emissions standards negotiated by parliamentarians whose private professions were predominantly in the service of the car or chemical industries. This would rightly be judged as unacceptable; for the Committee on Agriculture, on the other hand, this naivety is a matter of course. It is always astonishing what special treatment agriculture receives compared to other sectors of the economy. And this is also true with regard to a high tolerance for the presence of lobbyists right into the heart of parliamentary work.

However, there is indeed an important difference between the positions of the Council and the Parliament in the debate on the next financial framework, but it is not really flattering for the Parliament: a large majority of MEPs would like to open up new sources of income for the ***EU budget*** and expand spending more than the richer ***EU states in*** particular have in mind in the Council. In other words, the conflict between outdated and necessary new ***EU policies is*** to be 'solved' by ***Europe*** simply financing both and increasing the budget volume substantially. Although this may be a convenient strategy, it is not a responsible or realistic one. It is not responsible because it accepts a considerable waste of resources without a convincing ***European*** justification. And it lacks realism because the net contributors in the Council will certainly not agree to a large budget expansion after Brexit.

How could the new Parliament make a truly credible contribution to reforming the ***EU budget***? Here, the MEPs of the pro-European groupings should not make the mistakes of their predecessors and finally correct three things:

Firstly, the Parliament must reduce lobbyist influence in the relevant committees. The Agriculture Committee should only be composed of parliamentarians who have no professional or private interest in the continuation of the subsidy regime. Secondly, the Parliament should abandon its unrealistic dreams of a strong ***EU budget expansion*** and new sources of revenue. And thirdly, it should fundamentally review the two major transfer policies - agricultural and cohesion policy - and initiate a comprehensive redirection of funds towards ***European*** tasks for the future. This would finally prove that the pro-European parties in Parliament are really serious about their rejection of national and sectoral individual interests.

**It is amazing what special treatment agriculture gets'.**

**Graphic**

Friedrich Heinemann is Head of the Research Unit 'Corporate Taxation and Public Finance' at ZEW in Mannheim and teaches economics at the University of Heidelberg. Photo: OH

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

**Industry:** STATE BUDGETS (91%); BUDGETS (90%); AGRICULTURAL SUBVENTIONS (89%); AGRICULTURE (89%); AGRICULTURE (88%); AGRICULTURAL LAW (74%); REGULATION OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS (74%)

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**Byline:** BY MATTHIAS KOLB  
  
SZ

**Body**

**How *Europe* is becoming greener**

**The Environment Party tries to play off its strong electoral results in Brussels and Strasbourg**

Some shifts in power only become clear when they are read in black and white. Every Friday afternoon, the press team of ***EU Council President*** Donald Tusk sends out his most important appointments for the following week. Because Tusk wants to present a personnel package acceptable to all heads of state and government at the ***EU summit, which*** begins on Thursday in Brussels, every minute is precious. After all, in addition to party membership, origin and gender must also be taken into account. Tusk has a special appointment in his calendar for Wednesday at 2 pm: "Meeting with Philippe Lamberts (Greens)".

Outside his home country, few know the Belgian. But in the ***European Parliament***, the 56-year-old is seen as a string-puller whose influence is growing. With 75 MEPs, the Greens are not only the fourth largest group, but they have also gained 23 seats, occupy the mega issue of climate change - and the next head of the ***EU Commission*** needs them for a stable majority. Lamberts, who like his co-chair Ska Keller has been re-elected as parliamentary group leader, derives from this a clear claim to one of the five top ***European*** posts that are now up for grabs.

Lamberts is realistic enough not to call for the succession of Jean-Claude Juncker, Donald Tusk or Mario Draghi as heads of the ***EU Commission***, the ***European*** Council and the ***European*** Central Bank. But for the posts of parliamentary president (so far Antonio Tajani) or ***EU foreign affairs envoy*** (currently Federica Mogherini), the Greens could have a go. In an interview with the *Süddeutsche Zeitung*, Lamberts says that his own people in the top posts should ensure that Green priorities are implemented: We will not be fobbed off with empty phrases.

This warning is addressed to the Christian Democrats, Liberals and Social Democrats in the ***European Parliament***, with whom the Greens are currently negotiating in five working groups on the priorities for the legislative period until 2024. The three groups would have a narrow majority, but Lamberts is not the only one who knows the risks of a three-party coalition: It would be dependent on the votes of the corrupt parties of Hungary's Viktor Orbán, the Czech Andrej Babis or Romania's Social Democrats. With four parties, there would be more chances for an ambitious agenda.

The fact that for the first time there are unofficial 'coalition talks' is not only due to losses of the popular parties, but also shows the self-confidence of the ***European Parliament***. Apart from the ***European*** People's Party (EPP), which is determined to make its parliamentary group leader Manfred Weber (CSU) the next head of the ***EU Commission***, the Greens are the strongest defenders of the top candidate concept. They emphasise what is often lost in reports on the dispute between Berlin and Paris: the ***European Parliament*** must approve the candidate proposed by the ***European*** Council. And the four political groups promise to accept only one of the top candidates and to let other candidates fall through in July. Margrethe Vestager, the liberal competition commissioner from Denmark, is considered the top candidate by the Greens. Many are annoyed with France's President Emmanuel Macron, who does not want to limit the selection to the top candidates, says Lamberts: 'Macron is an elected king, he doesn't understand compromise and negotiation.' But this is what matters in Brussels, and this is where Lamberts' strengths lie.

He does not give details about the talks in the working groups, but he praises the seriousness of the Christian Democrats: "Even though the EPP members are the furthest away from us, they are trying very hard. The Liberals are divided and many Social Democrats continue to see the Greens as an appendage, says Lamberts: "We don't make any preliminary agreements with anyone, but treat everyone equally.

He names the complexes of "asylum and migration", "security and defence" and the restructuring of agricultural policy as sticking points. More say for the ***EU Parliament*** is also important. In order for the Greens to join in the end, he said, the party must have ensured clear differences: 'We have to show that we deliver.' Risks must also be weighed up from a purely strategic point of view: If a four-party coalition were to come about, the opposition in the ***EU Parliament would*** consist only of ***Eurosceptic*** parties - the Greens would drop out as critics and drivers.

The EPP's goal is to hand over a work programme to Tusk by Tuesday evening - and to present it as proof of Weber's ability to act. The decisive factor, however, is quality, says Lamberts. The fact that it is mainly he who meets Tusk, for example, and makes phone calls to powerful heads of government such as Spain's Pedro Sanchez, points to something that is officially denied: Lamberts" co-chairwoman, the 37-year-old Ska Keller from Germany, could be in the running for parliamentary president.

Lamberts has other goals: In two and a half years he will step down as parliamentary group leader and leave parliament in 2024. Until then, he wants to do everything he can to ensure that Green success spreads throughout ***Europe***: 'So far, our MEPs come from only twelve countries.' Lamberts follows the development in Germany closely; he has known Annalena Baerbock for a long time. Before the ***European elections,*** we had bet on whether the Greens would do better in Germany or in Wallonia. We achieved 19.9 percent, but I still lost,' he says with a grin. Such defeats are easy to bear.

**We don't make any preliminary agreements with anyone, but treat everyone equally.**

**Flight of fancy**

The Greens are consolidating their position as the strongest German party in the opinion polls. In a Forsa survey published at the weekend, they achieved 27 per cent, as in the previous week, and are thus ahead of the CDU and CSU, which only achieved 24 per cent. Because of their particularly good ratings at the moment and their successes in recent elections, the Greens are now considering running a candidate for chancellor in the next federal election. Ludwig Hartmann, the parliamentary group leader in the Bavarian state parliament, spoke out in favour of this.

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**Organisation: *EUROPEAN*** UNION (84%); ***EUROPEAN*** PARLIAMENT (56%)

**Industry:** CENTRAL BANKS (72%)

**Person:** DONALD TUSK (92%); JEAN-CLAUDE JUNCKER (79%); MARIO DRAGHI (79%); VIKTOR ORBAN (79%)

**Geographic:** brussels, belgium (73%); strasbourg, france (73%); paris, france (72%); berlin, germany (58%); ***european*** member states (94%); BRUSSELS CAPITAL REGION (90%); ***EUROPE*** (91%); BELGIUM (88%); HUNGARY (78%); CZECH REPUBLIC (73%); DENMARK (58%); FRANCE (58%); ROMANIA (58%)

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[***Difficult fight against corruption; Many reasons for abuse of power in EUstates of Eastern Europe***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5WC1-P8W1-JDHD-W4H7-00000-00&context=)

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**Byline:** FLORIAN HASSEL

**Body**

**Warsaw -** It was an unpleasant surprise for Liviu Dragnea when the Supreme Court convicted him of incitement to abuse of office at the end of May: A few hours later, Romania's most powerful man until then as head of the ruling post-communists (PSD) as well as parliamentary speaker and de facto head of government was taken into custody by the police. Dragnea could remain behind bars for several years: He is also being tried on suspicion of fraud involving millions of Romanian taxpayers' money and ***EU subsidies***. The Dragnea case is probably the most spectacular single success in the fight against corruption and abuse of power in an ***EU member state***.

Romania is in dire need of success: the country is one of the most corrupt states in the ***EU***. In the global corruption index of Transparency International (TI), only Hungary (64th), Greece (67th) and Bulgaria (77th), the ***last country in the EU, are*** behind Romania (61st). Corruption is omnipresent in Romania. A pensioner, for example, had to buy her doctor in a public hospital a bottle of whiskey for the equivalent of 100 ***euros*** before an abdominal operation - similar examples can be found in other administrative sectors.

The reasons behind corruption are often the same: a drastically overstaffed but poorly paid civil service, political traditions of patronage and a lack of legal awareness, and the absence of independent control institutions, investigators and judges. The anti-corruption agency DNA, which is considered exemplary beyond Romania, has charged more than 1,000 public officials with corruption and abuse of office in recent years; the overwhelming majority have been convicted.

But corruption has hardly declined. And the corrupt apparatus is fighting back: Romania's government has decriminalised corruption and abuse of office with laws and decrees that contradict international standards. Dragnea could walk free again if the constitutional court controlled by his party overturns his conviction.

Corruption, democracy and the rule of law are closely linked in Eastern Europe: Hungary, under Viktor Orbán's autocratic regime, has dropped nine places in the TI ranking since 2012. The Czech Republic had steadily improved since 2014 (TI rank 38), but the country may now fall back under Prime Minister Andrej Babiš, who is suspected of multimillion-dollar fraud. Poland has long been a model pupil among the new ***EU countries***. While Ukraine, which is not part of the ***EU and was on a*** par with Poland at the end of communism, is now at the bottom of the ***European*** corruption rankings with 120th place in the TI ranking, Poland is in 36th place. Similar to Hungary, Poland could fall significantly behind: Under the national-populist government, all state control bodies have been weakened and lucrative positions in Polish state-owned companies have been given to deserving party functionaries. The last few months have seen several spectacular cases of suspected corruption at the highest levels, from the financial supervisory authority to the ruling PiS party. There is a complete lack of public scrutiny.

Only tiny Estonia, in 18th place, proves that things can be better. Extensive reforms and transparency in the administrative and governmental process, where Estonians can access and check many things online, have a positive effect.

**Only Estonia proves with reforms that it can be better**

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject:** CORRUPTION (95%); ***EUROPEAN UNION (***93%); PROFESSIONAL MISCONDUCT (90%); COURTS (90%); POLITICS (90%); CONVICTIONS (90%); PUBLIC POLICY (90%); SUPREME COURT (89%); HEADS OF STATE & GOVERNMENT (89%); RANKINGS (88%); INDICTMENTS (78%); COURT CASES (78%); NEGATIVE CORPORATE NEWS (78%); POLITICAL PARTIES (78%); RULE OF LAW (78%); JUDGES (78%); CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS (76%); ARRESTS (76%); BANKING REGULATION & FINANCIAL SUPERVISION (72%); LEADERSHIP (72%); STANDARDS & MASS UNITS (72%); DOCTORS (72%); GOVERNMENT SUBSIDIES & FUNDING (70%)

**Organisation:** TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL (56%)

**Industry:** BANK REGULATION & FINANCIAL SECURITY (72%); HOSPITALS (72%); DOCTORS (72%)

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

**Geographic:** WARSAW, POLAND (79%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (96%); POLAND (94%); HUNGARY (93%); ***EUROPE (***92%); ROMANIA (91%); ESTONIA (90%); EASTERN EUROPE (90%); BULGARIA (79%); CZECH REPUBLIC (79%); UKRAINE (79%); GREECE (58%).

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

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[***Waiting for the new boss; ECB Governing Council member wants more flexibility in monetary policy***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5WC1-P8W1-JDHD-W4K8-00000-00&context=)

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Monday 17 June 2019

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

**Length:** 417 words

**Byline:** SZ/REUTERS

**Body**

**Frankfurt/Berlin** - ECB Governing Council member Ewald Nowotny is in favour of a more flexible inflation target at the ***European*** Central Bank. I think it would be sensible to have a little more flexibility, as the Israeli or Czech central banks have done," the Austrian central bank chief told *Handelsblatt*. He was in favour of maintaining the two per cent target, 'but with a corridor of 0.5 or one per cent up or down'. The US Federal Reserve (Fed) is currently reviewing its monetary policy strategy. The Fed has initiated this, and the ECB is also preparing something like this," Nowotny said. In view of the change of leadership at the ECB this year, it is a natural thing that strategic considerations have to take place. ECB President Mario Draghi's term expires at the end of October.

In view of the economic slowdown in the ***euro zone*** and inflation far below the ECB's target of just under two percent, the central bank had recently further postponed the interest rate turnaround and, on the contrary, kept the door open for an interest rate cut as well as other options. Since the key rate for supplying banks with money has already been at the record low of 0.0 per cent since March 2016, some experts fear that the ECB no longer has much room for manoeuvre in terms of interest rate policy to give the economy an additional boost. According to the just updated forecasts of the ECB economists, the inflation target will again be missed in the coming years. This year the inflation rate is expected to be 1.3 per cent, in 2020 1.4 and in 2021 1.6 per cent. The ECB wants to keep its key interest rate at zero percent until at least next year in order to stimulate investment and consumption with cheap money.

ECB Vice-President Luis de Guindos, however, sees no need to support the economy at present. Only if longer-term inflation expectations were no longer in line with the ***European*** Central Bank's targets would it be necessary to think about more stimulus, de Guindos told the Italian newspaper *Corriere della Sera*. This has not happened yet, despite the fact that market-based inflation expectations have fallen. If there is a further deterioration in the economic situation, the ECB will react, De Guindos said. But he stressed that monetary policy was largely powerless against the effects of global trade disputes.

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject:** CENTRAL BANKS (92%); MONETARY POLICY (91%); ***EUROPEAN UNION (***90%); INFLATION (90%); ECONOMIC POLICY (90%); INTEREST RATES (90%); PUBLIC POLICY (90%); BUSINESS CYCLE NEWS (89%); ECONOMIC SITUATION (89%); ***EUROZONE*** (78%); INTEREST RATES (78%); ECONOMY & ECONOMIC INDICATORS (78%); MONETARY UNIONS (78%); ECONOMICS (73%); LEADERS (72%); TRADE CONFLICTS (50%)

**Company: *EUROPEAN*** CENTRAL BANK (95%)

**Industry:** CENTRAL BANKS (92%); MONEY POLICY (91%); INTEREST RATES (90%); ***EUROZONE*** (78%); LENDING RATES (78%); CURRENCY UNIONS (78%)

**Person:** MARIO DRAGHI (79%)

**Geographic:** FRANKFURT, GERMANY (78%); BERLIN, GERMANY (58%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (93%); ***EUROPE*** (90%); CZECH REPUBLIC (79%); ITALY (78%); AUSTRIA (78%); ISRAEL (58%).

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

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[***Waiting for the new boss; ECB Governing Council member wants more flexibility in monetary policy***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5WC1-P8W1-JDHD-W4K7-00000-00&context=)

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**Section:** Economy; Munich; p. 18

**Length:** 240 words

**Byline:** SZ/REUTERS

**Body**

**Frankfurt/Berlin** - ECB Governing Council member Ewald Nowotny is in favour of a more flexible inflation target at the ***European*** Central Bank. I think it would be sensible to have a little more flexibility, as the Israeli or Czech central banks have done," the Austrian central bank chief told *Handelsblatt*. He was in favour of maintaining the two per cent target, 'but with a corridor of 0.5 or one per cent up or down'. The US Federal Reserve (Fed) is currently reviewing its monetary policy strategy. The Fed has initiated this, and the ECB is also preparing something like this," Nowotny said. In view of the change of leadership at the ECB this year, it is a natural thing that strategic considerations have to take place. ECB President Mario Draghi's term expires at the end of October.

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**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

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**Subject:** CENTRAL BANKS (92%); MONETARY POLICY (91%); ***EUROPEAN UNION*** (90%); INFLATION (90%); ECONOMIC POLICY (90%); PUBLIC POLICY (90%); ***EUROZONE (***78%); ECONOMIC NEWS (78%); INTEREST RATES (78%); ECONOMY & ECONOMIC INDICATORS (78%); ECONOMIC SITUATION (78%); MONETARY UNIONS (78%); LEADERS (72%)

**Company: *EUROPEAN*** CENTRAL BANK (93%)

**Industry:** CENTRAL BANKS (92%); MONEY POLICY (91%); ***EUROZONE*** (78%); LIBERAL INTEREST RATES (78%); CURRENCY UNIONS (78%)

**Person:** MARIO DRAGHI (79%)

**Geographic:** FRANKFURT, GERMANY (73%); BERLIN, GERMANY (58%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (91%); CZECH REPUBLIC (78%); ***EUROPE (***73%); AUSTRIA (73%); ISRAEL (57%)

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

**End of Document**

[***Dirt in the stork's nest; tens of thousands of Czechs demonstrate every week to demand the resignation of Prime Minister Andrej Babiš. A luxury hotel has become a symbol of the dubious business dealings of the heavily wealthy entrepreneur. A visit***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5WC1-P8W1-JDHD-W4H8-00000-00&context=)

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Monday 17 June 2019

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

**Length:** 1699 words

**Byline:** BY TOBIAS ZICK

**Body**

**Prague** - From a distance, one might think that someone has stacked an unusually large pile of firewood in the landscape. But then it becomes clear what is ducking into the valley. The Czech Republic's most scandalous building, which is catching the eye of more and more citizens, and not just architecturally: &Ccaron;apí Hnízdo, the 'Stork's Nest'. The luxury resort dream turned into stone and wood of the man who has not only risen as an entrepreneur to become the second richest man in the country, but has also ruled this country since 2017.

To dispel any last doubts that you are on the right track here, 50 kilometres south of the capital Prague, a man-sized wooden stork greets you at the side of the road, just before the entrance to the neatly trimmed area. Inside, not quite so stork-like in stature, a bouncer waits with a piercing gaze to inform visitors that they are welcome to enter the restaurant, but that the rest of the grounds are 'closed' to non-overnight guests.

Andrej Babiš, Czech Republic's prime minister, has reasons for not wishing too many curious day-trippers in this place. His stork's nest has become a symbol of what more and more citizens are accusing him of: that he is a little too consistent in keeping his election promise to run the country 'like a business'. Every week, tens of thousands gather in the cities to demand Babiš" resignation since he appointed an old confidante as justice minister in April. Her predecessor had resigned shortly after the police handed over their investigation of the Stork's Nest case to the public prosecutor's office. Before that, the ***EU Anti-Fraud Office*** had already found that Babiš had wrongly received around 1.64 million ***euros in*** subsidies from Brussels for the construction of the congress hotel. Then the 35-year-old son of the prime minister addressed the public in a video message: His father had him abducted to Crimea so that he could not testify in the Stork's Nest case.

This stork's nest presents itself to the visitor in a most tidy manner; the sandy beach at the pond is freshly raked, a sign forbids bathing, the playground including a pirate ship for climbing is completely free of noisy children. Only a young couple strolls around the domed structure in the middle, entwined by branches; she, summer dress and glittering earrings, poses smiling in front of it, he, slimly shaved sideburns and muscle-accentuating T-shirt, takes her picture. No, he is not interested in politics, the man says, but he likes the building, and after sceptical hesitation he tells us: he comes from the north-west of the country, a region with below-average fortune, and there many things have developed for the better under Babiš. Unfortunately, he is not allowed to reveal his name, he works in the civil service, more precisely, in the army. Incidentally, his salary was increased by a whopping 30 per cent under Babiš.

Then he remembers something he doesn't like: that people with a 'normal' income, people like himself, will probably never be able to afford to stay here. The room costs about 270 ***euros*** a night, well, on the other hand, that's exactly what rich people all over the world do: invest in luxury real estate. And Babiš is the second richest man in the country. In this respect, the whole thing is okay.

A chimney still stands from the factory site that once extended here, and the stork that gave the new property its name still nests on it today. Photos on a plaque prove that the stork was not irritated during the construction work. Beyond the exit, he can now be seen stalking through a neighbouring field. Apparently he is still as uninterested in ***EU subsidies*** as the day-tripper couple inside, as long as enough frogs hop in front of his beak.

It is precisely this attitude that, according to observers, secures Babiš's power base. A large part of the people do not see the situation as bad,' says the Prague theatre writer and action artist Petr Šourek, who organises alternative city tours for tourists on the trail of corruption: A part of society is dozing in a 'Central European Biedermeier', says Šourek, Babiš hits exactly the nerve of those many Czechs who don't want to bother with details of politics, but are happy when a top manager of the country takes care of it. Šourek is sceptical that the protests will bring about a major change. Babiš has a reasonably reliable electorate of around 30 percent," says Šourek, "and he doesn't need more than that because the opposition is so fragmented.

Brno, the country's second largest city, Freedom Square, on a hot evening in mid-June. Butterflies! Resign!" shouts a man with a stubbly beard, banging on a drum. To understand this rather abbreviated protest formula, one has to dig a little in the archive of Babiš quotes. He once told critics that a lot of rape blossoms in the fields of his agricultural company, and butterflies feast on it; so anyone who loves butterflies cannot seriously be against his business.

Business dealings for which the prime minister is coming under increasing pressure. A report by the ***EU Commission*** recently concluded that Babiš had a clear conflict of interest: although he had transferred his Agrofert group to two trust funds before taking office, he still de facto controlled it. And so he benefits from ***EU subsidies, the*** distribution of which he can influence in Brussels. After the report became public, Babiš, who until then had appeared so ***pro-European,*** raged: the accusations from Brussels were "an attack on the Czech Republic".

The people here on the square in Brno, about 6,000 according to the police, will not be sedated by such slogans. "Andrei, you can't buy us" is written on one banner, "We don't want toast, we want better schools" on another; a reference to Agrofert's bakery empire, which also includes the Lieken company in Germany. A man with a beard is holding on to a mighty ***European flag***: Adam Hladky, 67. He had also stood on this square in 1989, he says, and he reproaches Babiš above all for allowing himself to be tolerated by the communists in his minority government: "They are still there. Then the organisers observe a minute's silence: for the victims of the Nazi massacres in June 1942, when the Germans destroyed, among other things, an entire village called Lidice. Later there is another minute of silence, for the victims of communism. At this point, at the latest, it becomes clear that there is something more fundamental behind the protests than the current displeasure about the mixing of business and politics. The question is all the more urgent: 30 years ago, the people of this country elected a poet and thinker named Václav Havel as their president, and now they are being ruled by a Storchennest operator. How could this happen?

Someone who has an answer to this question is sitting today in a sparsely furnished office on the edge of the city centre, with photos of refugees in Afghanistan, Syria and Kosovo lined up on the wall. Šimon Pánek is the head of 'People in Need', the largest aid organisation in Eastern ***Europe***. In 1989, he was the leader of the student protests against the communist regime; there are many photos of him together with Havel. One has to be careful, says Pánek, with hasty comparisons between 1989 and today: today's government was indeed legitimately elected. Babiš discovered a gap in the market and filled it successfully.

The market-liberal, often ruthless privatisation policy of the 1990s deprived many of their trust in the existing parties, says Pánek: "We put business before ethics and the rule of law. And: "Perhaps we underestimated how much communism had already killed the values and political traditions in our society. He says his father told him at the time, while he was leading the student protests: 'Boy, you are far too optimistic. That lasts at least two generations. 'In retrospect, I have to say he was right,' says Pánek. The formerly communist-ruled societies in the region did not manage to produce enough democratic leaders, real statesmen, after 1989.

Couldn't he have become such a leader? Yes,' Pánek says without hesitation, 'of course, there are situations when you think about your personal responsibility for how the country is developing. But he was only 22 years old at the time; he felt too young for a political career. And since then he has been well occupied with his work in humanitarian aid. It is what it is,' he says, handing his guest the annual report of his organisation as a farewell. It not only describes aid programmes for drought-stricken farmers in Ethiopia and the relatives of political prisoners in Azerbaijan, but also for pupils with learning difficulties and over-indebted families in the Czech Republic. In this way, he is at least helping to alleviate the consequences of his country's misguided policies.

After last week's protests were concentrated in the smaller towns on the other side of Prague, the next demonstration is planned for next Sunday in the capital, this time in Letná Park, one of the sites of the Velvet Revolution of 1989. When the organisers announced the date from the stage this evening in Brno, they were met by thousands of cheers from Freedom Square: "We are coming! We are coming!

**An *EU Commission* report found: Babiš is in a clear conflict of interest**

**We have put business above ethics and the rule of law'.**

**Graphic**

Under the sign of ***Europe***: For weeks, tens of thousands of people have been demonstrating against the head of government in Prague and other cities in the Czech Republic. Photo: EPA

**Classification**

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**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

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**Industry:** BUILDING PUBLIC & COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS (77%)

**Geographic:** PRAGUE, CZECH REPUBLIC (90%); BRUSSELS, BELGIUM (57%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (79%); BRUSSELS CAPITAL REGION (79%); CZECH REPUBLIC (90%); BELGIUM (58%)

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**End of Document**

[***And forgive us our trespasses; Why the Greens are having such a hard time succeeding in nature-rich Italy of all places***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5WC1-P8W1-JDHD-W4G1-00000-00&context=)

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

**Length:** 1127 words

**Byline:** OLIVER MEILER

**Body**

Sometimes you think you can feel climate change. 28 degrees on a June morning, that's too much even for Rome: a dust-dry harbinger of high summer. In the 63 bus to the Piazza Fiume, the air conditioning has broken down again, hot air hisses through the open slit windows. On the first floor of an apartment building, Italy's Greens have their party headquarters, the "Verdi". A small office, three rooms, the shelves are full of archive files. Posters of old campaigns hang on the walls, one of them reads: "A nation that destroys its soil destroys itself". Decorated with flowers. It is a desperate lament.

We have a hard time finding voters,' says Angelo Bonelli, a 56-year-old Roman, the head of 'Verdi'. And that is surprising at a time when the Greens are winning hearts almost everywhere else in ***Europe***, including those of young voters. Carried by a new environmental consciousness, by Greta Thunberg's élan, by concern for the future of the planet. The recent ***European elections*** have shown this. In Germany, the Greens achieved 20.5 percent. In France, 13.5 percent. In Great Britain 12 percent. Of the big countries, only Italy broke ranks: 2.3 per cent, far below the threshold. 621 000 votes.

The newspapers wrote that the figures were "ridiculous". A 'flop', a 'debacle'. The left-wing *Repubblica* explained the result thus: "We are greedy and aggressive with our nature, and although it is so beautiful, we still treat it like a stepmother". Bonelli puts it slightly differently, but means the same thing. Italians dramatically lack an ethic of responsibility - for the environment, for the common good, for everything collective. We take great care of our home, but we don't care about the mountains of waste on our doorstep, about all this decadence.

Bonelli speaks softly, he wears his hair long. The media say he lacks charisma. But no one doubts his dedication to the cause. Bonelli has been fighting for a rethink all his life, for ten years as 'National Coordinator of Green Executives'. A cumbersome title for a leader, and perhaps it also reflects the difficulties of the 'Sole che ride', the laughing sun, as the party is also called after its emblem. In the past, the Greens often tore themselves apart in internal battles, not always over content and ideology, but also over personal animosities and the small power. We have made mistakes," says Bonelli. "Me too.

The "Verdi" were founded in 1987 as an exotic plant. Environmental protection was always considered a luxury in Italy. For a long time, the opinion prevailed that nothing should impede progress and the economy, that everything should be subordinated to the right to work and prosperity. Coasts were concreted over. Factories were built in the middle of cities without any concern for health hazards. The toxic waste? Simply buried or burned in the open air. Riverbeds were narrowed to create living space. Construction also took place in areas where it really shouldn't be built: in the 'Zona rossa', where there is a high risk of earthquakes. Then we always cry when another catastrophe happens," says Bonelli.

Instead of preventing or punishing the illegal building frenzy, politics, both right and left, nods through a general indulgence every few years. "Our term for it, 'condono edilizio', doesn't even exist in other languages. The Italian state, says Bonelli, thus legalises illegality. Every second house in the south of the country was built without permits. A party like ours, which demands respect for the law and the protection of the countryside, is naturally not very popular. The Italians are only waiting for their sins to be forgiven, they are very Catholic. The prospect of forgiveness lies like a cosy blanket over a guilty conscience. In the Protestant north of ***Europe it is*** different, says Bonelli.

A few years ago he wrote a book about the large Ilva steelworks in Taranto, Apulia, a symbol of Italian carelessness. In 'Good Morning Dioxin', Bonelli tells how tragically much higher the risk of getting cancer in Taranto is, even for children. The book was also published in English. Bonelli was interviewed by the BBC, he appeared at conferences - but only abroad. In Italy, no one was interested in the book. Before the ***European elections,*** the 'Verdi' were not invited to a single major talk show. When Bonelli complained to a television station, he was offered a short interview. They wanted to give us ten seconds, as a kind of compensation,' says Bonelli and laughs. He declined.

2.3 percent, then. It is one of the best results in the history of the Italian Greens. Their record is 3.6 percent. That was in 1999, in the ***European elections***. Until 2008, the "Verdi" sat in the Italian parliament, and Bonelli was also an MP. Some party supporters made it to ministerial posts in left-wing governments, for the environment and agriculture, the expected. But when the Cinque Stelle emerged, which had an ecological soul in its beginnings, the Greens almost disappeared from the public eye. With an annual budget of 257,000 ***euros at*** last count, not much can be done.

Two part-time employees and two interns work in the office at Piazza Fiume. They are encouraged by the supposed 'debacle'. The phone rings constantly in the office now. The meetings are no longer attended by just ten people, but sometimes by 50 or 60. The fact is that there are many organisations in Italy with socially committed volunteers. Thousands of them, you just have to be able to inspire people.

When Greta Thunberg came to Italy a few weeks ago, the seats were full. The climate strikes mobilised hundreds of thousands of young, very young people. And many Cinque Stelle voters are already looking for a new political home again. They feel cheated, because since the stars have been in power, they sacrificed one fight after another. They had also wanted to close the Ilva of Taranto, but then let it go. So the market chances for the Greens are good, perhaps they have never been better.

We have to stop just sounding the alarm," says Bonelli. Like the German Greens, they now want to appeal to voters from all spectrums with a full programme, especially in the centre, as non-ideological as possible. For a sudden boom, who knows.

**Citizens are used to illegal things being legalised. This dampens the guilty conscience**

**Graphic**

Insisting on more green issues in the ***European Parliament***: the two group leaders Philippe Lamberts and Ska Keller. Photo: FREDERICK FLORIN/AFP

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**Subject:** GERMAN POLITICAL PARTIES (90%); CLIMATE CHANGE (90%); ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION MOVEMENT (78%); ELECTIONS (77%); ETHICS (73%); FLOWS (73%); ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION (73%); LEADERSHIP (69%); ELECTIONS & ELECTION FIGHTS (69%); VOTERS & ELECTIONS (67%)

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

**Geographic:** ROME, ITALY (73%); ITALY (90%); FRANCE (73%); ***EUROPE (***72%); UNITED KINGDOM (72%); GERMANY (59%).

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**End of Document**

[***Showdown in Görlitz; AfD and CDU fight in run-off for the post of Lord Mayor***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5WC1-P8W1-JDHD-W4H0-00000-00&context=)

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

**Length:** 695 words

**Byline:** ANTONIE RIETZSCHEL

**Body**

**Görlitz - In** Saxony, a few months before the state elections, there is a showdown between the AfD and the CDU. In the mayoral election in the city of Görlitz, police officer and AfD member of the state parliament Sebastian Wippel is running against CDU member of the state parliament Octavian Ursu. The election result was not yet known at the time of going to press.

There is more at stake in the mayoral election than the image of the self-proclaimed ***European city*** and its good reputation as 'Görliwood' for international film productions. Görlitz is the home of Saxon Prime Minister Michael Kretschmer (CDU). The AfD already won the direct mandate in the Görlitz constituency in the 2017 federal election.

Sebastian Wippel achieved 36.4 per cent in the first ballot at the end of May, the strongest result. Octavian Ursu won 30.3 per cent. Again, only a few percentage points separated him from Franziska Schubert. The Green politician achieved an unusually high result of 27.9 per cent thanks to the support of a broad citizens' alliance. Jana Lübeck of the Left Party landed with 5.5 per cent.

Despite the second place, Ursu and the CDU were considered the real losers after the first round of voting. Also because the party in the district performed weakly in the ***European*** and local elections. Nevertheless, Ursu declared that he would run again in the second round. In doing so, he snubbed Franziska Schubert's supporters, who saw the 37-year-old as the better candidate. Schubert had completed a marathon of talks with citizens, entrepreneurs, potential investors and cultural institutions during the election campaign. Ursu, on the other hand, had remained pale. Nevertheless, he had no choice but to run again. Leaving the field to Schubert would have been tantamount to an embarrassing defeat. The Green politician could also have run a second time. But in order to prevent an AfD mayor in Görlitz, she refrained from running again.

Octavian Ursu adopted Schubert's strategy and presented himself as a non-party candidate. Whereas before the first ballot he had advertised his good contacts with CDU politician and Minister President Michael Kretschmer, before the run-off he rested his offices as CDU city and district leader. There were talks with Schubert and her supporters. The 'Citizens for Görlitz' alliance then supported Ursu's candidacy. Schubert himself called for a vote 'for a cosmopolitan ***European city***'.

The AfD, which says it has spent a five-figure sum on its candidate's election campaign, relied on the support of the party leadership in the final spurt. Alice Weidel visited Görlitz to thank the campaigners. The member of the Bundestag Beatrix von Storch also made an appearance.

Unexpected campaign help came from Hollywood. In an open letter, numerous actors, directors and producers appealed to the eligible voters among the city's 57,000 inhabitants: "Do not give in to hatred and hostility, discord and exclusion," it says. And: 'Please vote wisely when the choice is yours, dear citizens and friends of Görlitz! The historic city backdrop has attracted numerous filmmakers in the past. Inglourious Basterds' was filmed here, as was 'The Reader' and 'The Grand Budapest Hotel'.

The AfD saw the letter as outside influence and proof that certain forces were conspiring against them. In a video, their mayoral candidate is stylised as a kind of resistance fighter in the tradition of the civil rights activists of 1989. Hollywood then involuntarily also provided the idea for a new slogan. Based on the letter, it reads: "Vote for Wise Wippel".

A victory for the AfD in Görlitz would be a clear signal shortly before the state elections in September. But even if Sebastian Wippel loses

- his party has made it clear that it has built up a core constituency in the region that has become a problem for the CDU.

**Campaign help from Hollywood: 'Vote wisely', appealed actors and producers**

**Graphic**

Sebastian Wippel, 36, police commissioner. He was a member of the FDP from 2010 to 2013, switched to the AfD in 2013 and has been a member of the Saxon parliament for the party since 2014. Photo: Sebastian Willnow / ZB / dpa

Octavian Ursu, 51, musician. Born in Romania, he has been a member of the CDU and a city councillor in Görlitz since 2009. He has represented the CDU in the Saxon state parliament since 2014. Photo: Peter Endig / dpa

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**Organization: *EUROPEAN*** UNION (55%)

**Industry:** FILM INDUSTRY (89%); FILM DIRECTORS (75%)

**Geographic:** BUDAPEST, HUNGARY (79%); LÜBECK, GERMANY (79%); SAXONY, GERMANY (90%); ***EUROPE (***79%)

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[***A giant with a global agenda; How China is taking advantage of the American retreat from world politics and expanding its influence at the United Nations***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5WG1-8X01-JDHD-W355-00000-00&context=)

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

**Length:** 1381 words

**Byline:** BY LEA DEUBER, OLIVER MEILER AND CHRISTIAN ZASCHKE

**Body**

**Beijing/Rome/New York** - It was a three-way fight between China, the ***EU*** and the USA, it took place in Rome, and the result could hardly have been clearer. In the corridors of the bulky palazzo at the Circus Maximus, there was more tugging and wrestling than ever before in the history of the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations, FAO for short. Later, there was talk of vote-buying and diplomatic threatening gestures.

The result: a week ago, the Chinese biologist Qu Dongyu won the election for the new Director-General of the Rome-based UN organisation so clearly - in the first round, with 108 out of 194 votes - that diplomatic circles are talking about a resounding defeat for the ***EU*** and the USA.

The top post at the multilateral agency with its 11,500 employees worldwide was extremely important to Beijing. After his election, the 55-year-old Qu, who was previously vice-minister for agriculture in his home country, spoke of a "great day". It was time to reform the FAO, he said. It must be "concrete" in the fight against hunger in the world, which affects 821 million people, and in the use of new technologies. He himself would act impartially and serve all member countries. Whether he really intends to do this is now being discussed behind closed doors in Rome as well as at UN headquarters in New York. Moreover, the question is circulating: How could China win this vote so clearly?

The ***European Union*** had sent the Frenchwoman Catherine Geslain-Lanéelle into the race, she received 71 votes. The USA had supported the former Georgian Minister of Agriculture Davit Kirvalidze. The fact that he received only twelve votes is seen mainly as a signal to the Americans.

Qu will succeed the Brazilian José Graziano da Silva, who, according to reports, was extremely unpopular with many FAO staff. This may have been due to the fact that he implemented a rigid austerity programme. On the other hand, however, it was probably also due to the fact that he overburdened the agency with a mass of bureaucracy. As far as Qu is concerned, there is little hope for improvement among the staff.

The Chinese, it is now said in diplomatic circles, used all the tricks to get their man through. Cameroon is said to have been forgiven debts amounting to 62 million ***euros.*** The Brazilians and Uruguayans are said to have been threatened with an export ban to the People's Republic. It may well be that these accusations, made behind closed doors, are also part of the licking of wounds after the defeat of the ***Europeans*** and the Americans. There is no doubt that China has been working for a long time to expand its influence at the UN by many means.

These efforts have not only been underway since Donald Trump became US president. However, it suits China that the USA is increasingly withdrawing from international institutions under Trump. China is pushing into the vacuum that has been created. For some time now, this has also dawned on Trump's administration. Security Advisor John Bolton is now spearheading a campaign to curb China's growing influence. This is an interesting volte-face in that it was Bolton, in particular, who campaigned to reduce US involvement in the UN, even though he himself was once US ambassador to the UN under President George W. Bush.

China has long been underrepresented in most international organisations. Changing this has been one of the goals of the country's leaders for some time, but it is only under President Xi that the intensity and pace of this has increased significantly. He has pursued a more aggressive foreign policy than his predecessors, which has led to China expanding its influence globally in recent years, especially through the 'New Silk Road' investment project. Chinese officials stress that the many loans granted and the massive investments along traditional trade routes have nothing to do with geopolitics. It is being done for the good of the world community. There are doubts about this among some ***European*** and American strategists. In large parts of the UN, however, the project is highly regarded. Even its Secretary-General, António Guterres, believes it could help alleviate world hunger.

In recent years, Xi has more than doubled the budget for his foreign policy course. The United Nations is an excellent example of China's ambitions. For years, China has been systematically investing in the UN, increasing its budget, sending more and more personnel. China now provides the most troops for peacekeeping missions among the permanent members of the Security Council. With a share of about ten per cent of the budget, it is the second largest donor to the missions and the UN's overall budget, behind the USA. This strengthens its influence on the Administrative and Budgetary Committee, which in turn controls the budget of the Human Rights Committee.

In addition, China has consistently taken care of UN agencies that were considered secondary by the ***Europeans.*** For example, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), which is firmly in China's hands and is constantly expanding its importance. In New York, it is said that the Chinese are proceeding in this way in order to eventually be able to shape and decide at the centre of the UN.

In 2015, Xi presented his vision of international cooperation to the UN General Assembly. He spoke of "win-win cooperation", "people-to-people connectivity" and "creating a community with a shared future for humanity". These formulations soon found their way into the vocabulary of UN resolutions. The US is increasingly trying to prevent the use of such language in UN texts. They fear that China wants to change the language of the UN to make it more and more like the language of the Communist Party. Already in 2017, American diplomats were instructed to resist wording that could be understood as an expression of Chinese 'soft power'.

One of China's main goals in the United Nations is to establish absolute respect for the sovereignty of every state as a core principle. This should also take precedence over respect for human rights. And: Instead of political and civil rights, the economic and social rights of the individual should be strengthened. These principles should become the guiding principles for the UN institutions.

This would ultimately mean a new definition of human rights. China no longer wants to be criticised for its dubious record in this area. For putting a million Uighurs in re-education camps in western China; for its treatment of Tibet, dissidents and dissenters; for censorship; for the almost complete surveillance of the population.

Many states, some of them with dubious human rights records themselves, are only too happy to rally behind the new giant in the UN. Especially in African countries, China invests a lot and expects in return not only access to raw materials, but also allegiance. The US has long stood idly by. Only in December 2018 did security adviser John Bolton go on the offensive, at least verbally. He said: "China is using bribes, opaque arrangements and the strategic use of debt to bring African states into compliance. China's goal, Bolton said, is "global dominance".

China's Vice Foreign Minister Le Yucheng responds to such criticism by saying that China will not accept accusations that come from only a few countries that are biased. He said: "No country should be allowed to dictate the definition of democracy and human rights.

**Diplomats speak of a resounding defeat for the *EU* and the USA**

**For years, Beijing has been systematically investing in the UN, increasing the budget, sending more staff**

**Xi's regime no longer wants to be criticised for human rights violations**

**Graphic**

On the day of the election of the new Director-General: Two delegates sit at FAO headquarters in Rome. The newly elected Chinese biologist Qu Dongyu accepts congratulations on his surprisingly clear victory. PhotoS: Riccardo Antimiani/AP

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**Industry:** MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE (77%)

**Person:** DONALD TRUMP (79%)

**Geographic:** ROME, ITALY (93%); NEW YORK, NY, USA (91%); PEKING, CHINA (91%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (93%); CENTRAL AFRICA (79%); CHINA (91%); ***EUROPE (***90%); ITALY (90%); GEORGIA (58%); EAST ASIA (58%).

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**End of Document**

[***Cows for cars; It is the largest free trade zone in the world: After almost 20 years of tough negotiations, the EU and the Mercosur countries have reached a historic agreement. What does the deal mean? What are the advantages - and the risks?***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5WG1-8X01-JDHD-W378-00000-00&context=)

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

**Length:** 855 words

**Byline:** BY CHRISTOPH GURK

**Body**

**Munich** - Twenty years after the start of negotiations, the way is clear for the establishment of the world's largest free trade area. What does this agreement mean? The most important questions and answers.

**What is Mercosur?**

Mercosur stands for Mercado Común del Sur, or 'Common Market of the South'. The alliance was founded in 1991 and includes Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay. Venezuela's membership is suspended, Bolivia is in the process of joining. Unlike the ***EU,*** Mercosur has no currency of its own, no customs union and only weak common organs. About 260 million people live in these states, together they form the fifth largest economic region in the world with a gross domestic product of more than two trillion ***euros***. ***Europe*** is the most important trading partner.

**Why did it take so long to reach an agreement with the *EU*?**

Besides political reasons, there were major concerns on both sides of the Atlantic. ***European*** farmers fear cheap meat, grain and sugar from Latin America. On the other hand, there are justified fears on the part of Latin Americans that local industry, which is usually not really strong anyway, will be destroyed by imported machinery from the ***EU.*** Time and again, the consultations were on ice or threatened to fail. In the end, it took almost 30 rounds of negotiations and almost 20 years before the contracting parties were able to reach an agreement.

**And why now?**

One reason is US policy: in the face of punitive tariffs and trade barriers, the alliance between the ***EU*** and Mercosur became increasingly attractive to all parties. The decisive factor, however, was probably the unusual unity of Brazil and Argentina. Both are struggling with rising unemployment and a shrinking economy. Brazil has one of the world's highest budget deficits and Argentina the second highest inflation rate internationally after Venezuela.

**What are the advantages of the contract?**

The alliance creates the largest free trade area in the world. It is home to almost 800 million consumers. The treaty provides for the dismantling of trade restrictions. Currently, for example, there is a cap on imports of high-quality beef from South America of 50,000 tonnes per year. At the same time, cars exported from the ***EU*** to Brazil or Argentina are taxed at up to 35 percent. All this is to change, "Cars for Cows", is how the content of the agreement is polemically summarised. The main beneficiaries will be car and machine manufacturers in ***Europe*** and farmers and landowners in Latin America. They will open up huge new markets with millions of consumers. For consumers, little will probably change. The prospects that Argentine meat will be in the refrigerated counters at lower prices in the future are slim. On the other hand, cars and technical devices will probably not become much cheaper in Latin America either. Nevertheless, supporters of the deal hope that in the end there will be more prosperity for everyone and new jobs will be created.

**What are the risks?**

While the German car industry is happy, farmers in the ***EU are*** afraid of cheap imports from South America. The four Mercosur countries, Argentina, Paraguay, Uruguay and Brazil, have competitive agriculture. Wages are low, the land is mostly flat and fertile, maize, wheat, sugar cane and especially soya grow on huge fields. Cattle are no longer grazing in the vastness of the pampas, instead they are fattened in so-called feedlots until they are ready for slaughter. According to its own figures, Argentina alone could feed 400 million people - out of a population of 40 million. With all this, ***European*** agriculture can only keep up with difficulty. At the same time, environmentalists and human rights activists sharply criticise the treaty. In all Mercosur countries, virgin forests are being cleared and indigenous communities displaced in order to gain new land for agriculture. In addition, South America is far less squeamish about the use of pesticides. The millions of litres of agricultural poisons that fall on the fields of South America pollute the environment and make the local people ill. In the end, we are importing environmental destruction and human rights violations," says Katharina Dröge, the trade policy spokesperson for the Green Party in the German Bundestag.

**And where do we go from here?**

All ***EU*** member states and the ***European*** Parliament still have to approve the treaty, as do the Mercosur states. This will not always go smoothly. In Argentina, Alberto Fernández, Mauricio Macri's most promising rival in the presidential elections, has already announced that he will not support the agreement if he wins the elections in October. Such a treaty is not a cause for celebration, but for concern," he wrote on Twitter.

**Comment**

**Classification**

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**Organisation:** SOUTHERN COMMON MARKET (MERCOSUR) (94%); ***EUROPEAN*** UNION (56%)

**Industry:** MEAT AND POULTRY GOODS (89%); MOTOR VEHICLES (89%); AGRICULTURES (89%); BUDGETS (78%); STATE BUDGETS (78%); AUTOMOBILE MANUFACTURING (75%); CURRENCIES (75%); VEHICLE SECTOR OVERVIEW (70%); MACHINE MANUFACTURING (67%)

**Geographic: *EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (96%); LATIN AMERICA (93%); SOUTH AMERICA (79%); ARGENTINA (94%); BRAZIL (94%); ***EUROPE (***92%); PARAGUAY (92%); URUGUAY (92%); VENEZUELA (92%); SOUTH AMERICA (91%).

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[***Start of service for the executioners; Sri Lanka reintroduces the death penalty after 43 years***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5WG1-8X01-JDHD-W356-00000-00&context=)

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

**Length:** 740 words

**Byline:** ARNE PERRAS

**Body**

**Singapore** - "Mental strength" and "strong morals" were required of applicants by Sri Lanka. In February, the state advertised for the post of executioner and now it has found one. Two applicants were hired in the hope that they would not run away like their two predecessors. One of them could not stand the first sight of the gallows, even though he had never had to execute anyone in his life.

This is to change now, the new execution officials will start working very soon according to the will of the president in Colombo, Maithripala Sirisena. They still have to complete two weeks of training before they are ready for action, a spokesperson for the prison administration in the capital Colombo explained. Sirisena has ordered the execution of the death penalty on four convicts who are in prison for drug smuggling.

The plan triggers international protests because Sri Lanka wants to hang people again after a 43-year break. For human rights activists, this is a serious step backwards, but that does not seem to stop the president. Some may think he is doing the wrong thing, he said, "but I am doing it with a clear conscience.

Now, however, some believe that this move has less to do with the president's conscience than with his political calculations. He is a man who wants to secure his re-election at the end of the year. And toughness is popular, especially in these weeks as the country has still not recovered from the devastating suicide attacks on churches and hotels in the spring.

The fact that the suicide bombers were able to strike without any resistance from the state and kill more than 200 people, despite prior warnings from the secret services, has made the population extremely insecure and fuelled unrest between the ethnic groups. The president has taken a lot of criticism since the terrorist attacks, and now he is trying to make up for lost ground. And observers believe that the image of the determined enforcer could well help him in this.

Sirisena's plan to punish drug traffickers more severely, however, was already in the offing before the terrorist attacks. It seems he copied this strategy from a colleague in Southeast Asia. When Sirisena visited the Philippines earlier this year, he was already enthusiastic about how the strong man in Manila, Rodrigo Duterte, was tackling the doge problem in his country. The manhunts that have claimed the lives of thousands of addicts and small-time dealers there shock human rights activists around the world. But they impress some statesmen in southern Asia; Sirisena even praised Duterte as a "role model for the world," just as if draconian punishments could solve the addiction problem.

The ***European Union*** strongly criticised the planned return of the death penalty in Sri Lanka. "Studies show that the death penalty is not effective as a deterrent to crime," the Brussels statement said. Sirisena, however, was unimpressed, defending his decision with the argument that he wanted to save the country's youth. "The very thought of executions should instil fear and put an end to the rampant drug trade," the president said.

The human rights organisation Amnesty International called Sirisena's plan "inconceivable" and warned that he would destroy the country's international reputation. "Executions will not rid Sri Lanka of drugs," warned AI's South Asia representative Biraj Patnaik. Executions are a sign of a state's failure to build a humane society. The last thing a country like Sri Lanka needs now is 'more death in the name of retribution'. For decades, the island nation on the southern tip of India was caught in a civil war that only ended in 2009. The wounds have still not healed.

Sri Lanka's prisons mainly hold criminals who have to answer for drug offences; they make up two-thirds of all inmates. The *Sunday Observer* in Colombo supported the president and his death penalty policy, pointing out that the four drug lords showed no remorse and refused to be rehabilitated, which could be seen from the fact that they were still managing the drug trade in Sri Lanka from prison.

**Graphic**

The government in Colombo wants to show toughness, now also through the death penalty. Photo: afp

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**Geographic:** MANILA, PHILIPPINES (78%); BRUSSELS, BELGIUM (58%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (79%); PHILIPPINES (90%); SRI LANKA (90%); ASIA (78%); ***EUROPE (78%);*** SINGAPORE (78%); SOUTHEAST ASIA (78%); BELGIUM (58%)

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[***Complicated praise; In the dispute over the next EUIn the dispute over the next EU Commission president, Merkel is backing the "real" top candidates Timmermans and Weber. This is not without a certain irony***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5WG1-8X01-JDHD-W33Y-00000-00&context=)

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**Length:** 928 words

**Byline:** DANIEL BRÖSSLER,  
  
ALEXANDER MÜHLAUER

**Body**

Before every ***EU summit,*** the heads of state and government meet in the circle of their party families. The German Chancellor came to the Academy Palace in Brussels on Sunday afternoon to map out the strategy of the ***European*** People's Party (EPP). Angela Merkel had a lot to explain to her Christian Democratic colleagues. For together with French President Emmanuel Macron, Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez and Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte, the Chancellor had sounded out the distribution of ***EU top jobs*** at the G-20 summit in Osaka, Japan. For the EPP, this initially did not bode well: the Christian Democrats, despite being the strongest force in the ***European elections, were*** not to get the most powerful post in the ***European*** Union. Their top candidate Manfred Weber would not become ***EU Commission President***. That was the compromise reached in Osaka.

In Japan on Saturday, Merkel declared that she did not want to pre-empt the discussions and decisions at the ***EU special summit.*** But that is exactly what she did. We are on a path," she said, "that may make it possible to reach a result tomorrow. She did not spell it out, but as things stand, the Dutch Social Democrat Frans Timmermans is to become ***EU Commission President.*** According to SZ information, the Osaka agreement also provides for the EPP to receive the posts of parliamentary president and ***EU foreign affairs commissioner in return.*** The Liberals, in turn, will be allowed to fill the post of Council President. At least that is what ***EU Council President*** Donald Tusk said at his preliminary meetings with the heads of the political groups in the ***European*** Parliament. Whether this will actually happen in the end was not clear by the time this issue went to press.

Up until the agreement in Japan, the situation had looked rather muddled. France's President Macron, assisted by the Spanish head of government Sánchez, had announced a double no. No to Weber as President of the ***European*** Commission and no to the whole top candidate procedure, from which Weber had emerged as the strongest candidate for the ***European*** People's Party (EPP). Merkel, on the other hand, did not want to simply give up on Weber and also stuck to the top candidate procedure.

The face-saving compromise reached in Osaka for both sides was that Weber would not become Commission President, but the idea of a top candidate would not be abandoned as a democratic innovation in the ***EU,*** even though that was precisely what Macron wanted. It is becoming clear that "the Spitzenkandidaten process plays a more significant role than was perhaps said by some after the last ***European*** Council", Merkel put it wryly.

The Chancellor only said what that meant by offering somewhat complicated praise. The two 'real' top candidates had made sure that a solution could work. She was referring to Weber and Timmermans, who had run against each other in the election campaign. The liberal former ***EU Competition Commissioner*** Margrethe Vestager is not a "real" top candidate for Merkel, because she declared herself as such only after the election in order not to annoy Macron. The EPP in particular has therefore spoken out strictly against Vestager's election. Because Weber, in turn, cannot be made with Macron, only one name remained for the heads of state and government in Osaka: Timmermans.

One of the things that speaks in favour of the rather conservative Social Democrat is his experience. The former Dutch Foreign Minister is First Vice-President of the ***EU Commission***. Added to this is his talent for languages. When the Osaka compromise was leaked, however, Timmermans immediately faced massive headwind from Eastern Europe. The four Visegrád countries, Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Hungary, rejected Timmermans as the new head of the Commission, tweeted the government spokesman of Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán.

This is not surprising, because in the ***EU Commission*** Timmermans is responsible for the rule of law proceedings against Poland, and the government there hates him. Whether a majority for him will be achieved in the Council ultimately depends on the overall package. In this, Weber should be assured of a prominent position, for example as President of the Parliament or as First Vice-President of the Commission. But a post must also be reserved for the East. On Sunday, it looked as if the EPP might have Kristalina Georgieva earmarked for this: Before the Bulgarian moved to the World Bank as Interim President, she was Budget Commissioner in Brussels. Timmermans also needs a majority in the ***EU Parliament***, which, however, is already on the horizon.

Merkel said in Osaka that it was very important that there was no conflict between the Council and the Parliament. This would be the case if the Council proposed a Commission President to the Parliament who was not a top candidate. It is not without irony that Merkel is now appearing as an advocate, possibly even as the saviour of the top candidate principle. Originally, she was very sceptical about the idea and, at least in the ***European elections*** five years ago, only half-heartedly supported it. Now, however, she is confident: "As things stand, there will be no inter-institutional conflict. And incidentally, with Timmermans she could also satisfy her coalition partner, the SPD. In any case, Vice-Chancellor Olaf Scholz seemed quite content alongside the Chancellor in Oskaka.

**The Dutchman faces massive headwind from Eastern Europe**

**Graphic**

Will he succeed Jean-Claude Juncker? Former Dutch Foreign Minister Frans Timmermans. Photo: Alex Halada/AFP

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**Person:** ANGELA MERKEL (95%); DONALD TUSK (79%); MARK RUTTE (79%)

**Geographic:** OSAKA, JAPAN (90%); BRUSSELS, BELGIUM (58%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (96%); BRUSSELS CAPITAL REGION (78%); ***EUROPE (***90%); JAPAN (88%); FRANCE (73%); NETHERLANDS (73%); SPAIN (73%).

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[***The EU is struggling to find its top staff; the Social Democrat Timmermans is to be EUCommission head - but this outrages the EPP Group***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5WG1-8X01-JDHD-W3BW-00000-00&context=)

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**Byline:** KAROLINE META BEISEL  
  
ALEXANDER MÜHLAUER

**Body**

**Brussels -** German Chancellor Angela Merkel (CDU) has met with massive opposition within her own party family to her plan to propose Social Democrat Frans Timmermans as the new head of the ***EU Commission before the*** start of the ***special EU summit on*** Sunday evening. We will not give up the post of Commission President so easily," said Irish Prime Minister Leo Varadkar before the start of the summit in Brussels. Latvia's Prime Minister Krišj&amacr;nis Kari&ncedil;š, also a member of the ***European People's Party*** (EPP), said a balance of origin, party and gender was needed for the top jobs to be given out. I don't see this balance yet.

This could make it difficult for Merkel to push through the plan that she had agreed on with French President Emmanuel Macron, Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez and Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte on the fringes of the G20 summit in Osaka, Japan. According to the agreement, the post of Commission President should have gone to the Social Democrats. Previously, it had become clear that the EPP's top candidate Manfred Weber (CSU) would not get a majority among the heads of state and government. In return, the EPP would have received the office of the ***EU Foreign Affairs Commissioner*** and the ***President of the EU Parliament***; according to this solution, the Liberals would provide the Council President.

Criticism against this plan had already been voiced on Saturday by the four states of the Visegrád Group Hungary, the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Poland. There is opposition to Timmermans as Commission President in some Eastern countries because the former Dutch Foreign Minister, as Vice-President of the ***EU Commission, is*** running the rule of law proceedings against Poland and Hungary. A Hungarian government spokesperson had stated that neither Timmermans nor Weber were acceptable to the Visegrád states.

Because of the many disputes, the start of the summit had to be postponed for several hours. These will not be very easy consultations, to say the least," Merkel said upon her arrival at the Brussels Council building. The Chancellor appealed to the other heads of state and government to avoid an "inter-institutional conflict" with the ***European*** Parliament, which elects the Commission President at the end.

The Danish Liberal Margrethe Vestager had also applied to succeed Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker. Before the ***EU special summit,*** however, she was accused, above all by the EPP, of not having stood as the Liberals' sole top candidate in the ***European elections,*** but as part of a team. On his arrival in Brussels, French President Macron said that two of the presidential posts of the Commission, the ***European*** Council, the ***European*** Central Bank and the foreign envoy should go to women.

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**Page 2 and 4**

**Classification**

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**Industry:** CENTRAL BANKS (73%)

**Person:** ANGELA MERKEL (93%); JEAN-CLAUDE JUNCKER (79%); MARK RUTTE (79%)

**Geographic:** BRUSSELS, BELGIUM (90%); OSAKA, JAPAN (58%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (94%); BRUSSELS CAPITAL REGION (92%); ***EUROPE (***79%); POLAND (91%); HUNGARY (91%); ***EUROPE (***90%); FRANCE (88%); SLOVAKIA (79%); CZECH REPUBLIC (79%); BELGIUM (73%); DENMARK (73%); LATVIA (73%); NETHERLANDS (73%); JAPAN (58%); SPAIN (58%)

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[***EU; He was the wrong one***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5WG1-8X01-JDHD-W34D-00000-00&context=)

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Monday 1 July 2019

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

**Length:** 554 words

**Byline:** BY MATTHIAS KOLB

**Body**

In the collective memory of the ***European*** Union, the names of cities play an important role. Rome, Maastricht, Lisbon, Schengen: Treaties were signed or agreements concluded there that changed the everyday lives of citizens as much as the rules for politics. Osaka is not likely to be included in this series, but in future books on ***Europe's*** democratisation the city will nevertheless be mentioned prominently. For in Japan, Angela Merkel has accepted that Manfred Weber will not become head of the ***EU Commission,*** even though the ***European*** People's Party (EPP) had chosen him as its top candidate and remains the strongest force in the ***EU Parliament.*** At the same time, the Chancellor is suddenly clearly backing the top candidate principle, which she had long been suspicious of, thus signalling support for the Social Democrat Frans Timmermans.

If Merkel interspersed phrases such as "do not prejudge the decisions" before the special summit, this is due to respect for the other heads of state and government. However, the outlines of the personnel package were already recognisable before Sunday evening. The fact that the Chancellor was not able to push through the CSU Vice-President is also due to the fact that the EPP has lost influence and cannot impose its will on the Liberals and Social Democrats in the ***European*** Council.

Weber was the wrong candidate for the EPP, but that has little to do with his German passport. As a group leader in the ***European Parliament,*** he acted in a balancing way. But he has no experience in the executive and has never been a minister. Not only French President Emmanuel Macron doubted that Weber could represent ***Europe to*** presidents like Donald Trump or Xi Jinping as well as Jean-Claude Juncker. All EPP delegates had been aware of this shortcoming in the autumn, when they chose Weber as their top candidate instead of Finland's ex-prime minister Alexander Stubb. Weber was able to become the top candidate at that time, partly because too few prominent ministers or heads of government applied for the job. Many of them shun the risk of having to return to the national stage as losers. It was the same with the Social Democrats: apart from Timmermans, only the ***EU Commissioner*** from Slovakia stood. If the Dutchman Timmermans gets a majority in the Council as well as in the ***EU Parliament***, Merkel will have ensured that the Spitzenkandidaten model survives and can be rebuilt.

The biggest problem for Timmermans is the protest from Poland and Hungary, against whose governments he is conducting rule of law proceedings for the ***EU Commission.*** Both countries are insufficient for a veto, which is why Italy would also have to block. It was always clear that a Commission head like Timmermans would have to overcome reservations in Eastern Europe. But the ***EU*** must override these reservations; for it, independent justice and freedom of the press are indispensable.

It was unclear early on Sunday evening whether the "No" to Weber would increase Bundesbank chief Jens Weidmann's chances of becoming head of the ***European*** Central Bank. Merkel and Macron will make sure that no one can present themselves as the winner: Either Berlin and Paris each get a top job, or both go away empty-handed.

**The *EU* must ignore the protests from Poland and Hungary**

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

**Organisation: *EUROPEAN*** PARLIAMENT (83%); ***EUROPEAN*** UNION (54%)

**Industry:** CENTRAL BANKS (89%)

**Person:** ANGELA MERKEL (94%); JEAN-CLAUDE JUNCKER (79%); XI JINPING (79%); DONALD TRUMP (72%); JENS WEIDMANN (65%)

**Geographic:** LISBON, PORTUGAL (79%); PARIS, FRANCE (79%); ROME, ITALY (79%); BERLIN, GERMANY (58%); OSAKA, JAPAN (58%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (95%); ***EUROPE (***91%); POLAND (91%); HUNGARY (90%); SLOVAKIA (79%); FRANCE (73%); EASTERN EUROPE (73%); FINLAND (58%); ITALY (58%); JAPAN (58%)

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[***From Japan to Brussels; Merkel marathon goes on EUsummit continues***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5WG2-BGN1-JBK9-223K-00000-00&context=)

Bild

Monday 1 July 2019

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**Section:** p. 2; issue 150

**Length:** 255 words

**Body**

Brussels - Another night shift for the Chancellor.

After a consensual solution for the future appointment of the ***EU top posts*** had emerged in the afternoon, there was considerable resistance in the evening - and a helpless Chancellor.

Her original plan: to make Frans Timmermanns, the Social Democrats' top candidate in the ***European elections,*** head of the ***EU Commission*** and to give the actual conservative EPP winner, Manfred Weber (CSU), five years as ***President of the EU Parliament*** (the normal term is 2.5 years). In this way, she at least wanted to save the principle according to which one of the top candidates in the ***European election campaign*** should ultimately become head of the Commission.

Timmermanns and Weber had also agreed on the plan in private on Sunday morning, so the parliamentary majority for the Dutch Social Democrat seemed secure. But: The EPP group in the EP rebelled against the political self-sacrifice in the evening, as did several conservative heads of state and government.

Background: Among the 28 "bosses", the future ***head of the EU Commission*** also needs a majority - as in the ***European*** Parliament. And Chancellor Angela Merkel seemed to have lost control in the meantime: The summit in Brussels started several hours late because of the many open (power) questions.

And so, after the gruelling G20 summit in Osaka, Japan, and the ten-hour flight back to Berlin (arriving Sunday morning), Merkel seemed assured of another night shift.

**Graphic**

The two top candidates Manfred Weber (l.) and Frans Timmermans

Photos: FRANCOIS LENOIR/AP, ROLF VENNENBERND/DPA

Chancellor Merkel arrived in Brussels yesterday at around 5.30 p.m.

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**Organization: *EUROPEAN*** UNION (55%)

**Person:** ANGELA MERKEL (93%)

**Geographic:** BRUSSELS, BELGIUM (89%); OSAKA, JAPAN (58%); BERLIN, GERMANY (56%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (94%); BRUSSELS CAPITAL REGION (90%); ***EUROPE (***89%); BELGIUM (74%); JAPAN (73%); NETHERLANDS (56%).

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[***MERCOSUR; Opportunity for the Rainforest***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5WG1-8X01-JDHD-W36W-00000-00&context=)

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Monday 1 July 2019

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**Section:** Economy; Commentary; Bavaria; Germany; p. 15

**Length:** 748 words

**Byline:** BY CHRISTOPH GURK

**Body**

After almost 20 years of tough negotiations, the ***EU has reached*** a trade agreement with Mercosur - and it is ironic that Brazil's far-right president Jair Bolsonaro, of all people, can claim this success for himself. "A great day," he wrote on Twitter and posted a "thumbs up" symbol behind it. All this is astonishing, considering that Bolsonaro had always railed against free trade and even against Mercosur itself. In January, the president had the stars and the lettering of the alliance removed from Brazilian passports, but now he is celebrating the new agreement as historic.

The reason for the U-turn is simple: Bolsonaro needs economic success. The agreement is supposed to provide him with them, just as prosperity for all and new jobs are supposed to be created in the end anyway. At least that's how the supporters see it. However, the side effect is to strengthen an extreme right-wing and homophobic gun nut, just as ***European*** carmakers and South American landowners are given billions in profits, while nature and indigenous communities suffer. The agreement will turn Mercosur countries even more into commodity suppliers, it will consolidate old inequalities and will hardly benefit consumers. And yet it is necessary. Because apart from economic advantages, it also offers political opportunities.

The most obvious opportunity is to counterbalance US President Donald Trump's foreclosure and sledgehammer policies. Latin American countries in particular are extremely dependent on the US economically. Trump therefore had an easy game when he forced Mexico to implement his idea of migration policy with the threat of punitive tariffs. The agreement between the ***EU*** and Mercosur is an important sign against such jackhammer politics.

In addition, the treaty will not only bring ***Europe*** and South America closer together. It will also strengthen cohesion in Mercosur. In the past, the alliance of states was extremely divided, it has no real internal market, no common currency, not even a customs union. This could all change and thus politically strengthen the influence of Mercosur and the states of Latin America as a whole.

And in the end, the treaty could even benefit the environment - even if conservationists fear the opposite. They say that the ever-increasing meat exports from Mercosur will also lead to even more rainforest being cleared in order to plant even more soya to feed even more cattle. You are right, but the chainsaws would not stand still if the ***EU*** and Mercosur had not reached an agreement.

The sad truth is that the primeval forests in South America are already being cut down at an ever faster rate. Since Brazil's far-right president took office, more trees have been felled than at any time in decades, and the situation is similar in Argentina and Paraguay. The reason for this is not to be found in ***Europe.*** It is mainly due to demand from Asia. And there, many governments don't care about environmental and climate protection. In the treaty between the ***EU*** and Mercosur, on the other hand, the Paris Climate Agreement is an integral part. Brazil's president actually thinks climate change is an invention of the left. The agreement could make him reconsider his position.

Of course, even more environmental protection should have been written into the treaty, even more consideration for human rights, for the distribution of land and wealth. In the end, however, this would have led to the negotiations possibly taking another 20 years, and other, less squeamish states would have used their opportunities to expand their business in the region.

Through the agreement with Mercosur, the ***EU*** now has the opportunity to press for ***European*** environmental standards and to denounce human rights violations. It would be naïve to believe that the EU-Mercosur agreement is a pure blessing for nature and the 780 million people living within its borders. But it would also be naïve to believe that a closed world is automatically a better world.

**The agreement between the *EU* and Latin American countries could benefit the environment**

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**Organization:** SOUTHERN COMMON MARKET (MERCOSUR) (94%)

**Industry:** MEAT AND POULTRY PRODUCTS (66%); AUTOMOTIVE MANUFACTURERS (53%); AUTOMOTIVE MANUFACTURING (53%); MEAT AND EXPORTS (50%)

**Person:** DONALD TRUMP (79%)

**Geographic: *EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (94%); LATIN AMERICA (92%); BRAZIL (94%); ***EUROPE*** (93%); SOUTH AMERICA (93%); ARGENTINA (79%); ASIA (79%); MEXICO (79%); NORTH AMERICA (79%); PARAGUAY (79%)

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[***COMMENT; Europe's Shame***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5WG2-BGN1-JBK9-223H-00000-00&context=)

Bild

Monday 1 July 2019

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**Section:** p. 2; issue 150

**Length:** 171 words

**Byline:** Paul Ronzheimer

**Body**

These are disturbing images that show how much the united ***Europe*** with all its values is failing in the refugee issue: a German captain, taken away by the Italian police!

The debate about Carola Rackete ensures that the ***EU is made aware of*** its own failure in migration. It is true that the numbers of refugees arriving or dying at sea have fallen overall. However, this is due to dirty deals with Libyan rebels who imprison and enslave people.

What was not promised? Deals with African countries, asylum applications on the spot, border protection already in the Sahara. It is not the traffickers who should decide who comes to ***Europe,*** but ***European*** authorities.

What has happened is: nothing! Merkel and her counterparts have been promising us for years to fight the causes of flight on the ground. Their policy has been ineffective so far. And it has deadly consequences for refugees who are still drowning in large numbers in the Mediterranean!

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**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

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

**Geographic: *EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (73%); ***EUROPE (***91%); AFRICA (72%); LIBYA (72%); ITALY (57%)

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[***G 20; Advantage Trump & Co.***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5WG1-8X01-JDHD-W34H-00000-00&context=)

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

**Length:** 820 words

**Byline:** BY DANIEL BRÖSSLER

**Body**

There are basically two answers to the question of what will remain of this turbulent weekend in world politics. One is cheerful, the other gloomy. If a US president and a Korean dictator shake hands for the first time at the inter-Korean demarcation line, that can be seen as a remarkable sign of hope. And if it succeeds in preventing the G-20 summit from failing, that is also a reason to be relieved. That is the cheerful version. The gloomy one goes like this: it was a weekend of empty gestures and empty words. Trump only produced pretty pictures for his election campaign in Panmunjom, and the summit in Osaka failed to agree with the world's most powerful autocrats on anything more than what should have applied long ago. Neither answer is quite right and neither is quite wrong. Welcome to the world of 2019.

Donald Trump has left his mark on this world after two and a half years in power. While the defence mechanisms of democracy still work in the US, the same can be said to a much lesser extent for what German Chancellor Angela Merkel likes to call a 'rules-based world order'. The twelve pages of the painstakingly negotiated Osaka Summit Declaration contain no credible commitment to a better, common future. They are simply the document of a present in which it is still possible, with the greatest of effort, to preserve at least in part what had long been agreed upon, for example in climate protection or free trade.

This defensive struggle is not completely unsuccessful, nor is it pointless. Before the G-20 summit, there had been fears that the front to protect the Paris climate agreement would crumble further. At the previous summit in Buenos Aires, 19 participants had opposed the USA's departure from the joint commitments, and it had been by no means certain that this would succeed again in Osaka. More countries could have pulled out to please Trump or water down commitments. At least that did not happen. This is certainly no reason for exuberance, but it should be a source of comfort to those who do not only want to look at the black after this weekend.

The small success, however, does not change the reality that the delegates of the liberal-minded Western democracies had to face at this world congress of power. This summit belonged to Trump and the autocrats. At meetings like these, the ***Europeans*** get to feel how much the balance has already shifted. The US president fobbed off the chancellor with a few pleasantries, but the very limited resource of his attention was Chinese President Xi Jinping, Russian President Vladimir Putin and Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman. They and their ilk dominated the stage in Osaka. Repression, wars and journalist murders are nothing to apologise for at G20.

This picture is not brightened beyond measure by Trump's walk to North Korea, it rather rounds off. The sudden Twitter invitation to Kim, the ensuing tension and successful resolution at the border followed the rules of reality TV, not world politics. There is nothing to be said against the staging itself. It would be heartwarming as the conclusion of successful diplomatic efforts or as a well thought-out step towards a breakthrough in the struggle for North Korean nuclear weapons. Until proven otherwise, however, it remains little more than part of the incumbent's campaign in the White House. Just like Trump's haphazard destruction of the nuclear agreement with Iran.

From a ***European*** point of view, it does not really matter whether one takes the more optimistic or the more pessimistic view of the events. The consequences remain the same, because two things are obvious: First, advocacy for rules and international cooperation is still possible, but it is becoming more and more arduous and the influence of the ***Europeans is becoming less*** and less. Secondly, this US president will not change in his international behaviour. He is and will remain a fetishist of the easy deal, which will not make the world safer.

***Europeans*** have only two options in this situation. They can resign themselves to the fact that they have less and less to oppose the power and whims of others. Or they can try to put into practice what ***EU Commission President*** Jean-Claude Juncker called for some time ago as 'global political capability'. That will be expensive. But everything else will cost them even more.

**Merkel fobbed off the US president, his interest was in Putin, Xi and Salman**

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**Industry:** KÖNIGSHÄUSER & ADEL (78%)

**Person:** DONALD TRUMP (79%); VLADIMIR PUTIN (73%); XI JINPING (73%); ANGELA MERKEL (55%)

**Geographic:** OSAKA, JAPAN (90%); BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA (78%); NORTH AMERICA (90%); SAUDI ARABIA (73%); CHINA (58%); NORTH KOREA (58%); EAST ASIA (58%); RUSSIAN FEDERATION (51%)

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[***For Salvini, this is nothing less than an "act of war"; Italy's right-wing populist interior minister is covering up the captain of the "Sea-Watch-3" arrested on Lampedusa with maximum accusations. Whether the evidence against Carola Rackete is sufficient to indict her, however, is a matter of disagreement among legal experts.***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5WG1-8X01-JDHD-W34T-00000-00&context=)

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Monday 1 July 2019

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

**Length:** 974 words

**Byline:** BY OLIVER MEILER

**Body**

**Rome** - No one knows how this story will end. The only thing that is clear is that the outcome will once again divide opinion. The fate of Carola Rackete is moving people. The young German captain of the *Sea-Watch-3* broke the port blockade in Lampedusa on Saturday night after a long standoff with forty migrants on board. For some, this makes her a hero. There are many hashtags in her favour on the net, one goes like this: #FreeCarola. Critics, on the other hand, accuse her of having behaved criminally and should therefore be condemned.

Since her arrest, Carola Rackete has been under house arrest and is waiting for the decision from the competent court in Agrigento, the provincial capital. It should come on Monday. Through her lawyers, she told the newspaper *Corriere della Sera* how she experienced the last hours before docking. I was scared," she said. The state of emergency on board had become unbearable after 17 days at sea. She feared that some of her passengers would take their own lives out of desperation. That is why she decided to go to port without permission.

During this last manoeuvre, Rackete admits, she made a driving mistake that she "deeply regrets". She almost pushed the small motorboat of the Guardia di Finanza, the Italian customs and tax police, against the pier with the heavy *Sea-Watch-3.* Five police officers were on board, they had ordered the rescue ship to stop several times. With a quick evasive manoeuvre, they were able to prevent a collision. Interior Minister Matteo Salvini said afterwards that the *Sea-Watch-3* had committed an "act of war". There could have been fatalities.

Rackete's legal position now depends to no small extent on whether the investigators also classify her driving error as a regrettable accident or rather as a deliberate acceptance of a possible shipwreck. Humanitarian reasons do not justify risking the lives of officers who work at sea for the safety of all," said prosecutor Luigi Patronaggio, who is leading the investigation. It sounded as if he thought the manoeuvre was at least negligent. However, 31-year-old Carola Rackete has not yet been formally charged for this possible offence.

Rackete's arrest was heavily criticised by politicians and non-governmental organisations over the weekend. Saving human lives is a humanitarian obligation. Rescue at sea must not be criminalised,' wrote German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas (SPD) on Twitter. A spokeswoman for the ***European*** Commission, on the other hand, said that it does not comment on legal proceedings in the member states.

A violation of Article 1100 of the Maritime Code carries a maximum sentence of ten years' imprisonment. The article deals with 'resistance and violence against a warship'. The question now is whether the *V808 of the* Italian financial and fiscal police meets the definition of a warship. Experts argue about this. Gregorio De Falco, for example, a former commander of the Italian coast guard, told the *Repubblica* that a warship is only considered as such if it is piloted by a naval officer. This was not the case with the *V808.* Besides," De Falco added, "the *Sea-Watch-3 was* a kind of ambulance: it did not need to stop. The military boat should have escorted it to port.

Rackete is already charged with possible 'facilitation of illegal immigration', an offence punishable by up to 15 years in prison under Italian law. But even in this case, the situation is complex. The crew would have to be able to prove that they actually colluded with Libyan smugglers - by radio, for example. There have been several such investigations in the past years, especially the public prosecutor's office in Catania investigated the accusation of active complicity. However, due to a lack of evidence, all investigations were dropped.

Rackete and the organisation Sea- Watch risk a fine of up to 50,000 ***euros for*** disregarding the ban on mooring. This is what it says in a security decree that the Roman government issued just a few weeks ago on Salvini's initiative. Among other things, it stipulates that the Minister of the Interior, together with the Ministers of Defence and Transport, can close the ports off NGOs. The decree still has to be approved by parliament to become law. Now, however, it may well be that in the course of a trial against Rackete the overriding question of whether the decree is in conformity with the Italian constitution will be negotiated. It de facto puts national law above international maritime law, and that is not acceptable.

A few hours were left on Sunday before Carola Rackete was to find out what would happen next. If the public prosecutor considers her file to be serious, he will submit the case to the pre-trial judge. He, in turn, would then have another 48 hours to set a trial date. However, he can also decide that the circumstantial evidence is too weak for that.

If, in the end, there is nothing wrong with Rackete and the judges think she was just following maritime law, saving people and leading them to a safe harbour, she could be expelled from the country. Then we'll put her on the first plane to Berlin," Salvini said. There is a decree for that, too, which can be applied even to ***EU citizens:*** Salvini could ban the captain from Italy for a maximum of five years - 'for reasons of national security'.

**Page 4**

**There are many hashtags in her favour on the net, one goes like this: #FreeCarola**

**National law cannot take precedence over the international law of the sea**

**Graphic**

Carola Rackete on board the rescue ship Sea-Watch-3 as it docked in the port of Lampedusa. Photo: GUGLIELMO MANGIAPANE / Reuters

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**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject:** ARRESTS (90%); WAR & ARMED CONFLICT (89%); CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS (89%); POLITICS (89%); INDICTMENTS (75%); CURFEW (75%); GERMAN POLITICAL PARTIES (75%); ***EUROPEAN UNION (75%);*** COURTS (75%); TRIALS (75%); NAVY (75%); POLITICAL PARTIES (75%); LAWYERS (75%); SENTENCING (75%); ARMED FORCES (75%); DEFENCE & MILITARY POLICY (75%); CONVICTIONS (75%); INVESTIGATIONS (74%); PROSECUTORS (74%); PORT SECURITY (71%); COASTAL AREAS (70%); MARITIME ACCIDENTS (70%); NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS (64%); INSTITUTIONS OF THE ***EUROPEAN*** UNION (60%)

**Industry:** MARITIME (90%); MARINE (75%); LAWYERS (75%); ARMY (75%); DEFENCE POLICY & MILITARY POLICY (75%); PORT (73%); PORT SECURITY (71%); SHIPBREAKING ACCIDENTS (70%)

**Geographic:** ROME, ITALY (79%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (79%); ITALY (91%); ***EUROPE (***79%)

**Load-Date:** July 1, 2019

**End of Document**

[***Largest free trade zone in the world is created***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5WG1-8X01-JDHD-W33P-00000-00&context=)

Süddeutsche Zeitung

Monday 1 July 2019

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

**Length:** 83 words

**Byline:** SZ

**Body**

**Munich** - The ***EU*** and the South American confederation Mercosur want to build the largest free trade zone in the world with 780 million people. The historic agreement is supposed to save companies in the ***European*** Union four billion ***euros*** a year in customs duties and thus boost exports. Mercosur includes Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay. Environmental and consumer protectionists criticise the project.

**Economy**

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject: *EUROPEAN UNION*** (90%); FREE TRADE AGENCIES (90%); INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORGANISATIONS (88%); CONSUMER PROTECTION (54%)

**Organization:** SOUTHERN COMMON MARKET (MERCOSUR) (91%)

**Geographic: *EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (90%); ARGENTINA (78%); BRAZIL (78%); PARAGUAY (78%); URUGUAY (78%); ***EUROPE (***73%); SOUTH AMERICA (73%)

**Load-Date:** July 1, 2019

**End of Document**

[***Solidarity for 'Sea-Watch'; Carola Rackete's arrest in Italy meets with fierce criticism***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5WG1-8X01-JDHD-W33T-00000-00&context=)

Süddeutsche Zeitung

Monday 1 July 2019

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

**Length:** 198 words

**Byline:** SZ

**Body**

**Munich** - German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier has criticised Italy's authorities following the arrest of German *Sea Watch captain* Carola Rackete. Italy is in the middle of the ***European*** Union," he said, "so we can expect a country like Italy to handle such a case differently," Steinmeier told ZDF. Foreign Minister Heiko Maas (SPD) tweeted that "sea rescue must not be criminalised" and that Italy's judiciary must quickly clarify the allegations. Rackete had docked with the *Sea-Watch 3* on the island of Lampedusa on Saturday night despite a ban. On board were 40 migrants who had been rescued at sea by the ship of the German association Sea-Watch. They had been forced to stay at sea since 12 June because Italy's government forbade them to land. Rackete told the Italian newspaper *Corriere della Sera* through lawyers, "the situation was hopeless. My goal was only to bring exhausted and desperate people ashore'. She faces several charges, fines and imprisonment. The case has triggered a wave of donations for Sea-Watch in Germany and Italy.

**Pages 4 and 6**

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject:** POLITICS (90%); HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT (90%); LIABILITIES (90%); PUBLIC POLITICS (90%); ***EUROPEAN UNION (***78%); POLITICAL PARTIES (78%); GERMAN POLITICAL PARTIES (77%); MONEY PENALTIES & FINES (52%)

**Industry:** WATER VEHICLES (78%)

**Person:** FRANK-WALTER STEINMEIER (88%)

**Geographic: *EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (79%); ITALY (90%); ***EUROPE*** (73%); GERMANY (59%)

**Load-Date:** July 1, 2019

**End of Document**

[***"Sea-Watch" captain Carola Rackete (31); CRIMINAL or role model?***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5WG2-BGN1-JBK9-223J-00000-00&context=)

Bild

Monday 1 July 2019

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**Section:** p. 2; issue 150

**Length:** 630 words

**Byline:** Kai  
  
Flk  
  
Fsl

**Body**

Berlin - A German captain brings 40 migrants to Italy without the necessary permit, against the law: criminal or role model?

BILD answers the most important questions about the case:

Did captain Carola Rackete break the law?

Yes. Interior Minister Matteo Salvini (46) has issued a decree closing all Italian ports to ships that have picked up migrants at sea outside Italy's clearly defined "rescue zone".

Captain Carola Rackete (31) steered the "Sea-Watch 3" into the port of Lampedusa on Saturday night anyway - arrest, house arrest! She faces charges including aiding and abetting illegal migration and resisting state authority.

Have the Italians exaggerated in this case?

Federal President Frank-Walter Steinmeier (63) on ZDF: "Anyone who saves human lives cannot be a criminal". One would expect an ***EU founding state to*** "deal with such a case differently".

Foreign Minister Heiko Maas (52, SPD) told BILD: "Saving human lives is not a crime, but a humanitarian act. We oppose the criminalisation of sea rescue." He said he had instructed the embassy in Rome to also "offer consular assistance" to the captain.

Development Minister Gerd Müller (63, CSU): "An immediate release and a signal from the summit in Brussels to end the untenable conditions must be the consequence."

An appeal for donations by the presenters Jan Böhmermann (38) and Klaas Heufer-Umlauf (35) on the net for Racket's defence raised more than 500,000 ***euros*** by yesterday evening!

Why didn't Rackete take the refugees somewhere else?

After their arrest, Rackete had them explain: "The situation was hopeless. My aim was merely to bring exhausted and desperate people ashore." Because of the human rights situation on the ground, she had refused to land the refugees she had rescued in North Africa.

A high-ranking official of the Ministry of the Interior commented: "Rescue at sea is a matter of course! But there are safe harbours not only in Italy, but much closer in Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia and Egypt - where Germans go on holiday.

The renowned weekly newspaper "Die Zeit" also criticised the sea rescuers in a commentary: "Sea-Watch also helps Matteo Salvini." Reasoning: Ignoring the mooring ban gives Interior Minister Salvini the opportunity to strike back. Background: Salvini had asked the "Sea-Watch" to land in Germany or the Netherlands.

How many people die at sea?

There are only official figures, the number of unreported cases is unknown: Between 2014 and 2018, around 18,000 people drowned while trying to reach ***Europe*** by boat (source: Statista). But the numbers are going down: while in 2018 there were still 2300 (counted) deaths, in the first half of 2019 there have been around 600 drownings so far - a decrease of around 50 percent. The reason: 80 percent fewer people used the "Mediterranean route" in 2018 than in 2017.

And the federal government?

Interior State Secretary Stephan Mayer (45, CSU) told BILD: "We are working hard to ensure that in future there is a key according to which shipwrecked migrants are distributed among different countries in the ***EU.*** Until there is a common ***EU asylum policy***, this key is important so that we don't have to renegotiate with the ***EU partners*** every time about taking in rescued migrants."

PS: In the evening, the Berlin State Secretary of the Interior Sawsan Chebli compared Federal President Frank-Walter Steinmeier (63) with his predecessor Joachim Gauck (79) on Twitter (see tweet below) - as if Gauck did not want to save lives from distress at sea!

**Graphic**

A dicey situation: a speedboat of the Italian coast guard had gotten in the way of the "Sea-Watch 3", but was pushed away by Captain Rackete, who later apologised for it

They had held out on the "Sea-Watch 3" for more than two weeks: A total of around 40 migrants who had been picked up off the coast of Libya.

First woman on deck: Rackete on the "Sea-Watch 3

Arrest after docking: Captain Carola Rackete (31) leaves the "Sea-Watch 3" in the port of Lampedusa. The Italian police are already waiting

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** BIBU

**Subject:** POLITICS (90%); CRIME (90%); ***EUROPEAN UNION*** (78%); GERMAN POLITICAL PARTIES (77%); ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS (73%); FOREIGN RELATIONS (72%); HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT (68%); CHARITABLE DONATIONS (64%); HUMAN RIGHTS (62%); REFUGEES (61%).

**Industry:** RAILWAYS (89%); WATER VEHICLES (77%)

**Person:** FRANK-WALTER STEINMEIER (79%)

**Geographic:** BERLIN, GERMANY (59%); BRUSSELS, BELGIUM (58%); ROME, ITALY (58%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (79%); BRUSSELS CAPITAL REGION (56%); ITALY (90%); GERMANY (59%); ALGERIA (58%); BELGIUM (58%); ***EUROPE (58%);*** MOROCCO (58%); NETHERLANDS (58%); NORTH AFRICA (58%); TUNISIA (58%); EGYPT (58%)

**Load-Date:** July 1, 2019

**End of Document**

[***Together against Vienna; Italy joins German lawsuit against 'Tyrol blockade'.***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5WG1-8X01-JDHD-W357-00000-00&context=)

Süddeutsche Zeitung

Monday 1 July 2019

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

**Length:** 404 words

**Byline:** DPA

**Body**

**Berlin** - In the dispute over transit traffic, Italy now also wants to sue Austria. Transport Minister Andreas Scheuer (CSU) told *Bild am Sonntag*: "My ministry is preparing a lawsuit against Austria, and the Italians will also proceed in the same way. The free movement of goods in ***Europe is*** 'massively impeded by the Tyrol blockade' and violates ***EU law***. Therefore, together with his Italian colleague Danilo Toninelli, he had called on the ***EU Commission*** to take immediate action against it and to take measures to stop 'this systematic blockade'.

According to the report, the two transport ministers announced the complaint in a joint letter of complaint to the ***EU Commission.*** The complaint concerns the so-called block clearance of lorries at German-Austrian border crossings in order to relieve the Brenner route. Another point of criticism is the "motorway bypass ban" at weekends in Tyrol. Drivers should no longer use alternative routes through villages.

On Saturday, the ***EU Commission announced its*** intention to mediate in the dispute. The responsible Commissioner Violeta Bulc invited the transport ministers of Germany, Austria and Italy to a crisis meeting in Brussels. According to a Commission spokesperson, she urges a consensual solution. Unilateral measures are not the right way," Bulc said.

The Federal Ministry of Transport had already announced at the beginning of last week that it was preparing a lawsuit against Austria. Scheuer, who is under heavy domestic political pressure after the cancellation of the car toll, had said that the blocking of trucks at the Tyrolean border and the closure of country roads for evasive traffic were "deeply discriminatory". Time and again, mostly on expectedly busy days, the Austrian province of Tyrol allows only up to 300 trucks per hour to pass through from Bavaria in the direction of Innsbruck in order to relieve its own motorway. This is to protect the population from exhaust fumes and noise. However, this causes trucks on German roads to back up for many kilometres on the Inntal motorway before the border. In addition, Tyrol stops passing cars that want to avoid the motorway and drive through the villages, for example because of traffic jams or the toll.

**Panorama**

**The *EU Commission* wants to settle the transport policy dispute**

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject:** GERMAN POLITICAL PARTIES (90%); ***EUROPEAN UNION*** (90%); INSTITUTIONS OF THE ***EUROPEAN*** UNION (90%); POLITICS (90%); POLITICAL PARTIES (90%); LEGISLATION (90%); PUBLIC POLICY (90%); DISCRIMINATION (77%); ***EUROPEAN LAW (***76%); ***EU REGULATION (***71%)

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

**Industry:** VEHICLE (77%); MOTOR VEHICLES (70%)

**Geographic:** BERLIN, GERMANY (58%); BRUSSELS, BELGIUM (58%); VIENNA, AUSTRIA (58%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (94%); TIROL, AUSTRIA (91%); BRUSSELS CAPITAL REGION (79%); BAVARIA, GERMANY (59%); ITALY (90%); AUSTRIA (90%); ***EUROPE (***78%); GERMANY (59%); BELGIUM (58%)

**Load-Date:** July 1, 2019

**End of Document**