

**Date and Time:** Tuesday 19 January 2021 17:29:00 CET

**Job Number:** 134414447

**Documents (55)**

1st [*FORUM;Transfer Interests;Of all things, the poor countries Bulgaria and Croatia are on their way into the Euro*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:60JK-FDR1-DXX2-P48D-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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2. '[*God, luck and Viktor Orbán';Hungary's head of government calls it a system of national cooperation.Anti-corruption experts and investigators note that in it, relatives and friends of the prime minister became very rich, also thanks to EU-funded contracts Anomalies reported by Europe's anti-fraud fighters do not seem to interest prosecutors in the country*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:60JK-FDR1-DXX2-P474-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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3. [*MONDAY INTERVIEW WITH REINHARD PLOSS;,,I'm not there to control';Infineon CEO Reinhard Ploss talks about the new way of working, Europe's digital sovereignty and the importance of the high-tech industry. And about his succession*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:60JK-FDR1-DXX2-P48G-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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4 [*High time;The Bundeswehr participates in the EU mission off the coast of Libya with a frigate*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:60JK-FDR1-DXX2-P46P-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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5. the [*virus of a Balkan crisis;How the pandemic in south-eastern Europe fuels old clichés and conflicts*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:60NK-20H1-DXX2-P50R-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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[*Johnson gives EU Brexit ultimatum; UK PM demands deal by 15 October, Brussels urges respect for existing treaties*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:60SS-MB71-JBF1-0316-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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7. [*double course towards the EU;The hostile countries Serbia and Kosovo want to come closer to improve their chances of accession*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:60SS-MB71-JBF1-0326-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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8. [*contagious performance;MEPs argue about the back-and-forth in times of Covid-19*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:60SS-MB71-JBF1-0325-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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9 [*Hot autumn in Europe;EU Parliament and member states negotiatethe trillion-dollar budget*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:60SS-MB71-JBF1-035G-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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10 [*Protest against self-proclaimed 'cultural nationalist';In Hungary, students and lecturers at a renowned universityaccuseViktor Orbán'sgovernment of wanting to restrict the freedom of theatres.*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:60SS-MB71-JBF1-032J-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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11 [*BREXIT;The Unpredictable*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:60SS-MB71-JBF1-031W-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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12 [*Tougher climate protection targets*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:60SS-MB71-JBF1-037S-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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13. BRIEFLY [*REPORTED;Ireland's economy robust*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:60SS-MB71-JBF1-035F-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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14 [*Facebook threatens to leave Europe; Mark Zuckerberg's company is unhappy with data protection rules in the EU and seesits business model threatened*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:60X0-5FS1-DXX2-P2W7-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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15. [*PROFILE;Ylva Johansson;EU Commissioner, tough and humane at the same time.*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:60X0-5FS1-DXX2-P2SR-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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16. [*BRIEFLY REPORTED;More drugs in Europe*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:60X0-5FS1-DXX2-P2V7-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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17. [*firm fronts in defence;The Swiss decide on Sunday whether the country should renew its fighter jet fleet*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:60X0-5FS1-DXX2-P2T9-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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18 '[*Historic crossroads'; EU summit to clarify its relationship with Turkey*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:60X0-5FS1-DXX2-P2TW-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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19 [*ITALY;The fortress holds*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:60X0-5FS1-DXX2-P2SS-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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20 [*EU Commissionproposes migration pact; in future, the needs of the member states are to be taken more into account in the distribution of asylum seekers*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:60X0-5FS1-DXX2-P301-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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21st [*EU summit postponed*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:60X0-5FS1-DXX2-P2S8-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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22 [*Johnson's success*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:60X0-5FS1-DXX2-P303-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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23 [*Sir Keir on the launch pad;Under its new leader, the British Labour Party is catching up*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:60X0-5FS1-DXX2-P2T4-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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24. [*SPAIN;Land of gloom*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:6115-RDM1-DXX2-P317-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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25. [*recover and modernise;Spain's prime minister presents plan to overcome the Corona crisis*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:6115-RDM1-DXX2-P324-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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26th [*After EU Ruling;Criticism of Hartz Payments for EU Foreigners*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:6115-W4V1-DY2B-S53C-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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27. [*nine billion euros more;How Germany wants to end the EU budget dispute*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:6115-RDM1-DXX2-P33W-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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28. [*dilemma on the doorstep;new infrastructure projects could endanger the water quality of the North and Baltic Seas*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:6115-RDM1-DXX2-P34C-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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29 [*GREECE;Democracy triumphs*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:6115-RDM1-DXX2-P312-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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30th [*beach of offence;On the divided island of Cyprus, the presidents of Turkey and Northern Cyprus open a restricted area - a clear provocation*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:6115-RDM1-DXX2-P32D-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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31st [*SHORTLY REPORTED;Minus 60 per cent demanded*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:6115-RDM1-DXX2-P346-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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32. [*PROFILE;Petra De Sutter;First trans person in the world to hold a ministerial position.*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:6115-RDM1-DXX2-P314-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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33. [*briefly reported;EU imposes sanctions*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:614C-91T1-DXX2-P2DY-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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34th [*EUROPE;Germany disgraces itself*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:614C-91T1-DXX2-P271-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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35. [*money blessing postponed;EU's Corona aid pot starts later - but Germany is in no hurry anyway*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:614C-91T1-DXX2-P2B8-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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36. [*monetary policy;get to the citizens*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:614C-91T1-DXX2-P29Y-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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37th BRIEFLY [*REPORTED;Prize for Opposition in Minsk*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:614C-91T1-DXX2-P27V-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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38th [*Nato meeting marked by displeasure with Ankara*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:614C-91T1-DXX2-P282-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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| News | Fonti: Süddeutsche Zeitung,BILD Bund; Sequenza temporale: ott 23, 2020 Fino a ott 23, 2020 |

39. [*briefly reported;Lukashenko sanctioned*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:617K-X361-DXX2-P05M-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** atleast2(european union) or OR atleast2(Eu) or OR atleast2(euro\*) or OR atleast2(European\*)

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| **Content Type** | **Narrowed by** |
| News | Fonti: Süddeutsche Zeitung,BILD Bund; Sequenza temporale: nov 07, 2020 Fino a nov 07, 2020 |

40. [*briefly reported;Poland threatens veto*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:617K-X361-DXX2-P05R-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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| **Content Type** | **Narrowed by** |
| News | Fonti: Süddeutsche Zeitung,BILD Bund; Sequenza temporale: nov 07, 2020 Fino a nov 07, 2020 |

41st [*One Shuts Down;The G-20 countries show rare unity at the virtual summit. They want to cooperate in the distribution of vaccines so that developing countries can also benefit. But US President Trump is apparently unfamiliar with solidarity.*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:61C0-J9F1-JBF1-01T7-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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| **Content Type** | **Narrowed by** |
| News | Fonti: Süddeutsche Zeitung,BILD Bund; Sequenza temporale: nov 23, 2020 Fino a nov 23, 2020 |

42 [*TRADE POLICY;Wake-up call for Europe*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:61C0-J9F1-JBF1-01W2-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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| **Content Type** | **Narrowed by** |
| News | Fonti: Süddeutsche Zeitung,BILD Bund; Sequenza temporale: nov 23, 2020 Fino a nov 23, 2020 |

43. [*just don't show weakness;Poland's veto against the EU budget shows:real threat to Kaczy&nacute;ski's government comes not from thedemonstrating women, but from the right*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:61C0-J9F1-JBF1-01VN-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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| News | Fonti: Süddeutsche Zeitung,BILD Bund; Sequenza temporale: nov 23, 2020 Fino a nov 23, 2020 |

44 [*TURKEY;Erdo&gbreve;an discovers Europe*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:61C0-J9F1-JBF1-01T0-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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| News | Fonti: Süddeutsche Zeitung,BILD Bund; Sequenza temporale: nov 23, 2020 Fino a nov 23, 2020 |

45th [*showdown between London and Brussels;This Monday it will become clear whether Britain and the EU will part amicably. 'No deal' would be poison for the economy*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:61G0-4TR1-DXX2-P1K3-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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| **Content Type** | **Narrowed by** |
| News | Fonti: Süddeutsche Zeitung,BILD Bund; Sequenza temporale: dic 07, 2020 Fino a dic 07, 2020 |

46 [*BREXIT;Sovereign, once upon a time*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:61G0-4TR1-DXX2-P1KS-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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| News | Fonti: Süddeutsche Zeitung,BILD Bund; Sequenza temporale: dic 07, 2020 Fino a dic 07, 2020 |

47th [*The next step;The EU Commission grants approval to the first vaccine against Covid-19.The European Medicines Agency rejects accusations that the testing procedure took an unnecessarily long time*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:61K5-PK01-DXX2-P356-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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| **Content Type** | **Narrowed by** |
| News | Fonti: Süddeutsche Zeitung,BILD Bund; Sequenza temporale: dic 22, 2020 Fino a dic 22, 2020 |

48 [*Between hope and worry;The first Corona vaccine is approved in the EU.The German government fears that the mutated variant of the virus will accelerate infections Chaos reigns at European borders*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:61K5-PK01-DXX2-P33C-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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| **Content Type** | **Narrowed by** |
| News | Fonti: Süddeutsche Zeitung,BILD Bund; Sequenza temporale: dic 22, 2020 Fino a dic 22, 2020 |

49th [*European Medicines Agency recommends approval;This clears the way for the use of the first Covid 19 vaccine in EuropeThe first people could then be immunised in Germany after Christmas. The most important questions and answers on the new Corona vacc*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:61K5-PK01-DXX2-P36C-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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| **Content Type** | **Narrowed by** |
| News | Fonti: Süddeutsche Zeitung,BILD Bund; Sequenza temporale: dic 22, 2020 Fino a dic 22, 2020 |

50th [*agreement in a downward spiral;Whether the nuclear deal with Iran can still be saved will be decided in the coming weeks and months- after Joe Biden takes office as the new US president.*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:61K5-PK01-DXX2-P35S-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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| News | Fonti: Süddeutsche Zeitung,BILD Bund; Sequenza temporale: dic 22, 2020 Fino a dic 22, 2020 |

51 [*United against Orbán;In Hungary, an alliance of six parties wants to beat Fidesz*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:61K5-PK01-DXX2-P35R-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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| News | Fonti: Süddeutsche Zeitung,BILD Bund; Sequenza temporale: dic 22, 2020 Fino a dic 22, 2020 |

52 [*PROFILE;Michael Clauß;Angela Merkel's Marathon Man in Brussels*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:61K5-PK01-DXX2-P34M-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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53 [*No Headline In Original*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:61K5-PK01-DXX2-P345-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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| **Content Type** | **Narrowed by** |
| News | Fonti: Süddeutsche Zeitung,BILD Bund; Sequenza temporale: dic 22, 2020 Fino a dic 22, 2020 |

54. [*fear of mutated virus entry ban imposed;chaos at German airports due to virus mutation in England*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:61K5-VCR1-JBK9-2441-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

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| News | Fonti: Süddeutsche Zeitung,BILD Bund; Sequenza temporale: dic 22, 2020 Fino a dic 22, 2020 |

55. [*why did the EU order more CureVac than Biontech vaccine?*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:61PC-D4R1-JBK9-20FY-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

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| News | Fonti: Süddeutsche Zeitung,BILD Bund; Sequenza temporale: gen 06, 2021 Fino a gen 06, 2021 |

[***FORUM; Transfer interests; Of all things, the poor countries Bulgaria and Croatia are on their way into the Euro***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60JK-FDR1-DXX2-P48D-00000-00&context=)

Süddeutsche Zeitung

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**Length:** 1127 words

**Byline:** . By Friedrich Heinemann

**Body**

Bulgaria and Croatia took a big step towards ***euro adoption in*** July. The currencies of both countries entered the ***European*** Exchange Rate Mechanism with its fixed bands to the ***euro.*** This acts as a kind of forecourt to the single currency. A two-year stay in it is one of the prerequisites for ***joining the euro***. Bulgaria and Croatia could thus possibly become the twentieth and twenty-first ***EU states to*** adopt the ***euro in*** January 2023.

In Brussels, the entry of the Bulgarian lev and the Croatian kuna into the exchange rate mechanism caused mutual pats on the back. According to Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, the decision shows that the ***euro*** remains attractive. Those who take a closer look find this complacency difficult to accept. Today, there is no longer any question of the common currency having broad appeal. Especially in the economically particularly successful ***EU states of*** Northern and Eastern Europe, most people feel much more comfortable without the ***euro.*** According to recent surveys, clear majorities in Poland, Denmark, Sweden and the Czech Republic are against the ***introduction of the euro***. In Sweden and the Czech Republic, even two-thirds are in favour of keeping the national currencies.

If one asks what exactly distinguishes the two ***euro aspirants*** from the ***euro muffins***, the answer is obvious: their poverty. Bulgaria and Croatia are - measured by economic output per capita - in the last two places on the ranking list of all 27 ***EU states***. This is for 2019, so it was before the Corona recession, which hit Croatia particularly hard and set it even further back. Conversely, a country like the Czech Republic has worked its way up to 14th place on the ***EU prosperity scale in*** recent years. This means that the country has clearly overtaken Portugal, for example. In other words: Only the poorest ***EU member states are*** still pushing into the ***euro***; on the other hand, the emerging Eastern European states are coming closer and closer to the prosperous Swedes and Danes in their ***rejection of the euro.*** Single market yes - ***euro*** no, this motto is becoming the consensus of the particularly successful Eastern and Northern European states.

This development is regrettable for ***Europe's*** common currency. Especially the economically robust countries such as the Czech Republic or Poland would be an asset for the currency area. The 'theory of optimal currency areas', coined by Nobel Prize winner Robert Mundell, has shown the criteria for a functioning currency union. The quintessence of this theory is that closely integrated countries with flexible labour markets, high labour mobility and great adaptability are suitable candidates for a common currency.

There is little doubt that the Czech Republic and Poland would be able to cope with the conditions of the common currency. Both countries have already proven in past crises how adaptable and resilient they are. In the Corona recession, Poland is once again the ***EU state that is*** currently predicted to experience the mildest recession. By contrast, Croatia and Bulgaria, as peripheral economies, have much worse prerequisites for ***euro membership***. If economic theory were to prevail, then ***euro enlargement*** should proceed in exactly the opposite way. First, Poland and the Czech Republic should be admitted quickly. Only then, after convincing further reforms and a longer transition period, should a ***euro perspective for*** countries like Bulgaria and Croatia even be seriously considered.

Nevertheless, it is now coming the other way round. Once again, the selection of new ***euro states*** will not be made according to the criteria of optimal currency areas. Nevertheless, from Bulgaria's and Croatia's perspective, the desire for rapid accession is ultimately rational. For the attractiveness of the ***Eurozone*** is determined less and less by the original advantages of a common currency. In the meantime, redistributive interests have become decisive because the ***euro regulatory framework*** has fundamentally changed. The original exclusion of liability of the Maastricht Treaty has become obsolete today due to comprehensive fiscal hedging instruments. As recently as the ***euro debt crisis,*** strict conditionality was considered a precondition for ***European*** loans through the ***European*** Stability Mechanism (ESM). In the Corona crisis, credit lines are now being opened virtually without preconditions. Ten years ago, loans to over-indebted ***euro states*** were still taboo. Owners of Greek bonds first had to accept a debt cut before the ESM could help the country. In the meantime, the ESM grants new credit lines to all ***euro states*** without seriously examining their debt sustainability. In the early years of the common currency, it would have been unthinkable for the ECB to take on a key role in state financing, because this is actually prohibited by the Maastricht Treaty. At the latest with the backing of the ***European*** Court of Justice for the bond purchases and the multi-billion Corona securities purchase programme PEPP (Pandemic Emergency Purchase Programme), the ban on monetary state financing is de facto history.

Economically weak countries can expect to benefit from all these new transfer and hedging instruments in the future with these new rules of the game. Conversely, countries that are already prosperous or in a stable upward trend know that they will face high risks. Thus, ***joining the euro has*** become a trade-off between the advantages of the common currency and the possible disadvantages of redistribution. It is understandable that this trade-off is positive from the point of view of the poorest ***EU states*** Bulgaria and Croatia. However, it is equally clear that for countries like the Czech Republic and Poland, the ***euro*** has largely lost its appeal.

There may be good arguments for each of the above changes to the Maastricht Constitution. But ***Europe*** should have no illusions about the consequences. The common currency and increasingly the whole ***European*** integration project lose their appeal for fiscally and economically sound states with every step towards a transfer and liability community. The lonely fight of the 'Frugal Four' at the ***EU special summit*** was only one of the symptoms of this alienation of the successful. The disinterest of the successful Eastern Europeans in the ***euro*** is another very clear warning sign.

**The *euro is* losing its appeal for healthy states - a warning signal**

**Graphic**

Prof. Dr. Friedrich Heinemann heads the Research Unit Public Finance at ZEW - Leibniz Centre for ***European*** Economic Research. He teaches economics at the University of Heidelberg. Photo: E. Dichiser/ZEW

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**End of Document**

[***God, luck and Viktor Orbán'; Hungary's head of government calls it a system of national cooperation. Anti-corruption experts and researchers note that in it relatives and friends of the prime minister became very rich, also thanks to the EU-funded contracts. Striking features that Europe's Europe's fraud fighters do not seem to interest prosecutors in the country.***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60JK-FDR1-DXX2-P474-00000-00&context=)

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

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**Byline:** BY TOBIAS ZICK

**Body**

**Munich** - At least on the outside, Viktor Orbán does not let on that he would be particularly irritated to be mentioned in the same breath as the Almighty. His friendship with his old schoolmate Lőrinc Mészáros has not visibly suffered since the latter publicly declared that "God, luck and the person Viktor Orbán" had contributed to his own sensational career.

It is indeed a career that would hardly be imaginable without the favourable influence of force majeure. A good ten years ago, Lőrinc Mészáros was still running a small gas installation company in a small town called Felcsút, half an hour's drive west of Budapest, known to many Hungarians primarily as the home town of their head of government Viktor Orbán. Mészáros, the plumber, was reportedly on the verge of bankruptcy with his business - but then his life took a breath-taking turn. After his old school friend Orbán was re-elected as prime minister in 2010, his fortune began to multiply rapidly.

Today, Mészáros is considered the richest man in Hungary, owning construction companies, real estate, media, hotels, farmland. His companies reportedly operate only domestically, they do not export anything. *Forbes* magazine estimates his fortune at around 1.2 billion dollars. That's how much one earns working at the Hungarian minimum wage in about 161 000 years, calculates the anti-corruption portal Atlatszo.

From plumber to billionaire: Lőrinc Mészáros is the most dazzling example of how serious Viktor Orbán is when he talks about building a system of 'national cooperation' in Hungary. Orbán's declared policy is to strengthen Hungary's sovereignty, explains Agoston Mráz, head of the pro-government think tank Nézőpont Intézet, in an interview with the *Süddeutsche Zeitung*: "This also includes economic sovereignty. He has therefore decided to build a national economic elite by all means. Personally, I think he is right: without a national economic elite, Germany, for example, would not have been able to rebuild after the Second World War. It is difficult to verify whether the gas fitter Mészáros is actually 'smarter' than Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg, as he himself once speculated. What is clear is that he owes by far the largest part of his wealth to public contracts. The Hungarian section of Transparency International (TI) has calculated that between 2011 and 2016, Mészáros" companies won less than one per cent of public procurement tenders each year - in 2017, it was suddenly 5.4 per cent. The share of projects that were funded with ***EU money was*** as high as 20 per cent the following year. It is important to know that in a considerable part of the public tenders in Hungary there is only one bidder at all. There is 'very limited competition' in the domestic procurement market, writes TI Hungary.

So is Lőrinc Mészáros an 'oligarch', as some critics say? The term is 'completely wrong', says Agoston Mráz, 'these people have no political power. Orbán's conviction is that the economic elite should have no say in politics. Conversely, as a politician, he does not concern himself with individual companies and business affairs.'

This is also the official line in Budapest. It is an important principle of Hungarian politics that politics and business are kept separate,' government spokesman Zoltan Kovács answers the SZ's question. But Hungarian investigative journalists are casting doubt on this account. According to research by the Direkt36 portal, a construction company from Lőrinc Mészáros has begun building a new sewer system in a village called Kulcs, south of Budapest, as part of a consortium under public contract, financed with ***EU*** subsidies. According to research, the project is 30 per cent more expensive than originally estimated. And part of the money is apparently going to a building materials company called Dolomit Ltd - the majority of which is owned by a man called Győző Orbán. The father of the head of government.

According to Direkt36's research, Dolomit Ltd, which has been involved in large public works contracts for years, achieved a profit margin of 41.3 per cent in 2018 - 'more than twice the market average'. Dolomit Ltd was, the Hungarian journalists write, 'the most successful Hungarian company in terms of sales and after-tax profits' that year.

Business success thanks to friendship and kinship with the head of government? Neither Mészáros nor Orbán senior responded to SZ enquiries. Government spokesman Zoltan Kovács succinctly explained that these were typical "accusations of the opposition, hand in hand with the Soros empire". Hungarian-born US billionaire George Soros, who uses stock market profits to fund civil society organisations worldwide, serves the Budapest government as an all-purpose bogeyman in its campaigns. If anyone has knowledge of violations of the law (whether national or ***EU law***) or of cases of corruption," writes the government spokesperson, "they should report them to the relevant authorities.

Not that it doesn't happen all the time. Olaf, for example, the ***European*** Anti-Fraud Office, investigated the case of the company Elios, owned by Viktor Orbán's son-in-law, István Tiborz. Between 2009 and 2014, the company had received contracts from the state to renew street lighting in three dozen municipalities, with funding from the ***EU***. In the final report, the Olaf investigators wrote of an 'organised pattern of fraud' and recommended that the ***European*** Commission recall the estimated ***€43*** million in ***EU subsidies.***

&lt;fg>The government in Budapest then refrained from sending the bill for the project to Brussels - and Orbán's son-in-law got his subsidies entirely from the Hungarian treasury instead. A short time later, the national prosecution authorities stopped investigating the Elios case, concluding that a "crime" had "not taken place". István Tiborcz, who has since sold his shares in Elios and, according to Hungarian media, now owns a large number of hotels and plots of land, for example on the shores of Lake Balaton, did not answer a question from the SZ.

As an ***EU authority,*** Olaf cannot charge anyone, but can only hand over its dossiers to the respective national public prosecutors' offices. Olaf reports often end in a dead end in Hungary," says Miklós Ligeti, head of the legal department of Transparency International Hungary. Apparently, this is also because the prosecutor general in the country acts completely autonomously and separately from the rest of the judiciary. The post is held by a man who is considered a confidant of Viktor Orbán and who, according to Transparency International, has repeatedly ruled "in favour of the government" in corruption cases. In the past seven years, the public prosecutor's office has remained inactive in 20 "high-level corruption cases", "despite Olaf's recommendations". In any case, Olaf could only scrutinise a small part of ***EU-funded*** projects in Hungary. Miklós Ligeti would like the ***EU Commission to be*** 'much stricter' towards Budapest in general.

Ligeti considers the government's argument that its policy strengthens a national entrepreneurial class to be "pure camouflage". Many of these companies 'would not be profitable at all without the public contracts'. And the country's former education minister, Bálint Magyar, wrote a year ago that Hungary had become a 'post-communist mafia state'. If Orbán is criticised primarily for his nationalist right-wing rhetoric and his ideologically coloured attacks on Brussels, then the argument misses the deeper problem: "Orbán's anti-EU stance does not represent a different vision of ***Europe,***" Magyar writes: "It rather stems from his need to protect himself and his clan from prosecution.

The system of the 'national economic elite' that Orbán has built up was almost his undoing once before: At the centre of it used to be a former school and military comrade of his called Lajos Simicska; for years he acted as the grey eminence behind Orbán, regulated the finances of the Fidesz party and built up a business empire on the basis of public contracts. But then the two fell out in 2014 - probably mainly because Simicska began to strive for political power in addition to economic power. Viktor Orbán has learned from this that the two spheres must be kept separate," confirms Agoston Mráz, the political analyst from the government-affiliated Nézőpont Institute.

Critical observers see the fact that the head of government then began to promote people like the plumber Lőrinc Mészáros, who don't hold a candle to him intellectually or politically, as a strategy to minimise risk. Nevertheless, even today it is not a particularly stable system, because everything runs towards the central figure of Viktor Orbán," says Sándor Léderer, head of the anti-corruption organisation K-Monitor: "If Orbán were run over by a tram tomorrow, it would collapse. All the people on the level below him would start fighting each other'.

**In many of the public tenders there is only one bidder at all**

**Father's building materials company was the most successful in terms of sales and profit after tax**

**A post-communist mafia state'. And it all comes down to the central figure**

**Graphic**

Viktor Orbán's anti-EU stance stems from "his need to protect himself and his clan from prosecution", a former Hungarian minister said. Photo: Frank Augstein/AP

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**Company:** FACEBOOK INC (52%)

**Ticker:** FB (NASDAQ) (52%)

**Industry:** NAICS519130 INTERNET PUBLISHING & BROADCASTING & WEB SEARCH PORTALS (52%); INTERNET & WWW (90%); WEBSITES & WEB PORTALS (90%); SOCIAL NETWORKS ON THE INTERNET (88%); INTERNET SEARCH PORTALS (72%); CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY (70%); CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRIES (69%)

**Person:** VIKTOR ORBAN (94%); MARK ZUCKERBERG (76%)

**Geographic:** BUDAPEST, HUNGARY (79%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (92%); HUNGARY (94%); ***EUROPE*** (79%); GERMANY (59%)

**Load-Date:** August 11, 2020

**End of Document**

[***MONDAY INTERVIEW WITH REINHARD PLOSS; 'I'm not there to control'; Infineon CEO Reinhard Ploss talks about the new way of working, digital sovereignty Europe's and the importance of the high-tech industry. And about his succession***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60JK-FDR1-DXX2-P48G-00000-00&context=)

Süddeutsche Zeitung

Monday 10 August 2020

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

**Length:** 1607 words

**Byline:** INTERVIEW: CASPAR BUSSE

**Body**

The Campeon, a very sprawling office complex south of Munich, is pretty empty. Many of the Infineon employees are still at home. In the boardroom, Group CEO Reinhard Ploss, 64, is in a good mood. The latest quarterly figures of the semiconductor company are good, the share price is rising. Infineon is one of the ten largest semiconductor manufacturers in the world and the only one headquartered in ***Europe***.

**SZ: Mr Ploss, does *Europe* need digital sovereignty, i.e. more digital independence from the USA and China?**

Reinhard Ploss: ***Europe*** must develop digital strength and sovereignty in order to support the existing industries and to create digital platforms itself. For this, we also need regulations in the digital sphere that correspond to ***European*** values. We have to decide how we want to live in this world.

**How could that work?**

In road traffic, I love the clear rules: When it's red, you have to stop, when it's green, you can drive. But in the data world, we must not only concern ourselves with the colour red and say what is not possible, but above all what is possible. Otherwise we create a digital drought, not digital empowerment. We need a framework in which we can act and cooperate in an entrepreneurial way. There is great potential there. But it has to happen faster. The world is changing very fast right now. ***Europe*** should not take several years to implement a programme.

**Infineon is the largest semiconductor company in *Europe*. Does *Europe* also need more high-tech?**

We need a lot more high-tech. ***Europe*** cannot afford to let digitalisation simply pass us by. But we would also need big digital companies.

**But why, for example, do semiconductors have to be developed and produced by a *European* company?**

Almost all industries use electronics to further develop their products, so know-how is important. Today, it is hard to imagine products without electronics. And more and more know-how is contained in chips. In the past, when you unscrewed a portable radio, for example, it contained a lot of components. Today, all that is housed in a tiny corner of a chip, and the semiconductor manufacturer now also has the radio expertise. Or take the cars from Tesla, which are virtually computers on wheels. Entire industries are now defined by electronics. If you want to shape that, you need the knowledge and the competence - and trust. That's why many of our customers, even if they are globally positioned, like to work with someone who is located close to them.

**Why?**

People know each other and know what to expect. These are also our advantages. At Infineon, research and development are still very much anchored in Munich, in Germany and in ***Europe,*** even though our foothold in the USA is now becoming much stronger. From there, we are working on the data world and the emerging segment of the Internet of Things. Of course, production expertise is also important, and there is a lot of know-how here as well. In the medium term, this can become even more relevant in securing the value chains.

**So they are betting on reliability. The confrontation between the economic blocs USA and China is intensifying at the same time ...**

This worries me. Because many of the problems facing humanity are global and can only be solved globally together - global warming, the dominance of data platforms, cybercrime, the coronavirus pandemic. Confrontation does not help, we need cooperation.

**But it doesn't look like that.**

Both nations claim technological leadership. This also puts fair competition at risk, because the USA and China each strongly support their own semiconductor industries. China in particular is doing everything it can to build up its own supply in the chip sector, because semiconductors are one of the country's biggest import items. This is quite understandable. Here in ***Europe,*** too, research and development are supported, but that is very small in comparison.

**You have just taken over the special chip manufacturer Cypress in the USA for around nine billion *euros.* A lot of money.**

With the acquisition of Cypress, we have greatly strengthened our presence in the US. Infineon is now also perceived differently by the large digital groups in the USA. But globally we are also becoming even more clearly present, for example in Japan and India. With this step, we have successfully implemented an important element that we have had in our planning for some time. Infineon is thus broadening its portfolio in a complementary way. We can now offer customers complete solutions, while at the same time opening the door to new applications.

**The permission of the US authorities has been delayed, now you have to integrate a company in Corona times, at a distance, so to speak. How is that supposed to work?**

You have to prepare the integration of a company early on - that is, even before the closing and with the risk that it will be in vain if it is not approved. In the process, you already get to know each other better in many discussions. If the preparation was good, the most important steps of the integration result from it. Last year we had various workshops, and I was also a guest at a staff meeting in the USA shortly before Christmas. What I experienced there and what I feel today is that there is a common spirit and a lot of enthusiasm that we can achieve something together. That's why we are now pushing ahead with integration, despite all the restrictions caused by the pandemic.

**When were you last on a business trip, for example to the USA?**

That was at the beginning of the year. And then I was recently in Villach, where we are building a big new factory, to see the progress there.

**Are you already looking forward to being on the road more? Or would you rather be here?**

That is not a question for me. Travelling, as far as possible, is also part of my job. When I am at one of our locations, it is first and foremost perceived as a sign of appreciation. I then talk to the people, listen. I am not there to control. Infineon is a team-oriented company. Social personal contacts are very important, even though the home office has worked well everywhere in the lockdown. The five minutes you spend talking to someone on the sidelines of a meeting sometimes saves days of discussions and can speed us up by months.

**How long were you personally at home?**

To be honest: not at all. I was here in the office where I could always keep enough distance. Of course I have a certain advantage there. And it's helpful that the restrictions could be loosened a bit again. In order to discuss, to explore the questions of the future, to work out new concepts, it is very helpful to be able to see each other. You don't do that on paper and from a distance.

**Is Infineon actually a beneficiary of the Corona pandemic?**

To put Profiteur and Corona together - in my view, that's not possible at all. But despite all the burdens on our business, the electronics industry as a whole has naturally come through this crisis with a lot of tailwind. Because we are also participating in the growth in data volume and digitalisation and are growing with it. We are also involved in the broader use of artificial intelligence.

**After Cypress, are you already thinking about further acquisitions?**

We are now well positioned and are not planning any further large acquisitions for the time being, but we are of course looking at smaller things to round off our know-how. It will certainly take us five years to realise the full potential of the Cypress acquisition, so we are well occupied for the time being.

**Five years? Then you are no longer in office.**

My contract runs until the end of 2022.

**Who comes after you?**

That's not up for debate yet, let me work in peace for a bit. Besides, the supervisory board decides that. And I did not decide on this acquisition alone. We have a good management team at Infineon, I couldn't ask for a better one. If I were to drop out now, it probably wouldn't even be noticed *(grins*).

**Do you aspire to the supervisory board later?**

Oh, what am I supposed to do there?

**Are you a takeover candidate?**

*(laughs)* Personally, I am too old to be taken on.

**And what about Infineon?**

We are in a good position, Infineon is currently worth about 30 billion ***euros*** on the stock exchange, that is no longer a bargain. And we want to keep getting even better. As long as we do our job well, no one can come and say: I can do it better.

**But you don't have a bigger shareholder who can protect you.**

Yes, that's how it is. Seriously, anyone doing the same thing as us would face considerable cartel problems and conditions in the event of a takeover attempt. And I wouldn't see breaking up Infineon as adding value. Our current strategy works best if this company stays together.

**Reinhard Ploss**, 64, comes from Bamberg and studied process engineering in Munich. In 1986 he joined Siemens and worked in the then semiconductor division. In 2000, the division went public under the name Infineon. In 2007, Ploss moved up to the board and became CEO in 2012. Infineon had to survive several crises at that time. In his spare time, Ploss builds model aeroplanes.

**If I were to drop out now, it probably wouldn't even be noticed.**

**Graphic**

Photo: Florian Peljak

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**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject:** MANAGEMENT (91%); INTERVIEWS (90%); BOARDS & SUPERVISORS (90%); FINANCIAL RESULTS (72%); INTERIM BALANCES (72%); RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT (69%); SHARE PRICES (57%)

**Organization: *EUROPEAN UNION*** (94%)

**Industry:** HALF-LEADERS (90%); HALF-LEADERS MANUFACTURING (90%); ELECTRONICS (89%); SHARE PRICES (57%)

**Geographic:** BAVARIA, GERMANY (74%); ***EUROPE (***96%); GERMANY (74%); EAST ASIA (72%)

**Load-Date:** August 10, 2020

**End of Document**

[***High time; the Bundeswehr participates with a frigate in the EUmission off the coast of Libya.***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60JK-FDR1-DXX2-P46P-00000-00&context=)

Süddeutsche Zeitung

Monday 10 August 2020

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

**Length:** 813 words

**Byline:** MIKE SZYMANSKI

**Body**

**Berlin** - The frigate *Hamburg is* taking its time on its way to the theatre of operations. On 4 August, the ship left its home port in Wilhelmshaven. But the *Hamburg is not* due to reach its destination, the sea off the coast of Libya, until 17 August. It will be 14 days on the way, although the ship could easily be faster. But that is not the point. 14 days - that is exactly the time for the Corona quarantine imposed on the crew. The delicate mission can only begin once this hurdle has been cleared.

Berlin sends the frigate to the ***European*** Union's "Irini" mission in the Mediterranean. The warship is Germany's new contribution to monitoring the UN arms embargo against Libya. Until now, the Bundeswehr had deployed its *P-3C Orion* maritime reconnaissance aircraft; only - this has to be said. Because the aircraft, which take off from Nordholz in Lower Saxony, fly over the area of operations, gather information and then return to Germany, are a force-saving and nonetheless manageable contribution. At least compared to what other nations have already done: Italy has sent the landing ship *San Giorgio*, which serves as the lead ship of the mission. The Greeks have sent their frigate *Spetsai.* Until May, the French frigate *Jean Bart* was also deployed on the "Irini" mission.

From the beginning, this restraint did not really suit Germany. The German contribution is highly symbolic. The German government had taken on an important mediating role in the conflict and hosted a major Libya summit in Berlin in January. Since then, the military mission has also been a measure of the extent to which Berlin is committed - militarily - in addition to its diplomatic efforts. But the situation was also like this: the navy's large warships, whether corvettes or frigates, were already firmly scheduled for other missions or were lying in shipyards. They were simply not available.

When the Bundestag approved the new mission on 7 May, however, it set an upper limit of 300 soldiers - precisely the limit that would later make the deployment of a frigate possible after all. Actually, the navy wanted to be ready in autumn. The frigate *Hamburg was* to have gone on an Indo-Pacific cruise, where Minister Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer (CDU) wants to show more presence. But then Corona came along and overturned many plans. Members of the Bundestag put pressure on the "Irini" partners not to wait any longer. Germany took over the ***EU Council presidency in the*** second half of the year. It was high time.

We are facing a mission that will present the ship and crew with unprecedented challenges in several respects,' said the ship's commander, Frigate Captain Jan Fitschen, as they sailed. 'The coronavirus is one thing. It is also about what the crew can expect at sea in an operational area as large as Germany. We have to expect an escalation of the situation at any time," said Fitschen.

How quickly this can happen was demonstrated on 10 June, when there was a serious incident between Turkish and French warships, which were also sailing in the Mediterranean as part of a Nato mission. The 'Irini' mission had its sights set on a freighter that had previously attracted attention in connection with arms shipments from Turkey to Libya. It was accompanied at sea by Turkish frigates. On 10 June, only the Greek frigate *Spetsai* tried to get more details from the captain of the freighter. But the Turkish ships reportedly made it clear that they would not tolerate inspections. The situation escalated hours later when the French frigate *Courbet* from the Nato mission 'Sea Guardian' made another attempt. The Turkish side is said to have directed a fire control radar at the French frigate in the course of daring manoeuvres. The accounts of this incident differ in Ankara and Paris, actually Nato partners. As a consequence, the French withdrew their frigate from the Nato mission. Since this incident, at the latest, people in Berlin know that this mission can quickly become uncomfortable.

The *Hamburg* has two helicopters with it and, in addition to the regular crew, a 'boarding team' from the maritime battalion, those soldiers who inspect suspicious ships or protect their own from attack. It is planned that the *Hamburg* will be underway for 136 days and, as things stand, without any shore leave at all, so that none of the crew will contract Sars-CoV-2.

**'We have to expect an escalation of the situation at any time,' says the ship's commander.**

**Graphic**

The frigate 'Hamburg' departs for her five-month deployment. Photo: dpa

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject: *EUROPEAN UNION*** (90%); GERMAN PARLIAMENT (89%); LEGISLATIVE BODIES (89%); WAR & ARMED CONFLICT (89%); NAVY (89%); POLITICS (89%); ARMED FORCES (89%); GERMAN POLITICAL PARTIES (77%); POLITICAL PARTIES (77%); CORONAVIRUS COVID-19 (75%); EMBARGOES & SANCTIONS (72%); EU PRESIDENCY (72%); UNITED NATIONS (69%); ARMS EMBARGOES (54%); CORONAVIRUSES (50%); VIRUSES (50%)

**Industry:** WATER VEHICLES (90%); SHELTERS (89%); MARINE (89%); ARMY (89%); WEAPONS TRADE (69%)

**Person:** ANNEGRET KRAMP-KARRENBAUER (72%)

**Geographic:** BERLIN, GERMANY (90%); HAMBURG, GERMANY (88%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (93%); LOWER SAXONY, GERMANY (73%); LIBYA (91%); GERMANY (90%); ***EUROPE (***73%); FRANCE (73%); ITALY (58%).

**Load-Date:** August 11, 2020

**End of Document**

[***The virus of a Balkan crisis; How the pandemic in south-eastern Europe fuels old clichés and conflicts***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60NK-20H1-DXX2-P50R-00000-00&context=)

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

**Length:** 2142 words

**Byline:** BY MARIJA LATKOVI&Cacute;

**Body**

Two jokes have been told in the countries of South-Eastern Europe for a few months now: Why doesn't the coronavirus have a chance in Bosnia-Herzegovina? Because the political leaders in the country will cut it into thirds and thus weaken it so much that it will not recover. And: "When will the coronavirus lose its deadly potential? When the next elections are due in the Balkans.' Nobody can really laugh about this, neither the people in the Balkan region nor those in the rest of ***Europe***. Some because they know too well the bitter truth that lies in the jokes. For the others, the punchlines come to nothing, because what they see of the region at the bottom right of the map, even in Central and Western Europe, is only an irritatingly small section of reality. In July, there were violent protests in Serbia and rapidly rising infection figures. A few days ago, the Robert Koch Institute announced that almost half of the newly infected people in Germany had contracted the disease abroad, most of them probably in Kosovo, Croatia, Bulgaria and Bosnia-Herzegovina. On 20 August, the Foreign Office issued a travel warning for parts of Croatia. Only Slovenia and Hungary are now considered more or less corona-safe. A second Covid 19 wave is on its way in the Balkans, according to reports abroad. There was never a real first one in South-Eastern Europe, but that too - almost unknown.

Too far away is the Balkan region, of which to this day no one can say exactly where it begins. Capitals like Ljubljana, Zagreb and Budapest are closer to Munich than Hamburg, for example. But that has never really played a role in the consideration of "the Balkans". The countries in the southeast have always stood for the other, the foreign, from which the West distinguished itself in order to reassure itself of its own identity. That this is still true today can be seen again.

When the travel warning for parts of Croatia was announced, party strongholds on the coast were named as sources of infection. Party mania and the Balkans, that somehow goes well together. Then there was talk of 'problematic behaviour patterns': People there are known to like to kiss each other in greeting, to party in large groups. Similar things are said about Italy and Spain. Perhaps people from Slovenia to Bulgaria simply kiss and hug more. It would explain why, before Corona, this was considered an expression of south-eastern European warmth and joie de vivre: even friendly descriptions of the Balkans end up being projections that turn out to be nightmares when the people in the area show their supposedly uncontrollable side.

One can see in the apparent licentiousness of the Balkans a cause for the spread of corona - societies that do not take rules in general and corona requirements in particular as seriously as they should. That would be one explanation, but it makes it too easy for those who are primarily responsible: Politicians, namely, who are more concerned about their power than about the health of people.

At the beginning of the pandemic, in March, things looked different. The governments of the Balkan states knew how weak their health systems were, they had been saving money for years. So before the first wave could really hit, they imposed strict protective measures, especially bans on gatherings.

Sometimes someone warned that this should not become a permanent state of affairs, especially since democracy, human rights and freedom have been eroded in the region for years anyway. The Bosnian writer Miljenko Jergovi&cacute; said in an interview in April: "Covid-19 is the fulfilment of all nationalist and fascist fantasies in the region". Such statements do not go down well with everyone. For all the Balkan folklore that they themselves like to cultivate, large sections of the population and politicians see themselves as part of a progressive Western world, even if one group often doubts whether this is really the case and the other does everything in its power to nourish these doubts.

At the beginning of May, most governments in South Eastern Europe relaxed or lifted their Corona requirements. New infections had been consistently low for weeks, and concerns about the economy and tourism were now immeasurable. As if by chance, the opening came in time for important parliamentary elections, especially in Serbia and Croatia. The incumbent prime ministers Aleksandar Vu&ccaron;i&cacute; and Andrej Plenkovi&cacute; got more votes than before. They had used the mild course of the pandemic so far in the election campaign to stage themselves as victors over the virus. Their demonstrative carefree attitude was deceptive: the number of infected people rose, 125 percent more in Serbia in only one week at the beginning of July, Croatia reached 232 percent in the same period. When Serbian Prime Minister Vu&ccaron;i&cacute; imposed new exit restrictions, the opposition and civil society protested against the government's back-and-forth. Stones and bottles flew, there was fire. This fitted the image of the Balkans as an eternal powder keg. Many people in the region were simply tired of being politically misled and bullied. This is no different in Serbia than in Slovenia, Bulgaria and Albania, where protests have also been going on for weeks.

For as different as the Balkan countries are, the problems are very similar. Authorities and courts are often staffed by officials loyal to the government, the administration is considered corrupt, journalists are harassed, and intimidation has increased since Corona, reports the Berlin-based Network for Eastern European Reporting n-East, referring to Serbia, where financial authorities have been investigating 57 media companies, non-governmental organisations and individuals since the end of July on charges of money laundering and terrorist financing. Suspects include the Balkan Investigative Reporting Network, which often reports critically on the Vu&ccaron;i&cacute;government, and the Serbian branch of the Helsinki Committee for Human Rights.

Why societies there so often just let their autocratic autocrats do their thing? Of course, there are those who find life in an almost-autocracy easier, less demanding than in a democracy. And, yes, some of them behave as if they don't care, because they have had to put up with a lot in the past 30 years, sometimes too much, such as the collapse of socialism and the Yugoslav wars. So where are they supposed to find the strength to defend themselves against megalomaniac politicians?

This is what the Serbian writer Bora &Cacute;osi&cacute; reflected ***on*** in a conversation with Radio Free Europe at the beginning of June. The 88-year-old made no secret of his contempt for Prime Minister Vu&ccaron;i&cacute;, but also spoke about the many, completely normal people in the region: "Especially those in middle age - this is a generation that has been tilling the field for 25 years without ever reaping a harvest. They have been through a lot physically and mentally. And only a few still believe that something can be changed.

400 to 600 ***euros*** is the average wage in the Balkan countries, only in Croatia it is slightly higher. Unemployment is high, the standard of consumption low. Those who can, emigrate, especially young and well-educated people, of all people who would still have enough stamina and idealism to make a difference, as the protests in Serbia have shown. In the long run, however, 46 per cent of 15- to 29-year-olds in Serbia simply want to leave, a Gallup study found back in 2018. Corona has not made things any better.

For a long time, people hoped that once they were members of the ***EU,*** everything would be easier. In Slovenia and Croatia, the people now know better. Elsewhere, talks on accession negotiations ended too often, as most recently at the Western Balkans Summit on 6 May: with the option of ***EU membership*** or, as in Kosovo and Bosnia-Herzegovina, with an option on the option. Today, only a few are betting on the ***EU,*** also because people now know that in extreme cases the alliance can behave with similar contempt for humanity and indifference as the politicians at home. Even former ***EU supporters,*** including many cultural workers and intellectuals, are disappointed by the way the ***European*** community leaves refugees to fend for themselves in overcrowded camps in the Balkans. The Slovenian cultural scientist Mitja Velikonja criticised that political elites in the ***EU are*** also partly thinking only of their own preservation of power. The Croatian writer Slavenka Drakuli&cacute; accused the Community of having betrayed its own principles. Instead of looking for common solutions, each country thinks only of itself. Italy had largely been left alone with Covid-19. In the end, it was the enemies of democracy, China and Russia, who helped.

Both states have also stood by the Balkan states time and again for several years, just like the USA and Turkey. Without Chinese banks, the new Danube bridge in Belgrade would not exist. Instead of the functioning fast connection, trains on the railway line between the Serbian capital and Budapest would still be strolling through the Pannonian Plain. Bulgaria maintains close contacts with the government of Recep Tayyip Erdo&gbreve;an. And Donald Trump is making unilateral deals throughout the region with men who rule in his image. Most recently, he tried it in the never-ending conflict between Serbia and Kosovo, bypassing the ***EU,*** which has been trying to mediate for years. A result would have been a success in 2020, an important election year for him, and what a success it would have been. It would also have weakened the ***EU***, which Trump despises. His plan only failed because the Kosovo Tribunal in The Hague published an arrest warrant for Kosovo President Hashim Thaçi.

The ***EU*** reacted as it always does when others try to gain more influence in ***Europe*** through the Balkans: There was a summit and a lot of money, officially Corona aid. 22 billion will go to Croatia alone, twice as much as expected. Let's see how much of the 22 billion doesn't reach the population this time, Croatian Twitter users wondered.

Brussels should have demanded more transparency, more democracy and more freedom in return, political commentators criticised. That may be true. But it is also true that such demands reflect precisely the attitude that bothers many people in the Balkan states: first look when other forces appear in "***Europe's*** backyard", then hurriedly try to mark their own territory. This has been going on for over 100 years. As early as 1914, when an international commission toured the region after the Balkan wars of 1912 and 1913, the French chairman remarked afterwards that he should have given the report the title 'Disunited ***Europe*** and its demoralising action in the Balkans'.

To see how little has changed is bitter. Since the 19th century, the people of Southeast Europe have lived under the influence of "elastic authoritarianism", partly because of ***Europe's*** indifference, writes Jasmin Mujanovi&cacute; in "Hunger and Fury: The Crises of Democracy in the Balkans" (Oxford University Press). The ideologies have changed over time, but the difficult living conditions and power relations have remained, says the political scientist. What Covid-19 will change is something Mujanovi&cacute; recently pondered in another essay: "For now, we need to stand back and let the health experts and scientists do the work of finding a solution to the pandemic. But the political and social future is not the responsibility of a group of experts: instead, it is the task of 'ordinary men and women' to act together to rid the region 'of the plague of kakistocracy', that is, the rule of the worst. The protests in the region are a step in this direction.

The Sarajavo-born expert on Southeast Europe will not be taking part, however, because in the nineties he did what many people in Southeast Europe dream of doing today: he emigrated with his family.

**Perhaps people from Slovenia to Bulgaria simply kiss and hug more...**

**Stones were flying, things were burning. That fitted the image of the Balkans as an eternal powder keg.**

**It is only since China and Russia, the USA and Turkey have made their presence felt that the *EU is* also stirring.**

**Classification**

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**Subject:** CORONAVIRUS COVID-19 (92%); CORONAVIRES (90%); PANDEMIA (90%); VIRES (90%); EPIDEMIA (77%); EXTERNAL & DIPLOMATIC SERVICES (72%); PROTESTS & DEMONSTRATIONS (68%)

**Industry:** TRAVEL WARNINGS (71%)

**Geographic:** BUDAPEST, HUNGARY (78%); ZAGREB, CROATIA (78%); HAMBURG, GERMANY (58%); ***EUROPE (***92%); LJUBLJANA, SLOVENIA (58%); SLOVENIA (92%); ***EUROPE (***90%); CROATIA (90%); HUNGARY (79%); KOSOVO (78%); SERBIA (78%); BULGARIA (73%); GERMANY (59%); SPAIN (58%); WESTERN EUROPE (58%); ITALY (52%).

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**End of Document**

[***Johnson presents the EU Brexit ultimatum; UK PM demands agreement by 15 October, Brussels urges compliance with existing treaties***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60SS-MB71-JBF1-0316-00000-00&context=)

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

**Length:** 502 words

**Byline:** BJÖRN FINKE, ALEXANDER MÜHLAUER

**Body**

**Brussels/London** - In the Brexit dispute, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson has heightened tensions with the ***EU*** by issuing an ultimatum. Shortly before the start of the next round of negotiations this Tuesday, Johnson demanded an agreement on the future relationship by 15 October, the date of the next regular ***EU summit***. If this is not achieved, there will be no free trade agreement, the prime minister warned in London on Monday.

A report in the *Financial Times* also caused outrage in Brussels, according to which the British government wants to undermine parts of the already valid withdrawal agreement with a national law. This concerns commitments in the protocol on Ireland and Northern Ireland: according to this, the United Kingdom must largely comply with ***EU rules on*** state aid. In order to prevent this, the British government wants to present a new Single Market Act this week, according to the newspaper report. According to Downing Street on Monday, only "minor clarifications in extremely specific areas" are to be made. In a statement, the government said that it was committed to the agreements on leaving the ***EU*** as well as the stipulations regarding Ireland.

***EU Commission President*** Ursula von der Leyen urged Britain on Twitter to keep its promises. Ireland's Foreign Minister Simon Coveney told RTÉ that it was necessary to wait and see whether there would really be a British law or whether it would be "political gimmickry". ***EU diplomats*** warned the government in London that reneging on treaty commitments would lead to a loss of confidence worldwide and damage Britain's chances of securing further agreements. CDU MEP David McAllister described the full implementation of the withdrawal agreement as a 'litmus test for a partnership based on trust'. McAllister heads the parliamentary group responsible for the Brexit talks. The ***European Parliament*** would have to approve a free trade agreement, as would all 27 ***EU governments*** and many national parliaments. In order for this to happen by the end of the year, such a treaty would have to be in place by the end of October at the latest, according to Brussels.

The United Kingdom already left the ***European Union*** on 31 January, but the country is still part of the ***EU's single market*** and customs union until the end of the year. If the negotiations between London and Brussels fail, customs duties and customs controls would be introduced from 1 January - with severe economic consequences. British logistics companies are already warning of blockades at ports and delivery bottlenecks for food and other goods. Johnson, for his part, stressed on Monday that Britain would 'prosper mightily' even if it only had 'a trade deal with the ***EU*** like Australia': Australia has no free trade agreement with the ***European*** Union.

**Page 4**

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject:** PRIME MINISTERS (93%); ***EUROPEAN UNION (***92%); BREXIT (90%); BRITISH PRIME MINISTERS (90%); TALKS & MEETINGS (90%); POLITICS (90%); HEADS OF STATE & GOVERNMENT (90%); PUBLIC POLICY (90%); FREE TRADE AGREEMENTS (89%); LEGISLATION (89%); LEGISLATIVE BODIES (89%); TRADE PROMOTION (89%); INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORGANISATIONS (89%); GERMAN POLITICAL PARTIES (78%); POLITICAL PARTIES (78%); FOREIGN RELATIONS (77%); ***EU REGULATION (***77%); ***EUROPEAN LAW (77%);*** TRADE AGREEMENTS (77%); INTERNATIONAL GOVERNMENT TALKS (77%); TARIFFS (65%); BOTTLENECKS (60%)

**Person:** BORIS JOHNSON (79%); URSULA VON DER LEYEN (79%)

**Geographic:** BRUSSELS, BELGIUM (90%); LONDON, ENGLAND (90%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (97%); BRUSSELS CAPITAL REGION (94%); EUROPE (93%); UNITED KINGDOM (93%); AUSTRALIA (90%); ***EUROPE (90%);*** BELGIUM (88%); NORTHERN IRELAND (79%).

**Load Date:** September 8, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Double course to the EUThe hostile countries of Serbia and Kosovo want to come closer to improve their chances of accession.***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60SS-MB71-JBF1-0326-00000-00&context=)

Süddeutsche Zeitung

Tuesday 8 September 2020

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

**Length:** 468 words

**Byline:** MATTHIAS KOLB

**Body**

**Brussels -** Both Serbia's President Aleksandar Vu&ccaron;i&cacute; and Kosovo's Prime Minister Avdullah Hoti have assured that their countries' integration into the ***European Union remains a*** "top priority". The Belgrade-Priština dialogue mediated by the ***EU*** should also be continued. A "communiqué" to this effect was issued by ***EU External Relations Commissioner*** Josep Borrell on Monday, before he met Vu&ccaron;i&cacute; and Hoti in Brussels to promote normalisation of bilateral relations in the framework of the Belgrade-Priština dialogue.

There is a history to the "joint declaration": Only on Friday, Vu&ccaron;i&cacute; and Hoti had signed two separate but very similar documents in the presence of US President Donald Trump at the White House, which should lead to closer economic cooperation. Headlines were made when Serbia pledged to move its embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem in 2021. Kosovo, independent since 2008, also intends to do so once it has established diplomatic relations with Israel.

While the US president, who is fighting for his re-election, raved in tweets about a 'truly historic day', the Washington documents are described in the Brussels statement only as a 'possible useful contribution' to finding a comprehensive, legally binding agreement to normalise relations. Without such a treaty, Serbia has no chance of joining the ***EU***; the same applies to Kosovo, which continues not to be recognised by five ***EU states.***

Borrell's spokesperson did not want to criticise the meeting organised by "the American partners". He said, however, that Washington had not been informed in advance about the planned relocation of the embassies to Jerusalem. The ***EU position is*** clear: all of its member states' representations are in Tel Aviv.

With the appointment of former Slovak Foreign Minister Miroslav Laj&ccaron;ák as Special Representative in April, the EU has signalled that it wants to 'take the wheel' and bring about a settlement between the hostile states and recognition of Kosovo by Serbia. Laj&ccaron;ák had already held separate talks with Vu&ccaron;i&cacute; and Hoti over the weekend. These were not only about the situation of missing persons and displaced persons, but also about that declaration with the commitment to the ***European*** future. Even if both sides show the respect and political will vowed by Borrell, it will probably take months to negotiate a legally binding agreement.

**A special envoy is mandated by the *EU* to give momentum to the reconciliation process**

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject: *EUROPEAN UNION*** (92%); HEADS OF STATE & GOVERNMENT (92%); INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS (90%); POLITICS (90%); US PRESIDENTS (90%); PUBLIC POLICY (90%); FOREIGN RELATIONS (89%); FOREIGN AFFAIRS & DIPLOMATIC SERVICES (89%); FOREIGN POLICY (77%); INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS ORGANISATIONS (77%); PERMITS (70%)

**Person:** DONALD TRUMP (79%)

**Geographic:** BELGRADE, SERBIA (90%); JERUSALEM, ISRAEL (90%); TEL AVIV, ISRAEL (90%); BRUSSELS, BELGIUM (88%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (97%); BRUSSELS CAPITAL REGION (93%); KOSOVO (94%); NORTH AMERICA (93%); SERBIA (93%); ***EUROPE (90%);*** ISRAEL (90%); SLOVAKIA (79%); BELGIUM (73%).

**Load Date:** September 9, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Infectious performance; EUMEPs argue about the back-and-forth in times of Covid-19***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60SS-MB71-JBF1-0325-00000-00&context=)

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Tuesday 8 September 2020

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

**Length:** 707 words

**Byline:** KAROLINE META BEISEL

**Body**

**Brussels** - Next week, the ***European Parliament will reconvene for the*** first time after the summer break, and on the agenda is a special appearance: On Wednesday morning, Ursula von der Leyen will give her first 'State of the ***European*** Union' address to MEPs. For weeks, the Commission President has been preparing for her appearance, which is considered the highlight of the political year in Brussels. There, however, people are now afraid that the appearance could not only be rousing - but also contagious.

Actually, the ***EU Parliament*** always meets in Strasbourg during the plenary weeks, and according to the current plan, this will also be the case next week. But the Parliament's back-and-forth between Brussels and Strasbourg is already controversial in 'normal' times. In view of the pandemic, many MEPs consider it unacceptable. Carrying hundreds of people to Strasbourg is not the best idea," says Philippe Lamberts, Co-Chairman of the Green Group in the ***European Parliament***. Should it really happen, the Greens would reduce their physical presence to 'the absolute minimum'.

There are historical reasons for the travelling circus between Strasbourg, where the plenary sessions take place, and Brussels, where the committees meet and most of the MEPs' staff also live. Since 1997, this has been stipulated in the ***EU Treaty***. According to it, the MEPs must meet twelve times a year in Strasbourg. In practice, this means that hundreds of people board special trains in Brussels on Monday mornings, which in addition to people also transport boxes full of documents, in order to return after the end of the plenary session on Thursday. The ***European*** Court of Auditors has calculated that this causes 109 million ***euros in*** additional costs every year; it costs the ***EU Commission*** and the Council of Member States another five million to send staff there as well. Because this is neither financially nor environmentally feasible, the Parliament itself regularly calls for a long-term agreement on a single meeting place, most recently in March 2019. For this to happen, however, the ***EU Treaty*** would have to be amended - and the desire to touch the ***EU Constitution is, to put*** it mildly, not very strong among the member states.

Due to the Corona virus, however, the Strasbourg plenary weeks had been moved to Brussels in the spring - not that this would have made much difference: most MEPs followed the sessions from home anyway. Before the summer break, however, it had been hoped to slowly return to normal business in September. Instead, both Brussels and the French department of Bas-Rhin, where Strasbourg is located, are now considered risk areas because of the high number of new covid infections, albeit to different degrees: from a Belgian perspective, Strasbourg is an orange zone. According to the recommendations of the authorities, travellers should go into quarantine upon their return. Brussels, on the other hand, is even considered a red zone for many other countries.

For days, representatives of almost all parliamentary groups have been calling for the upcoming plenary session to be moved to Brussels. But the decision is apparently more difficult than one might think - also because France insists on keeping Strasbourg as its seat even in these times. ***Secretary of State for Europe*** Clément Beaune, who made his inaugural visit to Berlin this Monday, had already said a few days ago that he wanted to defend the French seat of the Parliament, and had also assured the mayor there, Jeanne Barseghian, of this. The website *Politico* quoted from an interview with ***European Secretary of State*** Beaune last weekend: The situation in Strasbourg is no worse than in Brussels. The situation has to be taken seriously, but "we have to learn to live with the virus and return as much as possible to the normal functioning of the institutions - for example, by having the ***EU Parliament*** meet in Strasbourg".

**Due to the high number of new infections, Brussels and Strasbourg are considered risk areas**

**Graphic**

France insists on keeping Strasbourg as the seat of the ***European*** Parliament. Photo: wibaimages

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject:** POLITICS (92%); ***EUROPEAN UNION*** (91%); LEGISLATIVE BODIES (91%); PUBLIC POLICY (90%); CORONAVIRUS COVID-19 (89%); ***EUROPEAN*** UNION INSTITUTIONS (89%); CONFERENCES & CONGRESSES (89%); GERMAN POLITICAL PARTIES (77%); INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORGANISATIONS (77%); DISEASES & HEALTH COMPLAINTS (77%); POLITICAL PARTIES (77%); VIRUSES (73%); PANDEMICS (72%); EPIDEMICS (53%); CORONAVIRUSES (50%)

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

**Industry:** DRAWINGS (66%)

**Person:** URSULA VON DER LEYEN (79%)

**Geographic:** STRASBOURG, FRANCE (93%); BRUSSELS, BELGIUM (90%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (95%); BRUSSELS MAIN CITY REGION (94%); ***EUROPE (***91%); BELGIUM (90%); FRANCE (78%)

**Load Date:** September 8, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Hot autumn in Europe; EU-Parliament and member states negotiate the trillion-dollar budget***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60SS-MB71-JBF1-035G-00000-00&context=)

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Tuesday 8 September 2020

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

**Length:** 562 words

**Byline:** BJORN FINKE

**Body**

**Brussels** - A good two trillion ***euros are at stake*** - and important principles such as respect for the rule of law: On Monday, representatives of the ***European Parliament*** negotiated with German ***EU Ambassador*** Michael Clauß and his team in Brussels about the ***EU budget*** and the Corona aid pot. There was not much progress," said Green ***MEP*** Rasmus Andresen, the only German in the six-member parliamentary delegation. But he hopes that preliminary talks will make progress before the next round of negotiations this Friday.

The 27 heads of state and government agreed in July on the Corona Fund and the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF), i.e. the rough Brussels budget plan for the seven years from 2021 to 2027. The ***European Parliament*** must approve the MFF so that it can enter into force punctually in January. In addition, the Parliament and the Council of Ministers, the decision-making body of the states, must jointly adopt the necessary budget laws. Since Germany took over the rotating presidency of the Council in July, Berlin's representatives are leading the negotiations with the MEPs. There is a lot to talk about, because the parliamentarians are dissatisfied.

For example, they demand more money for important ***EU programmes,*** such as Erasmus for student exchanges or Horizon for research funding. They also demand a clearer roadmap for when ***EU*** member states will open up new sources of revenue, for example a tax on digital corporations like Google or proceeds from trading emission certificates that allow companies to emit climate gases. The revenues are supposed to facilitate the repayment of the debt that the ***EU Commission*** is taking on for the Corona pot. In total, this is supposed to amount to 807 billion ***euros in*** today's prices; the seven-year budget is 1211 billion ***euros***.

The biggest hurdle in the talks, however, is likely to be the debate on the rule of law mechanism. The Commission, the Parliament and some member states have been demanding for some time that the disbursement of ***EU funds be linked to the*** functioning of the rule of law in the recipient countries. ***EU proceedings are*** already underway against Poland and Hungary over concerns that the rule of law is being undermined there. That is why these governments resisted introducing a rule of law clause for the budget at the summit in July. The result was a vague compromise that allowed all sides to present themselves as winners.

The ***European Parliament***, however, demands a hard and effective mechanism. Negotiations with the Council of Ministers on this issue could not really begin yet, however, because the states themselves must first agree on what form of rule of law clause will result from the cloudy summit formulations. Hungary's government has a powerful means of exerting pressure: most national parliaments must agree to the innovation that the Commission may take on debt on a grand scale for the Corona pot. Hungary has made it clear that the parliament there will refuse to take this step if the debate on the rule of law does not end in Budapest's favour. On the other hand, the ***EU Parliament is*** threatening to veto the mechanism if it turns out to be too weak. A hot autumn lies ahead here.

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject: *EUROPEAN UNION*** (92%); LEGISLATIVE INSTITUTIONS (92%); POLITICS (90%); STATE BUDGETS (90%); TALKS & MEETINGS (89%); POLITICAL DEBATES (89%); RULE OF LAW (89%); CORONA GRANTS (78%); LEGISLATION (77%); ***EUROPEAN*** UNION INSTITUTIONS (77%); HEADS OF STATE & GOVERNMENT (72%); TAXES & TAXATION (72%); EMISSIONS (65%); EMISSION RIGHTS (50%)

**Company:** GOOGLE LLC (54%)

**Organisation: *EUROPEAN*** PARLIAMENT (91%); ***EUROPEAN UNION*** (84%)

**Industry:** NAICS519130 INTERNET PUBLISHING & BROADCASTING & WEB SEARCH PORTALS (54%); INTERNET & WWW (90%); STATE BUDGETS (90%); WEBSITES & WEB PORTALS (90%); INTERNET SEARCH PORTALS (77%); EMISSIONS (65%); EMISSIONS RIGHTS (50%)

**Geographic:** BRUSSELS, BELGIUM (88%); BUDAPEST, HUNGARY (79%); BERLIN, GERMANY (58%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (95%); BRUSSELS CAPITAL REGION (92%); HUNGARY (93%); ***EUROPE (***90%); POLAND (79%); GERMANY (74%); BELGIUM (73%).

**Load Date:** September 8, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Protest against the self-proclaimed 'cultural nationalist'; In Hungary, students and lecturers at a renowned university accuse Viktor Orbán's government of wanting to restrict the freedom of theatres.***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60SS-MB71-JBF1-032J-00000-00&context=)

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Tuesday 8 September 2020

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

**Length:** 921 words

**Byline:** TOBIAS ZICK

**Body**

**Munich -** The new protest movement is still young, but it already has a symbol: red and white plastic tape. Thousands of people formed a human chain through Budapest on Sunday, most of them wearing face masks - and a piece of barrier tape between themselves and the next person in line. So this is how you can stick to the Corona infection control rules and still walk hand in hand.

The red and white flutter tape, however, was primarily an echo of an action at the renowned University of Theatre and Film Arts (SZFE) at the beginning of last week: a large number of the students there had occupied the university in protest against the takeover by a new board of trustees appointed by the government. They had blocked the entrance with countless layers of barrier tape so that the new, unwanted masters could not even move into their workplace. The blockade would only end, they announced, when the elected bodies of the university were given back their governing powers. They had been de facto deprived of their power by the new board of trustees - and then collectively resigned in protest: the rectorate, the senate, the heads of the deaneries. They had 'no other choice', explained the outgoing rector László Upor; the new leadership had 'refused any dialogue with us'. A number of prominent teachers, including film director Ildikó Enyedi and theatre directors Tamás Ascher and Viktor Bodó, resigned.

The show of solidarity for the university squatters stretched through large parts of Budapest's city centre on Sunday; the human chain, whose participants stood in double rows in places, stretched for about five kilometres, from the theatre university to the parliament. The anger is primarily directed against the new president of the Board of Trustees, Attila Vidnyanszky, who is considered a confidant of the national conservative head of government Viktor Orbán and serves as the artistic director of the National Theatre in Budapest. Vidnyánszky describes himself as a "cultural nationalist" and had declared in the run-up to his assumption of power that at the 115-year-old theatre and film academy "a kind of elitism has established itself over the generations with regard to certain ways of thinking, methods and concepts"; the teaching there bears "ideological" traits. In future, according to Vidnyánsky, the university must concentrate more on "the nation, the homeland and Christianity".

A significant part of the staff and students see things differently. Mihaly Cserni, president of the student body at SZFE, sees the university as the latest victim in a "culture war" that Orbán has been waging for some time. Last year, the Central University (CEU), which is considered liberal, moved from Budapest to Vienna under pressure from the government, which later withdrew the autonomy of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences.

Orbán himself, however, rejects the accusation of intellectual conformity; the reforms would rather enable SZFE to 'operate more independently of the state', he had declared in July (formally, the management of the university is being transferred to a foundation), and they would open up 'better opportunities' for the students there. His chancellery minister, Gergely Gulyás, said last week in the face of the occupation of the university that they did not want to "restrict anyone's constitutional right to protest", even if the government "disagrees" with the aim of the protests and considers the underlying fears to be "unfounded".

Meanwhile, more and more cultural workers from other countries are showing solidarity with the striking students and the dismissed teaching staff in Budapest. The Berliner Ensemble, for example, cancelled its planned participation in a festival next year, which Attila Vidnyánsky is directing. The intention was to send a "sign of solidarity", explained the artistic director Oliver Reese; the appointment of the new board of trustees in Budapest was a further step by the Orbán government "in the direction of a Gleichschaltung of culture". Martin Kušej, artistic director of the Vienna Burgtheater, explained: "From many years of experience as a professor of directing, I know how important independence is for any artistic education. Universities must remain free from political influence!' The members of the Union of ***European*** Theatres (UTE) declared in a joint statement that they condemned 'any attempt to restrict the freedom and independence of the theatres'. At the same time, they hope that 'the situation in Hungary can be regulated through rational dialogue and responsible decisions and that theatre will not remain a divisive but a unifying element of Hungarian and ***European*** culture'.

Such a hoped-for dialogue took place last Wednesday. The new president of the board of trustees, Attila Vidnyánsky, met with representatives of the resigned university management - and then declared on state-run Kossuth Radio that they disagreed "on all important points". At least they had agreed that teaching would continue until the end of September. After that, they would continue with completely new staff.

**Page 4**

**The university committees had been disempowered. They then resigned collectively**

**The appointment was a further step "in the direction of the equalisation of culture".**

**Graphic**

The demonstrators receive a lot of support for their actions. The Berlin ensemble also showed solidarity with them. Photo: Marton Monus/AP

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject:** PROTESTS & DEMONSTRATIONS (91%); EMPLOYEES IN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS (90%); RESIGNATIONS (90%); LEGISLATIVE BODIES (89%); HEADS OF STATE & GOVERNMENT (89%); THEATRE (89%); THEATRE & DRAMA (89%); PUBLIC POLICY (89%); FILM SCHOOLS (76%); PRESIDENTS OF STATE (76%); UNIVERSITIES & COLLEGES (76%); FOUNDATIONS (71%); FILM DIRECTORS (70%)

**Industry:** FILM SCHOOLS (76%); UNIVERSITIES & HIGHER EDUCATION (76%); FILM REGISLATORS (70%)

**Person:** VIKTOR ORBAN (92%)

**Geographic:** BUDAPEST, HUNGARY (94%); VIENNA, AUSTRIA (58%); HUNGARY (93%); AUSTRIA (58%).

**Load Date:** September 9, 2020

**End of Document**

[***BREXIT; The Unpredictable***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60SS-MB71-JBF1-031W-00000-00&context=)

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Tuesday 8 September 2020

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

**Length:** 574 words

**Byline:** BY ALEXANDER MÜHLAUER

**Body**

Although the United Kingdom left the ***EU*** on 31 January, the real break is still to come. Only when the UK leaves the Single Market and the Customs Union at the turn of the year will citizens and businesses feel what Brexit means for their everyday lives. How much the UK's ***exit from the EU*** will change lives depends on whether London and Brussels manage to agree on a trade deal. These negotiations include, among many complicated details, above all the continuation of a political drama that has kept ***Europe on tenterhooks*** since the Brexit referendum.

It looks like Boris Johnson has drafted his script for the drama. The British prime minister is building up a threatening backdrop to put Brussels under pressure. Johnson is linking a deadline and a threat: if no agreement is reached by 15 October, there will be no free trade agreement. The date is cleverly chosen because an ***EU summit is taking*** place there. Johnson wants to put the onus on the heads of state and government, who have so far hidden behind their chief negotiator and the ***EU leaders.***

Ultimatums and threats are nothing new in the Brexit dispute. But since Johnson's furious election victory, one decisive factor has changed: London now has a government that credibly puts its Brexit ideology above the legendary British pragmatism. It is true that the ***EU,*** due to its economic power, still has the upper hand in the negotiations. But this lever misses its mark when there is someone on the other side of the table who recognises economic realities but does not care about them.

This unpredictability is Johnson's greatest advantage in the negotiations. In any case, the ***EU*** would do well to take the no-deal threat from London seriously. For Johnson could well be tempted to conceal the economic consequences of a hard Brexit with the far more serious consequences of the Corona pandemic. That would be cynical, but it is possible.

A report in the *Financial Times* shows what Boris Johnson is still capable of. According to the report, he is planning to eliminate parts of the withdrawal agreement by means of national legislation. Should this actually be true, which one can never know with Johnson, the Prime Minister would not only risk a breach of trust with the ***EU,*** but also a breach of the treaty. It doesn't have to come to that, it could be a red herring. There have already been a few newspaper reports in the Brexit drama that were deliberately launched to unsettle Brussels even more.

Even if there will be several more such attempts, both sides will have to come together in the end, because a compromise is in the interest of both sides. For Johnson, the stakes are particularly high in domestic politics: In the case of a no-deal Brexit, not only peace on the island of Ireland is at risk, but also the unity of the United Kingdom. If the prime minister fails to reach an agreement with the ***European*** Union, the Scots' support for a new independence referendum is likely to increase massively. Johnson will have to decide whether he wants to go down in history as a prime minister who puts the existence of the United Kingdom at risk.

**The *EU* would do well to take Johnson's no-deal threat seriously**

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject:** BREXIT (91%); ***EUROPEAN UNION (***91%); POLITICS (90%); HEADS OF STATE & GOVERNMENT (90%); PRIME MINISTERS (89%); REFERENDUMS (89%); BRITISH PRIME MINISTERS (78%); TALKS & MEETINGS (78%); INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORGANISATIONS (78%); TRADE AGREEMENTS (77%); FREE TRADE AGREEMENTS (75%); TRADE PROMOTION (75%); INTERNATIONAL GOVERNMENT TALKS (75%); TREATY VIOLATION (73%); LEGISLATION (70%); SEPARATISM & SECESSION (67%); CORONAVIRUS COVID-19 (50%); EPIDEMICS (50%); PANDEMICS (50%)

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

**Person:** BORIS JOHNSON (92%)

**Geographic:** LONDON, ENGLAND (90%); BRUSSELS, BELGIUM (88%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (95%); BRUSSELS CAPITAL REGION (93%); ***EUROPE (***79%); UNITED KINGDOM (93%); ***EUROPE (***88%).

**Load Date:** September 8, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Tougher climate protection targets***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60SS-MB71-JBF1-037S-00000-00&context=)

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Tuesday 8 September 2020

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

**Length:** 119 words

**Byline:** DPA

**Body**

**Brussels** - The ***EU Commission*** apparently wants to propose a significant tightening of the climate target for 2030. Instead of 40 per cent, greenhouse gases are to be reduced by 55 per cent below the 1990 level. According to ***EU circles,*** this is what is currently being proposed. ***EU Commission President*** Ursula von der Leyen intends to make an official statement on this in her State of the ***European*** Union address a week from Wednesday. She had already brought up the idea of raising the target to 50 to 55 per cent in 2019, but first commissioned a detailed impact assessment. The tightening is intended to help comply with the Paris climate agreement and slow down global warming.

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject: *EUROPEAN UNION*** (91%); CLIMATE CHANGE (90%); ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION (90%); INSTITUTIONS OF THE ***EUROPEAN*** UNION (88%); INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORGANISATIONS (88%); GLOBAL HEAT (73%); ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGREEMENTS (73%)

**Industry:** GLOBAL HEAT (73%)

**Person:** URSULA VON DER LEYEN (56%)

**Geographic:** BRUSSELS, BELGIUM (58%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (91%); BRUSSELS CAPITAL REGION (79%); ***EUROPE (***58%)

**Load Date:** September 8, 2020

**End of Document**

[***BRIEF NEWS; Ireland's economy robust***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60SS-MB71-JBF1-035F-00000-00&context=)

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Tuesday 8 September 2020

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

**Length:** 150 words

**Byline:** REUTERS

**Body**

**Dublin** - The Corona recession is much less severe in Ireland than in other ***European*** countries. Gross domestic product (GDP) slumped at a record pace of 6.1 per cent from April to June compared to the previous quarter, according to the statistics office. In the ***Eurozone*** as a whole, however, the decline was almost twice as strong at 12.1 per cent. Already at the beginning of the year, the Irish economy had shrunk by two per cent, especially the construction industry suffered from the restrictions in the fight against the spread of the pandemic. The trade, transport, hotels and restaurants sectors also suffered significantly. In contrast, Irish industry bucked the trend and grew by 1.5 per cent. And in the information and communications sector, dominated by international companies, the decline was comparatively small at 2.3 per cent.

**Classification**

**Language:** GERMAN; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject:** GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT (91%); RECESSION (90%); ECONOMY & ECONOMIC INDICATORS (90%); ***EUROPEAN UNION (78%)***; PANDEMICS (78%); ***EUROZONE*** (77%); STATISTICS (76%); MONETARY UNIONS (72%); TRENDS (71%); EPIDEMICS (69%); MULTINATIONALS (53%)

**Industry: *EUROZONE*** (77%); CURRENCY UNIONS (72%); CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY (71%); RESTAURANT INDUSTRY (69%)

**Geographic:** DUBLIN, IRELAND (79%); ***EUROPE (***92%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (78%); ***EUROPE*** (73%)

**Load Date:** September 8, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Facebook threatens to leave Europe; Mark Zuckerberg's company is unhappy with data protection rules in the EU and sees its business model at risk***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60X0-5FS1-DXX2-P2W7-00000-00&context=)

Süddeutsche Zeitung

Wednesday 23 September 2020

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

**Length:** 676 words

**Byline:** HELMUT MARTIN-YOUNG

**Body**

**Munich** - Data and advertising company Facebook has hinted that it could pull out of ***European business*** if it cannot operate as it wants because of data protection rules. "It is not clear how (Facebook) can continue to operate its Facebook and Instagram services in the ***EU*** under these circumstances," Yvonne Cunnane, a lawyer at Facebook Ireland, wrote in an affidavit to an Irish court.

The Irish data protection authority had started investigations into Facebook's data transfers to the States after years on the instructions of the ***European*** Court of Justice. However, there has not yet been a final decision by the Irish data protection authorities. However, the ***EU***'s General Data Protection Regulation prohibits the transfer of personal data to non-EU countries. As far as the USA was concerned, there was first the Safe Harbor agreement, and later the Privacy Shield, to allow such a transfer after all. But the ECJ overturned both agreements, and Facebook was also not allowed to invoke the standard contractual clauses as long as the USA could access the data of ***Europeans*** with its own surveillance laws. The lawsuit before the ECJ was brought by the Austrian data protection activist Max Schrems. Schrems, himself a lawyer, had long accused the Irish data protection authority of inaction. Now, after the ECJ's order, the Data Protection Commissioner there could not do otherwise and had to investigate. Facebook filed a lawsuit in an Irish court against the investigations, which are paused as long as the proceedings are ongoing.

There have been better times for Facebook. Times when many still believed that the company, which has exploded into a billion-dollar corporation, was really about connecting people. Those days are gone and hardly a day goes by when Facebook or one of its subsidiaries Whatsapp and Instagram don't make negative headlines. While in the US the focus is on influencing the upcoming presidential election, in ***Europe it is*** mostly about data protection.

A few months ago, the company launched a kind of charm offensive, led by former British Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg. Facebook boss Mark Zuckerberg had also publicly stated on several occasions that he would even like the company to be regulated, as it could not do that itself. But while other companies succeeded in adapting to the requirements of ***European*** data protection, Facebook tried to wriggle out of it. Facebook even wrote a letter to the ***European Parliament saying*** that it would continue to transfer data to the USA despite the ECJ rulings, but only on the basis of the standard contractual clauses.

The reason for this is obvious: Facebook's business is to use the collected data to build up a great deal of knowledge about their users with the aim of being able to offer their advertisers profiles that are as meaningful as possible. The aggregation of data in particular provides valuable insights. The more activities of many users can be evaluated, the more precisely trends can be identified and conclusions can be drawn about other users if their behaviour is similar. Storing the data of ***European*** users separately would be costly, to say the least, and it would possibly also reduce their informative value.

So where do we go from here? In the short term, the ***EU*** will try to adapt the standard contractual clauses, but in the long term, there will be no getting around seeking a common path in data protection for the Western states. In any case, the current state of affairs cannot remain as it is. Smaller companies in particular, which do not have armies of lawyers at their disposal like corporations, are overwhelmed by the current chaos. They need clear rules that will last longer than Safe Harbor and Privacy Shield.

**There have been better times for the company**

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject: *EUROPEAN*** UNION COURTS (94%); DATA PROTECTION LEGISLATION (91%); ***EUROPEAN UNION*** (91%); DATA PROTECTION ON THE INTERNET (90%); ***EU DATA PROTECTION REGULATIONS*** (90%); COURTS (90%); BUSINESS & MANAGEMENT (90%); INSTITUTIONS OF THE ***EUROPEAN UNION (90%)***; INTERNATIONAL COURTS & TRIBUNALS (90%); SOCIAL TRIBUNALS (90%); SOCIAL NETWORKS ON THE INTERNET (90%); BUSINESS NEWS (90%); LEGISLATIVE BODIES (78%); PERSONAL RIGHTS (78%); ***EU REGULATION (***77%); COURT CASES (76%); INVESTIGATIONS (75%); LEGISLATION (74%); POLITICS (71%); PRIME MINISTERS (67%); PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS (62%); ELECTIONS (62%)

**Company:** FACEBOOK INC (90%)

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

**Ticker:** FB (NASDAQ) (90%)

**Industry:** NAICS519130 INTERNET PUBLISHING & BROADCASTING & WEB SEARCH PORTALS (90%); DATA PROTECTION LEGISLATION (91%); DATA PROTECTION ON THE INTERNET (90%); EU DATA PROTECTION REGULATIONS (90%); INTERNET & WWW (90%); SOCIAL NETWORKS ON THE INTERNET (90%); WEBSITES & WEB PORTALS (90%); DATA BROADCASTING (78%); ELECTRONIC PUBLISHING (78%); INTERNET SEARCH PORTALS (76%)

**Person:** MARK ZUCKERBERG (73%)

**Geographic: *EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (93%); ***EUROPE (***91%); ***EUROPE (***91%); UNITED KINGDOM (73%); AUSTRIA (73%)

**Load-Date:** September 23, 2020

**End of Document**

[***PROFILE; Ylva Johansson; EUCommissioner, tough yet humane***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60X0-5FS1-DXX2-P2SR-00000-00&context=)

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Wednesday 23 September 2020

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

**Length:** 649 words

**Byline:** KAROLINE META BEISEL

**Body**

When ***EU Commissioner for Home Affairs*** Ylva Johansson presents her proposals for a new ***European*** asylum system this Wednesday, nothing will change for the time being: First, the ***EU Parliament***, but above all the member states, which have long been at odds over this issue, will have to discuss the new proposals in detail. Even that would be considered a success in Brussels, given the years of stalemate in the debate, but Johansson wants more: "I want migration to become as boring as other political issues.

After taking office last December, the Swede travelled through all ***European*** capitals to sound out a compromise. But Johansson already knew beforehand how big the gap is that needs to be bridged on this issue: she knows from her own past the balancing act between humanity and openness on the one hand and harshness towards those who cannot stay on the other.

In Sweden, Johansson is considered a rather left-wing social democrat; when she entered parliament at the age of 24 as the youngest MP at the time, she was a member of the communist Left Party. Only later did she switch to the Social Democrats. The Social Democrats are generally considered to be more open in the migration debate than the Christian Democrats, but the Swedish Social Democrats are an exception: in Stockholm, the party is also so successful because, after the refugee crisis in 2015, it opted for a much more restrictive migration policy. As Minister of Labour, Johansson was involved in tightening immigration laws at the time.

Ylva Johansson herself grew up with the diversity that immigration brings: she grew up in Botkyrka in a multicultural neighbourhood; when she was a child, her parents adopted a girl from Korea, as she recently told the podcast '***EU*** Scream'. This experience has shaped Johansson. People think your ethnicity or the colour of your skin is important to who you are," Johansson says. This reduces people to characteristics they cannot influence. But I don't think it's so important where someone comes from. What matters is where you want to go.

Johansson often says this last sentence when she talks about migration. Even in such conversations, the former maths teacher always combines both aspects of the debate. She appears open and cordial, but also firm on the matter. For example, when she points out that currently two thirds of all those who reach the ***EU*** are not entitled to asylum and will therefore have to leave ***Europe*** again; but that it is also unacceptable that some countries simply do not want to have anything to do with the issue.

You can see what other political issues are on Johansson's mind: The feminist almost always wears a necklace with the Venus symbol, a sign of the women's movement. If you are a woman with power, you have a duty to help other women," she says. I, too, only have my current position because other women prepared the way before me.

However, Johansson's career almost ended early in favour of a man. In 1998, the then Minister of Education fell in love with the then Minister of Finance, who is now her husband. Both left their respective partners for each other, but only one of them could keep the job. Johansson was asked to resign. "Of course I would have preferred to continue," she says today. However, at the time, her husband's position was more difficult to fill than hers.

How things have changed. In the cabinet of Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, hardly anyone has a more important task than Ylva Johansson. But hardly anyone has a more difficult one either.

**Graphic**

Photo: imago images/photothek

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject: *EUROPEAN UNION*** (90%); LEGISLATIVE BODIES (90%); POLITICS (90%); POLITICAL DEBATES (90%); IMMIGRATION (89%); REFUGEE CRISIS IN ***EUROPE (***78%); PUBLIC POLICY (78%); LEGISLATION (77%); POLITICAL PARTIES (77%); REFUGEES (72%); IMMIGRATION LAW (72%); ETHNICITIES & ETHNICITY (70%); ETHNIC GROUPS (69%); WOMEN (68%); PRIMARY & SECONDARY TEACHERS (63%); ADOPTION (50%)

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

**Industry:** PODCASTING (73%)

**Geographic:** STOCKHOLM, SWEDEN (77%); BRUSSELS, BELGIUM (57%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (94%); MAIN CITY REGION BRUSSELS (79%); ***EUROPE (***91%); SWEDEN (90%); BELGIUM (58%); EAST ASIA (57%)

**Load-Date:** September 23, 2020

**End of Document**

[***BRIEFLY REPORTED; More drugs in Europe***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60X0-5FS1-DXX2-P2V7-00000-00&context=)

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

**Length:** 129 words

**Byline:** DPA

**Body**

**Lisbon** - Hard drugs like cocaine and heroin are on the rise in ***Europe. The*** health and safety of ***Europeans*** are threatened by the strong drug market, but also by pandemic restrictions, warns the ***European*** Union Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) in its annual report published on Tuesday. Among other things, there is a fear that "some of the affected groups will become more vulnerable to drugs and involvement in the drug market as a result of the economic consequences of the Corona crisis", EMCDDA director Alexis Goosdeel said at the presentation of the report. It is therefore necessary to 'act quickly to address new threats'.

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject:** HEROIN (88%); INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORGANISATIONS (88%); PANDEMIA (88%); DRUG POLICY (73%); ***EUROPEAN UNION (73%);*** CORONAVIRUS COVID-19 (71%); ANNUAL REPORTS (70%); EPIDEMIA (56%)

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

**Industry:** HEROIN (88%)

**Geographic:** LISBON, PORTUGAL (79%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (58%); ***EUROPE*** (90%)

**Load-Date:** September 23, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Firm fronts on defence; The Swiss decide on Sunday whether the country should renew its fighter jet fleet***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60X0-5FS1-DXX2-P2T9-00000-00&context=)

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

**Length:** 752 words

**Byline:** BY THOMAS KIRCHNER

**Body**

**Munich** - What is unique and radical about Swiss direct democracy is that it is not selective but comprehensive. It encompasses almost all areas of politics, including the one that no government likes to question: Security and defence. The foundations can quickly be shaken. The 1989 referendum, for example, is legendary, when a completely unexpected 35.6 per cent voted in favour of abolishing the army.

The referendum this Sunday is about less than that, namely only about whether the country should renew its fighter jet fleet. And yet the question of principle is resonating in the background, because without an air force, many Swiss believe, an army is not an army. The 30 *F/A-18 Hornets* that the country currently has will have to be phased out around 2030, along with 26 *F-5 Tigers,* which are already considered obsolete and are mainly used for training purposes. A first attempt to convince citizens to buy new aircraft failed in 2014. At that time, Swedish *Gripen aircraft* were to be purchased, but the voters found them too expensive and unsuitable.

The government, the Federal Council, has learned from its defeat. This time, only the decision in principle on the purchase of jets, which may cost six billion Swiss francs (5.6 billion ***euros***), may be voted on, but not the concrete aircraft model. The Federal Council will decide on this later. Depending on the type, there should be about 40 of them; the *F/A-18 Super Hornet* from Boeing would probably have good prospects, but the *F-35 stealth model* from Lockheed Martin, the French *Rafale* and the ***European Eurofighter are*** also in the running. The purchase is also intended to strengthen the Swiss economy: Suppliers must conclude countertrade deals with domestic companies amounting to 60 per cent of the purchase sum.

The fronts are the same as in almost every vote on defence policy: the referendum was initiated by the 'Society for a Switzerland without an Army', which was joined by the Social Democrats (SP) and the Greens. On the other side are the government and the other parties in parliament. The opponents of the purchase speak of an 'unnecessary waste of money'. A classical air war is no longer to be expected. But for air police tasks - patrol flights, checking unknown aircraft, escorting the aircraft of state guests to the World Economic Forum in Davos, for example - lighter, cheaper models such as the South Korean *KAI T-50 Golden Eagle would* suffice. The six billion figure is a fraudulent calculation; in reality, the jets cost 24 billion, including operation.

In addition, the existing *F/A-18s* could be spared, suggests Priska Seiler Graf, an SP member of parliament, so that they could be used beyond 2030. In the long term, military experts are convinced that autonomous drones will take over the tasks of manned jets anyway. In 2014, the then Defence Minister Ueli Maurer proposed replacing some of the existing jets with drones and a missile defence system.

His successor Viola Amherd disagrees: drones are not suitable for air policing, and in unclear situations people have to decide. A lighter, cheaper jet, on the other hand, argues Thomas Hurter of the national-conservative Swiss People's Party, cannot offer protection in a real crisis. World political developments have become more unpredictable. We cannot rule out the possibility of armed conflicts in ***Europe as*** well'. And the Federal Council also refers to the deteriorating security situation.

Pascal Lago of the think tank Avenir Suisse agrees in principle. However, a possible armed conflict would certainly not affect Switzerland alone, but the ***Europeans*** together; the country should be seen as 'part of the ***European*** defence collective'. We would have to cooperate much more with our immediate neighbours and, of course, with ***Europe*** as a whole, be it in procurement, military exercises or peacekeeping missions.

But does the country really need its own air force? Couldn't Nato jets take over protection, as in the Baltic states? Unthinkable, says Hurter: "Then it would be the end of neutral, sovereign Switzerland.

**A classic air war is no longer to be expected, say opponents**

**Graphic**

No army without an air force? Swiss fighter planes at an air show in Wengen in January 2020. Photo: Imago

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject:** POLITICS (90%); GOVERNMENT CABINETS (90%); PUBLIC POLICY (90%); GERMAN FEDERAL COUNCIL (89%); LEGISLATIVE BODIES (89%); REFERENDA (89%); DEFENCE & MILITARY POLICY (89%); POLITICAL PARTIES (78%); WAR & WAR (77%); AIR FORCES (77%); MISSILE DEFENCE SYSTEMS (77%); MISSILE SYSTEMS (77%); DEFENCE MINISTRIES (77%); WEAPONS OF WAR (76%); VOTERS & ELECTIONS (71%); ECONOMY & ECONOMIC INDICATORS (50%)

**Company:** LOCKHEED MARTIN CORP (55%); BOEING CO (54%)

**Ticker:** LMT (NYSE) (55%); BOE (LSE) (54%); BA (NYSE) (54%)

**Industry:** NAICS336414 GUIDED MISSILE & SPACE VEHICLE MANUFACTURING (55%); NAICS336411 AIRCRAFT MANUFACTURING (55%); NAICS334511 SEARCH, DETECTION, NAVIGATION, GUIDANCE, AERONAUTICAL & NAUTICAL SYSTEM & INSTRUMENT MFG (55%); SIC5088 TRANSPORTATION EQUIPMENT & SUPPLIES, EXCEPT MOTOR VEHICLES (55%); SIC3812 SEARCH, DETECTION, NAVIGATION, GUIDANCE, AERONAUTICAL & NAUTICAL SYSTEMS & INSTRUMENTS (55%); SIC3728 AIRCRAFT PARTS & AUXILIARY EQUIPMENT, NEC (55%); SIC3721 AIRCRAFT (55%); NAICS336412 AIRCRAFT ENGINE & ENGINE PARTS MANUFACTURING (54%); SIC3761 GUIDED MISSILES & SPACE VEHICLES (54%); AIRCRAFT ENGINES (90%); FIGHTER & BOMBER AIRCRAFT (90%); UNMANNED AERIAL VEHICLES (89%); UNMANNED MILITARY AIRCRAFT (89%); DEFENCE & MILITARY POLICY (89%); AIR FORCES (77%); MISSILE DEFENCE SYSTEMS (77%); MISSILE SYSTEMS (77%); DEFENCE MINISTRIES (77%); WEAPONS OF WAR (76%); DEFENCE INDUSTRY (74%)

**Geographic:** GRAUBÜNDEN, SWITZERLAND (58%); SWITZERLAND (93%); ***EUROPE (***79%); FRANCE (79%); SWEDEN (79%); SOUTH KOREA (58%)

**Load-Date:** September 23, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Historic crossroads'; At the summit, the EU clarify its relationship with Turkey***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60X0-5FS1-DXX2-P2TW-00000-00&context=)

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

**Length:** 621 words

**Byline:** MATTHIAS KOLB

**Body**

**Brussels -** The clock has almost run out, decisions on the ***EU***'s relationship with Turkey will soon have to be made. "We should give ourselves time to prepare thoroughly," ***EU Council President*** Charles Michel wrote to the heads of state and government in mid-August when he invited them to a special summit to discuss the situation in the eastern Mediterranean. On Thursday, the leaders will arrive in Brussels, and until then, there will be intensive preparations and preliminaries. For it is not only the ***EU's chief diplomat*** Josep Borrell who sees both at a "historic crossroads".

On Tuesday, Michel and German Chancellor Angela Merkel spoke to Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdo&gbreve;via video conference. The message from the two is likely to be unchanged: The provocations were unacceptable, Ankara must refrain from unilateral steps to avert the sanctions threatened because of the natural gas drilling. Apart from France and Austria, Greece and Cyprus are considered supporters. Michel was in Athens and Nicosia last week to sound out compromises. More telephone calls followed: Again, the Belgian spoke with Erdo&gbreve;but also with French President Emmanuel Macron and other EU heads of government. In addition, Nato Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg is promoting that experts from Nato members Greece and Turkey develop plans to prevent military incidents.

The Turkish de-escalation towards Athens is a success of the patient diplomats Merkel and Michel. But the summit can continue to fail, because everything is linked to everything else. The fact that a Turkish shipping company has now been sanctioned for violating the arms embargo against Libya is castigated by Ankara as 'worthless'. For days, Erdo&gbreve;an's spokesman has been shouting that sanctions against his country "won't work" and that the EU should not adopt "maximalist positions" of some members.

And Erdo&gbreve;an is not making any concessions towards Cyprus, which is why the island state insists on sanctions and prevented penalties against Belarus on Monday. How much this damages the credibility of ***EU foreign policy is*** known to everyone in Brussels, where difficult talks are expected on Thursday evening. A united front requires a 'yes' from Cyprus President Nikos Anastasiades, whom Greece cannot leave hanging.

But it is not only in Berlin that people fear that sanctions will destroy the hard-won progress and that Turkey, a NATO country, will distance itself even more from the West. The idea of an international conference for the Eastern Mediterranean, with which Michel wants to objectify the debate, could be helpful for the way forward.

Turkey has several wishes: besides easier issuing of visas and reform of the refugee deal, the Customs Union, which has existed since 1968, should be expanded. Because of the close ties to the ***EU market,*** Turkish diplomats say, industrial products are much better today. It is proudly pointed out that the ***EU Commission*** set up a task force after Corona broke out so that important individual parts could be delivered. Ankara does not want to end the accession talks, which began in 2005 and are currently frozen. Only Austria demands this, while the ***European*** External Action Service sees this as an opportunity if Turkey should prove reliable at some point: Candidate status would mean that the offer of close ties to the ***EU would*** continue to exist. It is up to Ankara to take the necessary steps and win back the trust that has also been destroyed by the actions in Libya and Syria.

**It is about how military incidents can be prevented**

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject:** HEADS OF STATE & GOVERNMENT (92%); ***EUROPEAN UNION*** (91%); POLITICS (90%); PUBLIC POLICY (90%); FOREIGN RELATIONS (89%); GERMAN CHANCELLORS (89%); EMBARGOES & SANCTIONS (89%); TALKS & MEETINGS (89%); INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS (89%); CONFERENCES & CONGRESSES (89%); PUBLIC POLICY (90%); FOREIGN RELATIONS (89%); INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS (89%); INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS (89%). CONGRESSES (89%); PRESIDENTS (89%); DIPLOMATIC SERVICES (78%); ***EU PRESIDENCY (***78%); FRENCH PRESIDENTS (77%); POLITICAL DEBATES (77%); FOREIGN POLICY (73%); ***EU REGULATION (73%); EUROPEAN*** UNION INSTITUTIONS (73%); ARMS EMBARGOES (50%)

**Person:** ANGELA MERKEL (92%)

**Geographic:** ANKARA, TURKEY (92%); ATHENS, GREECE (90%); BRUSSELS, BELGIUM (88%); NICOSIA, CYPRUS (73%); BERLIN, GERMANY (58%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (94%); BRUSSELS CAPITAL REGION (92%); TURKEY (95%); FRANCE (90%); CYPRUS (90%); BELGIUM (88%); GREECE (88%); ***EUROPE (***79%); LIBYA (79%); BELARUS (78%); AUSTRIA (73%)

**Load-Date:** September 23, 2020

**End of Document**

[***ITALY; The fortress holds***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60X0-5FS1-DXX2-P2SS-00000-00&context=)

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

**Length:** 573 words

**Byline:** BY STEFAN ULRICH

**Body**

As if impregnable, the fortified village of Monteriggioni with its red-tiled roofs lies on a hill in the centre of Tuscany, girdled by a 570-metre-long defensive wall reinforced by 14 towers. The place is a good symbol for the whole region, which for many decades has been ruled mostly successfully by the Reds - first communists, then socialists and social democrats - and seemed out of reach for the Right.

At least until the regional elections on Sunday and Monday. There, the right-wing nationalist Lega had high hopes of taking Tuscany with its allies and thus giving the ruling coalition of the Social Democrats and the Five Star Movement under Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte a potentially fatal blow. But the left successfully defended Tuscany, a symbolically important victory that now strengthens the government in Rome.

This is all the more true because both major governing parties emerged as winners from these elections. The Social Democrats because they won in several regions without significant help from the Five Stars, thus strengthening their political weight in the government. The Five Stars because they were able to push through one of their core projects in a referendum held at the same time: the massive reduction of the size of parliament. The next parliament will have hundreds fewer deputies and senators than at present. So the parliamentarians will think twice about instigating a government crisis and risking early elections and the loss of their seats. This also strengthens the government.

For Italy, which was already struggling economically before the Corona crisis, this is a reason for relief. And for ***Europe*** as well. For now Italy will probably gain a phase of political stability, which is necessary to channel the huge offers of aid from the ***European*** Union into projects to strengthen the country economically. If this succeeds, politics, which has fallen into disrepute among the citizens, could regain some confidence. And the coalition should hope for confirmation in the next regular parliamentary election in 2023.

You don't have to like this heterogeneous alliance of social democrats and Five Stars, which is primarily concerned with maintaining power. But at least it seems determined to tackle the crisis not against but with ***Europe.*** By contrast, the right-wing alternative in its current state is fearsome. The economically liberal, generally pro-European Forza Italia party of the age- and corona-weakened agitator Silvio Berlusconi is dozing off. The Lega, which was very successful in the regional elections in several regions of the north, is focusing under its party leader Matteo Salvini on agitation against ***Europe*** and Germany, nationalism and xenophobia. The 'Brothers of Italy' party led by Giorgia Meloni, which is currently gaining considerable support, is at least as far to the far right. It is described as "post-fascist". Hopefully, this will not turn out to be an euphemism.

As long as the right does not produce a more constructive, moderate and in principle pro-European rallying party, a change of power would be highly risky for Italy. That is also why it is so important that the Tuscan fortress has held.

**The voters strengthen the Conte government in Rome. This is also a relief for *Europe***

**Classification**

**Language:** GERMAN; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject:** LEGISLATIVE BODIES (90%); POLITICS (90%); ELECTIONS & CAMPAIGNS (90%); VOTERS & ELECTIONS (90%); POLITICAL PARTIES (89%); ELECTIONS (89%); CORONAVIRUS COVID-19 (78%); ***EUROPEAN UNION*** (78%); REFERENDUMS (73%); PUBLIC POLICY (73%); PRIME MINISTER (69%); RACISM & XENOPHOBIA (63%)

**Person:** SILVIO BERLUSCONI (79%)

**Geographic:** ROME, ITALY (92%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (79%); ***EUROPE (***93%); ITALY (93%); GERMANY (59%)

**Load-Date:** September 23, 2020

**End of Document**

[***EUCommission proposes migration pact; In future, the needs of the member states are to be taken more into account in the distribution of asylum seekers***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60X0-5FS1-DXX2-P301-00000-00&context=)

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Wednesday 23 September 2020

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

**Length:** 492 words

**Byline:** KAROLINE META BEISEL

**Body**

**Brussels - For** years, the ***EU has*** been struggling over a common asylum policy. The main point of contention has always been the question of whether member states can be obliged to take in migrants. The new migration pact, which the ***EU Commission*** will present this Wednesday, therefore no longer contains an automatic distribution mechanism, but instead a graduated system to be able to react to different situations with appropriate instruments.

According to SZ information, this system is to distinguish between three different cases: acute crisis situations that endanger the national asylum system; increased pressure or the threat of such; or sea rescue cases involving the whereabouts of people rescued from distress at sea in the Mediterranean. In all these cases, affected member states could activate a solidarity mechanism. Brussels says that the aim is to determine whether the affected member states can get the appropriate help to deal with the situation through mediation by the ***EU Commission***.

States like Hungary or Poland, which had always refused to take in people in the past, are also to be included in this system. There will be alternative ways for them to contribute the required solidarity. Only as a 'corrective', it is said, as a 'ultima ratio', should the ***EU Commission*** also be able to insist on a distribution of migrants. A decision to this effect is to be issued as a legal act by the Commission, which can be reviewed by the ***EU Parliament*** and the Council of Member States.

According to the Commission's proposal, a new screening procedure is to be established at the ***EU's external borders*** as a preliminary step to determine how likely it is that someone is actually entitled to asylum; the recognition rate for people from the different countries of origin is also to play a role. Unlike during the refugee crisis in 2015, the ***EU Commission*** estimates that two-thirds of arrivals currently face a negative asylum decision. According to the proposal, these border procedures should not necessarily take place directly at the border; instead, ***EU states*** should be able to carry out such checks at other locations on their territory.

In addition, a system for orderly returns is to play a much greater role in the Commission's new proposals than before. Member states are to help each other organise repatriations to third countries through so-called "sponsorships" - which could also be seen as an act of solidarity. The Commission hopes that the proposals will finally enable the member states to act together on the asylum issue. We cannot afford to fail twice for the same reasons," they say.

**Page 4**

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject: *EUROPEAN UNION*** (92%); IMMIGRATION (90%); INSTITUTIONS OF THE ***EUROPEAN*** UNION (90%); PUBLIC POLICY (90%); DEPORTATION (89%); ***REFUGEE*** CRISIS IN ***EUROPE (***78%); LAW ENFORCEMENT (78%); POLICY (78%); REFUGEES (73%); RESCUE ACTIVITIES (70%)

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

**Geographic:** BRUSSELS, BELGIUM (73%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (95%); BRUSSELS CAPITAL REGION (91%); HUNGARY (79%); ***EUROPE (***78%); POLAND (78%); BELGIUM (58%).

**Load-Date:** September 23, 2020

**End of Document**

[***EUsummit is postponed***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60X0-5FS1-DXX2-P2S8-00000-00&context=)

Süddeutsche Zeitung

Wednesday 23 September 2020

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

**Length:** 88 words

**Byline:** MATI

**Body**

**Brussels** - The ***special EU summit*** planned for Thursday and Friday will take place a week later due to a positive Corona case surrounding Council President Charles Michel. A spokesman said Michel had tested negative but would be quarantined due to Belgian rules. Just this afternoon, Michel had spoken on the phone with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdo&gbreve;an to prepare for the meeting.

**Page 7**

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject:** TALKS & MEETINGS (91%); ***EUROPEAN UNION (***90%); CORONAVIRUS COVID-19 (88%); INTERNATIONAL GOVERNMENTAL TALKS (73%)

**Geographic:** BRUSSELS, BELGIUM (58%); BRUSSELS CAPITAL REGION (79%); BELGIUM (58%)

**Load-Date:** September 23, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Johnson's success***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60X0-5FS1-DXX2-P303-00000-00&context=)

Süddeutsche Zeitung

Wednesday 23 September 2020

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

**Length:** 127 words

**Byline:** DPA

**Body**

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson's controversial Single Market Bill has cleared another hurdle in Parliament. Johnson wants to use the bill to undermine parts of the valid, laboriously negotiated Brexit deal with the ***EU.*** A majority of MPs on Tuesday approved a compromise between the prime minister and his critics, so that no formal vote had to take place. This means that even Conservative MPs agreed to Johnson's plans, who had previously spoken out against them. Specifically, it is about special rules for the British Northern Ireland. For the ***EU,*** Johnson's proposal is a breach of law. The bill will be debated again next week in the House of Commons and then in the House of Lords.

**Classification**

**Language:** GERMAN; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject:** PREMIERMINISTER (91%); BRITISH PREMIERMINISTER (90%); BRITISH PARLIAMENT (90%); ***EUROPEAN UNION (90%);*** LAWMAKING (90%); LAWMAKING ORGANISATIONS (90%); POLITICS (90%); HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT (90%); PUBLIC POLICY (90%); BREXIT (88%)

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

**Geographic: *EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (91%); NORTHERN IRELAND (73%); UNITED KINGDOM (73%)

**Load-Date:** September 23, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Sir Keir on the launch pad; Under its new leader, the British Labour Party is catching up***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60X0-5FS1-DXX2-P2T4-00000-00&context=)

Süddeutsche Zeitung

Wednesday 23 September 2020

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

**Length:** 730 words

**Byline:** ALEXANDER MÜHLAUER

**Body**

**London -** There is Ruth Smeeth, for example. Until the general election in December, the Labour politician represented the constituency of Stoke-on-Trent North in the House of Commons. But then, for the first time ever, a Conservative MP was elected there. A disgrace for Labour. The British Social Democrats suffered their worst election defeat since 1935, "We lost because we didn't listen to the people," says Smeeth. She is standing in the Danum Gallery, a museum in Doncaster, northern England, on this Tuesday morning, tasked with saying a few introductory words before Keir Starmer delivers his party conference speech by video. The Labour leader stands two metres from her at a lectern. Corona-wise, it's not the big stage, and yet it's a launch pad.

So Starmer, dark blue suit, side parting, holds onto the lectern with both hands and first explains what he stands for. All his life he has fought for justice, Starmer says, first as a lawyer, then as a prosecutor. He was the first in his family to be allowed to attend university, and when he was finally knighted at Buckingham Palace, his parents were proud of him. Keir became Sir Keir. And he now has a goal: he wants to replace the Conservative Prime Minister Boris Johnson. "A New Leadership" is written on Starmer's lectern. First of all, however, this is no more than a description of the facts: Starmer has been party leader for five months. But so far he has not come up with any concrete proposals for change.

Even in his appearance on Tuesday, Starmer remains vague. He is still listening to the former Labour voters in the once red North. We still have a lot to do to win back people's trust," says Starmer. But he wants to shout to all those who have turned away from Labour, whether in Glasgow or Grimsby: "We hear you! Look at Labour with a new eye.' And because Starmer is well aware that he has been labelled a traitor to his country by many left-wing Brexiteers with his pro-EU stance, he is playing the patriot: "We love this country as much as you love it.

The declaration of love for the homeland is one thread running through Starmer's speech. The other is criticism of the government. The prime minister is incompetent and incapable of leading the country, says the Labour leader. He is angry about the mistakes made in the fight against the Corona pandemic and Johnson's empty promises - for example, there is still no functioning testing and tracing system. The crisis has shown that Johnson simply has no serious character, says Starmer: the prime minister wishes problems away, such as the inner-Irish border on Brexit; and when things don't work out the way he imagines, he lashes out and breaks international law.

Then Starmer attacks the prime minister personally: "While Johnson was writing snide columns about crooked bananas, I was defending victims and prosecuting terrorists. While he was sacked by a newspaper for making up quotes, I was fighting for justice and the rule of law.' If Johnson failed to reach a free trade agreement with the ***EU, he said, it would be entirely*** his responsibility. He can't then blame anyone else for his own failure, says the Labour leader. And urges Johnson: "Go ahead and do a deal.

Starmer's strategy of exposing Johnson's mistakes on Corona policy has worked well so far. According to an opinion poll, Labour is now tied with the Tories at 40 per cent for the first time since the December election. But Starmer owes this strength mainly to Johnson's weakness. And so, in his party conference speech, he gives at least a vague preview of what he intends to do in terms of content. Within the party, it is above all the fight against anti-Semitism. Otherwise, there are the unequal educational opportunities in the country, the high house prices and contact with the former Labour supporters who voted for the Tories in the last election - in Grimsby, Stoke-on-Trent and elsewhere.

**The main task is still to regain lost trust.**

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject:** POLITICAL PARTIES (93%); BRITISH HOUSE OF COMMONS ELECTIONS (90%); BRITISH PARLIAMENT (90%); POLITICS (90%); SENIOR MANAGEMENT CHANGES (90%); ELECTIONS (90%); ELECTIONS & CAMPAIGNS (90%); VOTERS & ELECTIONS (90%); PRIME MINISTERS (89%); HEADS OF STATE & GOVERNMENT (89%); PUBLIC POLICY (89%); PARTY CONFERENCES (78%); BREXIT (73%); CORONAVIRUS COVID-19 (69%); PANDEMICS (69%); PROSECUTORS (67%); EPIDEMICS (50%)

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

**Geographic:** LONDON, ENGLAND (58%); GLASGOW, SCOTLAND (57%); UNITED KINGDOM (73%); ENGLAND (58%)

**Load-Date:** September 23, 2020

**End of Document**

[***SPAIN; Land of Gloom***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:6115-RDM1-DXX2-P317-00000-00&context=)

Süddeutsche Zeitung

Thursday 8 October 2020

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

**Length:** 825 words

**Byline:** BY KARIN JANKER

**Body**

Doctors speak of a superinfection when a patient also becomes ill with other infections after contracting a virus. Spain is threatening to become such a patient. The Corona crisis is developing into an economic and national crisis. Regionalism and the traditional irreconcilability between socialists and conservatives are proving to be the worst obstacles to fighting the corona virus. The polarisation of the political camps - always clearly noticeable in Spain - is unleashing its destructive force at this vulnerable moment and making Spain particularly vulnerable to the pandemic.

For weeks, Spain has been reporting the highest number of cases in ***Europe***. The latest death toll reaches the level of April, when Spain, along with Italy, was the hardest hit. But while Italy is now seen as a positive example for containing Sars-CoV-2, Spain's doctors are again warning of collapse. But it is not only the massive overstretching of the health system that makes this hour one of the darkest in recent Spanish history. The International Monetary Fund expects Spain's gross domestic product to slump by 12.8 percent in 2020, forecasting the worst recession since the end of the civil war. Behind the figures lie destinies: a quarter of employees in Spain are on temporary contracts, undeclared work is still widespread. These people are not entitled to short-time allowances, they are already at the limit.

In addition, there is the dependence on tourism, which accounts for almost 13 percent of jobs. In recent months, tourism has almost completely collapsed. Many waiters and chambermaids live in winter on what they earned in summer. What will they live on this winter? Many fear that the crisis will be even worse than the one in 2013, when unemployment peaked at 27 per cent. Spain threatens to become a ***European*** patient once again.

It stands to reason, therefore, that Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez is pinning his hopes on an antidote from Brussels. This Wednesday, Sánchez explained how he plans to spend the ***EU***'s 140 billion in aid and loans. He calls it a 'recovery plan' for Spain. However, 'emergency injection' would be more accurate, because the country will not recover so quickly.

Especially not of the third crisis, the beginning of which is just beginning to emerge: Spain is experiencing a dramatic loss of trust in politics and institutions. Half of the voters think the government is doing a worse job than other governments. In March, only 24 percent thought so. The political scientist Víctor Lapuente is probably not wrong in stating: Spain is caught in a vicious circle of citizens distrusting the government and the government distrusting the citizens.

While in other countries confidence in elected representatives rose in the face of the pandemic, in Spain it is sinking into the bottomless pit. 90 percent of Spaniards do not believe that the country is prepared for the further months of the pandemic. People feel more or less at the mercy of the virus. This summer, 150 scientists demanded that Spain have an independent review of its measures to combat the virus. Nothing has happened.

Instead of taking decisive action against the virus, officials are going after their political opponents. While in neighbouring Portugal the opposition leader assured the head of government of his "full cooperation" and wished him courage, luck and good nerves, the socialists and conservatives in Madrid are both engaged in fundamental opposition. The result is widespread immobility. In the fight against the virus, which demands constant adaptation, this self-paralysis is fatal. The unity of all institutions is the way to defeat the virus', warned the Social Minister of the Madrid region before resigning in frustration.

While the elected representatives are busy with themselves, many people are turning away from them. Analogous to the declining trust in the institutions, the popularity of the far-right party Vox is rising. In the latest poll, Vox made strong gains. Until now, Spain has been considered reasonably immune to the extreme right-wing parties that are part of the political spectrum in Germany, Austria or France. This immunity could be over in the middle of the Corona pandemic. The division of society threatens to accelerate.

Only the ***European Union*** promises unity. It is the only institution to which, according to surveys, almost all Spaniards are devoted. As a donor, the ***EU is*** indispensable for Spain's recovery - but also as a common horizon for Spain's future.

**People feel abandoned, trust in the state is shaken**

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject:** CORONAVIRUS COVID-19 (94%); CORONAVIRUSES (90%); DISEASES & HEALTH COMPLAINTS (90%); VIRUSES (90%); DOCTORS (90%); EPIDEMICS (89%); PANDEMICS (89%); POLITICS (89%); ***EUROPEAN UNION*** (78%); INFECTIOUS DISEASES (78%); PUBLIC POLICY (78%); GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT (77%); CORONA FINANCIAL AID (77%); ECONOMIC NEWS (77%); POLITICAL SCIENCE (77%); RECESSION (77%); SHADOW ECONOMY (77%); HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT (77%); HEALTH POLICY (76%); CONTAGIOUS DISEASE CONTROL (73%); SARS (73%); INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND (72%); WAR & ARMED CONFLICT (71%); UNITED NATIONS ORGANISATIONS (67%)

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

**Industry:** DOCTORS (90%); HEALTH POLICY (76%); INTERNATIONAL CURRENCY FUND (72%)

**Geographic:** BRUSSELS, BELGIUM (53%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (79%); BRUSSELS CAPITAL REGION (79%); ***EUROPE*** (92%); SPAIN (91%); ITALY (88%); BELGIUM (73%).

**Load-Date:** October 8, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Recover and modernise; Spain's prime minister presents plan to overcome Corona crisis***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:6115-RDM1-DXX2-P324-00000-00&context=)

Süddeutsche Zeitung

Thursday 8 October 2020

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

**Length:** 381 words

**Byline:** KARIN JANKER

**Body**

**Madrid** - The morning meeting was just one of several opportunities that Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez used to promote his national "recovery plan" - via video link from his seat of government, the Moncloa Palace. For another appointment in the evening, he additionally engaged four of his ministers to concretise the guidelines of the plan.

In his speech, Spain's head of government explained how he intends to spend most of the money that the ***European Union*** will make available to Spain in its reconstruction fund. According to the speech, Sánchez wants to use 72 of the total 140 billion ***euros to*** create new jobs. In the next three years, 800,000 new jobs are to be created to overcome the impending economic crisis. In the coming year, a first tranche of 27 billion ***euros will be used,*** Sánchez said.

Within the framework of the 'Plan for Recovery, Transformation and Strengthening', Spain is not only to be led out of the Corona crisis, but also to modernise the country's economy. According to the announcement, the largest part of the investments, 37 per cent, will flow into 'green' investments. 33 percent is to be invested in the digital sector. Other key areas to be strengthened with the money are gender equality and social and regional cohesion.

Sánchez also used the meeting to promote unity. With a view to the upcoming parliamentary vote on the national budget, the socialist politician asked that the conservative opposition support his plans. Unity was essential. We must overcome this brutal blow and turn it into an opportunity for progress," Sánchez said. Spain was facing the "greatest challenge since the restoration of democracy" 45 years ago.

In its draft budget for 2021, the government predicts a historic economic slump. According to this, the gross domestic product will shrink by 11.2 percent in the current year. The International Monetary Fund even predicts 12.8 percent. For 2021, the Spanish government is more optimistic and expects growth of at least 7.2 percent.

**Page 4**

**The economy in Spain shrinks by eleven percent**

**Graphic**

The crisis should become an opportunity for progress: Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez. Photo: imago

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject:** POLITICS (90%); HEADS OF STATE & GOVERNMENT (90%); PUBLIC POLICY (90%); STATE BUDGETS (89%); ECONOMY & ECONOMIC INDICATORS (89%); ***EUROPEAN UNION*** (78%); PRIME MINISTER (78%); CORONAVIRUS COVID-19 (77%); ECONOMIC DOWNTURN (77%); ECONOMIC CRISIS (77%); INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORGANISATIONS (76%); EMPLOYMENT GROWTH (75%); CURRENCIES (75%); GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT (74%); GENDER EQUALITY (73%); INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND (71%); JOB CREATION (70%)

**Industry:** MARKETING & ADVERTISING (89%); STATE BUDGETS (89%); BUDGETS (78%); CURRENCIES (75%); INTERNATIONAL CURRENCY FUND (71%)

**Geographic:** MADRID, SPAIN (79%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (79%); SPAIN (94%); ***EUROPE (***79%)

**Load-Date:** October 8, 2020

**End of Document**

[***After EUruling; criticism of Hartz payments for EUforeigners***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:6115-W4V1-DY2B-S53C-00000-00&context=)

Bild

Thursday 8 October 2020

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**Section:** Title page; p. 1; issue 235

**Length:** 154 words

**Byline:** Lr

**Body**

Berlin - Hartz IV benefits for ***EU foreigners*** will now be even easier!

According to a ruling of the ***European*** Court of Justice, unemployed ***EU foreigners are*** entitled to social benefits for themselves and their children if they live in Germany and have a valid residence permit here.

A decision was made on the complaint of a Pole who lost his job after two years of work in Germany and initially received Hartz IV for himself and his two children, but was then cut off by the Job Centre.

According to the ECJ ruling, this violated ***EU law***: the father had a right of residence despite losing his job because of the daughters' school attendance.

Economic politician Michael Eilfort (57), head of the Initiative Neue Marktwirtschaft, fears an "unpleasant signal effect" of the ruling.

DENN: As a result, "a trend is reinforced to seek opportunities in the German social systems rather than in our labour market".

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** BIBU

**Subject: *EUROPEAN*** UNION COURTS (94%); UNEMPLOYED (90%); ***EUROPEAN UNION*** (90%); ***EUROPEAN*** UNION INSTITUTIONS (90%); INTERNATIONAL COURTS & TRIBUNALS (90%); SOCIAL ASSISTANCE & WELFARE (90%); LEGAL ACTIONS (79%); COURTS OF JUSTICE (78%); ECONOMIC POLICY (74%); EU REGULATION (73%); ***EUROPEAN LAW (73%);*** MANAGEMENT (71%)

**Geographic:** BERLIN, GERMANY (59%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (90%); ***EUROPE*** (79%); POLAND (78%); GERMANY (74%).

**Load-Date:** October 8, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Nine billion Euro more; How Germany is joining the EUbudget dispute***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:6115-RDM1-DXX2-P33W-00000-00&context=)

Süddeutsche Zeitung

Thursday 8 October 2020

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

**Length:** 402 words

**Byline:** BJORN FINKE

**Body**

**Brussels** - Nine billion ***euros*** more should do the trick, maybe one or two less: German ***EU Ambassador*** Michael Clauß presented a compromise proposal to the ***European Parliament on*** Wednesday in the dispute over the ***EU budget. The*** four-page letter, which is available to the *Süddeutsche Zeitung,* states that 'in the end, an increase by a high single-digit figure (in billions of ***euros***) for the entire period of the budget could possibly be possible'. This Thursday, the parliamentary negotiating team will meet with Clauß for the seventh round of negotiations.

Parliament must approve the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF), the rough ***EU budget for*** the seven years from 2021 to 2027, as well as the Corona aid pot, so that disbursements can start on time in January. The 27 heads of state and government agreed on a ***€1074*** billion MFF at the historic summit in July. In addition, there is the 750 billion ***euro*** Corona pot. The Parliament, however, demands a much more generous budget; in particular, important ***EU programmes*** such as Horizon for research funding are to be increased. Since Germany took over the rotating Council Presidency in July, the German ***EU Ambassador*** Clauß represents the 27 Member States in the negotiations.

In the meantime, the MPs demanded more than 100 billion ***euros more*** for 15 important programmes. Now Clauß is offering up to nine billion ***euros*** more, which does not sound like much in view of the total volume of 1074 billion ***euros*** for the seven years. But the Germans are speculating that it could still be enough. Clauß emphasises in the letter that he does not want to increase the total sum of 1074 billion ***euros either,*** because such a thing would require a new ***EU summit.*** Instead, money should be reallocated in favour of the programmes.

He also promises the MPs that there will be a review of the budgets in the middle of the seven-year budget period. The July summit decisions did not actually provide for this, but it is important to parliamentarians. Thirdly, the role of the parliament in monitoring the funds from the Corona pot is to be strengthened. And fourthly, as requested by MEPs, there should be a concrete timetable for when new sources of revenue for the ***EU*** will be debated.

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject:** LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITIES (91%); ***EUROPEAN UNION*** (90%); POLITICS (90%); STATE BUDGETS (90%); TALKS & MEETINGS (89%); INTERNATIONAL GOVERNMENTAL TALKS (75%); HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT (70%)

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

**Industry:** STATE BUDGETS (90%); BUDGETS (89%)

**Geographic:** BRUSSELS, BELGIUM (58%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (94%); BRUSSELS CAPITAL REGION (79%); GERMANY (74%); ***EUROPE (***58%)

**Load-Date:** October 8, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Dilemma on the doorstep; New infrastructure projects could endanger the water quality of the North and Baltic Seas***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:6115-RDM1-DXX2-P34C-00000-00&context=)

Süddeutsche Zeitung

Thursday 8 October 2020

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

**Length:** 802 words

**Byline:** MARCEL GRZANNA

**Body**

The demand for the protection of the oceans does not start with the coral reefs in the tropics or polar ecosystems in the Arctic. The North Sea and the Baltic Sea are the two German coastal waters whose pollution is pointed out by local environmentalists. The debate has intensified in recent years. Numerous infrastructure projects threaten the ecological balance of the marine areas. Citizens' initiatives vociferously oppose the deepening of the Elbe between its mouth and the port of Hamburg or the construction of the Fehmarnbelt tunnel as a car link to Denmark.

German politics is very negligent in its treatment of our coastal seas. They give the impression that there is a downright lack of interest in the protection of the Baltic and North Seas," says Ulrich Karlowski of the donation-funded German Foundation for Marine Conservation (DSM) based in Munich. In the end, it doesn't matter which party colours are in charge of the governments of the federal states, "ecological concerns are consistently subordinated to economic interests", is Karlowski's reproach.

If this assessment is correct, the policy's behaviour contradicts the logic given to it by the ***European*** Union's Marine Strategy Framework Directive. The directive is intended to protect, conserve and restore the marine environment. It obliges the ***EU maritime states to*** develop national strategies to ensure the protection of ***Europe's*** seas. A 'good status' should already be achieved by this year.

Currently, Germany seems to be on the right track. Scientists from the Stockholm Resilience Centre (SRC) recently assessed the condition of the Baltic Sea and, using a 100-point index, came up with a satisfactory result of 76 points. But that is about to change, marine conservationists predict. The planned construction of the Fehmarnbelt tunnel would provoke "gigantic ground swirls" and turn the sea into a murky broth. There would also be the threat of shipping accidents with oil spills, because for years to come the construction site on the seabed would have to be crossed by the shipping industry and could cause collisions.

There are also plans to explore for gas and oil in the Baltic Sea, including in marine protected areas. In August, the Greifswald Higher Administrative Court overturned the general ban on extraction after the German-Canadian oil producer Central ***European*** Petroleum filed a lawsuit: in Germany, statutory mining law, including the extraction of raw materials, largely takes precedence over environmental protection law. For Karlowski, the foundation's director, this is incomprehensible. In reality, these marine protected areas are not protected, but are open to tourism, fishing, the discharge of waste water from industrialised agriculture and the search for raw materials. Everything takes place there, except marine protection,' he says. Environmental organisations are therefore calling for an amendment to German mining law.

The water quality of the North Sea also seems to be in danger, and with it the conditions for an ecologically intact habitat. Take the example of deepening the Elbe: the approximately 100-kilometre-long stretch of river between the North Sea and the Hanseatic city is to be prepared for the shipping traffic of the future. Ever larger freighters require ever deeper navigation channels. In order not to jeopardise international competitiveness, as they say, the bottom of the Elbe has been excavated for years. The silt ends up in the North Sea, but much more than calculated in the planning, because new sediments from the upper reaches of the river keep coming in. Studies have also shown that this silt is highly polluted. Scientists warn that the consequences for the Wadden Sea of the North Sea coasts could be dramatic in a few decades.

Environmentalists are also concerned about the North Sea because of the numerous oil wells. There are still around 500 platforms, most of which will be decommissioned in the coming decades. But even this poses risks because concrete platforms and hundreds of thousands of cubic metres of contaminated oil water remain in tanks and drilling chambers.

German North Sea waters may not be at immediate risk, but they have been victims of oil disasters in the past. The accident of the Swedish freighter Pallas in 1998 caused the largest oil spill on German coasts of the islands of Amrum, Föhr and Sylt with tens of thousands of dead birds and marine animals.

**Construction of the Fehmarnbelt tunnel would turn the sea into a murky broth**

**Companies in the responsibility**

Responsible: Peter Fahrenholz

Editor: Katharina Wetzel

Advertisements: Jürgen Maukner

**Graphic**

A dredger removes silt from a harbour basin during work on deepening the Elbe. Environmentalists are critical of the project. Photo: dpa

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject:** OCEANS (92%); ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION (91%); ***EUROPEAN UNION (***90%); WATER POLLUTION (90%); PUBLIC POLICY (90%); ECOLOGY & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE (90%); ECOSYSTEMS & HABITATS (90%); ENDANGERED SPECIES (89%); MARINE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT (89%); WATER QUALITY (89%); FOUNDATIONS (88%); ISLANDS & REEFS (78%); COASTAL AREAS (78%); LAW OF THE SEA (78%); BOARDS OF DIRECTORS (78%); RIVERS (77%); OIL POLLUTION (77%); POLITICS (76%); POLITICAL DEBATES (76%); NEGLIGENCE (75%); INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS ORGANISATIONS (73%); ***EU REGULATION*** (72%); ***EUROPEAN LAW*** (72%)

**Industry:** OIL AND GAS INDUSTRY (85%); SEA LAW (78%); WATER VEHICLES (78%); OIL POLLUTION (77%); YARDS (75%); SEA SHIPPING (75%); TUNNEL CONSTRUCTION (70%)

**Geographic:** STOCKHOLM, SWEDEN (79%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (90%); BAVARIA, GERMANY (59%); ***EUROPE (***90%); GERMANY (89%); DENMARK (79%); CANADA (79%)

**Load-Date:** October 8, 2020

**End of Document**

[***GREECE; Democracy triumphs***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:6115-RDM1-DXX2-P312-00000-00&context=)

Süddeutsche Zeitung

Thursday 8 October 2020

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

**Length:** 223 words

**Byline:** TOBIAS ZICK

**Body**

The title 'cradle of ***European*** democracy' is brought out of the archives on all kinds of appropriate or less appropriate occasions when it comes to praising the importance of Greece for the rest of the continent. On Wednesday, however, the attribution shone with new splendour.

An Athens court has found the leaders of the neo-Nazi party 'Golden Dawn' guilty of forming a criminal organisation; citizens and politicians alike, from conservative to left, are celebrating the verdict as a victory for their nation. And rightly so. On this day, the Greek state has shown itself to be a determined defender of democracy.

The fact that a party with Hitler portraits, swastikas and outstretched right-wing arms was able to grow to any appreciable size in Greece, a country that is still reeling from the terror of the Nazi German troops, is in itself a cynical joke of history - and an example of the dark blossoms populism can produce when economic crisis and unemployment make many people susceptible to crude messages of hate. ***Europe*** can learn from Greece what abysses right-wing extremism can grow out of - and how to fight it.

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject:** CRIMINAL DEFENCE (76%); ECONOMIC CRISIS (67%)

**Organisation: *EUROPEAN UNION*** (50%)

**Geographic:** ATHENS, GREECE (78%); ***EUROPE (***90%); GREECE (90%)

**Load-Date:** October 8, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Beach of offence; On the divided island of Cyprus, the presidents of Turkey and Northern Cyprus open a restricted area - a clear provocation***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:6115-RDM1-DXX2-P32D-00000-00&context=)

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

**Length:** 875 words

**Byline:** TOMAS AVENARIUS

**Body**

**Istanbul** - If international politics were a garishly lit fairground stage with jugglers, knife throwers, mirror fencers, magicians and shell players, then the appearances of Turkish head of state Recep Tayyip Erdo&gbreve;an would unquestionably be the main attraction. Almost every week, the man in Ankara triggers a new crisis, makes a completely unpredictable move, surprises his friends - of whom he currently has rather few -, his opponents - of whom he has plenty - and the audience. Erdo&gbreve;an's latest coup is the reopening of an abandoned bathing beach in divided Cyprus: the ghost town of Varosha has been a restricted military area since the Turkish invasion in 1974. The affiliation of the area between the Republic of Cyprus and the 'Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus', which is only recognised as a state by Turkey, is disputed, and the matter itself is thus a swift kick in the shins of those responsible in the ***EU.***

And probably also against that of German Chancellor Angela Merkel: Germany holds the ***EU Council Presidency*** and has been trying for months to mediate between the community and Turkey. Unaffected by the legal situation of the divided Mediterranean island of Cyprus, the government of Northern Cyprus, close ally of Ankara, had announced on Tuesday that a first section of Varosha beach would be reopened this Thursday. When Northern Cypriot head of government Ersin Tatar made the announcement, he confidently added that the seaside resort was 'indisputably' on Northern Cyprus' territory; Varosha was 'a national concern beyond all political disputes and debates'. This contradicts the position of the Republic of Cyprus and also all UN Security Council resolutions.

But Tatar didn't need to be bothered by that. He felt strong because he had the Turkish head of state on his side. Erdo&gbreve;an also claimed during the joint appearance that Varosha was clearly part of Northern Cyprus and handed out slaps in the direction of Brussels: "At the last ***EU summit*** we saw once again that the people of Northern Cyprus are being ignored. Turkey will not allow this injustice to continue'.

The Turkish head of state made it clear that in the Varosha issue, his country would once again side with those in the world who were denied their rights. After the rebellious Syrians, the civil war-stricken Libyans and the self-destructive Azerbaijanis, the Northern Cypriots are now benefiting from Turkish protection - for Ankara's supposed strategic advantage, of course.

For with the opening of Varosha, Erdo&gbreve;an and his northern Cypriot puppet Tatar are not only upsetting the leadership of the Republic of Cyprus, but also the EU. After giving the impression at the most recent ***EU summit a*** few days ago that the political principle of carrot and stick had been used to get closer to Turkey on important issues such as the dispute over natural gas in the Mediterranean, Ankara is now blatantly complaining that the community has once again allowed itself to be taken "hostage" by its members Greece and Cyprus at the summit. Turkey was once again denied the rights to which it was entitled.

Apparently, Erdo&gbreve;an does not accept that his country will continue to face sanctions after the summit if Ankara again sends research ships in search of natural gas to sea areas claimed by Greece and the Republic of Cyprus - both of which belong to the EU. Chancellor Merkel, with whom Erdo&gbreve;an recently had another video phone call, must now feel particularly offended by the opening of Varosha. The chancellor is trying to mediate between the ***EU*** and Turkey.

This is likely to become far more difficult after Varosha's opening. The island of Cyprus has been divided since 1974, when a Greek coup was followed by a Turkish invasion and the northern part declared itself the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, recognised only by Turkey. The city of Famagusta in the east is considered a symbol of the division; the seaside resort of Varosha, popular before the division, is a district of Famagusta. Because of the Turkish invasion, around 40,000 residents fled the Greek Cypriot district of Varosha. The Turkish troops declared the district a restricted area, since then it has been a ghost town, only Turkish soldiers bathe on the beach from time to time.

In the efforts to find a solution to the Cyprus question, which have been treading water for decades, the return of Varosha to its former Greek Cypriot inhabitants was treated as a confidence-building measure, but it never came to pass. The reaction of the Cypriot President Nikos Anastasiades sounded accordingly: What Turkey has decided violates all the resolutions of the UN Security Council. It is absolutely unacceptable. According to dpa, the Greek Foreign Ministry spoke of a 'gross violation of the UN Security Council resolutions'. Greece, together with Turkey and Great Britain, is the guarantor of Cyprus. The UN also expressed its 'concern'.

**Erdo&gbreve;an's move is an affront to Brussels and especially to Berlin**

**Graphic**

No one has been allowed into the former tourist resort since 1974. Now suddenly Turkey-backed Northern Cyprus claims Varosha. Photo: Sean Gallup/Getty Images

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject:** HEADS OF STATE & GOVERNMENT (93%); ***EUROPEAN UNION*** (90%); POLITICS (90%); PRESIDENTS OF STATES (90%); PUBLIC POLICY (90%); TALKS & MEETINGS (89%); INTERNATIONAL GOVERNMENT TALKS (89%); WAR & ARMED CONFLICT (89%); POLITICAL DEBATE (76%); CIVIL WAR (75%); GERMAN CHANCELLOR (73%); EU PRESIDENCY (68%); HOSTAGE-TAKING (64%); UNITED NATIONS (64%)

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

**Geographic:** ANKARA, TURKEY (94%); ISTANBUL, TURKEY (79%); LIEGE, BELGIUM (79%); BRUSSELS, BELGIUM (58%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (94%); BRUSSELS CAPITAL REGION (79%); TURKEY (98%); CYPRUS (97%); GERMANY (59%); GREECE (58%).

**Load-Date:** October 9, 2020

**End of Document**

[***SHORTLY REPORTED; minus 60 per cent demanded***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:6115-RDM1-DXX2-P346-00000-00&context=)

Süddeutsche Zeitung

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

**Length:** 126 words

**Byline:** DPA

**Body**

**Brussels** - The ***European Parliament is*** calling for a 60 percent reduction in greenhouse gases by 2030, the vote of a narrow majority of MEPs was announced in Brussels on Wednesday. The ***EU Commission*** had proposed a reduction of greenhouse gases by at least 55 percent. The current target is minus 40 per cent. The new target should help to comply with the Paris Agreement on climate protection and to stop the dangerous overheating of the earth. In the ***EU Commission***'s proposal, however, the CO[Subscript 2] storage capacity of forests and soils can be counted towards the climate target. Some ***MEPs*** saw this as a watering down of the climate target.

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject: *EUROPEAN UNION*** (90%); LEGISLATIVE BODIES (90%); POLICY (90%); INSTITUTIONS OF THE ***EUROPEAN*** UNION (88%); ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION (73%); ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGREEMENTS (73%); FORESTS & FOREST AREAS (73%)

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

**Geographic:** BRUSSELS, BELGIUM (73%); BRUSSELS CAPITAL REGION (90%); BELGIUM (73%); ***EUROPE (***58%)

**Load-Date:** October 8, 2020

**End of Document**

[***PROFILE; Petra De Sutter; World's first trans person in a ministerial post***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:6115-RDM1-DXX2-P314-00000-00&context=)

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

**Length:** 658 words

**Byline:** MATTHIAS KOLB

**Body**

It is remarkable that the big media fuss about Petra De Sutter has so far failed to materialise. The 57-year-old Green is part of the new Belgian government and, as deputy prime minister, is responsible for the civil service. However, the moment she took the oath of office in front of King Philippe I was historic: De Sutter is the world's first trans person to hold a ministerial post.

The organisation Ilga ***Europe, which campaigns for the*** rights of lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transgender persons (LGBTI), speaks of a "milestone", and the professor of gynaecology is also aware of the significance of her new position. At the top of her Twitter profile, Petra De Sutter has fixed a message: 'I am proud that in Belgium and most parts of the ***EU*** gender identity does not define you as a person and is not an issue.' At the same time, she hopes that her appointment 'can trigger a debate in those countries where this is not yet the case'.

The hashtag #fighttransphobia in the tweet refers to the hostility trans people face worldwide. De Sutter also fought against opposition. As a child, she was teased at her boys' school. Classical music and books became her refuge before she studied. She always felt like a woman, she told the website 'Sisters of ***Europe***', and did not hide, but fought against herself. Back then, without the internet, she had little access to information and threw herself into work. She specialised in reproductive medicine and has written 550 scientific articles.

De Sutter began her transition in 2004 at the age of 40, when she already held a chair in Ghent. The university defended her while colleagues, acquaintances and friends turned their backs on her. She went 'through hell', she reported, but no patients left her because she was finally free and happy.

In 2014, she ran unsuccessfully for the ***European Parliament,*** but represented the Flemish Greens in the ***Council of Europe*** as well as in the Belgian Senate, making her the first openly transgender Belgian to be on an electoral list. In 2019, she succeeded in entering the ***European Parliament,*** where she became the first Green to chair the Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection. De Sutter is convinced that women in parliaments should not only be concerned with culture and social affairs, but also with finance and economics: "Everything is regulated by the budget.

Andreas Schwab (CDU), a member of parliament, reports that De Sutter always chaired the meetings confidently and competently and tried to find a balance. Schwab never noticed any jibes or innuendos, and all members across party lines quickly got used to addressing the tall De Sutter as a woman.

So the Green Party will not only miss her expertise as a doctor. In Corona times, she explained many things to many people - and listened patiently. That should help her in Belgium's complicated politics: The government consists of seven parties and has only started work barely 500 days after the election. The German Terry Reintke, who worked with De Sutter in the LGBTI group of the ***European Parliament***, sees the appointment as "an important signal against the agitators who, not only in Eastern Europe, portray trans people as a danger to the family and society".

De Sutter cites the fight for more justice as her motivation. She revealed to the Heinrich Böll Foundation how she came to join the Greens: she had done research on environmental toxins and noticed how lax the regulations on these pollutants were. In the same interview, she was asked which actress she should portray if her life were to be made into a film. Her answer: Meryl Streep.

**Graphic**

Photo: Danny Gys/Pool/AP

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject:** POLITICS (90%); GERMAN POLITICAL PARTIES (89%); LEGISLATIVE BODIES (89%); POLITICAL PARTIES (89%); ***EUROPEAN UNION (***77%); INTERNATIONAL GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS (77%); POLITICAL DEBATES (77%); PRIME MINISTERS (77%); INTERNET SOCIAL NETWORKS (77%); HEADS OF STATE & GOVERNMENT (77%); PUBLIC POLICY (77%); GYNAECOLOGY & OBSTETRICS (74%); GAYS & LESBIANS (70%); CONSUMER PROTECTION (62%)

**Industry:** SOCIAL NETWORKS ON THE INTERNET (77%); Gynaecology & Obstetrics (74%)

**Geographic:** GENT, BELGIUM (79%); FLANDERS, BELGIUM (90%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (79%); BELGIUM (91%); ***EUROPE (***90%).

**Load-Date:** October 8, 2020

**End of Document**

[***BRIEFLY REPORTED; EU imposes sanctions***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:614C-91T1-DXX2-P2DY-00000-00&context=)

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

**Length:** 130 words

**Byline:** MATI

**Body**

**Brussels** - The ***European Union*** has imposed new Russia sanctions because of the massive hacker attack on the Bundestag in 2015. Apart from Igor Kostyukov, the head of the Main Directorate of the General Staff of the Russian Armed Forces, one of the suspected hackers is also affected by account blockings and an entry ban. The ***EU*** considers it proven that Dmitry Sergeyevich Badin was "involved in a cyber attack with significant repercussions" against the parliament. Data belonging to Chancellor Angela Merkel was also affected. Also sanctioned is a military unit blamed for cyberattacks, according to the ***EU's Official Journal***. It is known as 'APT28', 'Fancy Bear' or 'Sofacy Group'.

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject:** EMBARGOS & SANCTIONS (91%); ***EUROPEAN UNION (91%***); GERMAN FEDERAL LAW (90%); INFORMATION WAR (90%); INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS (90%); POLITICS (90%); HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT (88%); GERMAN FEDERAL CHANCELLORS (72%)

**Industry:** INFORMATION WARFARE (90%)

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

**Geographic:** BRUSSELS, BELGIUM (58%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (91%); BRUSSELS CAPITAL REGION (79%); ***EUROPE*** (73%); RUSSIAN FEDERATION (72%).

**Load-Date:** October 23, 2020

**End of Document**

[***EUROPAGermany disgraces itself***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:614C-91T1-DXX2-P271-00000-00&context=)

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

**Length:** 220 words

**Byline:** CERSTIN GAMMELIN

**Body**

As soon as ***Europe is discussed,*** Germany is often quick to criticise other countries - that they are too unstructured, too slow, not economical enough. This makes it all the more serious that the Federal Republic is not meeting the standards it demands of others in the implementation of the currently most important ***European*** project, the reconstruction fund of the ***European*** Union.

Berlin has not named any national projects that are to be funded with the money from Brussels. And it is not planning any, even though these are a prerequisite for receiving something in the end. This is also not the case in the Bundestag - no debate is planned. That is embarrassing. Above all, the German example contributes to the fact that the fund will not be operational in time. That there could be money from January onwards is now ruled out.

What is particularly problematic about this is that Berlin's terse handling of the large-scale project puts other states in urgent need of money in a tight spot. Because none is coming. There are still two months left for Berlin to remember its special responsibility. The German government has a duty to ***Europe***. If the reconstruction fund cannot start its work, Germany would be disgraced.

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject: *EUROPEAN UNION*** (78%); POLITICS (77%); POLITICAL DEBATES (75%); GERMAN FEDERATION (72%)

**Organization: *EUROPEAN UNION*** (94%)

**Geographic:** BERLIN, GERMANY (87%); BRUSSELS, BELGIUM (55%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (79%); ***EUROPE*** (92%); GERMANY (89%); BELGIUM (58%).

**Load-Date:** October 23, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Boon of money postponed; The Corona aid pot of the EU starts later - but Germany is in no hurry anyway***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:614C-91T1-DXX2-P2B8-00000-00&context=)

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

**Length:** 658 words

**Byline:** BJÖRN FINKE, CERSTIN GAMMELIN

**Body**

**Berlin/Brussels** - The German government is in no hurry to fulfil the conditions necessary to receive funds from the ***EU reconstruction fund.*** The necessary reform and investment plan should be sent to the ***EU Commission*** 'by 30 April 2021 at the latest', said State Secretary for Finance Bettina Hagedorn in response to a question from Franziska Brantner, the Greens' expert on Europe in the Bundestag. This is the very last day that the authority will accept the plans. The question was submitted to the *Süddeutsche Zeitung.* Hagedorn writes that even the agreed "broad-based political dialogue involving the social partners and all other relevant stakeholders" should only take place "analogously" to the preparation of the reform plan.

In addition, it emerged on Thursday that the aid pot cannot come into effect in January as planned. This was said by the German ***EU ambassador*** Michael Clauß. The reconstruction fund is linked to the ***EU budget for*** the seven years until 2027. Both have to be approved by the ***European Parliament*** before they can take effect. But MEPs are calling for a higher budget and a strict mechanism that would stop disbursements if the rule of law is not functioning in the recipient country.

Because Germany took over the ***EU Council Presidency in*** July, Clauß is negotiating with parliamentarians on behalf of the 27 ***EU governments.*** These talks are dragging on. And after the placet of the ***EU Parliament,*** most national parliaments still have to agree to the innovation that the Commission can take on debts on a grand scale for the Corona pot. The sad result: "It is already no longer possible for the reconstruction fund to start on time in January, because ratification by the national parliaments will take at least two and a half months," said Clauß.

The 27 heads of state and government had agreed on the 750 billion ***euro*** reconstruction fund in July. 360 billion ***euros*** are to flow as loans, 390 billion ***euros*** as non-repayable grants. The amounts are expressed in 2018 prices, so they do not take inflation into account. In today's prices, the pot is worth as much as 807 billion ***euros.*** Almost 313 of the 390 billion ***euros*** in grants will be distributed by the ***EU Commission*** through a new ***EU programme that is*** intended to support state investments and reforms. For this, governments must submit reform plans with eligible projects. The ***EU Commission*** created the possibility to submit these projects as early as mid-October to speed up the process. Portugal has already made use of this possibility. The deadline is 30 April 2021.

Berlin does not seem to attach any priority to the whole matter. State Secretary Hagedorn writes in her answer that the federal government only wants to refer to projects from the national economic stimulus package. Green Party MP Brantner voiced strong criticism on Thursday: We must be serious about implementing the reconstruction fund in Germany," she told the SZ. This includes naming concrete projects. We also have to talk about it in the parliaments, so that the citizens know where ***European*** money is going in Germany," she said. We need a public debate. Germany accounts for 23 of the 313 billion ***euros*** in subsidies, the Commission estimates.

One of the sticking points in Ambassador Clauß's negotiations with the ***European Parliament is*** the MEPs' demand to increase the total volume of the seven-year budget in order to better equip important ***EU programmes*** such as Horizon for research funding. The Member States are willing to add money to programmes, but do not want to increase the total volume agreed upon by the Heads of State and Government.

**The federal government only wants to refer to projects from the national economic stimulus package**

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject: *EUROPEAN UNION*** (93%); POLITICS (92%); LEGISLATIVE BODIES (91%); ***EUROPEAN*** UNION INSTITUTIONS (89%); POLITICAL PARTIES (89%); HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT (78%); STATE BUDGETS (78%); CORONA GRANTS (77%); INFLATION (77%); POLITICAL DEBATES (77%); GERMAN POLITICAL PARTIES (76%); GERMAN PARLIAMENT (73%); ***EU PRESIDENCY (73%);*** RULE OF LAW (73%).

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

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

**Geographic:** BERLIN, GERMANY (73%); BRUSSELS, BELGIUM (58%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (94%); BRUSSELS CAPITAL REGION (79%); GERMANY (90%); ***EUROPE (***88%); PORTUGAL (73%).

**Load-Date:** October 24, 2020

**End of Document**

[***MONEY POLICY; Get to the citizens***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:614C-91T1-DXX2-P29Y-00000-00&context=)

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Friday 23 October 2020

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

**Length:** 738 words

**Byline:** BY MARKUS ZYDRA

**Body**

The ***European*** Central Bank can be accused of many things, but a particularly pronounced closeness to the people is not one of them. The public appearances of the top central bankers resemble economic seminars, the press conferences are often characterised by important but at the same time petty shop talk. The elitist touch and the linguistic distance were intentional, because in their 22-year history the monetary guardians have primarily addressed the professionals of the financial markets.

ECB President Christine Lagarde now wants to make up for this mistake. The Frenchwoman has promised to "turn over every stone". This includes the central bank taking the pulse of the citizens for the first time in its history. How are you doing with your central bank? What should we do differently? The ECB is listening', is the promise. Interested citizens can voice their opinion on the central bank's homepage. At the same time, Lagarde and her colleagues from the ECB Executive Board are meeting representatives of civil society, such as trade unions and non-governmental organisations. They are to make proposals for reforming monetary policy. The ECB is looking for a new strategy: Is the inflation target of two percent still suitable? The future of negative interest rates? Is the institution allowed to buy more and more government bonds?

So far, the central bank has relied on in-house experts, external economists and the financial markets to answer these questions. The fact that laymen are now being listened to seems like a silent admission: the central bank no longer knows what to do. Sure, it could always create more money out of nothing, but what if people no longer support this alchemy and confidence in the ***euro*** dwindles? Monetary policy has become more difficult due to the economic crises of the past decade. Until 2007, the central bank's only monetary policy was to turn the interest rate screw, and that was it. The population usually took note of these decisions to raise or lower the key interest rates without any excitement.

But then came the financial crisis, the imminent collapse of the ***Eurozone*** and the Corona virus. The ECB had to do more than before. But the incessant purchase of bonds and the zero and negative interest rate policy raise questions about democratic legitimacy. The monetary guardians are not elected by the people and their monetary policy leads to the rich in society benefiting. Above all, they can afford real estate and shares, the prices of which have risen sharply due to low interest rates. So there is a need to talk.

Lagarde wants to reconcile the central bank with its critics. The complaints from Germany against the loose monetary policy, heard by the highest courts, fed by the latent accusation that the ECB is engaging in illegal state financing, are gnawing away at the central bank's reputation. Added to this is the fact that the monetary guardians have not reached their self-imposed inflation target of two percent for years. The saviour of the ***Eurozone*** suddenly seems so powerless.

The dialogue with civil society is therefore the right thing to do, even if the first big virtual event on Youtube on Wednesday was only attended by around 600 viewers. So the ECB is not reaching the big regulars' tables. But that's why there are interest groups exerting pressure. The ECB's expected shift towards a "green" monetary policy shows that the institution can listen.

But ***Europe's*** central bank does not dare to tackle two other issues that concern many people. There is the idea of 'helicopter money'. It says that the ECB should give money to the citizens instead of the banks in the fight against recession. This is hotly debated in the academic world. But the ECB remains silent. The question of how to deal with the rapidly rising national debt in the ***Eurozone in the*** long term is also completely lost. The debts are higher than ever before because money is needed to fight the economic consequences of the Corona pandemic. And the ECB is the biggest creditor. It may be that the ***Eurozone*** can borrow heavily without harming itself, and that the 'Swabian housewife' approach to budgeting has indeed had its day. But the public debate about why this is so must be conducted - also by the ECB.

**The ECB lacks the courage for a debate on 'helicopter money'.**

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject:** MONETARY POLICY (91%); CENTRAL BANKS (91%); ECONOMIC POLICY (90%); PUBLIC POLICY (90%); BONDS & NOTES (89%); EURO (***89%)***; ***EUROPEAN UNION*** (89%); ***EUROZONE (89%)***; INFLATION (89%); ECONOMIC CRISIS (89%); ECONOMIC NEWS (89%); CURRENCY UNIONS (89%); INTEREST RATES (89%); ***EUROPEAN*** UNION INSTITUTIONS (78%); GOVERNMENT BONDS (76%); INTEREST RATES (75%); ECONOMICS (73%); PRESS CONFERENCES (72%); TRADE UNIONS (68%); RICH PEOPLE (64%); CORONAVIRUS COVID-19 (62%); NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS (53%); CORONAVIRUSES (50%); VIRUSES (50%)

**Industry:** MONEY POLICY (91%); CENTRAL BANKING (91%); BORROWINGS & BONDS (89%); BANKING AND FINANCIAL OVERVIEW (***89%);*** EURO (89%); EUROZONE ***(89%);*** CURRENCY UNIONS (89%); INTEREST RATES (89%); GOVERNMENT BONDS (76%); LENDING INTEREST RATES (75%)

**Person:** CHRISTINE LAGARDE (57%)

**Geographic: *EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (93%); ***EUROPE*** (79%); GERMANY (59%)

**Load-Date:** October 23, 2020

**End of Document**

[***BRIEFLY MENTIONED; Award for Opposition in Minsk***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:614C-91T1-DXX2-P27V-00000-00&context=)

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Friday 23 October 2020

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

**Length:** 165 words

**Byline:** SAUL, DPA

**Body**

**Brussels - The *European Parliament***'s Sakharov Prize this year goes to the opposition in Belarus. The award goes to the democratic opposition in Belarus, represented by the Coordination Council, political activists such as Svetlana Tikhanovskaya, and civil society figures such as the politically committed Nobel Prize laureate Svetlana Alexievich, said the ***European Parliament***. Its President David Sassoli said of the demonstrators in Belarus: "You have something on your side that brute force can never defeat: truth. Do not give up your fight. We are with you.' The ***EU Parliament*** is the first institution to recognise the protests at international level with an award. There have been regular protests in Belarus since the presidential election on 9 August (photo: afp). The Sakharov Prize itself will be awarded on 16 December at a ceremony in the Parliament's plenary hall.

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject:** POLITICS (92%); LEGISLATIVE BODIES (91%); PROTESTS & DEMONSTRATIONS (90%); PUBLIC POLICY (90%); HEADS OF STATE & GOVERNMENT (78%); PRESIDENTS (77%); ***EUROPEAN UNION (***73%); NOBLE PRIZES (73%); VOTERS & ELECTIONS (71%)

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

**Geographic:** BRUSSELS, BELARUS (58%); MINSK, BELARUS (58%); BRUSSELS CAPITAL REGION (79%); BELARUS (92%); ***EUROPE (***90%).

**Load-Date:** October 23, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Nato meeting marked by displeasure with Ankara***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:614C-91T1-DXX2-P282-00000-00&context=)

Süddeutsche Zeitung

Friday 23 October 2020

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

**Length:** 409 words

**Byline:** MATTHIAS KOLB

**Body**

**Brussels** - The NATO defence ministers, who are only meeting virtually because of Corona, are not short of urgent topics. In addition to a 'space centre' in Ramstein, where space surveillance is to be coordinated, further investments in air defence are likely to be decided. For example, ***Europe*** is to be better protected against Russian cruise missiles of the type *9M729* (NATO's internal *SSC-8*); because of these extremely mobile and fast medium-range weapons, the USA, with the support of the allies, had terminated the INF Treaty with Russia in 2019.

New types of weapons such as hypersonic missiles, which can reach Western Europe in four minutes, are being discussed, as is the protection of submarine cables under the Atlantic. Under the buzzword 'resilience', the alliance is more concerned with critical infrastructure. And since 97 percent of communications between the US and ***Europe*** flow through these cables, there would be enormous consequences if they were destroyed or intercepted - here, too, diplomats suspect Russia.

A Nato member continues to cause displeasure. Turkey has extended the deployment of the research vessel *Oruc Reis,* which is underway in the natural gas-rich and legally disputed areas around the Greek island of Kastellorizo. NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg called for de-escalation. He had advocated a dispute settlement mechanism. Internally, it is said that members Greece and Turkey have been 'reminded of the rules of the road' to prevent military incidents.

There are also reports that Ankara has tested the Russian *S-400* air defence system. US Ambassador Kay Bailey Hutchison called this "very worrying" without confirming the tests. For her, "a red line" would be crossed if the *S-400 were to be* integrated into NATO's integrated air defence system: for example, Moscow would receive data on the ultra-modern US *F-35* fighter jet, the development of which Turkey has been excluded from, while US President Donald Trump has so far prevented tougher sanctions. Before the meeting, Turkish Defence Minister Hulusi Akar rejected the criticism in an interview with the Bloomberg agency: He said that such tests were usual for every acquisition of military equipment. His country does not want to integrate the *S-400 into* NATO structures, but rather to use it "as a freestanding device". Experts consider this implausible; some ministers were expected to address this.

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject: DEFENCE POLICY** & MILITARY POLICY (89%); PUBLIC POLICY (89%); EMBARGOES & SANCTIONS (73%); RAKET SYSTEMS (73%); STATE AND GOVERNMENT HEADS (73%); US PRESIDENTS (71%); WATER POLLUTION (55%)

**Company:** ALLIANZ SE (56%)

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

**Ticker:** ALV (FRA) (56%); ALV (BIT) (56%)

**Industry:** NAICS524126 DIRECT PROPERTY & CASUALTY INSURANCE CARRIERS (56%); NAICS524113 DIRECT LIFE INSURANCE CARRIERS (56%); NAICS523920 PORTFOLIO MANAGEMENT (56%); DEFENCE & MILITARY POLICY (89%); FIGHTER & BOMBER (78%); WATERCRAFT (78%); MISSILE SYSTEMS (73%); ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION (51%)

**Person:** DONALD TRUMP (79%)

**Geographic:** ANKARA, TURKEY (88%); BRUSSELS, BELGIUM (73%); MOSCOW, RUSSIAN FEDERATION (73%); TURKEY (94%); RUSSIAN FEDERATION (90%); ***EUROPE (88%);*** GREECE (88%); NORTH AMERICA (79%); WESTERN EUROPE (58%)

**Load-Date:** October 23, 2020

**End of Document**

[***BRIEFLY REPORTED; Lukashenko sanctioned***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:617K-X361-DXX2-P05M-00000-00&context=)

Süddeutsche Zeitung

Saturday 7 November 2020

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**Section:** Politics; Munich; Bavaria; Germany; p. 9

**Length:** 149 words

**Byline:** MATI

**Body**

**Brussels -** Because of the falsification of the presidential election in Belarus on 9 August and the violent suppression of peaceful protests, the ***European Union has*** imposed sanctions against ruler Alexander Lukashenko (photo: imago). The measures came into force on Friday. Lukashenko's son Viktor and press spokeswoman Natalia Eismant are among the 14 other people who will be banned from entering the country and have their accounts frozen. This brings to 59 the number of people from Belarus on the ***EU sanctions list***. Meanwhile, the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in ***Europe*** (OSCE) called the presidential election neither transparent nor free or fair and complained of 'systematic human rights violations'. In response, the US and the UK called for immediate new elections. Belarus is a member of the OSCE.

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject:** EMBARGOES & SANCTIONS (90%); ***EUROPEAN UNION (90%***); INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORGANISATIONS (90%); ELECTIONS (90%); VOTERS & ELECTIONS (90%); PROTESTS & DEMONSTRATIONS (77%); PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS (77%); HUMAN RIGHTS (69%); HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS (53%)

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

**Geographic:** BRUSSELS, BELARUS (91%); ***EUROPE (***88%); UNITED KINGDOM (58%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (90%); BRUSSELS CAPITAL REGION (79%).

**Load-Date:** November 16, 2020

**End of Document**

[***BRIEFLY MENTIONED; Poland threatens veto***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:617K-X361-DXX2-P05R-00000-00&context=)

Süddeutsche Zeitung

Saturday 7 November 2020

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**Section:** Politics; Munich; Bavaria; Germany; p. 9

**Length:** 122 words

**Byline:** DPA

**Body**

**Warsaw** - Following the ***EU agreement*** on a procedure to cut funding for certain violations of the rule of law, Poland's head of government Mateusz Morawiecki has held out the prospect of a possible veto of the ***EU budget.*** We will certainly use our right to object if there is no agreement and if the wording does not meet our expectations," Morawiecki said on Friday. Government representatives from ***EU states*** and the ***European Parliament*** had agreed on Thursday on a procedure for cutting ***EU funds in the*** event of certain violations of the rule of law.

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject: *EUROPEAN UNION*** (92%); POLITICS (90%); LEGISLATION (90%); PUBLIC POLICY (90%); HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT (88%); STATE BUDGETS (88%); LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITIES (73%)

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

**Industry:** STATE BUDGETS (88%)

**Geographic:** WARSAW, POLAND (79%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (94%); POLAND (90%); ***EUROPE (***88%).

**Load-Date:** November 16, 2020

**End of Document**

[***One shuts down; The G-20 countries show rare unity at the virtual summit. They want to cooperate in the distribution of vaccines so that developing countries also benefit. US President Trump, however, is apparently unfamiliar with solidarity.***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:61C0-J9F1-JBF1-01T7-00000-00&context=)

Süddeutsche Zeitung

Monday 23 November 2020

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

**Length:** 873 words

**Byline:** BY DANIEL BRÖSSLER

**Body**

**Berlin** - It's almost like real life. When Saudi Arabia's limp King Salman speaks halting words of welcome at the beginning of the virtual G-20 summit, all that can be seen in the feed from Moscow is an empty white chair. Russian President Vladimir Putin, notorious for being a latecomer, remains true to himself even in Corona times.

Which also applies to Donald Trump. For a long time it had been open whether the US president-elect would even give a farewell performance at the G-20 summit. Before a trip to the golf course, he can then arrange to take part in the beginning of the video conference. However, the other heads of state and government experience him as they know him - unfocused. During the meeting, Trump tweets on his favourite topic, the alleged election fraud.

Saudi Arabia had imagined the meeting of the largest and most powerful economies differently and wanted to present itself to the world in Riyadh as a powerful but also responsible international player. The pandemic thwarted this, but also lent urgency to the summit, which had been moved to the digital world. "The Covid 19 pandemic was an unprecedented shock that affected the whole world in a very short time and led to economic and social losses," says the 84-year-old king. We will do our best "to overcome the crisis through international cooperation". That is the message of this video summit.

It is only openly countered by Trump. As expected, the current president refuses to commit to solidarity in the fight against the pandemic and to supplying poorer countries with vaccines. Instead, he regaled the participants with self-praise and announced that every American who wanted to would be vaccinated. Trump said that US companies Moderna and Pfizer had developed vaccines - ignoring Pfizer's German partner Biontech. On another issue at the summit, climate change, he again goes on record saying the Paris Agreement is "very unfair and one-sided".

Almost all the other participants are using the virtual stage to distance themselves from such egotism - especially since most are probably counting the days until Trump's successor, Joe Biden, is sworn in on 20 January. Putin offers the Sputnik V vaccine developed in his country and stresses that researchers are in the process of developing a second and third Corona vaccine. China stands by its commitment to make vaccine available to developing countries, says President Xi Jinping.

"If we stand together worldwide, we can control and overcome the virus and its consequences," promotes Chancellor Angela Merkel. In order to contain the pandemic, access to the vaccine must be "possible and affordable for every country". The almost five billion US dollars (4.2 billion ***euros***) provided so far in an international programme, more than a tenth of which came from Germany, were not enough.

In addition to providing more money, the World Health Organisation (WHO) must also be strengthened, Merkel demands. This also refers to Trump, who had ordered the USA to withdraw from the WHO - a decision that Biden intends to reverse immediately after taking office. French President Emmanuel Macron also emphasises the importance of the WHO. The WHO must develop a "fair mechanism" for distributing the vaccine. The pandemic requires a "global, coordinated and solidarity-based response". It cannot be that only people in the rich countries can protect themselves and return to normality.

South Africa's President Cyril Ramaphosa makes an urgent appeal to close the gap in funding for the global immunisation programme, which he puts at US$ 4.5 billion. Access to the vaccine must be "universal, fair and affordable". This could "immediately save lives" and "point the way out of this global crisis". But above all, Ramaphosa insists on a central concern of Africans, the most comprehensive debt relief possible.

Even before the summit began, the ***European Union*** had announced that it would push for further debt relief for the poorest countries. We are convinced that more debt relief is needed," said ***EU Council President*** Charles Michel. The development organisations One and Oxfam pointed out that the Corona crisis threatened to push more than 200 million people into extreme poverty. In October, the finance ministers and central bank governors of the G-20 decided to extend a debt moratorium until June 2021.

Italy's Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte urges a turning point at the summit 'to be able to respond to crises of the future'. His country will take over the G-20 presidency next year. Together with the ***EU Commission,*** he wants to host a global health summit - preferably in the real world.

**Chancellor Merkel calls for the World Health Organisation to be strengthened**

**South Africa's president insists on the most comprehensive debt relief possible**

**Graphic**

On-screen summit: The G-20 meeting hosted by Saudi Arabia took place virtually this time. For the last time, Donald Trump also took part. Photo: YOUSEF ALLAN/AFP

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject:** HEADS OF STATE & GOVERNMENT (92%); CORONAVIRUS COVID-19 (90%); INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS ORGANISATIONS (90%); PANDEMICS (90%); PRESIDENTS OF STATES (90%); US PRESIDENTS (90%); PUBLIC POLICY (90%); GERMAN CHANCELLORS (89%); DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (89%); EPIDEMICS (89%); VACCINES (89%); POLITICS (89%); ROYALTY & NOBILITY (78%); DRUG DEVELOPMENT & DISCOVERY (75%); VIRUSES (75%); HEALTH MINISTRIES (74%); VOTERS & ELECTIONS (72%); CURRENCIES (71%); UNITED NATIONS ORGANISATIONS (60%); ELECTION FRAUD (54%)

**Company:** PFIZER INC (53%)

**Ticker:** PFZ (LSE) (53%); PFE (NYSE) (53%)

**Industry:** NAICS325414 BIOLOGICAL PRODUCT (EXCEPT DIAGNOSTIC) MANUFACTURING (53%); NAICS325412 PHARMACEUTICAL PREPARATION MANUFACTURING (53%); NAICS325411 MEDICINAL & BOTANICAL MANUFACTURING (53%); SIC2836 BIOLOGICAL PRODUCTS, EXCEPT DIAGNOSTIC SUBSTANCES (53%); SIC2834 PHARMACEUTICAL PREPARATIONS (53%); SIC2833 MEDICINAL CHEMICALS & BOTANICAL PRODUCTS (53%); PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS MANUFACTURING (89%); VACCINES (89%); ROYALTY & NOBILITY (78%); DRUG DEVELOPMENT & DISCOVERY (75%); MINISTRIES OF HEALTH (74%); CURRENCIES (71%)

**Person:** DONALD TRUMP (92%); VLADIMIR PUTIN (90%); ANGELA MERKEL (88%); JOE BIDEN (79%); XI JINPING (78%)

**Geographic:** MOSCOW, RUSSIAN FEDERATION (79%); RIYADH, SAUDI ARABIA (79%); PARIS, FRANCE (77%); BERLIN, GERMANY (58%); NORTH AMERICA (92%); SAUDI ARABIA (90%); GERMANY (59%); CHINA (58%); RUSSIAN FEDERATION (58%).

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**End of Document**

[***TRADE POLICY; Wake-up call for Europe***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:61C0-J9F1-JBF1-01W2-00000-00&context=)

Süddeutsche Zeitung

Monday 23 November 2020

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

**Length:** 733 words

**Byline:** BY BJÖRN FINKE

**Body**

Actually, the ***EU*** wanted to forge the largest free trade zone in the world: through the treaty with the South American economic bloc Mercosur. It is ready to be signed, but because some ***EU states are*** sceptical, it is now threatened with cancellation. Meanwhile, China is creating facts. Last week, 13 Asian countries plus Australia and New Zealand joined forces to form the world's largest free trade zone - a zone that heavyweight China will naturally dominate. This is a slap in the face for the US, which wants to push back China's influence in the region. And it is a wake-up call for ***Europe***.

The ***EU Commission*** intends to publish a revised trade strategy soon anyway; the ***EU Parliament*** is already debating it at the end of this week. The new treaty must be both a reminder and an incentive: it is always gratifying when countries eliminate tariffs and simplify exports for the benefit of consumers and companies. Of course, it would be even nicer if the ***EU were*** among the beneficiaries - and not just its aggressive rival China. The agreement also shows that this rival is willing to step in when other economic powers such as the USA or perhaps the ***EU*** let treaties fall through. China is now stepping into a gap left by US President Donald Trump when he turned his back on a trade agreement with Pacific Rim countries.

However, it is also clear that the new RCEP agreement is no reason to panic. The ***EU*** has agreed its own trade agreements with members of this 'Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership': with Japan, South Korea, Singapore and Vietnam. Talks are ongoing with others such as Australia. And compared to the trade agreements the ***EU*** concludes, RCEP is not very ambitious, so it brings fewer benefits to companies. ***Europe's*** exporters will therefore still be able to do good business in RCEP countries. They do not have to fear that they will no longer stand a chance against Chinese exporters - but of course the competition against these RCEP beneficiaries will become tougher.

Therefore, the best response from Brussels would be to step up its own efforts to secure new trade agreements - in Asia and everywhere else. The ***EU Commission*** has been very successful for many years in opening markets with such agreements. But now, of all times, the Mercosur agreement is threatening a fiasco that would also burden future trade policy. If ***EU governments*** and the ***European Parliament*** actually refuse to approve the agreement with Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay and Paraguay, the ***EU***'s credibility would be shaken. Other countries around the world would then think very carefully about whether talks on trade agreements with Brussels are really worth the trouble.

Behind the rejection of the Mercosur treaty lies a fundamental problem: the overstretching of trade policy. Opponents complain that the ***EU*** should not release the agreement as long as Brazil's President Jair Bolsonaro does not stop the burning of the Amazon forest. The treaty even contains provisions on climate protection. However, critics complain that there are no severe penalties for violations. They are right, but that does not change the fact that the forest will continue to burn even without a treaty. With a treaty, the ***EU*** at least has the chance to exert influence. And if ***Europe*** buries the agreement, in case of doubt China is ready to sign a treaty - without any onerous climate regulations.

Climate protection and social standards are important, without question, and ***EU trade agreements*** should take these issues into account. But it is going too far to demand that agreements only be made with those states that share ***Europe's*** green ambition or commit to improving under harsh threats of punishment. Because trade policy cannot and must not exclusively serve a green agenda - there are other legitimate goals: Creating jobs and prosperity, increasing the ***EU***'s influence and diminishing that of rivals. A balance has to be struck between these goals and green goals in every single agreement. Those who no longer do this and see the agreements primarily as an instrument of climate protection are overburdening ***EU trade policy*** - and paralysing it at the worst possible time.

***EU trade policy* is overloaded with green objectives**

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject: *EUROPEAN UNION*** (91%); FREE TRADE AGREEMENTS (90%); TRADE AGREEMENTS (90%); PUBLIC POLICY (90%); EXPORT TRADE (89%); POLITICS (89%); LEGISLATIVE BODIES (78%); TRADE PROMOTION (78%); ***EUROPEAN*** UNION INSTITUTIONS (78%); HEADS OF STATE & GOVERNMENT (77%); US PRESIDENTS (75%); PERMITS (74%); PRESIDENTS OF STATES (74%); INTERNATIONAL TRADE LAW (73%); FORESTS & WOODLANDS (61%); ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION (60%)

**Organisation: *EUROPEAN UNION*** (91%); SOUTHERN COMMON MARKET (MERCOSUR) (84%); ***EUROPEAN*** PARLIAMENT (56%)

**Person:** DONALD TRUMP (79%)

**Geographic:** BRUSSELS, BELGIUM (73%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (95%); BRUSSELS CAPITAL REGION (92%); ***EUROPE (***93%); ASIA (92%); AUSTRALIA (92%); BRAZIL (90%); CHINA (90%); ARGENTINA (79%); AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND (79%); NEW ZEALAND (79%); NORTH AMERICA (79%); PARAGUAY (79%); SINGAPORE (79%); SOUTH AMERICA (79%); URUGUAY (79%); VIETNAM (79%); JAPAN (58%); SOUTH KOREA (58%)

**Load-Date:** November 23, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Just don't show any weakness; Poland's veto against the EUbudget shows: The real threat to Kaczy&nacute;ski's government comes not from the demonstrating women, but from the right.***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:61C0-J9F1-JBF1-01VN-00000-00&context=)

Süddeutsche Zeitung

Monday 23 November 2020

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**Section:** Feature article; Munich; Bavaria; p. 12

**Length:** 1155 words

**Byline:** By Konstanty Gebert

**Body**

The threat by Hungary and Poland to block the ***EU budget*** and the reconstruction fund if the conditions attached to them on the rule of law are not changed follows a familiar pattern. It is like someone throwing wild insults around and at the same time insisting on freedom of speech: If you ban the troublemaker from speaking, you are undoubtedly restricting freedom of expression in order to preserve the public peace. But because this 'public peace' could be abused to restrict freedom of expression elsewhere, one considers whether it is perhaps the lesser evil to simply let him shout.

Warsaw and Budapest see the commitment to the rule of law as an unjustified attack on their national sovereignty that must be rejected on principle alone. But watering down this commitment would only reinforce the two countries' belief that they can get out of the affair by blackmail. In reality, Hungary and Poland are not defending principles, but only the right to continue plundering ***EU subsidies at*** will.

Nevertheless, their outcry is met with sympathy in the ***EU,*** also because the latter is still traumatised: the Brexit was ultimately only possible because the protests of a member state had been ignored for a long time, however groundless they may have been. The two rebels are therefore hoping that either the German ***EU presidency will*** buckle or its successor Portugal will give in to their blackmail, since Lisbon is suffering badly from the consequences of the pandemic, even more badly than Hungary or Poland. And if that also goes wrong, there is always Slovenia, which is the next but one country to take over the ***EU presidency*** and which basically agrees with Poland and Hungary. Kaczy&nacute;ski and Orbán are gamblers and they play with perseverance.

But gambling can be dangerous. In the end, the reconstruction plan could be separated from the ***EU structures*** and simply adopted by the 25 remaining states. That would hit Orbán less hard than Kaczy&nacute;ski. The ***EU*** is not very popular in Hungary and the commitment to the rule of law is a first threat to Orbán's corrupt business. Poland, on the other hand, is the country with the greatest ***enthusiasm for Europe in the*** entire community, with 84 per cent of Poles professing support for the ***EU***. Moreover, Poland's government is more likely to plunder its own country's coffers than those of the ***EU*** - even if the PiS government has just financed the purchase of 308 new limousines with money from the ***EU refugee aid fund.*** So what is Kaczy&nacute;ski all about?

He had no other choice. While Orbán is burying Hungary, Poland's opposition, though gutted in parliament, is anything but stifled. There were protests in the streets even before the pro-abortion marches, which have grown into the largest civil resistance since the Solidarity movement in 1980. Independent media are growing and thriving - and a still large proportion of judges give protection to both. Because the ruling party's six-vote majority is as razor-thin as the opposition's one-vote majority in the Senate, Poland cannot simply wave through a law or, as Orbán did, rewrite the constitution to secure its own power. The refusal of the Polish judiciary to bend under pressure inspires democrats everywhere; and it is also a sword of Damocles hanging over the government. If the rule of law mechanism condition remains, the sword may fall - and Kaczy&nacute;ski will have nowhere to run.

When he initially threatened the veto, he was still sure that he would never need to escape. The ***EU summit in*** June, where the Rule of Law Mechanism was agreed, took place shortly after the election in Poland, where incumbent President Andrzej Duda was re-elected president for the next five years.

It was then mainly the right-wingers who called on Kaczy&nacute;skis to resist: the former justice minister Zbigniew Ziobro had argued that even the watered-down version of the rule of law mechanism was an 'attack by Germany on Poland's independence' and only the end of the rat's tail with which Brussels wanted to impose its 'corrupt, anti-national, anti-Christian' values on Poland. First would come the rule of law, then gay rights, adoption procedures for homosexual couples, and eventually the whole Western 'civilisation of death' with its abortions, paedophilia and euthanasia, not to mention women's rights. And once they are there, it is not far to refugees and Muslims.

Normally, this would be music to Kaczy&nacute;ski's ears, but the PiS leader had previously had a heated argument with Ziobro, who had once opposed him and left the party, but was now making demands again, demanding guaranteed seats for his people on the electoral lists. To put Ziobro in his place, Kaczy&nacute;ski waived his veto at the last EU summit and the situation seemed calm for three years. Until suddenly the second wave of the pandemic came and all hell broke loose. The second wave exposed how bankrupt and corrupt the government's political strategy had been during the pandemic. The Constitutional Court's decision to virtually ban abortion brought hundreds of thousands onto the streets, and even the support of a grateful Catholic Church, behind the ruling party but compromised, could not offset the political damage. The government suddenly looked weak and vulnerable. And when thousands of right-wingers took to the streets on Independence Day to protest against the pandemic measures and fought bloody battles with the police, even setting fire to a flat, it suddenly became clear that there is also a right-wing conservative alternative to the PiS party - on the streets and, as Ziobro hopes, eventually in parliament. Without the 18 votes of his parliamentary group, the PiS government collapses.

The veto is an attempt by Kaczy&nacute;ski to regain control over the right and to show: Support for PiS is a sign of patriotism and against - German! - interference. With a united political establishment in Poland and a divided ***Europe,*** this could work. But what if it is the other way round?

**Konstanty Gebert** is a book author and columnist for the Polish daily Gazeta Wyborcza. Translated from English by Marlene Knobloch.

**Kaczy&nacute;ski and Orbán are gamblers, and they play with perseverance**

**The veto is an attempt to regain control over the Right**

**Graphic**

Unlike in Hungary, the Polish opposition is as alive as ever: demonstration in Warsaw. Photo: dpa

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject:** STATE BUDGETS (91%); ***EUROPEAN UNION (***90%); FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION (90%); RULE OF LAW (90%); PROTESTS & DEMONSTRATIONS (89%); EU PRESIDENCY (78%); LEGISLATIVE BODIES (78%); RIOTS & REBELLIONS (75%); BREXIT (73%); BLACKMAIL (73%); JUDGES (72%); CORRUPTION (70%); POLITICAL PARTIES (70%); REFUGEES (69%); ABORTION (50%); EPIDEMICS (50%)

**Industry:** STATE BUDGETS (91%)

**Geographic:** BUDAPEST, HUNGARY (79%); LISBON, PORTUGAL (79%); WARSAW, POLAND (79%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (96%); POLAND (94%); HUNGARY (94%); SLOVENIA (79%); ***EUROPE (***58%); PORTUGAL (58%)

**Load-Date:** November 23, 2020

**End of Document**

[***TURKEY; Erdo&gbreve;an discovered Europe***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:61C0-J9F1-JBF1-01T0-00000-00&context=)

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Monday 23 November 2020

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

**Length:** 228 words

**Byline:** TOMAS AVENARIUS

**Body**

As tough and unforgiving as the Turkish president is with his political opponents, he is agile and willing to compromise when it comes to staying in power. Domestically, Recep Tayyip Erdo&gbreve;an is almost up to his neck at the moment. Above all, the poor economic situation threatens his rule. Now Turkey is also threatened with sanctions from Brussels and the USA.

The policy of targeted provocation in the search for oil and gas in the Mediterranean, the aggressive, militarised foreign policy from North Africa to the South Caucasus and a way of dealing with the domestic opposition that is often enough devoid of any rule of law - Erdo&gbreve;an will have known that at some point he would get the bill for his policy of 'no one can do me'.

But the power politician is strongest when he fights. And he is a pragmatist who has already made many a surprising turn. In this respect, his new willingness to reform - "Turkey sees itself in ***Europe***" - must be viewed with due scepticism on the one hand. On the other hand, such opportunistic and questionable U-turns often result in political opportunities. With regard to Turkey, the strategic goal must always remain to keep the country in ***Europe.***

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject:** POLITICS (90%); PUBLIC POLICY (90%); PRESIDENTS OF STATE (78%); EMBARGOES & SANCTIONS (73%); FOREIGN POLICY (71%); LEGISLATION (55%)

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

**Geographic:** BRUSSELS, BELGIUM (56%); TURKEY (94%); ***EUROPE (***93%); NORTH AFRICA (79%); BELGIUM (73%)

**Load-Date:** November 23, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Showdown between London and Brussels; This Monday it will become clear whether Britain and the EU part amicably. 'No deal' would be poison for the economy***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:61G0-4TR1-DXX2-P1K3-00000-00&context=)

Süddeutsche Zeitung

Monday 7 December 2020

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

**Length:** 492 words

**Byline:** BJÖRN FINKE, ALEXANDER MÜHLAUER

**Body**

**Brussels/London** - In the Brexit dispute, Britain and the ***European Union*** want to make a final attempt to reach a free trade agreement. This is the final throw of the dice," said a British government representative on Saturday evening, "a fair deal must be struck that works for both sides. Earlier, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson and ***EU Commission President*** Ursula von der Leyen had agreed in a phone call to continue negotiations despite significant differences.

On Monday evening, they want to talk again and clarify whether the three remaining points of dispute could be resolved by then. Still unresolved are the fishing quotas for ***EU fishermen*** in British waters, requirements for fair competition between companies in Britain and in the ***EU,*** and the question of how disputes are to be settled. London and Brussels accused each other over the weekend of overrunning the negotiations with new demands, making it more difficult to reach an agreement. In diplomatic circles, this was seen as a so-called *blame game*, in which neither side wants to be to blame for a failure of the talks.

Without a trade agreement, a hard break looms in less than four weeks: The United Kingdom may have already left the ***EU*** at the end of January, but citizens and businesses will only really feel it at the beginning of January. This is because the Brexit transition period, in which the UK is still part of the ***EU single market*** and customs union, ends at the turn of the year. If a trade agreement cannot be concluded in December, customs duties and controls will be introduced from January onwards, to the detriment of companies and consumers.

Even before the weekend, this Monday had been mentioned in Brussels and London as the last deadline by which it must be clear whether an agreement is possible. After that, a deal would become even more difficult because Johnson wants to reintroduce his controversial Single Market Bill into the House of Commons on Monday evening. The legislation would undermine parts of the valid withdrawal agreement and is therefore seen by Brussels as a provocation and a breach of trust. If the legislative process were to continue, it would be an enormous burden on the talks on the trade agreement. If, on the other hand, there were agreement on a deal by Monday evening, Johnson would no longer need this legislation at all.

Downing Street made it clear on Sunday that the prime minister had the full support of his cabinet even in the event of a no-deal scenario. Earlier, Brexit supporters in Johnson's Conservative Party had warned of a revolt should the prime minister sell out to the ***EU.*** A British government representative said that an agreement with Brussels would only be reached if the ***European Union was*** prepared to respect the sovereignty of the United Kingdom.

**Classification**

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**Subject: *EUROPEAN UNION*** (93%); BREXIT (90%); FREE TRADE AGREEMENTS (90%); TRADE AGREEMENTS (90%); TRADE PROMOTION (90%); INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORGANISATIONS (90%); POLITICS (90%); LEGISLATION (89%); PRIME MINISTERS (89%); HEADS OF STATE & GOVERNMENT (89%); PUBLIC POLICY (89%); BRITISH PARLIAMENT (78%); FISHERIES BILL (78%); TALKS & MEETINGS (78%); BRITISH PRIME MINISTERS (77%); POLITICAL PARTIES (77%); FISHING AGREEMENT (74%); TARIFFS (72%)

**Industry:** FISHERIES (78%); FISHERIES (74%)

**Person:** BORIS JOHNSON (79%); URSULA VON DER LEYEN (79%)

**Geographic:** BRUSSELS, BELGIUM (90%); LONDON, ENGLAND (90%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (97%); BRUSSELS CAPITAL REGION (94%); UNITED KINGDOM (93%); BELGIUM (88%); ***EUROPE*** (88%).

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[***BREXIT; Sovereign, once upon a time***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:61G0-4TR1-DXX2-P1KS-00000-00&context=)

Süddeutsche Zeitung

Monday 7 December 2020

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

**Length:** 563 words

**Byline:** BY BJÖRN FINKE

**Body**

It would be an act of economic vandalism and an unparalleled embarrassment: Monday evening it could be clear whether the negotiations between Britain and the ***EU will*** fail. If so, tariffs and customs controls would be introduced at the turn of the year, and relations would be severely strained for the foreseeable future. In Moscow and in Beijing and in Donald Trump's White House, there would be celebration that rival ***Europe is*** weakening itself. In the rest of the world, people would shake their heads in wonder why two partners so closely intertwined cannot manage a sensible separation after 47 years of marriage.

So the stakes are very high. Nevertheless, in what may be the last attempt at unification, the ***EU*** should not give up any important demands now, just so that a trade deal can be concluded after all. The two chief negotiators Michel Barnier and Lord David Frost have two days, Sunday and Monday, to bridge the gaps. One of the most difficult is the so-called *level playing field*: the question of how to prevent companies in Britain - or the ***EU*** - from enjoying unfair advantages in the future. Brussels only wants to grant the British duty-free access to the huge ***European*** market if London commits not to slash costly social or environmental standards and to follow a similar approach on subsidies.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson sees this as a restriction of British sovereignty and points out that the ***EU*** has waived such requirements in other trade agreements, for example with Canada. However, other ***EU agreements do provide for*** rules on standards and subsidies, albeit more lax ones. The dream of some Brexit campaigners that withdrawal would bring back pure, unrestricted sovereignty will not be fulfilled, because in today's interconnected world such sovereignty no longer exists. And Brussels' insistence on stricter rules is reasonable because the UK is not Canada: the UK is a rival on our doorstep whose economy is closely linked to that of the ***EU.***

If the ***EU*** were to give in here, the path to agreement would be clear - but Brussels would have sold out duty-free access to the market. That would be a fatal signal to China and the USA. In competition with these powers, the ***EU*** wants to be more self-confident: for example, with stricter rules against the unfair machinations of dominant US internet companies or subsidised state-owned companies from China. It is not appropriate to give in to Great Britain, an economic power of only medium importance, in the dispute over fair competition.

Instead, the ***EU*** should accommodate Johnson in the dispute over fishing quotas in British waters. If his fishermen were allowed to catch significantly more, that would be an enormous symbolic success for the prime minister, even if the industry is completely insignificant economically. Fishermen in ***EU states*** like France would suffer, but the regions could count on lavish help from Brussels. France's President Emmanuel Macron nevertheless fears fishermen's protests and is pushing for a hard line. But if Macron is really as ardent a ***European as*** he always claims, he must give in - to avoid embarrassment.

**If Macron is really such a fervent *European*, he should give in on the subject of fish**

**Classification**

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**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

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

**Industry:** FISHERY OWNERSHIP (78%); FISHERY OWNERSHIP (70%)

**Person:** BORIS JOHNSON (79%); DONALD TRUMP (77%)

**Geographic:** BRUSSELS, BELGIUM (90%); LONDON, ENGLAND (79%); MOSCOW, RUSSIAN FEDERATION (79%); PEKING, CHINA (79%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (94%); BRUSSELS CAPITAL REGION (94%); UNITED KINGDOM (94%); FRANCE (91%); CANADA (91%); ***EUROPE (***90%); CHINA (88%); BELGIUM (79%); EAST ASIA (58%).

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**End of Document**

[***The next step; The EUCommission approves the first vaccine against Covid-19. The European European Medicines Agency rejects accusations that the testing procedure took an unnecessarily long time.***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:61K5-PK01-DXX2-P356-00000-00&context=)

Süddeutsche Zeitung

Tuesday 22 December 2020

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

**Length:** 845 words

**Byline:** BY KAROLINE META BEISEL AND KATHRIN ZINKANT

**Body**

**Berlin/Hamburg** - Emer Cooke was proud: she was "delighted" that the ***European*** Medicines Agency (EMA) was able to recommend the first vaccine against Covid-19 for approval in the ***EU,*** the EMA head said at a press conference in Amsterdam on Monday afternoon. This means that a vaccine has been developed to market maturity in less than a year. This is truly a historic scientific achievement," Cooke said. The EMA recommends the vaccine developed by the companies Biontech and Pfizer for people aged 16 and over - but not for pregnant women for the time being, because too few pregnant women have taken part in the clinical trials so far. For expectant mothers, the decision should therefore be made on a case-by-case basis, also taking into account the respective risk of infection.

With the recommendation, the vaccine has cleared an important hurdle for approval in the ***European*** Union. However, it is not the EMA but the ***EU Commission that is*** responsible for this decision. Its President Ursula von der Leyen declared on Monday evening that the Commission would grant the vaccine conditional marketing authorisation. Vaccinations are then to begin ***throughout the EU from*** 26 December, a Commission spokesperson said last Friday.

Her staff have been working 'day and night', Cooke said on Monday. Nevertheless, mainland Europe is lagging behind the UK, where the first vaccinations were administered worldwide, by almost two weeks. This has caused resentment in recent days - and a lot of pressure on the EMA. The head of the EMA, Cooke, said that her authority had only been guided by the scientific facts in the review process, "and nothing else".

The fact that the ***EU*** took longer than Great Britain, but also countries like the USA, where President-elect Joe Biden had himself vaccinated in front of running cameras on Monday, is mainly due to the different approval procedures: Great Britain brought the Biontech vaccine onto the market via emergency approval, thus allowing the temporary use of the vaccine that had not yet been properly approved. The ***EU countries,*** on the other hand, opted for a so-called 'conditional marketing authorisation'. Politicians such as the CDU MEP Peter Liese consider this to be safer, as it includes a more comprehensive assessment of the quality, safety and effectiveness of the vaccine.

In addition, there are differences in liability: In Great Britain, the state is liable for any damage. In the ***EU***'s conditional marketing authorisation, the companies are liable. The member states hope to increase acceptance through more detailed testing. It is clear to us that vaccines can only help if citizens have enough confidence in the approval process to get vaccinated," said EMA head Cooke.

The fact that the vaccine now has a 'conditional' marketing authorisation means that Biontech must continue to provide data to the EMA even after approval. The chairman of the responsible EMA committee, the German physician Harald Enzmann, said on Monday that it is not yet known, for example, whether the vaccine only prevents the outbreak of Covid-19 - or even the infection with the Corona virus. Further data will also be collected on the vaccination of children and pregnant women. In contrast, the study situation is already good for older people over 75 years of age: More than 800 participants from this age group have received both the active substance and the placebo.

Before the vaccine is available, the Paul Ehrlich Institute, the Federal Institute for Vaccines and Biomedical Products, checks whether the batches supplied meet the required standards. So far, the federal government has ordered about 86 million doses of the Biontech vaccine and another 50.5 million doses of the vaccine from the competitor Moderna via the ***European*** contracts and national agreements. The US company already has approval in the United States, and in early January the EMA also plans to make a decision in this regard for ***Europe***.

CDU politician Liese warned that vaccines would still be in short supply for a while. Nobody has enough vaccine to vaccinate even the risk groups in the next few weeks. But things will improve in the spring and, depending on how the further expansion of the production process succeeds, will improve significantly again in the summer or autumn', said Liese.

The head of the authorities, Cooke, also warned that the pandemic is not over yet: "Vaccines are not a magic bullet that will allow us to return to our normal lives. People should continue to wear masks, wash their hands and keep their distance from each other wherever possible. Nevertheless, cautious optimism is in order: the positive recommendation for the Biontech vaccine is an indication that 2021 could be a better year than 2020 was.

**Even after approval, Biontech must continue to provide data to the EMA**

**Graphic**

The infrastructure is already in place: in many places in ***Europe,*** the authorities have set up vaccination centres, like here in the Arena Berlin. Before the vaccine is available, the Paul Ehrlich Institute in Germany is still checking whether the batches supplied meet the required standards. Photo: Hannibal Hanschke(picture alliance/dpa/reuters

**Classification**

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**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject:** VACCINES (99%); ***EUROPEAN*** UNION INSTITUTIONS (93%); CORONAVIRUS COVID-19 (92%); ***EUROPEAN UNION*** (92%); COVID-19 VACCINE (90%); PREGNANCY & CHILDBIRTH (90%); PUBLIC POLICY (90%); LICENSING (89%); VACCINATION & IMMUNISATION (89%); HEADS OF STATE & GOVERNMENT (89%); DRUG DEVELOPMENT & DISCOVERY (78%); DOCTORS (78%); INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS ORGANISATIONS (77%); POLITICS (77%); DISEASES & HEALTH COMPLAINTS (76%); HEALTH CARE (77%); HEALTH CARE (77%); AND HEALTH COMPLAINTS (76%); POLITICAL PARTIES (76%); CLINICAL TRIALS (72%); PRESS CONFERENCES (72%); GERMAN POLITICAL PARTIES (71%)

**Company:** PFIZER INC (57%)

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

**Ticker:** PFZ (LSE) (57%); PFE (NYSE) (57%)

**Industry:** NAICS325414 BIOLOGICAL PRODUCT (EXCEPT DIAGNOSTIC) MANUFACTURING (57%); NAICS325412 PHARMACEUTICAL PREPARATION MANUFACTURING (57%); NAICS325411 MEDICINAL & BOTANICAL MANUFACTURING (57%); SIC2836 BIOLOGICAL PRODUCTS, EXCEPT DIAGNOSTIC SUBSTANCES (57%); SIC2834 PHARMACEUTICAL PREPARATIONS (57%); SIC2833 MEDICINAL CHEMICALS & BOTANICAL PRODUCTS (57%); VACCINES (99%); COVID-19 VACCINE (90%); PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING (90%); VACCINATION & IMMUNISATION (89%); DRUG DEVELOPMENT & DISCOVERY (78%); PHYSICIANS (78%); CLINICAL TRIALS (72%)

**Person:** URSULA VON DER LEYEN (77%); JOE BIDEN (70%)

**Geographic:** AMSTERDAM, NETHERLANDS (58%); BERLIN, GERMANY (58%); HAMBURG, GERMANY (58%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (97%); ***EUROPE*** (92%); UNITED KINGDOM (90%).

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[***Between hope and concern; In the EU the first Corona vaccine is approved. The German government fears that the mutated variant of the virus will accelerate infections. At European European borders are in chaos***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:61K5-PK01-DXX2-P33C-00000-00&context=)

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

**Length:** 498 words

**Byline:** BY KAROLINE META BEISEL, DANIEL BRÖSSLER, ALEXANDER MÜHLAUER

**Body**

**Brussels/Berlin/London** - The German government fears an aggravation of the already tense infection situation due to the mutation of the novel coronavirus detected in Great Britain. Foreign Minister Heiko Maas (SPD) said in Berlin on Monday that there was still a lack of conclusive information. But we have to be careful," he stressed. It is important to keep the mutation, as an "additional potential accelerator of the pandemic, out of Germany and continental Europe as far as possible", said Deputy Government Spokesperson Ulrike Demmer.

On Monday evening, the ***EU Commission*** granted conditional marketing authorisation to the Covid 19 vaccine from the companies Biontech and Pfizer. Previously, the ***European*** Medicines Agency (EMA) had given the green light for the approval. Vaccinations are scheduled to begin in Germany on 27 December.

Meanwhile, Germany banned passenger flights from the UK until 31 December. Numerous countries in the ***EU*** and around the world took similar measures. However, it was questionable whether the spread of the mutated virus could be prevented at all. It is already in Italy, in Holland, in Belgium, in Denmark, even in Australia, why shouldn't it be in Germany?" said the Berlin virologist Christian Drosten on Deutschlandfunk. The question is "whether this virus is more transmissible". So far, he was not 'very worried'. British Prime Minister Boris Johnson had said that the new variant was 70 per cent more contagious.

The ***EU states met*** in Brussels to discuss a joint approach. According to information from ***EU circles, they also discussed*** how stranded British citizens could be brought back. A spokeswoman for the German Foreign Office, however, said that the question of a repatriation campaign was not currently being discussed. She referred to the fact that train connections would probably only be interrupted for a short time.

The German government was also concerned about the situation in South Africa, where a mutation was also detected. On Monday, there were still flights to ***Europe*** from there, but an interruption was being considered. The spokeswoman rejected "speculation" as to whether holidaymakers would have to be brought back from South Africa. After the outbreak of the pandemic in spring, 240,000 Germans were brought home from all over the world. Foreign Minister Maas warned that there could be no repetition on this scale.

The British government was trying to reach an agreement with France so that the movement of goods between the two countries could be resumed. Prime Minister Johnson said on Monday evening that after a phone call with French President Macron, he was hopeful that the problem could be resolved 'in the next few hours'. He said it must be ensured that lorry drivers could travel 'covid-free' in both directions. British associations warned of severe consequences for the food supply of the population.

**Pages 2, 4, 6, Knowledge**

**Graphic**

Vaccinations are to start on 27 December: According to Health Minister Spahn, the vaccination centres are ready - like this one in Berlin. Photo: Hanschke/dpa

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**Company:** PFIZER INC (57%); DEUTSCHLANDFUNK (55%)

**Ticker:** PFZ (LSE) (57%); PFE (NYSE) (57%)

**Industry:** NAICS325414 BIOLOGICAL PRODUCT (EXCEPT DIAGNOSTIC) MANUFACTURING (57%); NAICS325412 PHARMACEUTICAL PREPARATION MANUFACTURING (57%); NAICS325411 MEDICINAL & BOTANICAL MANUFACTURING (57%); SIC2836 BIOLOGICAL PRODUCTS, EXCEPT DIAGNOSTIC SUBSTANCES (57%); SIC2834 PHARMACEUTICAL PREPARATIONS (57%); SIC2833 MEDICINAL CHEMICALS & BOTANICAL PRODUCTS (57%); SIC4822 TELEGRAPH & OTHER MESSAGE COMMUNICATIONS (55%); VACCINES (94%); COVID-19 VACCINE (90%); VACCINATION & IMMUNISATION (90%); VIROLOGY (71%)

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

**Geographic:** BERLIN, GERMANY (88%); BRUSSELS, BELGIUM (73%); LONDON, ENGLAND (58%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (94%); BRUSSELS CAPITAL REGION (90%); UNITED KINGDOM (91%); GERMANY (90%); ***EUROPE (90%);*** FRANCE (88%); SOUTH AFRICA (88%); AUSTRALIA (73%); BELGIUM (73%); DENMARK (73%); ITALY (58%); NETHERLANDS (58%).

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[***European European Medicines Agency recommends marketing authorisation, paving the way for the use of the first Covid 19 vaccine in Europe. Europe Europe. The first people could then be immunised in Germany after Christmas. The most important questions and answers on the new Corona vaccine***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:61K5-PK01-DXX2-P36C-00000-00&context=)

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

**Length:** 1359 words

**Byline:** BY HANNO CHARISIUS

**Body**

On Monday, the ***European*** Medicines Agency EMA cleared the way for approval of the first vaccine against the new coronavirus in the ***EU***, now the ***EU Commission has*** to decide. If everything goes as planned, the first people in Germany could be immunised against the pathogen by injection on 27 December.

**What kind of vaccine should now be approved?**

BNT162b2 is a so-called mRNA vaccine, which is being developed and manufactured by the corporate team Biontech/Pfizer. In the body, mRNA normally represents a biological messenger between the genetic substance DNA and the protein factories that convert genetic blueprints into biomolecules. Also according to the instructions of the injected vaccine mRNA, a protein is produced, a piece of the virus that serves as a warning shot to the immune system. It subsequently recognises the pathogen more quickly in the event of an infection and can eliminate it before the vaccinated person becomes ill. The mRNA is not incorporated into the human genome, but decays very quickly. This vaccine is administered in two doses about three weeks apart.

**How well is one protected with it?**

This is still unclear. What is certain, however, according to current data, is that this vaccine provides very good protection against the disease. The efficacy is reported to be 95 percent - across broad age groups and in different ethnic groups. There are also indications that in the rare case of an illness, the vaccine ensures a milder course. So far, however, there is a lack of data on the question of whether vaccinated people can spread the virus even if they do not fall ill. Many experts doubt that "sterile immunity" can be established with mRNA vaccines, but initial data suggest that vaccinated people at least excrete less virus than unvaccinated people.

**Do vaccinated people still have to wear masks?**

Both the vaccine now approved by the companies Biontech/Pfizer and the one expected to follow soon from Moderna probably do not create completely sterile immunity, i.e. even vaccinated people can still pass on the pathogen, although probably in smaller quantities. It is known from animal experiments that vaccinated monkeys do not become ill when infected with Sars-CoV-2, but they do have live viruses in their noses, which they can also spread. For this reason, vaccinated people cannot be exempted from wearing masks and should not do without them, even for their own protection. They should also continue to observe the distance and hygiene rules and ventilate regularly. Although the first two vaccines are extremely effective, no one is guaranteed protection. The extent to which future vaccines will provide sterile immunity is still unclear.

**Are side effects known?**

In the clinical trials, the mRNA vaccines have been shown to rev up the immune system to such an extent that some people feel significant vaccination reactions. In many cases, they are described as brief but severe. They start with a swollen arm, cold symptoms can set in, but also chills and fever. Up to five percent of subjects in registration trials had temporary severe symptoms, so some experts recommend not scheduling important appointments on the days after the two vaccinations. The body also sometimes reacts violently to flu vaccinations and other immunisations. Even 30 percent of the trial participants who were vaccinated with a placebo rather than the Corona vaccine in the clinical trials complained of such vaccine reactions. In the vaccination group, some people reported swollen lymph nodes, and a very small number reported paralysed facial nerves, although in the latter case a link to the vaccination is unclear. By the weekend, the Biontech-Pfizer vaccine had been injected more than 270 000 times in the USA. Severe allergic reactions occurred in six cases. People who have already had an allergic reaction to a vaccination are strongly advised to tell their doctor. If many people are vaccinated, the likelihood of severe side effects developing in individual cases increases. The tolerability of the vaccines will therefore continue to be monitored even after they have been approved. Experts emphasise that the theoretical risks of vaccination must be weighed against the real danger of infection. Roughly estimated, one in a hundred infected people die from the virus; about two in a hundred have to be treated in intensive care.

**Could complications still occur a few years after vaccination?**

Real long-term experience is not yet available barely four months after the first administration of the vaccine to a larger group of test subjects. The trial participants are to be monitored for two years. In the past, the rare documented vaccine damage usually occurred quite soon after vaccination and not decades later. However, it is not true that there is no long-term experience with mRNA vaccines, as is often claimed: vaccines of this type have already been tested on humans for more than five years against other infectious diseases and have so far proven to be very tolerable in these studies.

**How are side effects and long-term consequences monitored?**

Side effects of vaccines are rare, but can never be completely ruled out', says the Federal Ministry of Health. Therefore, when introducing new Covid 19 vaccines, 'active monitoring of the effectiveness and safety of the vaccines is absolutely essential'. Vaccination complications can be reported directly to the Paul Ehrlich Institute via the website nebenwirkungen.bund.de. Anyone can report via the form if he or she suspects a connection with the vaccination. Doctors, pharmacists and companies are obliged to make the reports. Federal Health Minister Jens Spahn announced that side effects can soon also be reported via a dedicated app.

**Is there a central documentation of the vaccinated?**

According to the Federal Ministry of Health, non-personal data is used to monitor the vaccination rate in the population. A system has been specially developed by the Robert Koch Institute for this purpose and is to be used both in vaccination centres and by mobile teams.

**Who gets which vaccine?**

After the Biontech-Pfizer vaccine, the next vaccine approval by the EMA is already expected in January, and further vaccines could be available in a few months. The Standing Commission on Vaccination at the Robert Koch Institute is to develop recommendations for which groups of people which vaccines are particularly suitable.

**Should people who have had Sars-CoV-2 infection be vaccinated?**

Formerly infected people have very different amounts of antibodies in their blood that can protect them from a new infection. It is also unclear how long this protection lasts. That is why many experts are of the opinion that people who have been infected once should also be vaccinated. The vaccines used so far trigger a very strong antibody response that may last longer than that triggered by an infection,' says Eleanor Riley, professor of immunology and infectious diseases at the University of Edinburgh. It is also logistically impossible to test everyone for antibodies before vaccination. It's much easier, faster, cheaper and less risky if everyone is vaccinated. In mid-December, the president of the Robert Koch Institute, Lothar Wieler, also rejected an antibody test before vaccination in order to put those already infected at the back of the queue. According to current knowledge, less than ten percent of the population - including the number of unreported cases - have been infected with the coronavirus so far.

**Will there be compulsory vaccination?**

So far, the federal government has clearly ruled out a general vaccination obligation.

**Graphic**

Two doses of the Covid 19 vaccine are injected about three weeks apart. Photo: Chris Jackson/dpa

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**Company:** PFIZER INC (57%)

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

**Ticker:** PFZ (LSE) (57%); PFE (NYSE) (57%)

**Industry:** NAICS325414 BIOLOGICAL PRODUCT (EXCEPT DIAGNOSTIC) MANUFACTURING (57%); NAICS325412 PHARMACEUTICAL PREPARATION MANUFACTURING (57%); NAICS325411 MEDICINAL & BOTANICAL MANUFACTURING (57%); SIC2836 BIOLOGICAL PRODUCTS, EXCEPT DIAGNOSTIC SUBSTANCES (57%); SIC2834 PHARMACEUTICAL PREPARATIONS (57%); SIC2833 MEDICINAL CHEMICALS & BOTANICAL PRODUCTS (57%); VACCINES (99%); COVID-19 VACCINE (91%); ANTIVIRAL DRUGS (90%); MANUFACTURE OF PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS (90%); VACCINATION & IMMUNISATION (90%); CLINICAL TRIALS (73%)

**Geographic: *EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (88%); ***EUROPE*** (88%); GERMANY (74%)

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[***Agreement in a downward spiral; Whether the nuclear deal with Iran can still be saved will be decided in the coming weeks and months - after Joe Biden takes office as the new US President***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:61K5-PK01-DXX2-P35S-00000-00&context=)

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

**Length:** 873 words

**Byline:** PAUL-ANTON KRÜGER

**Body**

**Munich** - It is the first meeting of foreign ministers since the UN General Assembly in September 2019, when the participating states in the nuclear agreement with Iran sat together in New York. France's President Emmanuel Macron had secure lines and a hotel suite reserved. A few weeks earlier, he asked Tehran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Sarif to attend the G7 summit in Biarritz. The plan: Macron wanted to arrange a meeting or at least a phone call between US President Donald Trump and his Iranian counterpart Hassan Rohani - the big breakthrough between the old enemies after Trump's exit from the nuclear deal in May 2018.

As is well known, nothing came of this. And so the results of Monday's consultations sound much more modest; because of the Corona pandemic, the ministers spoke only by video conference. A joint statement by Great Britain, France, Germany, China, Russia and Iran said they appreciated the "prospect of a return of the USA" to the agreement. The new US president-elect, Joe Biden, has repeatedly stated that he wants to bring the US back into the agreement. Due to US law, his transition team cannot respond to a corresponding offer of talks from the ***Europeans*** until after he officially takes office on 20 January.

However, the foreign ministers stressed their willingness to take up Biden's announcement "positively in a joint effort". German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas made it clear in Berlin that the ***Europeans do*** not see Washington alone as being responsible. The agreement has been in a "downward spiral" since the US withdrawal in May 2018, he said. However, it was not only the "strategy of maximum pressure" on the part of the US government that had contributed to the downward spiral, but also "the serious Iranian violations" of the agreement. It must not remain with "mere commitments" to the agreement. Maas demanded that there should be no further tactical manoeuvres that would further undermine the agreement. He specifically mentioned Iran's attempts to expand the capacity of the uranium enrichment plant in Natans. The capitals are also concerned about indications that both Natans and the Fordow facility, which is buried deep under a mountain, are being expanded - satellite images from recent days suggest such activities.

In the coming weeks and months it will be decided "whether it will be possible to save the agreement or not", said Maas. The "last window of opportunity" must be used. ***European*** diplomats assume that after the Biden administration takes office in the USA on 20 January, there will be only a few months left to reach an agreement with Tehran before the election campaign for the presidency begins in Iran. In mid-June, the Islamic Republic will elect a successor to the incumbent Hassan Rohani, who will not be allowed to run again. Iran's Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, had recently given Rohani a conditional mandate to return to the deal. He said he supported the government as long as it adhered to the nation's goals. If a lifting of sanctions can be achieved, "we should not delay it even for an hour", he said in a speech in Tehran on Friday. Khamenei, on the other hand, has repeatedly ruled out further negotiations.

The USA as well as the ***Europeans*** demand that Iran again strictly comply with all provisions of the agreement. Clear rules and strict inspections must ensure that Iran "has no path to the nuclear bomb". In addition, Biden's designated security adviser, Jake Sullivan, as well as the ***Europeans, are*** calling for negotiations on follow-up agreements. These must also deal with Iran's missile programme and the role of the Islamic Republic in the region, which Maas described as "increasingly difficult".

However, such talks would probably be reserved for the new leadership in Tehran. And all signs point to the ultra-conservatives winning this vote after the parliamentary elections in February. The Council of Guardians, controlled by Khamenei, must approve all candidates. Before the parliamentary election, it had excluded so many moderate conservative and reformist candidates that the victory of the hardliners was a foregone conclusion.

Parliament recently passed a law obliging the government to expand uranium enrichment and increase the enrichment level to 20 per cent if US sanctions are not lifted a few days after Biden takes office. The government would then also have to kick out the inspectors of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Any of these steps would be a violation of the agreement and would result in an escalation. However, Vice President Ali Akbar Salehi, also head of the Iran Atomic Energy Organisation, told the Iranian news portal Entekhab that the government has no money to implement the requirements of the new law.

**Not much time for agreement before the election campaign begins**

***Europeans* and Americans demand that Iran 'has no path to nuclear bomb'**

**Graphic**

Suspicious construction work: This satellite image from November shows Iran's Fordow nuclear facility, which appears to be undergoing expansion. Parts of the facility are bunkered deep inside a mountain to protect it against air strikes. Western intelligence services had uncovered the facility in 2009. Photo: Maxar Technologies/AP

**Classification**

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**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject:** U.S. PRESIDENTS (91%); POLITICS (90%); HEADS OF STATE & GOVERNMENT (90%); PUBLIC POLICY (90%); FOREIGN RELATIONS (89%); PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS (89%); PRESIDENTS OF STATE (89%); UNITED NATIONS (89%); INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS (78%); FRENCH PRESIDENTS (77%); LEGISLATION (75%); EMBARGOES & SANCTIONS (73%); UNITED NATIONS ORGANISATIONS (73%); CORONAVIRUS COVID-19 (72%); EPIDEMICS (54%); PANDEMICS (54%)

**Person:** JOE BIDEN (92%); DONALD TRUMP (79%)

**Geographic:** TEHRAN, IRAN (91%); NEW YORK, NY, USA (79%); BERLIN, GERMANY (58%); AQUITAINE, FRANCE (58%); NORTH AMERICA (94%); ***EUROPE (90%);*** IRAN (90%); FRANCE (88%); GERMANY (59%); CHINA (58%); RUSSIAN FEDERATION (58%); UNITED KINGDOM (58%).

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**End of Document**

[***United against Orbán; In Hungary, an alliance of six parties wants to beat Fidesz***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:61K5-PK01-DXX2-P35R-00000-00&context=)

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Tuesday 22 December 2020

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

**Length:** 736 words

**Byline:** CATHRIN KAHLWEIT

**Body**

**Vienna** - A few days after the Hungarian parliament approved a controversial amendment to the electoral law, six opposition parties have signed a joint declaration stating that they will contest the next parliamentary elections together. The agreement, whose title could be translated as 'Guarantee for a Change of Epoch', stipulates that the opposition - from the Greens and Socialists to the right-wing conservative Jobbik Party - will run with a common list and nominate only one candidate per constituency. A common candidate for the office of prime minister is also to be found. This candidate is to be chosen in nationwide primaries. Any cooperation with Fidesz now or in the future is rejected.

Previously, the government majority in Budapest had reformed the electoral law in such a way as to make it more difficult for smaller parties in particular to run with their own nationwide list. In future, this will only be allowed if a party presents its own candidate in two-thirds of all 106 constituencies. The joint approach for the 2022 election, which was decided on the weekend, had been debated for some time and had already been practised at the local level.

The joint statement now says that Hungary is at a crossroads because there is a possibility of voting out the corrupt and dishonest ruling party Fidesz together with its prime minister Viktor Orbán. They want to overcome all political differences in order to defeat Fidesz together.

Jobbik, once a right-wing, anti-Semitic, racist party, had broken away from the old ideology in recent years and moved more towards the centre politically. Therefore, it had become possible to present a common programme; now all parties want to nominate 'candidates of integrity' who have to sign a personal statement and are also determined in primaries. The agreement has been prepared for months, but has not yet been formalised, partly because of vanity among the party leaders and doubts among the right-wing parties, which had initially favoured two lists.

The aim of the cooperation is to ensure that "no one in Hungary can undermine the democratic values of the ***EU***, undermine the rule of law and have unrestricted power". The political programme is ambitious and ultimately aims to reverse the conditions that had taken hold under Orbán: systemic corruption is to be prevented, freedom of the press and the independence of the judiciary are to be restored.

The united opposition parties also plan to recognise the ***European*** Public Prosecutor's Office after the hoped-for election victory, which Fidesz has so far refused to do. Probably the most challenging project is the drafting of a new constitution, which is then to be submitted to the citizens in a referendum.

The cooperation is aimed at the two-thirds majority with which Orbán has governed since his second term in office in 2010 and which, following several changes to electoral law by Fidesz, can also come about if a party has far less than 50 per cent of the vote. In the last election, Fidesz got about just under 49 per cent of the vote and governs with just this two-thirds majority. This means that Fidesz can not only easily push through all laws in parliament, but also amendments to the constitution.

In a snapshot by the Median polling institute, Orbán currently has only 39 percent approval, the opposition 41. The anti-European course that the prime minister has been pursuing for years and which most recently - because of opposition to the planned rule of law mechanism - led to a veto of the next ***EU budget, has*** only a very limited resonance among the population. The vast majority of Hungarians are pro-European.

The popular Hungarian journalist Eva Balogh, who runs the anti-government blog 'Hungarian Spectrum', commented euphorically on Sunday's agreement: "Hallelujah, at long last!

In autumn 2019, the opposition had already run unitedly in the local elections and had won their candidates in large cities such as Budapest and Pécs as well as in Eger, Miskolc and Szombathely. The mayor of Budapest, Gergely Karácsony, has since been one of Viktor Orbán's most vocal opponents.

**Page 4**

**Graphic**

Reversing his system is the goal of the opposition parties: Viktor Orbán. Photo: dpa

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject:** POLITICAL PARTIES (94%); POLITICS (91%); LEGISLATION (90%); LEGISLATIVE BODIES (90%); ELECTIONS & CAMPAIGNS (90%); CONSTITUENCIES (90%); VOTERS & ELECTIONS (90%); PUBLIC POLICY (90%); CITIZENS' RIGHTS (89%); ***EUROPEAN UNION (78%)***; MINISTRIES OF JUSTICE (78%); CORRUPTION (78%); POLITICAL CANDIDATES (78%); PRIME MINISTERS (78%); RULE OF LAW (78%); REFERENDUMS (78%); HEADS OF STATE & GOVERNMENT (78%); ELECTIONS (78%); APPROPRIATIONS (77%); ANTI-SEMITISM (65%); CONSTITUTIONAL LAW (65%); FREE PRESS (61%); PROSECUTORS (60%)

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

**Geographic:** BUDAPEST, HUNGARY (79%); VIENNA, AUSTRIA (58%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (79%); HUNGARY (94%); ***EUROPE (***79%)

**Load-Date:** December 22, 2020

**End of Document**

[***PROFILE; Michael Clauß; Angela Merkel's marathon man in Brussels***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:61K5-PK01-DXX2-P34M-00000-00&context=)

Süddeutsche Zeitung

Tuesday 22 December 2020

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

**Length:** 640 words

**Byline:** MATTHIAS KOLB

**Body**

It was "perhaps a little unusual", said Angela Merkel after what was probably the last ***EU summit of*** the year, but she also wanted to thank "our German ambassador". The Chancellor praised him for having contributed a great deal to "mastering the great challenges" during the German Council Presidency. This is also the view in Brussels. Diplomats say it was a "stroke of luck" that Germany was in charge during this extremely difficult phase, and that everything therefore came together under Michael Clauß.

When the 59-year-old from Hanover came from Beijing to Brussels in the summer of 2018 to take over as head of the permanent representation to the ***EU,*** a lot was already geared towards the six-month Council Presidency. The number of staff grew from 250 to 400, the plans were thoroughly prepared - and were thrown overboard in April.

In addition to new priorities, namely fighting the pandemic and its consequences, the "Corona Presidency" required "constant crisis management and improvisation", said the non-party diplomat recently in the Baden-Württemberg representation. He said that success had only been achieved "at the last metres" when Hungary and Poland gave up their veto against the 1.8 trillion package of Corona aid and the ***EU budget in*** mid-December. In addition, the states agreed on an ambitious climate target for 2030.

The fact that Clauß likes to run 30 kilometres at a stretch on weekends and has stamina has helped him just as much as his ***EU experience***. In 1997, he came to Brussels for the first time, and in 2002, he headed the German secretariat at the ***EU Convention,*** which drew up a constitution for the Union. From Berlin, he prepared Merkel's first Council Presidency in 2007, and later took over the ***European*** Department in the Foreign Ministry. In 2013, he moved to Beijing as ambassador, helped to ensure that the artist Ai Weiwei was allowed to travel to Berlin - and saw the rise of the People's Republic and its growing self-confidence at close quarters. Even today, the father of four constantly informs himself about China; employees from his time in Beijing say that he devoured books and studies at night.

For Clauß and his team, the Council Presidency meant at least a six-day working week: on Sunday afternoon, the next meetings were planned, in compliance with hygiene regulations and always documented on Twitter. The ambassadors of the 27 ***EU states*** continue to meet physically. The "coreper" meetings, as they are called in ***EU jargon***, are even more than usual the hub of the political machinery during the Corona period, because no legally binding decisions can be taken at virtual meetings of the ministers. Under Clauß' leadership, the meetings were tightly managed, always ended on time and even started at 7.30 a.m. if necessary.

After the 91-hour summit in July, the son of a Bundeswehr general had to negotiate its decisions with the ***European Parliament*** - including the rule of law mechanism to protect the ***EU budget***. He took some harsh criticism from MPs or journalists in his stride. The fact that the results were acceptable to all was due to the fact that Clauß enjoys the trust of the member states and never beats around the bush. Even a diplomat has to express himself clearly so that his counterpart knows what is possible and what is not," he said in the Baden-Württemberg representation when asked about his secret.

In another discussion, this time with the German Council on Foreign Relations, it was recalled that Merkel had said that the Council Presidency had been 'a pleasure'. Michael Clauß's reaction: "I am relieved that it will be over in less than two weeks.

**Graphic**

Photo: Ute Grabowsky/photothek.net/Imago

**Classification**

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**Subject: *EUROPEAN UNION*** (91%); GERMAN CHANCELLORS (90%); TALKS & MEETINGS (90%); INTERNATIONAL GOVERNMENT TALKS (89%); POLITICS (89%); STATE BUDGETS (89%); CORONAVIRUS COVID-19 (88%); LEGISLATIVE BODIES (78%); WRITERS (78%); FOREIGN RELATIONS (77%); FOREIGN AFFAIRS & DIPLOMATIC SERVICES (77%); RULE OF LAW (77%); HEADS OF STATE & GOVERNMENT (76%); PANDEMICS (68%); EPIDEMICS (67%)

**Industry:** STATE BUDGETS (89%); BUDGETS (78%); WRITERS (78%)

**Person:** ANGELA MERKEL (93%)

**Geographic:** BRUSSELS, BELGIUM (90%); PEKING, CHINA (88%); BERLIN, GERMANY (68%); HANOVER, GERMANY (57%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (95%); BRUSSELS CAPITAL REGION (91%); BADEN-WÜRTTEMBERG, GERMANY (58%); BELGIUM (90%); CHINA (88%); ***EUROPE (***88%); HUNGARY (78%); GERMANY (59%); POLAND (58%).

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**End of Document**

[***No Headline In Original***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:61K5-PK01-DXX2-P345-00000-00&context=)

Süddeutsche Zeitung

Tuesday 22 December 2020

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

**Length:** 1265 words

**Byline:** BY ALEXANDER MÜHLAUER

**Body**

**English presents**

**In the midst of Brexit uncertainty, the British prime minister imposes strict rules for Christmas and triggers fears across *Europe* with his remarks. This could still be dangerous for Boris Johnson**

They put up a warning sign at the port of Dover during the night. There are only three words on it, in capital letters: FRENCH BORDERS CLOSED. Since midnight on Sunday, the border with France has been closed for 48 hours. No lorry drivers are allowed through the ***Euro Tunnel***. Everything is closed here. Normally, a good 10,000 lorries pass through the Channel in the run-up to Christmas. Per day. They bring what ends up on the supermarket shelves in London, Liverpool and Cornwall. But now no one can get in. And no one is getting out.

So on Monday morning, as lorries jam kilometre after kilometre on the M20 motorway towards Dover, British Transport Minister Grant Shapps tries to exude something like confidence on BBC breakfast television. He is tuned in from his home north of the capital, a bookcase behind him. Shapps says the situation in Kent County in the south-east is 'not too disrupted'. He says it is perhaps 20 per cent of the deliveries currently stuck there. The minister assures: "In the short term, this will have no impact".

Really not? Well, says Shapps, in the very short term, over a day or two, it doesn't have a very big impact. And then he says quite frankly: "What would have an impact is if we don't get a grip on it. That's the big concern this Monday in the UK, that the government might not be able to get a grip on maintaining the supply chains and thus securing the country's food supply. Because that is what is at stake now.

As of midnight on Sunday, the UK has been isolated. After Boris Johnson said on Saturday night that a mutation of the coronavirus discovered in the south-east of England was 70 per cent more infectious than the previously common variant, continental Europe has cut off the kingdom. The British Prime Minister's statement has put the world on alert. From France to Canada, from Italy to India. State after state banned planes from landing from the UK.

It is on this Monday that one of the country's largest supermarket chains puts into words what many in the Kingdom are now fearful of. "If nothing changes, lettuce, some leafy greens, cauliflower, broccoli and citrus fruits will be missing from the shelves in the coming days," a Sainsbury "s statement said. No wonder there were sometimes long queues outside the supermarkets. Before the Christmas holidays, everyone wants to quickly buy what they can.

Foraging for noodles and toilet paper is still allowed in the new Corona Level 4 warning now in force in London and much of south-east England. Even walking in the park is allowed. And so many Londoners went outdoors on Sunday to at least endure the lockdown outside in the sun. In Richmond Park, for example, families went in search of the deer that live there. The children's playground was full, almost too full. So were many train stations. After Johnson's lockdown announcement, trains to Bristol or Newcastle were quickly booked up. Many who have relatives there set off and left the capital. How many of them took the virus with them will only become clear in the coming days and weeks. Because where warning levels 2 and 3 apply, at least up to three households are still allowed to meet on Christmas Eve.

According to an opinion poll, the majority of Britons agree with the tightening of the rules. It is only with the way Johnson has acted in recent days that most are not at all satisfied. When asked how well or badly the government was handling the Corona Christmas rules, 61 per cent answered 'quite badly' or 'very badly' in a YouGov poll.

On Wednesday evening, Johnson had said that it would be "inhumane" to cancel Christmas. Only three days later, he did a U-turn and imposed a hard lockdown for the capital and south-east England. Instead of being able to spend five days with their families as planned, they are now not even allowed to meet members of different households on Christmas Eve. Johnson made it quite clear what the reason for his U-turn was: the new mutation of the coronavirus.

It is clear that this new variant has spread from the southeast towards London. But that this mutation is 70 per cent more contagious, as Johnson claims, is disputed even among scientists. Peter Openshaw of London's Imperial College, for example, told The *Times* that the evidence was "a bit speculative", but even he noted that the new mutation appeared to be spreading more widely. Some critics of the government suspect that the prime minister put so much emphasis on the 70 per cent mainly to justify the cancellation of the common Christmas for 16.4 million citizens - and thus not to be himself to blame for the abrupt change in the rules.

There is one question in particular that could still become dangerous for Johnson. Why was he still talking on Wednesday evening about Christmas being able to go ahead as planned for everyone in the kingdom, even though his health minister had already warned on Monday about the virus variant spreading strongly?

The last two weeks of the year are now crucial for Johnson's further time in government. For by then he must not only prove that he can get the Corona situation under control, but also decide how hard the Brexit should really be. If no agreement on future relations with the ***EU can be reached by*** 31 December, customs duties and controls will be imposed from the New Year onwards. At the border with France, where lorries are queuing up this Monday, lorry drivers will then have to fill in elaborate customs declarations and have them checked. The queue would get even longer.

Already in the summer, the government had drafted a worst-case scenario, a combination of Corona crisis and no-deal Brexit. Much of what is in the document is now threatening to become reality: Panic buying in supermarkets before Christmas, food spoiling at the border, prices rising because there is simply too little supply of goods. It doesn't have to get that bad, but it is possible. There is much talk this Monday of a foretaste of what the kingdom will face anyway after the Brexit transition period from 1 January. Johnson still has it in his hands to prevent the very worst. Brussels and London are still negotiating an agreement.

If there is such a thing as a ray of hope on this Monday in the UK, it is this: the Covid 19 vaccines that have been coming from Belgium for a good ten days are not affected by the travel bans, the government promises. This is because they would be transported mainly in containers and truck trailers, i.e. without the help of humans. And thus without the risk of infection.

**Lettuce, cauliflower, citrus fruits - all this could run out soon**

**Why did the prime minister only react on Saturday, although there had long been warnings?**

**Graphic**

***Europe closes down***: There was no way through for travellers heading for France at the port of Dover on Monday. Photo: William EDWARDS/AFP

**Classification**

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**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject:** BRITISH PREMIERMINISTERS (89%); PREMIERMINISTERS (89%); STATE AND GOVERNMENT HEADS (89%); CHRISTMAS (89%); CORONAVIRUS COVID-19 (85%); BREXIT (78%); HAMSTER CRIES (74%); CORONAVIRUS (50%); VIRUS (50%)

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

**Industry:** FOOD STORES & SUPERMARKETS (89%); SHOPS (57%)

**Person:** BORIS JOHNSON (92%)

**Geographic:** LONDON, ENGLAND (88%); LIVERPOOL, ENGLAND (58%); RICHMOND, VA, USA (58%); UNITED KINGDOM (91%); ENGLAND (90%); FRANCE (73%); CANADA (73%); ***EUROPE (58%);*** INDIA (56%); ITALY (56%).

**Load-Date:** December 22, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Fear of mutated virus Entry ban imposed; chaos at German airports due to virus mutation in England***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:61K5-VCR1-JBK9-2441-00000-00&context=)

Bild

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**Section:** ; p. 3; issue 299

**Length:** 553 words

**Byline:** J. Firlej  
  
M. Klauer  
  
S. Klier  
  
S. Kürthy  
  
D. Path  
  
D. Puskepeleitis  
  
S. Sievering

**Body**

Berlin - ***Europe is*** closing down!

Due to the mutated Corona virus (see article below right) all flights, trains and ferries from England to the continent are cancelled. France closed the ***Eurotunnel***, all ferry ports are closed.

According to BILD information, the entire ***EU*** will seal itself off against travellers from Great Britain in the coming days.

Dramatic scenes were already taking place at German airports yesterday, with chaos prevailing in some places.

At Berlin Airport BER, desperate travellers stood behind a hastily drawn cordon facing baffled federal police officers who refused them entry into Germany.

At times, hundreds of passengers from four fully booked UK planes were crammed into the transit area. "I saw people breaking down crying," says student Ola (22) from Newcastle.

Adam E. (38), professor of philosophy from London: "We landed on Sunday at around 10 pm, the police held us back, had no proper instructions themselves. At 2 o'clock they handed out cots and sheets, at 7 o'clock they gave us a bottle of water, a sandwich."

74 passengers who did not have a registration address in Germany were tested. All were negative. All passengers residing in Germany did not need to be tested, but have to go into quarantine for ten days anyway because the UK is a risk area.

At Hanover airport, 62 passengers on a British Airways flight were tested, then spent the night together in a terminal. 61 were negative, one positive.

If the passengers are accommodated close together - isn't the test pointless then?

The responsible regional president Hauke Jagau: "Terminal D is anything but cramped. People chose to sit together in a narrow plane beforehand." The distance at the airport had been maintained.

In Hamburg, seven passengers from England tested positive. "All passengers, whether positive or negative, have been sent to quarantine for ten days as prescribed," said a spokesperson for the health authority.

"The positive tests will have a sequence analysis done to find out if they have the mutated variant from the Corona virus." The result should be available in about a week.

This means that never mand knows whether the mutation is already in Germany.

It has already been detected in Australia, Iceland, Italy, the Netherlands and Denmark - so far only isolated cases!

CRAZY: While planes from Great Britain were checked in Munich, all travellers from South Africa were allowed to enter unhindered, although the mutated virus is also raging there - so 31 passengers from Cape Town landed in Munich yesterday. No one was tested, but all passengers are to go into quarantine.

After leaving the airport and partly using public transport to get to their place to stay.

At all German airports, 15 infected persons were detected during the tests yesterday.

Why were the passengers stopped?

The Federal Government had decided to impose an entry ban on the basis of the Infection Protection Act, and the Ministry of the Interior then called in the Federal Police.

The health authorities were responsible for carrying out the tests. Apparently, mand was never prepared.

**Graphic**

Adam E. (38), professor of philosophy from London, spent the night on a cot

In Hanover, passengers had to spend the night on cots

A passenger is escorted to the Corona test in Frankfurt

"French borders closed", the sign reads.

Photos: MATTHEW CHILDS/REUTERS, AGNES STEIL, SEBASTIAN PETERS/BLAULICHT-NEWS, PRIVATE, RONALD WITTEK/EPA-EFE/SHUTTERSTOCK, ROBERT GONGOLL, PAUL ELLIS / AFP,

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**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** BIBU

**Subject:** CORONAVIRUS COVID-19 (90%); VIRUS (90%); CORONAVIRUS (89%); ***EUROPEAN UNION*** (78%); PUBLIC HEALTH (78%); HEALTH MINISTRIES (77%); POLICY (72%); PHILOSOPHY (69%); LEGISLATION (68%); HEALTH POLICY (62%)

**Company:** BRITISH AIRWAYS PLC (57%)

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

**Industry:** NAICS481111 SCHEDULED PASSENGER AIR TRANSPORTATION (57%); SIC4512 AIR TRANSPORTATION, SCHEDULED (57%); FERRIES (90%); PORTS (90%); AIRPORTS (89%); BRIDGES & TUNNELS (78%); PASSENGER AND CARGO AIRCRAFT (78%); HEALTH MINISTRIES (77%); HEALTH POLICY (62%)

**Geographic:** BERLIN, GERMANY (74%); LONDON, ENGLAND (73%); HAMBURG, GERMANY (58%); HANOVER, GERMANY (56%); CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA (52%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (79%); BAVARIA, GERMANY (73%); GERMANY (90%); ENGLAND (90%); UNITED KINGDOM (88%); ***EUROPE (73%);*** FRANCE (73%); DENMARK (71%); AUSTRALIA (58%); ITALY (56%); SOUTH AFRICA (56%)

**Load-Date:** December 22, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Why did the EU more CureVac than Biontech vaccine?***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:61PC-D4R1-JBK9-20FY-00000-00&context=)

Bild

Wednesday 6 January 2021

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**Section:** ; p. 2; ed. 4

**Length:** 165 words

**Body**

Berlin - It is THE mystery in the vaccine debacle: Why did the ***EU*** settle for only 300 million vaccine doses from Biontech/Pfizer when it was offered 500 million?

The fact is that the ***EU Commission*** took a more courageous approach with other manufacturers. 405 million doses were ordered from the Tübingen-based company CureVac - on 17 November, i.e. one week AFTER the contract with Biontech was signed. By then it had long been clear that CureVac's development would take longer than that of its competitors.

Observers also suspect financial interests behind this - and covert funding. Half of the stock market company CureVac is owned by SAP founder Dietmar Hopp, but the German government also has a 17% stake (via the development bank KfW). And in 2020 it profited more than ever from share price increases.

It is true that the ***EU*** and the federal government have also massively supported Biontech with tax money. But, as one insider told BILD: "Half the world was buzzing about their vaccine - while no one outside ***Europe*** wanted to know about CureVac.

**Graphic**

Photo: SKYRIAKIDESEU/TWITTER

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** BIBU

**Subject: *EUROPEAN UNION*** (90%); INSTITUTIONS OF THE ***EUROPEAN*** UNION (73%)

**Company:** PFIZER INC (57%)

**Ticker:** PFZ (LSE) (57%); PFE (NYSE) (57%)

**Industry:** NAICS325414 BIOLOGICAL PRODUCT (EXCEPT DIAGNOSTIC) MANUFACTURING (57%); NAICS325412 PHARMACEUTICAL PREPARATION MANUFACTURING (57%); NAICS325411 MEDICINAL & BOTANICAL MANUFACTURING (57%); SIC2836 BIOLOGICAL PRODUCTS, EXCEPT DIAGNOSTIC SUBSTANCES (57%); SIC2834 PHARMACEUTICAL PREPARATIONS (57%); SIC2833 MEDICINAL CHEMICALS & BOTANICAL PRODUCTS (57%); PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCT MANUFACTURING (90%)

**Geographic: *EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (91%); ***EUROPE*** (58%)

**Load-Date:** January 6, 2021

**End of Document**

[***Help for small and medium-sized enterprises; The EUCommission wants to ease the burden on businesses - critics want more***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5Y96-FS61-JBF1-02PB-00000-00&context=)

Süddeutsche Zeitung

Wednesday 26 February 2020

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

**Length:** 678 words

**Byline:** BJORN FINKE

**Body**

**Brussels** - They employ 100 million people in ***Europe*** and account for a good half of economic output: sounds impressive, but the 25 million small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the ***EU*** suffer from some disadvantages. For example, they often find it more difficult than large companies to obtain sufficient capital and credit. In addition, businesses with fewer employees and resources feel the burden of bureaucratic requirements excessively. The ***EU Commission*** will therefore publish an SME strategy in mid-March with ideas and announcements on how to make life easier for companies.

The 15-page draft is available to the *Süddeutsche Zeitung.* The Brussels authority will present the concept together with a general strategy for industrial policy. The SME paper says that digitalisation and the fight against climate change, which the ***EU*** wants to push forward, are a particular challenge for such businesses because they have fewer skilled workers and money for investments than their big rivals.

Among other things, the commission wants to expand advisory services for the green and digital transformation. Numerous initiatives are intended to help small businesses find skilled workers more easily, invest more in modern technology or win public tenders more often.

In order to reduce bureaucratic hurdles for doing business in ***other EU countries,*** the Commission proposes the establishment of a uniform ***European*** legal form for companies: the ***Europe*** Inc. The idea is based on the SE, the ***European*** public limited company - the ***Europe*** Inc or ***Europa-GmbH is*** to be the little brother. Companies could choose this construct if they do not want to become a public limited company but still want to benefit from the advantages of a ***uniform EU*** legal form. However, the Commission has already proposed something similar under a different name in recent years without finding enough support in the member states or the ***European Parliament.***

The authority also promises to examine new legislative proposals more closely to see whether they impose too much bureaucracy on small businesses. This applies in particular to social legislation and the Green Deal, the ***EU***'s ambitious climate protection programme. CSU MEP Markus Ferber welcomes this: "Especially new large-scale projects like the Green Deal bear the risk of imposing new burdens on small and medium-sized businesses," said the economic policy spokesman of the ***European*** Christian Democrats.

The concept paper identifies the financing of SMEs as a pressing problem. Surveys show that every fifth company does not receive the desired amount of credit, it says. And compared to the USA, far too little capital is raised via the stock market or from financial investors. The Commission wants to continue to support such investments through subsidies and guarantees.

CSU man Ferber is disappointed here, however, because the authority is ignoring "the biggest problem" for financing: the new globally applicable rules for banks, known in the industry as the Basel III finalisation package. The package stipulates that banks must hold more capital as collateral for loans to companies that do not have a credit rating from a rating agency. This makes loans more expensive. And German SMEs, for example, can rarely show grades on their creditworthiness. Ferber therefore says that the rules are "simply a bad fit for the ***European*** model of corporate financing". The Commission could 'make a really important difference' with a 'smart proposal' on how to transpose the rules into ***EU law.*** This proposal is expected in early summer. Nevertheless, the strategy paper - or at least this draft - does not address the issue at all, Ferber complains.

**The green and digital transformation should be accelerated**

**Small firms in particular often do not get a loan**

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject:** SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED ENTERPRISES (91%); ***EUROPEAN UNION*** (90%); ***EUROPEAN*** UNION INSTITUTIONS (90%); GOVERNMENT SUPPORT FOR BUSINESS (90%); BUSINESS NEWS (89%); GERMAN POLITICAL PARTIES (88%); LEGISLATIVE BODIES (78%); FINANCIAL RATINGS (77%); POLITICS (77%); PUBLIC POLICY (77%); ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION (76%); TENDERING (72%); CLIMATE CHANGE (68%); LEGISLATION (62%).

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

**Industry:** FINANCIAL RATINGS (77%); CORPORATE LOANS (77%)

**Geographic:** BRUSSELS, BELGIUM (73%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (95%); BRUSSELS CAPITAL REGION (92%); ***EUROPE (***92%)

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[***No dumping; The EU draws lines for negotiations with Great Britain***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5Y96-FS61-JBF1-02PD-00000-00&context=)

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

**Length:** 666 words

**Byline:** MATTHIAS KOLB

**Body**

**Brussels -** The 27 member states of the ***European*** Union (***EU***) are confidently entering talks on future relations with the United Kingdom. ***European ministers*** on Tuesday approved a negotiating mandate that sets out both the priorities and red lines that will guide ***EU chief negotiator*** Michel Barnier. The former ***EU member*** will be offered a close partnership 'without tariffs and without quotas', but in return the UK must play by the rules and not undermine standards.

While Barnier expects "very difficult" talks, the ***Minister of State for Europe,*** Michael Roth (SPD), describes the desired relationship with Great Britain as follows: "There must be no social dumping, there must be no environmental dumping. For France's Secretary of State Amélie de Montchalin, it is a matter of 'protecting the interests of ***Europeans***'. There will be controls on future agreements and clauses for sanctions if London does not respect the agreements, says de Montchalin.

The government in Paris was the very last to agree to the 46-page document and insisted that the rules for the 'level playing field' be tightened again. Behind the 'level playing field' is the idea that British companies should not enjoy unfair advantages over competitors in the ***EU.*** Imports from the UK should only be exempt from tariffs if Prime Minister Boris Johnson does not lower standards and adheres to ***EU rules*** on subsidies. The 'standards of the Union' are to serve 'as a reference point'. This is a weaker position than the ***European Parliament***'s demand for 'dynamic adjustment'. This would have meant a permanent adoption of ***EU requirements,*** which London rejects.

This Thursday, the UK will officially publish its negotiating position so that talks can begin on Monday afternoon. The first meeting will take place in Brussels, after which Barnier will travel to London. The expert teams of Barnier and his British counterpart David Frost will meet every three weeks - for each week of negotiations on a sub-area, a week of preparation and follow-up is planned. It makes sense for Barnier to continue to pull all the strings, says an ***EU diplomat***: He not only enjoys the trust of the capitals and the ***European Parliament***, whose "yes" is once again necessary. He also has enough experience to keep an eye on the overall situation, because in order for fishermen from Denmark or France to gain access to British waters, concessions may be necessary elsewhere. The free trade agreement will be linked to an agreement on fisheries and the level playing field. Or there will be no agreement at all," Barnier clarified.

There is enormous time pressure: on 31 December, the transitional phase that began after the British left on 1 February and during which nothing will in fact change, ends. A new solution is needed for the time after that - and Johnson categorically rejects the option of an extension, which he can apply for until the end of June. He let it be known at the beginning of the week that sovereignty is important to him above all and that he feels bound by the slogan of the Brexit campaign, 'Take Back Control'.

Brussels is concerned that the UK has so far done nothing to control goods coming from there to the island of Ireland. Ireland's Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, Simon Coveney, is therefore calling on London to implement the Brexit agreement. Among other things, it provides for the British to inspect goods that are delivered to ***EU member Ireland*** via Northern Ireland. If the necessary infrastructure is not built, this would be a "worrying signal", Coveney said. This concern is also shared by Barnier.

**Page 4**

**There is time pressure. The transitional phase ends on 31 December**

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject: *EUROPEAN UNION*** (94%); INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORGANISATIONS (90%); POLITICS (90%); LEGISLATIVE BODIES (89%); ***EU REGULATION*** (78%); FREE TRADE AGREEMENTS (78%); TRADE PROMOTION (78%); GOVERNMENT SUBSIDIES & SUPPORT (78%); PRIME MINISTER (77%); IMPORT TRADE (76%); GERMAN POLITICAL PARTIES (72%); EMBARGOES & SANCTIONS (72%)

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

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

**Geographic:** LONDON, ENGLAND (90%); PARIS, FRANCE (79%); BRUSSELS, BELGIUM (73%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (97%); BRUSSELS CAPITAL REGION (90%); ÎLE-DE-FRANCE, FRANCE (54%); UNITED KINGDOM (92%); ***EUROPE*** (90%); FRANCE (88%); BELGIUM (73%); DENMARK (73%).

**Load-Date:** February 26, 2020

**End of Document**

[***First coronavirus infected in Austria; The disease spreads in Europe Europe. A hotel on Tenerife is quarantined. Italy fears recession***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5Y97-XT91-DXX2-P33K-00000-00&context=)

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

**Length:** 509 words

**Byline:** PAUL-ANTON KRÜGER

**Body**

**Munich** - The coronavirus continues to spread in ***Europe*** and the Middle East. On Tuesday, Austria reported the first two confirmed cases. In Italy, outside the most affected regions in the north of the country, further cases were added in South Tyrol and Sicily. In Croatia, one infection was detected. All those affected had recently been in Lombardy, the centre of the virus outbreak in northern Italy. The total number of infected people in Italy rose to about 280 in the course of Tuesday, compared to 220 the day before. There is also an initial outbreak in Switzerland.

The government in Rome cancelled all sporting events until 1 March in Lombardy, as well as in Veneto, Emilia-Romagna, Friuli-Venezia Giulia and Piedmont. Seria A football matches, which are to be played without spectators, are exempt. Spanish authorities quarantined a hotel in Tenerife with 1000 guests after a man from Lombardy tested positive there. An infection was also reported in Catalonia.

In the afternoon, the health ministers of Italy, Austria, Slovenia, Switzerland, Croatia, France and Germany as well as the ***EU Health Commissioner met in*** Rome to discuss measures to contain the virus. The risk of infection is currently 'low to moderate' for ***Europeans,*** according to the ***European*** Centre for Disease Prevention and Control. However, the Centre assesses the risk of an increase in cases in other ***EU countries,*** as is currently the case in Italy, as 'moderate to high'.

Fears are growing in Italy about the economic consequences of the epidemic, which could plunge the country into recession. The government demanded more flexibility from the ***EU in*** assessing the budget situation. The Association of German Chambers of Industry and Commerce warned that Germany's trade with Lombardy is almost as important as that with Japan; companies from the Federal Republic delivered goods worth about 25 billion ***euros*** to the Italian province in each of the past years.

After China, Iran is now the country with the most corona deaths, with 15 victims; on Tuesday, three more people died. Nevertheless, the government is confident that it can stop the spread of the virus and has reported a total of only 95 cases so far.

However, the regime's crisis manager, Deputy Health Minister Iraj Harirchi, has himself been infected. He tested positive on Monday evening, he announced. There are now a total of 130 confirmed cases in eight countries in the Middle East, where the chains of infection could be traced back to Iran. This suggests that Iran's official figures are far too low.

More than 80 000 people have been infected worldwide, 2700 have died. In South Korea, the number of infected people has now risen to 977, the highest number after China.

**Pages 4 and 5**

**Classification**

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**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject:** DISEASES & HEALTH COMPLAINTS (99%); CORONAVIRUS COVID-19 (92%); CORONAVIRUSES (91%); POLITICS (90%); VIRUSES (90%); PUBLIC POLICY (90%); ***EUROPEAN UNION (89%)***; MINISTRIES OF HEALTH (89%); HEALTH POLICY (89%); RECESSION (89%); DEATH & DYING (89%); FOOTBALL (73%); EPIDEMICS (72%); INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS ORGANISATIONS (71%); SPORTING EVENTS (69%); MINISTRIES OF COMMERCE & CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE (63%)

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

**Industry:** HEALTH MINISTRIES (89%); HEALTH POLICIES (89%); BUDGETS (78%)

**Geographic:** ROME, ITALY (92%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (93%); CANARY ISLANDS (92%); CATALONIA (79%); TYROL, AUSTRIA (58%); ITALY (93%); ***EUROPE (92%);*** CROATIA (92%); MIDDLE EAST (92%); SWITZERLAND (92%); AUSTRIA (91%); GERMANY (90%); IRAN (90%); EAST ASIA (90%); SPAIN (90%); CHINA (88%); SLOVENIA (79%); FRANCE (78%); JAPAN (73%); SOUTH KOREA (73%)

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**End of Document**

[***Turmoil in the olive grove; Spanish farmers have been protesting for months because of the drop in prices of their products. They fear that after Brexit Spain will go from being a net recipient to a net payer in the EU - with dramatic consequences***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5Y96-FS61-JBF1-02PH-00000-00&context=)

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

**Length:** 908 words

**Byline:** BY THOMAS URBAN

**Body**

**Madrid** - Hundreds of people have gathered in front of the Cathedral of the Resurrection with its mighty Renaissance façade on St Mary's Square in Jaén, northern Andalusia. But they are not believers, nor tourists, who rarely stray into this provincial town at this harsh time of year with its cold northern winds. They are olive growers demonstrating against the drop in prices of their hard-earned products. A protest march is due to form in Jaén's St Mary's Square next weekend, which is to end after exactly 333 kilometres in front of the parliament in Madrid.

For months, the Spanish government under the Socialist Pedro Sánchez has been facing protests from farmers. In Navarre, in the very north of the country, dairy farmers blockaded the regional capital Pamplona. In Castile, winegrowers are demanding price guarantees from wholesalers for red wine. In the Valencia region, the owners of orange and lemon plantations took to the streets. Last year, olive growers blocked the centre of the Andalusian capital Seville several times with their tractors.

All associations of food producers are demanding that the state protect them from the dictates of the big international retail chains. In Madrid, however, they only point out that in a market economy the government cannot intervene in price formation. The main demand of the farmers' associations is to maintain agricultural subsidies. Producers are threatened with severe cuts. This emerges from the draft for the new ***EU budget***, according to which the funds for the common agricultural policy are to be cut sharply. This would particularly affect Spanish producers of milk, wine, citrus fruits and olive oil.

But it could get even worse: In Madrid, financial experts are already predicting that Spain will gain political weight in the ***European*** Union after Brexit, but at the same time it could turn from a net recipient to a net payer. The ***EU members*** from the former Eastern bloc, which still have to make up for large backlogs, especially in their infrastructure, have also gained weight and are united in the negotiations on the agricultural budget.

One of the demonstrators on Marienplatz wrote on a poster in big black letters: Without olive oil, Jaén dies'. From the mountain on which the cathedral overlooks the city, one can make out how much the olive shapes the regional economy: as far as the eye can see, only olive plantations with their regular rows of trees can be made out on the surrounding hills, geometric patterns in all directions. Besides the ***EU,*** Madrid and the Andalusian government in Seville have supported the producers in many ways, with direct and also hidden subsidies.

But this policy is now proving fatal: because of the subsidies, the US government under Donald Trump has imposed punitive tariffs on Spanish olive oil, to the delight of the Californian competition. At the same time, exports from Morocco to the ***EU have increased*** sharply. Spain cannot compete with the prices there; a farm worker in North Africa costs the plantation owners only a tenth of the already meagre wage in this country. The increase in imports of all kinds from Morocco is the result of a political deal: in return, Rabat has agreed to block migrants from sub-Saharan Africa from accessing the border fences around the Spanish exclaves of Ceuta and Melilla and from crossing to the Canary Islands.

As with wine and citrus fruits, however, the drop in prices for olives is also the result of overproduction. The supply is so large that the trade can play off the farmers' cooperatives against each other. Even the very hot summers of recent years have had little effect on the olive harvest in Spain: More than a quarter of the plantations are now irrigated artificially, and the trend is rising. As a result, however, the ecological balance of the region is increasingly disturbed, and Andalusia is threatened with large-scale karstification. This would lead to a further exodus from the countryside, which is already causing great concern to the governments in Seville and Madrid.

In addition, there is the government programme on the promotion of sustainable production and the protection of natural resources, which the left-wing coalition led by Sánchez agreed on. Olive production is not included in this, on the contrary: in the list of ecological footprints, which also includes water consumption, it occupies a top position. Thus, economic experts advise industry associations to draw up plans to reduce the area under cultivation. Only a manageable number of jobs are threatened because harvesting is becoming more and more mechanised: Large machines shake the trees and suck up the fruit that has fallen onto plastic sheets. The changed eating habits of many Spaniards also do not please the olive growers: there is a tendency towards both fast food and high-quality fresh produce. The high-calorie olive oil is in little demand in both directions.

**As far as the eye can see, olive plantations can be seen on the surrounding hills**

**Olive oil production has a very large ecological footprint**

**Graphic**

Andalusian play of colours: The area around Jaén in southern Spain is known for its olive oil production. Photo: Ken Welsh/imago

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject: *EUROPEAN UNION*** (90%); POLITICS (90%); PRICES (90%); PRICE CHANGES (90%); PROTESTS & DEMONSTRATIONS (90%); AGRICULTURAL SUBSIDIES (89%); BREXIT (89%); GOVERNMENT SUBSIDIES & FUNDING (89%); PUBLIC POLICY (89%); GOVERNMENT BUDGETS (78%); IMPORT TRADE (76%); INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORGANISATIONS (76%); FARM WORKERS (76%); PRODUCT PRICING (76%); ECONOMY & ECONOMIC INDICATORS (76%); INTERNATIONAL TRADE (72%); WHOLESALE TRADE (71%); TARIFFS (69%)

**Industry:** FARMERS (90%); PRICE CHANGES (90%); AGRICULTURAL SUBSIDIES (89%); EDIBLE OILS & FATS (89%); GOVERNMENT BUDGETS (78%); FARM WORKERS (76%); PRODUCT PRICING (76%); CITRUS FARMING (76%); FOOD MANUFACTURING (72%); WHOLESALE TRADE (71%); AGRICULTURE (71%); MILK MANUFACTURING (66%)

**Person:** DONALD TRUMP (65%)

**Geographic:** MADRID, SPAIN (94%); SEVILLE, SPAIN (92%); RABAT, MOROCCO (79%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (95%); NAVARRA (79%); VALENCIA (79%); CALIFORNIA, USA (57%); SPAIN (94%); MOROCCO (92%); ***EUROPE (79%);*** NORTH AFRICA (79%); NORTH AMERICA (79%).

**Load-Date:** February 26, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Seek and ye shall find; Italians wonder why the coronavirus is hitting their country. Comprehensive testing is one explanation, but so is a lack of competence in the health sector.***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5Y96-FS61-JBF1-02KJ-00000-00&context=)

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

**Length:** 954 words

**Byline:** OLIVER MEILER

**Body**

**Rome** - Why Italy? Now that the first wave of great concern is over, Italians are asking themselves why the coronavirus is hitting their country so hard. On TV they keep showing the same map of the world with red dots on it. The bigger the dot, the higher the number of known and reported infected people. If you don't count the sick people on the *Diamond Princess* cruise ship as part of Japan, and if you just leave the official figures from Iran as they are, then after China and South Korea comes Italy. There are now said to be 231 cases, the vast majority in the northern Italian regions of Lombardy and Veneto, more precisely: in and around the infection hotspots of Codogno and Vo". Seven people have already died, all seven were either seriously ill, very old or both, but all also tested positive for Sars-Cov-2. This means that Italy has more infections and more fatalities than all other ***European*** countries combined.

Why Italy? The newspaper *Il Fatto Quotidiano* sums up the widespread explanation in a bold front-page headline: 'Because we seek it, while other countries whistle for it'. But what sounds like a defiant defence is in fact also the admission of a self-inflicted problem.

In fact, after the first suspected cases in the affected zones, the Italians tested 'a tappeto', as they call it, i.e. almost everywhere - with throat swabs. These rapid tests also found infections that would normally never have become public. About half of the people who tested positive showed only mild symptoms: they were quarantined, but at home. The source of the rapid spread was apparently the hospital in Codogno, where the so-called Patient 1, a 38-year-old researcher and athlete, was first examined. "Mattia", as he is called in the press, is now in intensive care in Pavia.

Several famous virologists in the country consider the Codogno hospital a 'sounding board', including Massimo Andreoni from Rome's Tor Vergata University. In sanitary facilities, one finds all the conditions, bacteria and viruses that are dangerous for patients with serious diseases, Andreoni told *Corriere della Sera*. To make matters worse, Italians have a habit of always seeking help immediately in hospital emergency rooms, even for normal flu or minor ailments. The waiting rooms in the 'Pronto Soccorso' are usually full.

Italy's Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte also sees the conditions in the Codogno hospital as one of the main causes for the rapid spread of the virus. 'The source of infection has also spread,' Conte said on television, 'because a hospital did not fully follow the precautions indicated.' The statement sparked a loud polemic with the governor of Lombardy, Attilio Fontana of the opposition right-wing Lega party. 'Inadmissible and hurtful' were the prime minister's words, he said. One of Fontana's party supporters went even further: "Fascist", he said, and Conte should take a little rest if he was not up to the task.

The dispute is not only based on political animosities, it also touches on a structural issue: in Italy, responsibility for the health system lies with the presidents of the regional administrations. In the case of national emergencies, the competences collide. Conte accuses governors of sounding the alarm without necessity. For example, he instructed the president of the central Italian region of Marche to lift the closure of schools in his area of competence: There are no known cases of infection in Marche so far. The newspaper *La Repubblica* writes about the "chaos" in the health sector: Some people in charge follow their hearts, others political opportunism, still others the advice of provincial professors who are as illustrious as they are fanciful'.

Another reason for the Italian special case is probably due to a measure that had previously been considered exemplary: Italy decided early on to ban all flights from China. But this probably did nothing, rather the opposite: it possibly hindered the controls. Instead of travelling directly, passengers from China chose flights via Frankfurt, Zurich or London, where they changed planes to fly on to Milan and Rome. In this way, the trail was lost. Other ***European*** countries followed the advice of the World Health Organisation and first quarantined the passengers who had reached their final destination. This way, everyone could be systematically tested.

In Italy, meanwhile, they are still wondering how the virus could have entered the country. Not only do many Chinese live in the north of Italy, but there are also many companies, large and small, that do a lot of business with China and regularly send employees on business trips to China. Hundreds, every week.

Initially, it was believed that a 41-year-old Italian manager and friend of 'Mattia' might have infected him on his home holiday in Codogno. They met several times. But although he had symptoms of a cold, it turned out to be just a common flu. All other leads to possible contagions of origin also turned out to be wrong. And so the uncertainty among the people continues to grow. It is an approximate worry fuelled by contradictory information. Sometimes even the experts in the television studios contradict each other.

**Italy decided early on to cancel all flights from China. This was possibly counterproductive**

**Graphic**

Hoarding purchases in Milan: After the outbreak of the corona virus in Italy, many customers are faced with almost sold-out shelves. Photo: Flavio Lo Scalzo/Reuters

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

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**Subject:** CORONAVIRUS COVID-19 (94%); CORONAVIRUSES (92%); VIRUSES (90%); HEALTH POLICY (89%); INFECTIOUS DISEASES (89%); DISEASES & HEALTH COMPLAINTS (89%); PRIME MINISTER (89%); HEADS OF STATE & GOVERNMENT (77%); INTENSIVE CARE UNITS (74%); DEATH & DYING (74%); VIROLOGY (73%); BACTERIA (69%); SARS (69%); INFLUENZA (65%)

**Industry:** HEALTH POLICY (89%); HOSPITALS (89%); INTENSIVE WARDHOODS (74%); VIROLOGY (73%); PERSONNEL SHIPPING (71%)

**Geographic:** ROME, ITALY (88%); ITALY (90%); ***EUROPE (***73%); CHINA (58%); IRAN (58%); JAPAN (58%); EAST ASIA (58%); SOUTH KOREA (58%).

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[***New coronavirus cases in Germany; Two men in Baden-Württemberg and North Rhine-Westphalia are infected. In Italy, the number of fatalities is rising***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5Y96-FS61-JBF1-02JN-00000-00&context=)

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

**Length:** 496 words

**Byline:** PAUL-ANTON KRÜGER

**Body**

**Munich** - The coronavirus continues to spread in ***Europe*** and the Middle East. On Tuesday, two infections were also reported in Germany. The government in Baden-Württemberg announced that the virus had been detected in a 25-year-old man. He had probably been infected during a trip to Italy. He was to be admitted to a hospital in the evening. In North Rhine-Westphalia, too, a man tested positive for the coronavirus and was taken to a clinic, as the state chancellery in Düsseldorf confirmed. He is in a "critical condition". His wife is also showing symptoms. Schools and kindergartens in the Heinsberg district will remain closed this Wednesday. These are the first Corona infections in both federal states.

Austria had previously reported the first two infections. In Italy, outside the most affected regions in the north, further cases were reported in South Tyrol and Sicily. One infection was detected in Croatia. All those affected had recently been in Lombardy, the centre of the virus outbreak in northern Italy. In total, the number of infected people in Italy rose to about 322 in the course of Tuesday, eleven people have died in the meantime. There is also an initial outbreak in Switzerland.

The government in Rome cancelled all sporting events until 1 March in Lombardy and other regions. The exceptions are Serie A football matches, which are to be played without spectators. Spanish authorities quarantined a hotel in Tenerife after a man from Lombardy tested positive there.

In the afternoon, the health ministers of Italy, Austria, Slovenia, Switzerland, Croatia, France and Germany as well as the ***EU Health Commissioner met in*** Rome to discuss measures to contain the virus. Health Minister Jens Spahn (CDU) ruled out cross-border travel bans or border closures in the evening. According to the ***European*** Centre for Disease Prevention and Control, the risk of infection for ***Europeans is*** currently "low to moderate". Moderate to high' is the risk that cases like the current one in Italy could also accumulate in other ***EU countries.***

Fears are growing in Italy about the economic consequences of the epidemic, which could plunge the country into recession. The government demanded more flexibility from the ***EU in*** assessing the budget situation. The Association of German Chambers of Industry and Commerce warned that Germany's trade with Lombardy is almost as important as that with Japan.

After China, Iran is the country with the most Corona deaths, with 15 victims; on Tuesday, three more people died. The government is nevertheless confident that it can stop the spread of the virus. However, the regime's crisis manager, Deputy Health Minister Iraj Harirchi, has himself been infected.

**Pages 4 and 5**

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject:** DISEASES & HEALTH COMPLAINTS (94%); CORONAVIRUSES (93%); CORONAVIRUS COVID-19 (92%); POLITICS (90%); DEATH & DEATH (90%); VIRUSES (90%); ***EUROPEAN UNION (***89%); HEALTH MINISTRIES (89%); HEALTH POLICY (89%); PUBLIC POLICY (89%); GERMAN POLITICAL PARTIES (77%); POLITICAL PARTIES (77%); STATE BORDERS (77%); CLOSURES & SHUTDOWNS (75%); INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS ORGANISATIONS (74%); EPIDEMICS (73%); FOOTBALL (73%); SPORTING EVENTS (66%); MINISTRIES OF COMMERCE & CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE (60%); RECESSION (60%)

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

**Industry:** HEALTH MINISTRIES (89%); HEALTH POLICIES (89%); BUDGETS (78%)

**Person:** JENS SPAHN (79%)

**Geographic:** ROME, ITALY (92%); DÜSSELDORF, GERMANY (79%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (93%); NORTH RHINE-WESTPHALIA, GERMANY (88%); CANARY ISLANDS (79%); BADEN-WÜRTTEMBERG, GERMANY (73%); TIROL, AUSTRIA (58%); ITALY (93%); CROATIA (92%); SWITZERLAND (92%); GERMANY (91%); ***EUROPE*** (91%); AUSTRIA (90%); MIDDLE EAST (79%); SLOVENIA (79%); SPAIN (79%); FRANCE (78%); CHINA (73%); IRAN (73%); JAPAN (73%); EAST ASIA (73%)

**Load-Date:** February 26, 2020

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[***EU determines lines for talks with London***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5Y96-FS61-JBF1-02JR-00000-00&context=)

Süddeutsche Zeitung

Wednesday 26 February 2020

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

**Length:** 80 words

**Byline:** MATI

**Body**

**Brussels** - The ***EU-27 Europe ministers*** have agreed on the mandate to negotiate the future relationship with the UK. The ***EU is*** aiming for a close partnership, but without clear rules it would be impossible to exempt the UK from tariffs. We are ready," said ***EU negotiator*** Michel Barnier, who will hold the first talks as early as the beginning of March. A free trade agreement must be ratified by the end of the year.

**Page 4, Economy**

**Classification**

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**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject: *EUROPEAN UNION*** (92%); POLITICS (90%); FREE TRADE AGREEMENTS (72%)

**Geographic:** LONDON, ENGLAND (73%); BRUSSELS, BELGIUM (58%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (91%); BRUSSELS CAPITAL REGION (79%); UNITED KINGDOM (73%).

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**End of Document**

[***The Euro belongs to you'; ECB President Christine Lagarde wants to know what Europe's citizens think about monetary policy. Central bankers might then have to answer why inflation is low but housing costs are high***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5Y97-XT91-DXX2-P34N-00000-00&context=)

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

**Length:** 889 words

**Byline:** BY MARKUS ZYDRA

**Body**

**Frankfurt** - Striking earrings, a very distinctive brooch, a winning smile and her right arm casually draped over the back of her chair: In the pose of a moderator, the new ECB President Christine Lagarde addresses ***Europe***'s population on the institution's homepage. She said: "The ***euro is*** yours, please share your ideas and concerns with us.

The people of ***Europe*** now have the opportunity to express their opinion on the subject of monetary policy. You can register on the ECB's homepage. At the same time, the central bank invites civil society organisations to the event series "The ***Eurosystem is*** listening", for the first time on 26 March in Brussels with Christine Lagarde. The national central banks of the ***Eurozone***, i.e. the Bundesbank in Germany, are also helping to gather citizens' opinions in the respective national language. The ECB would like to have completed the review of its monetary policy strategy by the end of the year at the latest.

The request for help from the citizens represents a fundamental change in the central bank's communication policy. Whether Duisenberg, Trichet or Draghi - none of Lagarde's predecessors ever addressed the people of ***Europe*** so directly. So far, the monetary guardians have seen themselves primarily as mouthpieces for the financial markets. But the loose monetary policy of recent years, in which the ECB invested trillions of ***euros in*** government bonds and introduced the zero interest rate regime, has driven a wedge between the technocrats in the ***Eurotower*** and large sections of society who think this monetary policy is wrong.

Lagarde wants to dissolve the alienation by putting the ECB's monetary policy up for debate: First of all, of course, in the expert bodies of the central bank, but also among scientists, politicians, associations and the population. We will talk about what we understand by price stability and also discuss the extent to which climate change and the labour market influence our activities," Lagarde continued in the video.

The ECB has had a problem for years. It has been pumping money into the financial system to raise the inflation rate in the ***euro area to*** the target it set itself in 2003 of close to two percent. But it has not been able to do so for years. Inflation rates remain well below that, and many people ask themselves: What's so bad about that?

The American central bank, the Federal Reserve, has already had its consultation with the citizens; the inflation target of two percent is also being followed in the USA. The monetary guardians toured the country under the motto 'Fed Listens' and found that the inflation rates could not be low enough for the people. Instead, grassroots respondents expressed concern about high housing and health care costs. Many people feel the same way: the average inflation rates would say little about the true cost of living - which includes, above all, housing costs.

It is quite possible that ***Europe's*** citizens will respond similarly to the Americans - and then what? Will the ECB base its strategy on the opinion of the people, or will the experts have the last word in the end?

One thing is certain: monetary policy is a complicated matter, and there are only complicated economic answers to the question of why a central bank wants to achieve two percent inflation. With these replicas, one can hardly create more closeness to the people. Even the experts disagree on the subject. Some want a lower inflation target, some a higher one, some a more flexible one. At present, the official guideline is that the ECB is aiming for an inflation rate of "below but close to two per cent". This formulation is difficult to communicate to the general public; even central bankers sometimes confuse the order and say 'close to but below two per cent'.

There is also a communication problem for the central bank with inflation measurement: the costs of owner-occupied housing are currently not included in the consumer price index. But it is precisely the rising costs of real estate that create the impression among the population that prices are rising strongly enough anyway. There is thus no reason for the zero interest rate policy. The ECB is also plagued by the accusation that its monetary policy favours wealthy people whose share and real estate holdings have clearly increased in value. Workers would only benefit secondarily, through new jobs and in some cases higher wages.

Lagarde has set herself another goal: she wants to reconcile the Germans with the ECB. Their relationship has suffered greatly under the aegis of Mario Draghi. The Frenchwoman is tackling it with élan. For one thing, she is learning German and likes to use her first knowledge in her many public appearances in Germany. At the New Year's reception in Frankfurt's Römer, there was a standing ovation when she said a few sentences in German. She also found the right words there: Lagarde praised the Hessian speciality 'green sauce' and confessed: "I immediately felt at home in Frankfurt.

**So far, the monetary guardians have seen themselves primarily as mouthpieces for the financial markets.**

**One accusation: the institution favours the owners of shares and real estate**

**Graphic**

Christine Lagarde is now learning German. And the ECB President has already tried green sauce, a Hessian speciality. Photo: Francisco Seco/dpa

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject:** MONETARY POLICY (94%); CENTRAL BANKS (91%); INFLATION (90%); ECONOMIC POLICY (90%); ***EURO (***89%); ***EUROPEAN UNION*** (89%); ***EUROZONE (89%);*** HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT (89%); MONETARY UNIONS (89%); PUBLIC POLICY (89%); POLITICAL DEBATES (77%); PRICES (76%); ECONOMIC NEWS (76%); COST OF LIVING (75%); POLITICS (75%); PUBLIC FINANCE (75%); BONDS & NOTES (66%); GOVERNMENT BONDS (66%)

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

**Industry:** MONEY POLICY (94%); CENTRAL BANKING (91%); EURO (89%); ***EUROZONE (89%);*** MONETARY UNIONS (89%); BANKING & FINANCIAL OVERVIEW (75%); BORROWINGS & BONDS (66%); GOVERNMENT BORROWINGS (66%)

**Person:** CHRISTINE LAGARDE (88%); MARIO DRAGHI (79%)

**Geographic:** FRANKFURT, GERMANY (73%); BRUSSELS, BELGIUM (57%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (92%); BRUSSELS CAPITAL REGION (79%); ***EUROPE (***94%); NORTH AMERICA (79%); BELGIUM (73%); GERMANY (59%).

**Load-Date:** February 26, 2020

**End of Document**

[***BREXIT; Europe can also be united***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5Y96-FS61-JBF1-02K7-00000-00&context=)

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Wednesday 26 February 2020

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

**Length:** 229 words

**Byline:** MATTHIAS KOLB

**Body**

The first hurdle has been cleared: The 27 ***EU*** member states have agreed on the mandate for negotiations with the UK. From Monday, ***EU chief negotiator*** Michel Barnier can hold talks with London. In Brussels it was always emphasised that they wanted to get started quickly and would not allow themselves to be divided. Both were kept: A few days after the special summit on the multi-annual budget ended in dispute, the ***EU-27*** stand united and keep to the timetable.

Barnier has a difficult task ahead of him. No one has yet attempted to conclude a free trade agreement 'without tariffs and quotas', as offered by Brussels, in eight to ten months. The current bluster of Boris Johnson and his ilk should be ignored: Only if London pledges to avoid environmental and social dumping and complies with the rules will there be access to the Single Market. Protecting the interests of ***Europe's*** companies and citizens has priority.

Besides Barnier's experience, two things speak in favour of the ***EU-27***. 440 million ***EU citizens*** stand against 60 million Britons. And Prime Minister Johnson, in view of the many other treaties he wants to conclude, should think twice before reneging on promises made and appearing unreliable. The rest of the world is watching closely.

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject: *EUROPEAN UNION*** (92%); BREXIT (78%); TALKS & MEETINGS (78%); FREE TRADE AGREEMENTS (72%); PRIME MINISTERS (72%); HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT (52%)

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

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

**Geographic:** BRUSSELS, BELGIUM (72%); LONDON, ENGLAND (72%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (91%); BRUSSELS CAPITAL REGION (90%); ***EUROPE*** (73%); BELGIUM (58%); UNITED KINGDOM (58%).

**Load-Date:** February 26, 2020

**End of Document**

[***CORONAVIRUS; Time for solidarity***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5YDD-29P1-DXX2-P4PC-00000-00&context=)

Süddeutsche Zeitung

Thursday 12 March 2020

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

**Length:** 737 words

**Byline:** BY CERSTIN GAMMELIN

**Body**

The fine art of economic policy is to turn negative expectations into positive ones. You take away people's worries about a currency crash, company bankruptcies or mass unemployment by showing that you have understood the problem and are tackling it with all your might. It is no coincidence that economics is half psychology. Remember 2012 and the legendary statement by the president of the ***European*** Central Bank, Mario Draghi, that he would save the ***euro no matter what the*** cost. The crisis was contained because the expectation was suddenly a positive one. This is precisely what the crisis management of the German government, economists and ***European*** institutions is now reminding us of, as they respond to citizens' worries about the corona virus.

The good news amidst the ever new disturbing figures is that Germany and ***Europe*** are willing and well enough equipped to limit the consequences of the pandemic. There is enough money and enough strength to prevent mass unemployment and mass bankruptcies. And, second good news, all those in charge seem to have realised that they have to act now.

The leading German economists have drawn up a catalogue of demands that seems suitable to support in a targeted, time-limited and timed manner those companies that no longer make any sales because no one goes to trade fairs, concerts, football matches or restaurants. If these companies get their tax payments deferred and receive new loans or can better depreciate goods, they will be helped. It is right to accept the shock caused by drastic measures such as the ban on events now and cushion it with targeted measures rather than let a prolonged crisis develop. This also puts an end to the political goal of a budget without new debts. Just to remind you: if the federal government takes on new debt to strengthen the health system and prop up businesses, it will get extra money because of the negative interest rates of minus 0.75 per cent.

Another reason for confidence is that the German government is taking action. The Chancellor, who is experienced in the crisis, has taken over the reins. The short-time work regulation has been passed, the liquidity assistance for companies will arrive on Friday; it is primarily intended to help small companies, not the large Dax corporations that still have a cushion. And, of course, because of the psychological effect alone, now would be a good time to abolish the eternally controversial solidarity surcharge ahead of time.

What is still missing is the great ***European*** debate. It is positive that the heads of state and government held their first digital summit via video. So something is possible in ***Europe,*** if only everyone wants it.

Now the second step must follow quickly: The leaders must agree that the existing rules of the Stability and Growth Pact may be applied flexibly and that, if necessary, the ***euro bailout fund*** ESM may be tapped. Agreement must be reached on the extent to which subsidies will be allowed and whether the regulations for banks can be relaxed. Especially in times of major crises, the well-known rule applies: the ***European*** Commission can only be as powerful as the member states allow it to be. It is up to Germany, the Netherlands, France and also the Eastern Europeans to pull together - and give the ***European*** Union enough strength in the fight against the corona virus.

The order of the day is ***European*** solidarity. And yes, it is good that there is to be 25 billion ***euros in*** economic stimulus. But there is more at stake. The weakest of the big ***euro countries***, Italy, has been hit hardest by the crisis. Interest rates for loans are still relatively low, even for the government in Rome. But they are rising. It cannot be ruled out that the interest burden will become too heavy in the foreseeable future. Then it will be the hour of the ESM to help and not to endanger the monetary union. Draghi once demonstrated how this can be done. In any case, the ESM has all the means at its disposal to help in times of great need. Incidentally, it is in Germany's own interest that Italy gets back on its feet quickly.

**In times of crisis, *EU states* must join forces and strengthen the Commission**

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject:** CORONAVIRUS COVID-19 (90%); VIRUSES (90%); ECONOMIC POLICY (90%); ***EUROPEAN UNION*** (89%); POLITICS (89%); HEADS OF STATE & GOVERNMENT (89%); PUBLIC POLICY (89%); CORONAVIRUSES (78%); NEGATIVE CORPORATE NEWS (78%); PANDEMICS (78%); POLITICAL DEBATES (78%); ECONOMICS (78%); CURRENCIES (78%); CENTRAL BANKS (78%); ***EURO*** (77%); BANKRUPTCIES & INSOLVENCY PROCEEDINGS (77%); FOOTBALL (76%); EURO CRISIS (75%); EUROPEAN UNION INSTITUTIONS (75%); INTEREST RATES (75%); TAXES & TAXATION (73%); CORPORATE INSOLVENCIES (72%); PSYCHOLOGY (71%); BANKING REGULATION & FINANCIAL SUPERVISION (70%); SMALL & MEDIUM-SIZED ENTERPRISES (66%); EPIDEMICS (53%)

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

**Industry:** CURRENCIES (78%); CENTRAL BANKS (78%); ***EURO (***77%); ***EURO CRISIS (***75%); INTEREST RATES (75%); PSYCHOLOGY (71%); BANK REGULATION & FINANCIAL SECURITY (70%)

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

**Geographic: *EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (92%); ***EUROPE*** (93%); GERMANY (59%)

**Load-Date:** March 12, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Stop throwing things away; The EUCommission wants to make it easier to repair electrical appliances and recycle clothing. This should reduce waste mountains and conserve raw materials.***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5YDD-29P1-DXX2-P4RD-00000-00&context=)

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Thursday 12 March 2020

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**Section:** Economy; Munich; Bavaria; p. 24

**Length:** 795 words

**Byline:** BY BJÖRN FINKE

**Body**

**Brussels** - Mobile phones end up in the rubbish after two years because replacing the exhausted battery would be too expensive. If fashion chains are left with clothes, they are sometimes incinerated. Almost all purchases are packaged - in 2017, 173 kilos of packaging waste were therefore generated for every ***European,*** a sad record. But the ***EU Commission is*** now declaring war on waste and litter. Environment Commissioner Virginijus Sinkevi&ccaron;ius complains that there is "only one planet Earth, but by 2050 our consumption will reach a level as if we had three of them".

To prevent this from happening, the Lithuanian politician presented a new action plan for the circular economy in Brussels on Wednesday. The idea behind the term is to recycle as much as possible and avoid waste. This reduces raw material and energy consumption as well as greenhouse gas emissions. Five years ago, the authority had already launched a first action programme. In the follow-up plan, it announces, among other things, a ban on destroying non-saleable durable goods such as clothing.

In addition, Sinkevi&ccaron;ius wants to introduce legislative proposals next year to ensure customers a right to repair. Manufacturers should be obliged to design devices in such a way that they last longer, are easier to repair and easier to recycle. Batteries and components should be easy to replace, and operating systems should be easy to update. To this end, the authority wants to expand the existing Ecodesign Directive and, if necessary, prepare further legislation.

Companies should also provide information about the average lifespan of their appliances: This will help with the selection process in the electronics store. Sinkevi&ccaron;ius - at 29 the youngest commissioner - also hopes that new business models will prevail in which consumers do not buy appliances but a service. The customer would then not have purchased the washing machine in his basement; it would remain the property of the manufacturer or retailer. The companies would receive a user fee or rent and would have an interest in the long life of the appliance.

As early as late summer, the authority wants to establish a uniform charger for mobile phones and tablet computers by law. Sinkevi&ccaron;ius says that if all mobile phones could use the same charging cable, there would no longer be a need to include an extra cable and charging block in the package when buying the phones: That saves raw materials and avoids waste.

In addition, the Commission has set the target that all packaging should be recyclable at reasonable cost by 2030. For sectors such as textiles and construction, where very little recycling takes place, the authority wants to develop its own strategies. The use of rechargeable batteries instead of disposable batteries is to be promoted. The Commission also demands that suppliers of ecological products be given more of a chance in public tenders, for example in contracts awarded by municipalities. Here, Brussels wants to prescribe binding targets.

The action plan is an important part of the Green Deal, the Commission's ambitious climate protection programme. Without a circular economy, we cannot achieve the climate protection goals," says Sinkevi&ccaron;ius. The ***EU*** wants to become climate neutral by 2050; ***Europe*** should then no longer increase the amount of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. But according to the agency's calculations, the extraction and processing of raw materials is responsible for half of the greenhouse gas emissions. Reducing the consumption of raw materials would also reduce ***Europe's*** dependence on suppliers on other continents, says the Environment Commissioner.

Already on Tuesday, the authority presented its industrial and SME strategy - in these papers, too, the challenges of the Green Deal were a central theme. The action plan on the circular economy is well received: BEUC, the ***European*** umbrella organisation of consumer centres, calls the work programme 'extremely important for the green transformation' of the economy; the Brussels-based business lobby Business-Europe sees a 'win-win situation' for the environment and companies. Green ***MEP*** Anna Cavazzini says the programme is "the most ambitious thing the Commission has ever put forward" to improve the poor eco-balance of products like mobile phones. SPD MEP Delara Burkhardt speaks of a 'milestone', her CDU colleague Hildegard Bentele of the 'right way'. How quickly this path is taken, however, depends on whether the member states share the enthusiasm of the MEPs and whether the necessary laws are passed quickly.

**Companies should inform customers about the lifespan of their equipment**

**Graphic**

At a landfill site in Ghana, young men take apart electronic waste. Some of it comes from ***Europe***. Photo: Thomas Imo/photothek

**Classification**

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**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

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**Subject: *EUROPEAN UNION*** (90%); ***EUROPEAN*** UNION INSTITUTIONS (90%); CLIMATE CHANGE (89%); ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION (89%); ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY PRODUCTS (77%); POLITICS (76%); ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION MOVEMENT (76%); CONSUMERS (76%); RADIO, TV AND ELECTRONICS SHOPS (73%); BUSINESS & MANAGEMENT (71%); TENDERS (69%)

**Organization: *EUROPEAN UNION*** (59%)

**Industry:** TELECOMMUNICATIONS (89%); CLOTHING AND ACCESSORIES (77%); ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY PRODUCTS (77%); RADIO, TV AND ELECTRONICS (73%); ENERGY CONSUMPTION (70%); CONSTRUCTION (64%)

**Geographic:** BRUSSELS, BELGIUM (88%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (93%); BRUSSELS CAPITAL REGION (93%); ***EUROPE*** (88%); BELGIUM (79%); LITHUANIA (58%)

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**End of Document**

[***Trust me; Jens Spahn is currently being praised even by opponents for his Corona crisis management. And he is also forming a new unit with the chancellor. About an unequal pair***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5YDD-29P1-DXX2-P4HW-00000-00&context=)

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**Section:** Page Three; Portrait; Germany; p. 3

**Length:** 2598 words

**Byline:** BY NICO FRIED AND KRISTIANA LUDWIG

**Body**

There is a new unit of measurement in the country. In the past, one would have said that the Chancellor entered the hall of the Federal Press Conference on this 11 March at 11:31 am. At the moment, however, other figures are much more meaningful: there are just under 1,300 reported Corona infections in Germany when Angela Merkel faces the journalists on Wednesday. And three dead.

Merkel has brought Jens Spahn with her, her health minister. This is reminiscent of that appearance during the global financial crisis when the Chancellor, together with Peer Steinbrück, guaranteed citizens the safety of their savings deposits. And Merkel chose the Federal Press Conference as the venue for her appearance. This is reminiscent of 2015, when the Chancellor said here, in view of the increasing number of refugees in the country: "We can do it.

No sentence will be uttered on this day that one would immediately ascribe such historical potential to. At the very end, Merkel herself sums up the message of the speech as follows: "We will do what is necessary, as a country and in the ***European*** alliance. It sounds like 'we can do it', only more cautious, more long-winded. The chancellor will know why she phrased it that way. It is not her first crisis, she has had her experiences.

So the whole press conference seems first and foremost like a confidence-building measure. The head of the Robert Koch Institute, Lothar Wieler, also came along with Merkel and Spahn. In a way, he is living proof that the government consults scientific advice for its decisions. That alone has something reassuring about it. And in a way, it also sounds much less frightening when such an expert in virology predicts that more people will die, for sure. That's not necessarily a prognosis that a politician wants to make.

Trust is a hard currency in such crises, political trust even more so. And it has a lot to do with people. That is why it is a remarkable coincidence that Angela Merkel has Jens Spahn, of all people, at her side as the most important crisis manager against the Corona pandemic. The experienced, even hardened chancellor in the final phase of her term in office - and the 39-year-old young minister, only two years in office but undoubtedly with ambitions for more. And then there is their common history, which, God knows, was not always so common.

The task is big for Spahn. Merkel's biggest crises were about money, admittedly a lot of money. Or about empathy, about solidarity, about a friendly face, as she said back then in the refugee crisis. Now it's about people's health. You could also say: about life and death. Not many politicians of Jens Spahn's age have found themselves in a situation where such ultimate circumstances decide their personal future. A virus determines his further political career. Spahn knows that.

It is Tuesday morning, Germany counts 1139 cases of illness. The sky hangs gloomily over the wide windows of Spahn's corner office in the Federal Ministry of Health in Berlin. The Lord Mayor of Essen called personally the day before to inform the minister about the country's first deceased corona patient. Now Spahn is sitting back, only a ministerial smile brightening his harried face. How is he? I don't have time to think about it. But anyway, we should talk less about how we feel and more about what we do, how we govern.'

He knows that every sentence he says now will still have to pass in four weeks. Or in eight. Or eight months from now. The reality of the crisis will sooner or later reveal without mercy whether he is right with his policy. FDP parliamentary group leader Christian Lindner, a Duz friend of Spahn's but also a political competitor, recently put it in the formulation of taking notes. It sounded like a threat.

At present, however, Spahn is receiving a lot of praise for his work, even from his political opponents. Merkel was certainly aware of this before she decided to appear with him in front of the journalists. As chancellor, she can get some things right with such an appearance, but even more can go wrong.

The timing alone. If Merkel waits too long in such a crisis, the question will soon arise: Where is the chancellor? If she comes forward too quickly, she will be accused of spreading hysteria. If she appears without Spahn, she can soon read that she envies her health minister the recognition he deserves. If she appears with him, the same may apply.

So Merkel chose as the occasion for her press conference a video link-up of the ***European*** heads of state and government the evening before. That was a kind of ***European*** Council, Merkel says, and when these meetings take place in Brussels, she also informs the press afterwards. So, please, no one should believe that she decided to make this appearance because it was demanded more and more vehemently in the social media, in many a commentary and in many a newspaper.

And she came with Spahn. Why not? During the ***euro crisis,*** after the ***European*** Councils, she also occasionally came with her then finance minister Wolfgang Schäuble. Of course she talks more than Spahn this Wednesday. Of course she is asked the most questions. But every now and then she also leaves the answers, the details, to her health minister. The health minister can tell you more in a moment. Then she nods again and again to what he says. And he nods even more often to what she says. Chancellor and Minister, on the one hand, are not the same thing. But on the other hand, it has to work. So it's about creating a kind of harmonious imbalance.

Why did she only come now, Merkel was asked? She doesn't really go into it, she just comes when she thinks it is right. But it is important for her to emphasise that she is "not only concerned with this matter since today". 6 January is mentioned in this press conference as the quasi-official date on which politics really began to deal with the corona virus. And as a kind of key witness, Merkel calls on the Federal Minister of Health, who knows best that the Chancellor is also constantly informing herself and has already held countless talks. Spahn laughs briefly and then nods again. It's a demonstrative mimic, "True enough!

Trust has something to do with confidence. Spahn has never had a problem with trusting himself. It has helped him move forward, but it has also slowed him down on occasion. For example, when he compared himself to Helmut Kohl at the beginning of his speech as candidate for the federal presidency at the 2018 CDU party conference in Hamburg, it came across as a bit too cocky and probably didn't help his result.

He has learned. Since the first days of the Corona crisis, we have seen a Jens Spahn who is concerned with objectivity, who has made it his trademark. When he recently stepped up to the lectern for his government declaration, his voice sounded less brisk than usual. Spahn read off, which is not his style, and sometimes, when turning the page, you could hear that too.

He knows the importance of his role, but he also does not pretend to be enough for himself. In an emergency, Spahn already said in the Bundestag, in democracy one 'pulls together'. With the politicians of all parties. That, too, is a truth of the crisis: as much as he has liked to stage himself as the doer and change-maker of the health system so far - in this situation, Spahn is more dependent than ever on cooperation.

The health experts in the Bundestag have rarely spoken to him as often as they have in recent weeks, and even more rarely so willingly. They feel very well informed, they say from the opposition, which otherwise complains mainly about his ever new surprise laws. The minister provides comprehensive information on the state of the crisis and also addresses problems. While his meticulous style of government, his tendency to micromanage, to hold small meetings and go it alone, otherwise seems overambitious, in Corona mode everyone involved is grateful for Spahn's diligence.

And the chancellor? Merkel and Spahn are not only two generations, they are also two completely different types with often very different political views. Jens Spahn has never made a secret of his differences with Merkel, especially on refugee policy, but also on tax or socio-political issues. Yes, he has even made a not bad living of it politically. In 2018, she then had no choice but to bring Spahn into the cabinet as well. By now she would probably say: "That was a good idea of mine.

When Merkel is asked about the not always conflict-free past with Spahn, she plays the indignant role a little. To conclude from the fact that she and he occasionally had different political opinions that they could not work well together was, she said, a "bold insinuation". Such a thing is "alien to her nature". And then follows a political declaration of love such as one has probably never heard from Merkel before, at least not for a German colleague. The cooperation with Spahn in the cabinet: 'always been super'. Moreover, she had already said at the meeting of the CDU/CSU parliamentary group on Tuesday, and she was happy to repeat it here: Spahn was doing "a great job". She had "full confidence" in him. The talks with him were 'super' and the exchange 'fast'.

Merkel and Spahn cannot afford to have any doubts about their cooperation. With each new case, Corona penetrates more deeply into people's everyday lives and consciousness. Especially among the elderly and chronically ill citizens, fear is spreading. On this day, the most important message from the Chancellor and her minister is that it is above all about these "vulnerable groups", the elderly and patients with pre-existing conditions.

The goal of all efforts is to slow down the unstoppable spread of the virus as much as possible so that the medical care system is not overburdened. Our solidarity, our common sense, our hearts for one another are being put to the test, and I hope that we will pass this test," says Merkel. Merkel and Spahn both agree that it is reasonable to forego a football match in view of the so-called ghost matches in the Bundesliga, which take place without spectators.

And the minister adds that one does not always have to wait until something is banned, one can also weigh up on one's own whether to do without in favour of the health of others. Trust, slowing down, renouncing - these are the key words of this appearance.

It is a long way that the Health Minister Spahn has also travelled to get here. One stop along the way was the day before Christmas Eve 2018, when no one was thinking about epidemic fears and Corona deaths. Spahn entered the Dortmund city hospital wearing a woollen pullover, carrying a photographer and two packs of Merci chocolate. It was supposed to be about everyday life on the ward. He wanted to thank the nursing staff for their commitment, he said. In the afternoon, he posted two pictures in which he smiled at the nurses and they smiled at him. They all looked strained rather than Christmassy. 'This is really close to my heart,' he wrote underneath.

'That was hypocritical,' says geriatric nurse Angela Diekhans. She is 42 years old, has an attentive look, pink trainers and looks after the elderly patients in this clinic. She used to work in an old people's home, but at some point she felt exploited. She talks about this a few months after Spahn's visit in the wet hospital courtyard. She is standing next to an ambulance and smoking. At least in the hospital, she says, one is never completely alone with the patients, but they are still too few. Diekhans believes that someone like Jens Spahn does not understand the nurses, that he "has no idea about reality". Many of her colleagues also grumbled about the clumsy gesture on the net after his visit.

And now, Corona? I think he can handle it relatively well," says Diekhans. So I find him really professional. Maybe it's like this: Spahn lacks cordiality, but with his performance now he's also convincing people who were anything but convinced before. Now he can prove all the qualities that he has not worked on with resounding success so far: Trustworthiness, approachability, assertiveness and stature.

But Spahn is also meeting his political record in the crisis. Last Friday - 534 infected - he flew to Brussels to meet the health ministers of the ***EU's neighbouring states.*** While the minister was at the Corona Special Council, his press office at home sent out a bulky press release: "Preliminary financial results of the health insurance funds in 2019". It said that almost all health insurance funds had made losses last year. The health insurers criticised that not only medical progress but also the minister's many expensive laws had cost too much money: "Once the reserves are used up, there is no way around higher contributions".

Rising health insurance contributions would be the opposite of what Spahn promised people at the beginning of his term in office. Now he says into the microphones: 'With this new situation, we also have to adjust our policy as a whole.' The new situation, that is the epidemic. Because Corona is putting the health system in a state of emergency, all the problems and gaps left by Spahn's restless health policy are currently forgotten. The school headmasters don't know how to implement his compulsory vaccination against measles? Who cares if the school might close because of Corona? More and more nurses like Angela Diekhans are leaving old people's homes because clinics have been aggressively poaching them since Spahn's law? For the Corona period, Spahn is suspending his personnel rules for nurses again. Because the virus dominates everything, the only thing that counts at the moment is the resilience of the health system. The evening before, he had been briefly at the Charité, Spahn says casually at the press conference with Merkel. He had spoken with doctors and nurses and experienced a "great willingness to work". They are now more or less one unit.

At one point during the joint appearance of the chancellor and the minister, the precautionary measures against the virus were discussed: keep your distance, don't shake hands. Angela Merkel says that one can simply "look into each other's eyes for a second longer and smile". And as if to demonstrate, she looks at her health minister.

**Merkel's biggest crises were about money. Now it's about more, about people's health**

**The Health Minister has learned a lot. Objectivity is his new trademark**

**At the time, the geriatric nurse said that Spahn had no idea about reality. Today he impresses her**

**Compulsory vaccination against measles? Who cares if schools are now closed down completely?**

**Graphic**

It is almost a declaration of love for Jens Spahn, the likes of which Merkel has probably never heard before: The cooperation with him has "always been super". Photo: Regina Schmeken

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject:** GERMAN CHANCELLORS (90%); HEALTH MINISTRIES (89%); HEALTH POLICY (89%); POLITICS (89%); HEADS OF STATE & GOVERNMENT (89%); VIRUSES (89%); ECONOMIC CRISIS (89%); WRITERS (78%); CORONAVIRUS COVID-19 (77%); REFUGEE CRISIS IN ***EUROPE (77%)***; DISEASES & HEALTH COMPLAINTS (77%); PANDEMICS (77%); HEALTH STATISTICAL AGENCIES (77%); PRESS CONFERENCES (76%); HISTORY (73%); EPIDEMICS (72%); MAYORS (70%); BIOLOGY (69%); VIROLOGY (69%); LEADERS (65%)

**Industry:** HEALTH MINISTRIES (89%); HEALTH POLICY (89%); WRITERS (78%); STATISTICAL AGENCIES FOR HEALTH (77%); VIROLOGY (69%)

**Person:** ANGELA MERKEL (96%); JENS SPAHN (91%); PEER STEINBRÜCK (79%)

**Geographic:** ESSEN, GERMANY (57%); BERLIN, GERMANY (54%); NORTH RHINE-WESTPHALIA, GERMANY (73%); ***EUROPE*** (79%); GERMANY (74%).

**Load-Date:** March 14, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Day of Remembrance; France commemorates the victims of Islamist attacks***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5YDD-29P1-DXX2-P4KF-00000-00&context=)

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Thursday 12 March 2020

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

**Length:** 608 words

**Byline:** NADIA PANTEL

**Body**

**Paris** - The list of ceremonies shows how deeply terror has been able to penetrate French everyday life. In front of the church of Saint-Étienne du Rouvray, prayers were said on Wednesday morning for the priest Jacques Hamel, who was killed by two Islamist bombers in 2016 while he was conducting the service. In Nice, at the same time, the mayor Christian Estrosi commemorated the 86 people who were run over by a truck on the seafront on 14 July 2016. The terrorist militia Islamic State claimed the driver's act as its own. Three French cities commemorated gendarmerie officer Arnaud Beltrame, who was killed in a hostage situation at a supermarket near Carcassonne in March 2018. This is just a small part of the commemorations that citizens and local politicians gathered for on Wednesday. France held its first national day of remembrance for the victims of terrorism.

The introduction of the day was decided by President Emmanuel Macron in 2019. At the ***European*** level, 11 March has been an official day of remembrance for victims of terrorism since 2005. The date commemorates the attack of 11 March 2004, when Islamist terrorists detonated ten explosive devices in Spain's capital Madrid, killing 191 people.

France has been experiencing a series of Islamist attacks since 2012. The first of these was committed by Mohamed Merah, who attacked a Jewish school and killed three children. The year 2015 was particularly traumatic for France and especially for Paris. In January, the editorial office of the satirical magazine *Charlie Hebdo was the* victim of an attack, then a terrorist killed four people during a hostage situation in a Jewish supermarket. In November, 130 people were killed in a series of attacks.

In a ceremony in Paris with the Spanish King Felipe VI, President Macron commemorated all French and Spanish victims of terrorism. They hoped to divide us, they only united us,' Macron said in the Trocadéro square in Paris, not far from the Eiffel Tower. France counts as the first victims of international terrorism the two people killed by Ilich Ramírez Sánchez, better known as the Venezuelan terrorist 'Carlos', in September 1974. France has had a fund for victims of terrorism since 1986; in 34 years, 330 million ***euros*** have been paid to 11,000 people. Macron now also promised a museum for terror victims.

Germany does not commemorate the ***European*** Day of Remembrance for Victims of Terrorism separately. On Tuesday, the day before the commemoration at the ***European*** level, Federal President Frank-Walter Steinmeier had visited the memorial for the victims of the right-wing terrorist network NSU. Germany has a massive problem with hate and violence', he said beforehand during a discussion with local politicians. Last week, also under the impression of the attack in Hanau, the Bundestag had discussed right-wing extremist terror. Parliamentary President Wolfgang Schäuble said that the state had to 'admit to having underestimated the right-wing extremist danger for too long'.

Former SPD leader Kurt Beck, who until 2018 was the Federal Government Commissioner for the Victims and Surviving Relatives of the Islamist attack on Berlin's Breitscheidplatz on 19 December 2016, told SWR radio on Wednesday that individual remembrance could be "a bit closer". If all victims of terrorism were commemorated together, there was a danger that the remembrance would be "mechanically repeated".

**A fund for victims of terrorism has existed in France since 1986**

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject:** ISLAM & MUSLIMS (90%); ANNIVERSARIES (90%); WAR & WARLIKE CONFLICT (90%); RELIGION & FAITH (90%); TERRORIST ATTACKS (90%); TERRORISM (90%); PUBLIC POLICY (90%); POLITICS (89%); RACISM & XENOPHOBIA (89%); HEADS OF STATE & GOVERNMENT (89%); BOMBS & EXPLOSIVE DEVICES (78%); BOMBINGS (78%); GERMAN POLITICAL PARTIES (78%); GERMAN PARLIAMENT (78%); HOSTAGE TAKING (78%); LEGISLATIVE BODIES (78%); HISTORICAL SITES (78%); POLITICAL PARTIES (78%); TERRORIST ORGANISATIONS (78%); DEATH & DYING (78%); MAYORS (76%); CITIES (76%); ISLAMIC STATE IN IRAQ AND THE LEVANT (73%)

**Industry:** HISTORICAL SITES (78%); MUSEUMS & GALLERIES (73%)

**Person:** FRANK-WALTER STEINMEIER (79%); WOLFGANG SCHÄUBLE (79%)

**Geographic:** PARIS, FRANCE (90%); NICE, FRANCE (73%); MADRID, SPAIN (58%); LANGUEDOC-ROUSSILLON, FRANCE (58%); PROVENCE-ALPES-CÔTE D'AZUR, FRANCE (58%); ÎLE-DE-FRANCE, FRANCE (58%); FRANCE (92%); ***EUROPE (***90%); VENEZUELA (78%); GERMANY (74%); SPAIN (73%).

**Load-Date:** March 13, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Merkel: We must gain time; For the first time, the Chancellor speaks in detail about the Corona epidemic. The goal is to slow down the spread. Health Minister Spahn rejects nationwide closure of schools***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5YDD-29P1-DXX2-P4H2-00000-00&context=)

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Thursday 12 March 2020

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

**Length:** 421 words

**Byline:** BY BORIS HERRMANN

**Body**

**Berlin** - German Chancellor Angela Merkel (CDU) is calling on the German people to join forces in the fight against the coronavirus. Our solidarity, our common sense, our hearts for each other are being put to the test, and I hope that we will pass this test," she said on Wednesday at the Federal Press Conference in Berlin. The virus has reached ***Europe.*** It is here. We all have to understand that,' the Chancellor stressed.

The most important thing now is to "gain time" by all working together to slow down the spread of the virus. The federal, state and local governments, as well as all 83 million people in Germany, must therefore use all their powers to ensure that the health system is not overburdened. At the same time, the Chancellor called on the people of Germany to be prudent in dealing with Corona. The Federal Republic has good security systems to mitigate the economic and social consequences of the virus crisis. We will do everything necessary", Merkel said, and this applies to both the national and the ***European*** level. She clearly rejected calls for border closures: "It is not a question of closing off ***Europe*** from one another," Merkel said, but of solidarity among the ***EU member states***. On the previous evening, the ***European*** Council had met by video conference for the first time in its history because of the epidemic.

Merkel's appearance in Berlin on Wednesday was also a premiere, the first time she faced the questions of the capital's press in connection with the coronavirus. In view of a further spread of the virus, she had previously been criticised for her hesitant appearance. On Tuesday, the Chancellor had predicted at a meeting of the CDU/CSU parliamentary group in the Bundestag that 60 to 70 per cent of the population would probably end up infected with the coronavirus, as participants reported. This was interpreted by her coalition partner SPD, among others, as crisis communication behind closed doors. With her appearance on Wednesday alongside Health Minister Jens Spahn (CDU), Merkel probably also wanted to signal that she is now finally making the fight against the coronavirus a top priority.

Spahn spoke out against a nationwide closure of schools and day-care centres because then doctors or nurses would also have to stay at home to look after their children. However, he reiterated his demand that large events such as football matches should be avoided.

**Graphic**

Appearance before the capital's press: the head of the Robert Koch Institute, Lothar Wieler, Health Minister Spahn and Chancellor Merkel. Photo: Hans Christian Plambeck/laif

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject:** CORONAVIRUS COVID-19 (94%); CORONAVIRUSES (92%); GERMAN CHANCELLORS (91%); HEADS OF STATE & GOVERNMENT (91%); GERMAN POLITICAL PARTIES (90%); EPIDEMICS (90%); ***EUROPEAN UNION (90%);*** HEALTH MINISTRIES (90%); POLITICS (90%); POLITICAL PARTIES (90%); VIRUSES (90%); PUBLIC POLICY (90%); HEALTH POLICY (89%); DISASTER RELIEF (89%); CLOSURES & SHUTDOWNS (89%); GERMAN PARLIAMENT (78%); FOOTBALL (78%); CHILD CARE (75%); DOCTORS (71%)

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

**Industry:** HEALTH MINISTRIES (90%); HEALTH POLICY (89%); DOCTORS (71%)

**Person:** ANGELA MERKEL (95%); JENS SPAHN (90%)

**Geographic:** BERLIN, GERMANY (88%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (90%); ***EUROPE*** (91%); GERMANY (74%).

**Load-Date:** March 14, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Write-off, defer, extend; German economists call for targeted measures against Corona consequences***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5YDD-29P1-DXX2-P4PB-00000-00&context=)

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

**Length:** 687 words

**Byline:** CERSTIN GAMMELIN

**Body**

**Berlin** - This Wednesday, the main issue in Berlin is to set images straight. For example, that economic policy competence is a typically male characteristic. Peter Bofinger points to the colleagues sitting next to him at the Federal Press Conference: "There are six male professors of economics here. But there was also a woman who helped write the list of demands on what the federal government must do against the Corona crisis. Beatrice Weder di Mauro, however, was teaching in Singapore and could not be there live.

The leading German economists, it quickly became clear, want more aid for the economy to mitigate the consequences of the drastic effects of the Corona virus on economic life. They are not satisfied with the package decided by the grand coalition so far. There is praise for the extended short-time allowance and the reimbursement of social contributions for the Federal Employment Agency. They say this will help to prevent company bankruptcies and mass layoffs, so that work can be resumed quickly after the wave of infection has subsided. When will that be? It's hard to say, just this much: two months after it subsides, the economic system could be up and running again.

The picture that Germany's economists disagree on what to do is also set straight. The researchers on the podium, besides Bofinger, are Sebastian Dullien, Gabriel Felbermayr, Clemens Fuest, Michael Hüther and Jens Südekum, belong to different schools of thought from left-liberal to pro-employer, but they all agree on the coronavirus. No investment programme would help, but only "targeted, time-limited and coordinated measures". Because of the slow spread of the virus from country to country, Hüther says, the crisis is progressing with a time lag, "as if more and more trains stop one after the other and come to a standstill. It takes time until they are back in order.

They call for helping companies to avoid liquidity bottlenecks, for example through improved depreciation conditions, the general interest-free deferral of advance and subsequent payments for income, corporation and turnover tax. They recommend better depreciation conditions, the generous granting of the investment deduction and a similar design of the tax loss carryback. It would help businesses noticeably to raise the threshold amount to one million ***euros.*** Because of the psychological effect, the researchers call for the early abolition of the solidarity surcharge on 1 July. This would increase disposable income and strengthen confidence in the state's ability to act. The coalition must accept the softening of the black zero.

Economists agree that the Corona virus shows how fragile the globally organised economic system is. Hüther calls the Corona crisis a "watershed for real economic globalisation". Just as the financial crisis was the watershed for the globalisation of financial flows. Trade chains would be reorganised, efficiency gains would be lost, warehousing would increase. A clear slump in economic growth is foreseeable, a recession in this country is probable.

The professors do not rule out a banking crisis in the medium term. Italian, also German banks could be affected, says Felbermayr. The Federal Ministry of Finance wants to call the German banks to a summit meeting on Friday. Among other things, they want to discuss what help companies particularly affected by the virus crisis could receive from banks, they say in Berlin.

On Tuesday, the ***European*** heads of state and government held a summit by video for the first time. Afterwards, German Chancellor Angela Merkel said that there would be 'no problems in realising the billion-euro programme envisaged by the ***EU Commission***'. ***EU Commission President*** Ursula von der Leyen plans to set up an aid fund of 25 billion ***euros.***

**Economists do not rule out a banking crisis**

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject:** ECONOMICS (91%); CORONAVIRUS COVID-19 (90%); CORONAVIRUSES (89%); GLOBALISATION (89%); VIRUSES (89%); ECONOMIC CRISIS (89%); ECONOMIC POLICY (89%); ECONOMIC NEWS (78%); VAT (78%); RECESSION (78%); ECONOMY & ECONOMIC INDICATORS (78%); CORONA FINANCIAL AID (77%); TALKS & MEETINGS (77%); POLITICS (77%); BANK FAILURES (76%); COMPANY BANKRUPTCIES (73%); COMPANY LOSSES (73%); ECONOMIC GROWTH (73%); LAYOFFS (71%); LABOUR MINISTRIES (68%); BANKRUPTCIES & INSOLVENCY PROCEEDINGS (68%); LAYOFFS & REDUNDANCIES (68%); FINANCE MINISTRIES AND AUTHORITIES (62%); DISPOSABLE INCOME (62%)

**Industry:** BANK LEADERSHIPS (76%); BANK AND FINANCIAL OVERVIEW (69%); FINANCIAL MINISTRIES AND AUTHORITIES (62%)

**Geographic:** BERLIN, GERMANY (88%); ITALY (79%); SINGAPORE (79%); GERMANY (59%)

**Load-Date:** March 13, 2020

**End of Document**

[***BRIEFLY REPORTED; EU wants to question Greece***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5YDD-29P1-DXX2-P4K1-00000-00&context=)

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Thursday 12 March 2020

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

**Length:** 168 words

**Byline:** KMB

**Body**

**Brussels -** The ***EU Commission*** has announced its intention to question the Greek government on renewed reports of rights violations by the authorities there. I want to know more about this," said ***EU Home Affairs Commissioner*** Ylva Johansson. She said it was fine to detain migrants temporarily, "but of course you can't beat people". The *New York Times* had reported on a secret camp on the border with Turkey from which migrants are taken back to Turkey without being given the opportunity to ask for asylum. In addition, the Greek coast guard had fired on a boat with migrants. However, the Commission refrained from giving a concrete assessment of the accusations: it expected Greece to respect fundamental rights, said a spokesperson. Johansson and Commission President Ursula von der Leyen will travel to Athens this Thursday for talks with the Greek government.

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject: *EUROPEAN UNION*** (91%); INSTITUTIONS OF THE ***EUROPEAN*** UNION (90%); POLITICS (90%); TALKS & MEETINGS (73%)

**Person:** URSULA VON DER LEYEN (73%)

**Geographic:** ATHENS, GREECE (73%); BRUSSELS, BELGIUM (58%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (93%); BRUSSELS CAPITAL REGION (79%); GREECE (90%).

**Load-Date:** March 12, 2020

**End of Document**

[***EU: Electrical appliances should be easy to repair***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5YDD-29P1-DXX2-P4H1-00000-00&context=)

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

**Length:** 64 words

**Byline:** BFI

**Body**

**Brussels** - Manufacturers of electrical appliances, such as mobile phones, should in future design them in such a way that they are easy to repair. The ***EU Commission*** announced corresponding legislative proposals on Wednesday. Consumers are to be given a right to repair; this is intended to avoid waste.

**Economy**

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject: *EUROPEAN UNION*** (90%); PUBLIC POLICY (90%); INSTITUTIONS OF THE ***EUROPEAN*** UNION (88%)

**Industry:** MANUFACTURING ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT & EQUIPMENT (88%)

**Geographic:** BRUSSELS, BELGIUM (57%); CAPITAL REGION BRUSSELS (79%)

**Load-Date:** March 12, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Whatever it takes'; Great Britain prepares for the Corona shock: The government promises billions, the central bank lowers the base rate***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5YDD-29P1-DXX2-P4PX-00000-00&context=)

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**Section:** Economy; Munich; Bavaria; Germany; p. 21

**Length:** 810 words

**Byline:** ALEXANDER MÜHLAUER

**Body**

**London** - A week ago, Nadine Dorries was at 10 Downing Street. Boris Johnson had invited the Secretary of State at the Department of Health and all kinds of other guests to a reception on the occasion of International Women's Day. Carrie Symonds, the Prime Minister's pregnant fiancée, was also there. Dorries, the Secretary of State, did not know that evening that she had contracted the corona virus. It was only after she developed a cough and fever over the weekend that she had herself tested; on Tuesday evening she made the result public. Dorries is now the first member of the British government to have contracted the virus.

Prime Minister Johnson swore his country in for a time of uncertainty during an appearance in the House of Commons on Wednesday. To show citizens and businesses that his government was trying everything to minimise the damage to Britain, he had his Chancellor of the Exchequer present a £30 billion package to save the country from a 'Corona shock'. For Rishi Sunak, who took office a month ago, it was the first budget he was allowed to present in parliament. Right at the beginning of his speech, he made a promise: 'This government will do whatever it takes.'

He repeated the words 'whatever it takes' again and again. Whether the NHS needed millions or billions, it would get what it needed. And that was not all. Sick pay will apply to all those who have to stay at home because of the coronavirus. For smaller businesses, the state will pay for the first 14 days. Operators of cinemas, galleries and event halls will be exempt from business taxes to a certain extent. Taxes on alcoholic beverages will be abolished until further notice.

The measures had been discussed with the Bank of England, the Chancellor of the Exchequer explained. And so, on Wednesday, the British could experience a concerted action by the government and the central bank. Even before Sunak's appearance in the House of Commons, outgoing central bank chief Mark Carney had announced "powerful measures" to respond to the Corona crisis. In an extraordinary meeting, the central bank lowered the key interest rate by half a percentage point to 0.25 per cent. This brings the rate back to the level of August 2016 - when the cut was a result of the Brexit referendum. The Bank of England will also reduce the capital requirements for banks and offer favourable financing options. This is to ensure the flow of money even in the event of a looming recession. The central bank took similar emergency measures in the financial crisis year 2008.

In the face of the Corona virus, all the government's other budget plans almost faded into the background. And yet they are likely to be remembered, because they mark nothing less than a massive break in British economic policy. Under Johnson, the Conservative Party is turning away from the austerity programmes of the two Conservative heads of government, David Cameron and Theresa May. It is the end of the long-standing austerity policy in Britain and thus the beginning of a strategic reorientation of the Tories.

Johnson now wants to implement what he promised in the election campaign. The prime minister wants to invest much more money in infrastructure and in research and development. Above all, the poorer regions in the north of England are to benefit from this. Johnson does not want to disappoint his voters there, especially those who voted Labour for decades. The additional spending will lead to a sharp increase in the debt ratio. In 2020/21, the national debt is expected to rise to 2.4 per cent of economic output (a year ago, 1.8 per cent was planned). Economic growth is likely to weaken. Excluding the effects of the coronavirus, the forecast for this year is 1.1 per cent. A year ago, 1.4 per cent was predicted.

Amidst all the bad Corona news, Johnson also had reason to laugh on Wednesday. Sunak rephrased the campaign slogan 'Get Brexit done' and said several times: "This budget get's it done. As a symbol for Britain's ***exit from the EU,*** Sunak announced that the tampon tax would be abolished at the turn of the year. Then the transitional phase agreed with the ***EU will*** end and Britain will no longer have to comply with the minimum tax rate on hygiene products for women imposed by Brussels. But that's it as far as Brexit is concerned. The Chancellor of the Exchequer did not say a word about the economic distortions that the hard Brexit envisaged by Johnson could bring.

**Graphic**

Britain's new Chancellor of the Exchequer Rishi Sunak: 'This government will do whatever it takes'. Photo: Peter Summers/Getty Images

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject:** HEALTH DEPARTMENTS (90%); HEALTH POLICY (90%); PRIME MINISTERS (90%); CENTRAL BANKS (90%); BRITISH PARLIAMENT (89%); CORONAVIRUSES (89%); CORONAVIRUS COVID-19 (89%); INTEREST RATES (89%); POLITICS (89%); POLITICAL PARTIES (89%); HEADS OF STATE & GOVERNMENT (89%); STATISTICAL AGENCIES FOR HEALTH (89%); VIRUSES (89%); INTEREST RATES (89%); PUBLIC POLICY (89%); BRITISH PRIME MINISTERS (78%); GOVERNMENT BUDGETS (78%); INFECTIOUS DISEASES (77%); TAXES & TAXATION (77%); ECONOMIC CRISIS (77%); ECONOMIC NEWS (77%); ECONOMIC POLICY (77%); BREXIT (73%); RECESSION (72%); REFERENDUMS (71%); SMALL AND MEDIUM SIZED BUSINESSES (69%); LEADERS (63%)

**Company:** BANK OF ENGLAND (53%)

**Industry:** NAICS521110 MONETARY AUTHORITIES - CENTRAL BANK (53%); SIC6011 FEDERAL RESERVE BANKS (53%); MINISTRIES OF HEALTH (90%); HEALTH POLICY (90%); CENTRAL BANKS (90%); LENDING RATES (89%); HEALTH STATISTICAL AGENCIES (89%); INTEREST RATES (89%); GOVERNMENT BUDGETS (78%); ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES (50%).

**Person:** BORIS JOHNSON (79%); DAVID CAMERON (79%); MARK CARNEY (79%); THERESA MAY (79%)

**Geographic:** LONDON, ENGLAND (79%); UNITED KINGDOM (94%); ENGLAND (88%)

**Load-Date:** March 12, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Dispute instead of unity; EUHeads of State and Government discuss Corona measures***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5YHK-KFR1-JBF1-021M-00000-00&context=)

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**Section:** Politics; Conference report; Munich; p. 8

**Length:** 751 words

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

**Body**

**Brussels/Munich -** The ***EU*** heads of ***state*** and government did not take Ursula von der Leyen's admonitions to heart. On Thursday, the leaders conferred at a video summit on the fight against the Corona pandemic and its economic consequences. Commission President von der Leyen had previously called for unity in a speech in the ***European Parliament.*** Instead, the politicians argued about the right economic response to the crisis. Italy's Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte initially refused to endorse a joint final declaration because it announced only insufficient financial aid, according to reports.

In the end, the discussion lasted more than five hours instead of the planned two, but at least ***EU Council President*** Charles Michel managed to find a compromise. The dispute revolved around the role of the ***euro bailout fund*** ESM - and whether its activation is enough. Together with Spain's Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez, Conte reportedly called for "innovative and adequate financial instruments" against the Corona crisis. Both states are particularly affected by the pandemic and are already groaning under high debts.

The final declaration promises that the ***Eurogroup***, the body of finance ministers from the states with the common currency, should develop proposals for an ESM aid programme within two weeks. However, other initiatives are not ruled out. German Chancellor Angela Merkel, however, said after the video link that from a German perspective, the ESM was the instrument of choice: "We will discuss the proposals of the finance ministers again in a fortnight.

The planned aid package from the ESM, the "***European*** Stability Mechanism", would consist of it making a so-called precautionary credit line available to all ***euro states.*** All governments would be able to draw down loans worth up to two percent of their economic output to finance the fight against the pandemic and the recession. However, the conditions attached to these loans were controversial. In addition, some governments argued that such lines of credit were insufficient in terms of ***European*** solidarity.

For example, nine states, including France, Spain and Italy, demanded in a letter before the summit that the ***EU*** should issue community bonds. The proceeds should go towards fighting the crisis. But governments like Germany's and the Netherlands' have always opposed communitising debt - they don't want to be jointly liable for the loans of other ***EU states.*** In the summit chat, however, Conte reportedly made it clear that his opposition was not about communitarising debt.

Commission President von der Leyen had complained about national egoism in the Corona crisis in the ***European Parliament on the*** morning before the summit: "When ***Europe*** really had to be there for each other, too many people initially thought only of themselves," said the German. ***Europe is*** at a crossroads. History is looking at us. Let us do the right thing together - with a big heart, not 27 little ones.' This sentence was addressed not only to the MEPs, but above all to the heads of state and government. After the video conference, Chancellor Merkel admitted that the fight against the crisis had got off to a bad start at the ***European*** level: "We have to admit that we did not always act in a coordinated way in the beginning. But now there is the will to coordinate.

The ongoing border controls between many ***EU countries*** were also discussed during the video link-up, as well as a coordinated strategy to ease restrictions and help the economy get back on its feet when the crisis subsides. In an interview, Council President Michel had previously promised an economic aid package comparable to the Marshall Plan, the reconstruction programme for ***Europe*** after the Second World War. According to the final declaration, Michel, the Commission and the ***European*** Central Bank are to jointly draft an action plan. This should contain proposals for the exit strategy after the pandemic and for stimulating the economy.

**Italy's prime minister is unhappy with the promised aid**

**A package 'comparable to the Marshall Plan' after the Second World War**

**Classification**

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**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

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

**Industry:** FINANCIAL MINISTRIES AND AUTHORITIES (90%); ***EURO CRISIS (***78%); ***EUROZONE*** (78%); CURRENCY UNIONS (76%); BORROWINGS & BONDS (67%)

**Person:** URSULA VON DER LEYEN (93%); ANGELA MERKEL (92%)

**Geographic:** BRUSSELS, BELGIUM (58%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (94%); BRUSSELS CAPITAL REGION (79%); ***EUROPE*** (92%); ITALY (92%); SPAIN (92%); FRANCE (79%); NETHERLANDS (79%).

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[***Appeal before the video summit; EUHeads of State and Government discuss Corona measures***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5YHK-KFR1-JBF1-021P-00000-00&context=)

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**Section:** Politics; Conference report; Germany; p. 8

**Length:** 746 words

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

**Body**

**Brussels/Munich -** Ursula von der Leyen has already made several speeches in the ***European Parliament in*** her almost four months in office, but none like this Thursday morning. The Parliament had met in Brussels for a special session - but only a handful of MEPs were present in person because of the Corona crisis. The rest watched via video. The speech was not only remarkable because the ***President of the European Commission*** gave it in front of empty seats. The content was also quite something. With stern words, the German urged for more cooperation: When ***Europe*** really had to be there for each other, too many people thought only of themselves at first.

People would one day 'remember the decisions we make today - and those we did not want to make'. ***Europe is*** at a crossroads, said the CDU politician. History is looking at us. Let us do the right thing together - with a big heart, not with 27 small ones'. This sentence was probably not only directed at the MPs, but above all at the heads of state and government who wanted to discuss the further course of action against the pandemic and its economic effects via video conference in the late afternoon. It was already the third video conference of this kind; the leaders had already exchanged views in this way in the previous two weeks.

Just like von der Leyen, ***EU Council President*** Charles Michel called for more cooperation before the virtual meeting - also to be better prepared for future crises. We need more capacities at the ***European*** level to deal with such crises," said the former Belgian Prime Minister. Specifically, Michel proposed that the Commission be tasked with setting up a "genuine ***European*** centre for crisis management", as stated in an early draft of the summit declaration.

However, there was resistance from several member states: it was too early to conclude that the Union's crisis management tools were not sufficient, said one ***EU diplomat***. Another added that the ***EU*** already had a crisis centre. It does not need a "real new one", but the existing one could perhaps be strengthened. The last draft of the summit declaration did not mention the centre anymore, but invited the Commission in general to come up with proposals for better crisis management at ***EU level.***

The video call was also expected to address the ongoing border controls between many ***EU countries***, as well as a coordinated strategy to ease restrictions and help the economy get back on its feet when the crisis subsides. In an interview, Council President Michel promised an economic aid package comparable to the Marshall Plan, the reconstruction programme for ***Europe*** after World War II. According to the draft final declaration, however, the summit should initially only give the Commission a mandate for an action plan. This should contain proposals for the exit strategy after the pandemic and for stimulating the economy.

The heads of state and government also wanted to discuss what financial aid is possible during the pandemic, i.e. now. They were expected to clear the way for credit lines to help states fight the crisis. The draft final declaration said that the ***Eurogroup***, the body of finance ministers from the states with the common currency, should "without delay" finalise the missing details. An earlier version even mentioned the end of next week as the deadline.

Accordingly, it is planned that the ***euro bailout fund*** ESM will provide a so-called precautionary credit line. All ***euro states*** could call on loans worth up to two percent of their economic output from the ***European*** Stability Mechanism. If they all did so, 240 billion ***euros*** would be raised. The task of the Luxembourg financial institution is to provide emergency loans to ailing ***euro states*** if they have problems finding buyers for their bonds on the financial market. However, countries that are not yet in serious difficulties can also apply for precautionary credit lines.

**The very subject of the crisis centre is so sensitive that it is better left alone**

**A package 'comparable to the Marshall Plan' after the Second World War**

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

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**Subject:** LEGISLATIVE BODIES (91%); POLITICS (91%); ***EUROPEAN UNION*** (90%); HEADS OF STATE & GOVERNMENT (90%); PUBLIC POLICY (90%); PANDEMICS (89%); ECONOMY & ECONOMIC INDICATORS (89%); TALKS & MEETINGS (78%); INTERVIEWS (78%); GERMAN POLITICAL PARTIES (77%); ***EU PRESIDENCY*** (77%); INTERNATIONAL GOVERNMENT TALKS (77%); POLITICAL PARTIES (77%); PRIME MINISTER (77%); CORONAVIRUS COVID-19 (72%); EPIDEMICS (71%); SECOND WORLD WAR (50%)

**Organisation: *EUROPEAN*** PARLIAMENT (84%); ***EUROPEAN UNION*** (83%)

**Person:** URSULA VON DER LEYEN (90%)

**Geographic:** BRUSSELS, BELGIUM (73%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (95%); BRUSSELS CAPITAL REGION (92%); ***EUROPE*** (92%); BELGIUM (90%)

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[***Hands off; The EUCommission asks member states to protect key firms from foreign takeovers if necessary***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5YHK-KFR1-JBF1-023T-00000-00&context=)

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

**Length:** 578 words

**Byline:** BJORN FINKE

**Body**

**Brussels** - There is Curevac, for example: reports of an alleged takeover bid from the USA for the Tübingen-based biotech company led to some excitement. The German government made it clear that it would prevent a sale of the company, which is working on a Corona vaccine. This is entirely in line with the ***EU Commission***. The Brussels-based authority, normally a champion of free markets, urges member states to scrutinise takeover bids for ***European*** corporations by rivals from other continents. Especially in areas such as health, medical research, biotechnology and infrastructures', 'critical assets' must be protected, 'which are essential for our security and public order', the Commission warns.

The fear: Because share prices have crashed and the Corona crisis is causing difficulties for many companies, corporations from the USA or China could try to acquire ***European*** rivals for bargain prices - especially in sectors that are important for coping with the pandemic. Commission President Ursula von der Leyen says that if ***Europe*** is to be as strong after the crisis as it was before, "we must take preventive measures now". It is a matter of 'protecting our security and our economic sovereignty'. I urgently call on the member states to make full use of the necessary instruments," says the former German Defence Minister.

However, only 14 of the 27 member states have comprehensive state review systems for takeovers of strategically important companies, including Germany. The Commission is therefore calling on the other states to establish similar rules. An ***EU regulation*** adopted last year allows governments to ban takeovers or impose conditions if the mergers could threaten national security. The Commission and other member states send comments to the government concerned, if necessary, on how the deal would affect them and what their recommendation would be.

Germany is one of the states offering its companies ample protection against takeovers in the Corona crisis. Even temporary partial nationalisations are planned. Federal Economics Minister Peter Altmaier (CDU) warned potential buyers at the beginning of the week: "I say this to all those in hedge funds and elsewhere who are already looking forward to acquiring one or the other on the cheap: We are determined to stand by our companies in this situation'.

Commission President von der Leyen stresses that despite her appeal, ***Europe*** remains 'an open market for foreign direct investment'. But it is also clear that the pandemic has led to more protectionism in general. Governments like Germany's - and later the Commission's - imposed export restrictions on medical equipment.

As far as takeovers are concerned, the authority was already thinking about tightening the rules before the Corona crisis: the Commission wants to develop regulations to better protect domestic companies from unfair competition from subsidised rivals from other continents, such as Chinese companies. For example, Chinese companies should be prevented from buying ***European*** firms and paying prices that no bidder in ***Europe*** can match, thanks to lavish subsidies from their home country.

**Classification**

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**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject:** CORONAVIRUS COVID-19 (90%); ***EUROPEAN UNION (90%)***; CORPORATE TAKEOVERS (90%); BUSINESS TAKEOVERS (90%); ***EUROPEAN*** UNION INSTITUTIONS (90%); ENDANGERED SPECIES (89%); PANDEMICS (89%); POLITICS (89%); NATIONALISATION (78%); FOREIGN INVESTMENT (77%); EPIDEMICS (77%); ***EU REGULATION*** (77%); ***EUROPEAN LAW (77%);*** GOVERNMENT SUBSIDIES & FUNDING (77%); DEFENCE MINISTRIES (77%); DEFENCE POLICY & MILITARY POLICY (75%); EXPORT TRADE (73%); BUSINESS STRATEGY (73%); EXPORT & IMPORT LAWS (72%); HEDGE FUNDS (72%); VACCINES (72%); PRICES (72%); BIOTECHNOLOGY & GENETIC SCIENCE (70%); MEDICAL RESEARCH (70%); NATIONAL SECURITY (70%); STOCK PRICES (69%); GERMAN POLITICAL PARTIES (65%); EXPORT CONTROLS (64%); PROTECTIONISM (60%)

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

**Industry: DEFENCE** MINISTRIES (77%); DEFENCE POLICY & MILITARY POLICY (75%); HEDGE FUNDS (72%); IMPACTS (72%); SHARE PRICES (69%).

**Person:** URSULA VON DER LEYEN (90%); PETER ALTMAIER (74%)

**Geographic:** BRUSSELS, BELGIUM (73%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (93%); BRUSSELS CAPITAL REGION (91%); ***EUROPE*** (92%); CHINA (88%); GERMANY (74%)

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[***The butterfly effect; The coronavirus also spread so quickly because the world is so closely intertwined economically. Some are now calling for the abandonment of globalisation. That would be a fatal mistake***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5YHK-KFR1-JBF1-023D-00000-00&context=)

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**Section:** Economy; Lead story; Munich; Bavaria; p. 17

**Length:** 1433 words

**Byline:** BY NIKOLAUS PIPER

**Body**

Let no one say there were no warnings. Six years ago, Ian Goldin, an Oxford professor, and Mike Mariathasan, now an assistant professor in Leuven, published a book called '*The Butterfly Defect*'. This is a play on words with the term 'butterfly effect'. Scientists use this term when they want to describe that in complex systems small causes can have completely unpredictable consequences: The flap of a butterfly's wings in Brazil can trigger a tornado in Texas. And this is not just abstract theory. The globalised economy of today, Goldin and Mariathasan wrote, has become such a complex system in which unpredictable things happen, for example financial crises and pandemics.

The world has to adjust to this.

Today, Goldin and Mariathasan are in demand. As experts who already saw a connection between the spread of viruses and globalisation in 2014. Globalisation has done a lot of good," says Goldin. "But it poses systemic risks that we have not been able to deal with. One example was the financial crisis of 2008/2009, a second is now the Corona epidemic.

Does Corona mean the end of globalisation as we know it? Some believe so. One has to ask oneself "whether we have overdone globalisation a bit", said Saskia Esken, chairperson of the SPD, to the *Handelsblatt.* And we need to analyse "in which strategically important goods and services we are so dependent on international supply relationships that it is detrimental to us in emergency situations". The Social Democrat is not alone in her position. In the crisis, many believe that an at least partial withdrawal from globalisation is the solution. "It is entirely possible that Covid-19 will trigger the waning of globalisation," writes historian Harold James of Princeton University.

That would be in keeping with the spirit of the times. In any case, the crisis is leading to a loosening of economic ties between countries. The Ifo Institute in Munich reported last month that German companies' export expectations fell more sharply than at any time since reunification. The World Trade Organisation (WTO) expects a dramatic decline in the global exchange of goods and services. Borders are suddenly closed again, even within the ***European*** Union. Protective measures at Germany's borders mean that helpers for the asparagus harvest from Poland and other Eastern European countries can no longer enter the country. At times, the federal government banned the sale of protective masks abroad in order to secure supplies.

Thousands of people, left and right, socialists and nationalists, have repeatedly demonstrated against globalisation in recent years. With Attac, there is even an organisation that was founded for the purpose of criticising globalisation. In the White House in Washington, there is an avowed opponent of globalisation in the person of presidential advisor Peter Navarro. Economists may point out as much as they like that the international division of labour has been a source of prosperity around the world in recent decades. Now there is a real danger of a major setback. This is "the first world crisis to be met according to the standards of a nationalist world order", says Thomas Kleine Brockhoff, head of the Berlin office of the German Marshall Fund. According to Kleine-Brockhoff, men like American President Donald Trump, China's head of state and party leader Xi Jinping or Russia's ruler Vladimir Putin are responsible for this.

The new element at Corona is clearly evident when compared to the financial crisis. Like the Corona crisis, it too began with a seemingly local event. In one case it was an infection in a Chinese province, in the other it was bad home loans in the USA. When the investment bank Lehman Brothers collapsed in autumn 2008 and the dimension of the financial crisis was clear, the then American President George W. Bush convened a world financial summit of the G20 countries in Washington for 14 and 15 November. Its decisions calmed the situation and contributed to the fact that after the end of the financial crisis, the Western world experienced one of the longest upswings since the Second World War.

The current White House master, on the other hand, blames the crisis on the Chinese and ***the Europeans.*** China's leadership, for its part, feeds conspiracy theories that American agents brought the virus to China to harm the emerging world power. National thinking sometimes goes to the grotesque. According to unconfirmed rumours, Trump wanted to acquire the young Tübingen-based company Curevac, which is working on a vaccine against the coronavirus. It was to have supplied exclusively for the American market. Principal owner Dietmar Hopp vetoed the deal, otherwise the German government would probably have had to do so. The global institutions that would actually be responsible for the crisis, the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the WTO, are weakened and can hardly perform their tasks.

There is no doubt that until the pandemic is contained, many people will have to learn a lot. For example, when it comes to the security of supply of medicines. But this cannot be achieved by producing everything in Germany, says Gabriel Felbermayr, President of the Kiel Institute for the World Economy. The health sector needs "incentives to pay attention not only to costs, but also to secure supply". This would mean additional expenditure in hospitals and pharmacies - and as a result also higher insurance premiums for patients or additional expenditure for the state. Decisions such as the export ban on respirators should no longer be allowed. We need a ***European*** strategy," Felbermayr believes.

The pharmaceutical sector in particular shows how much Germany would damage itself if it abandoned globalisation. Germany exports far more patented medicines than it exports. There is an import surplus of imitation products ('generics'). Globalisation will become more and more differentiated, says Han Steutel, President of the German Association of Research-Based Pharmaceutical Companies (VfA). This will also happen after Corona. But it cannot be turned back. The Corona pandemic in particular shows an international cooperation in research, financing and production of medicines that we have never seen before.

Another question is whether the finely tuned international value chains, for example in the car industry or in mechanical engineering, can remain as they have developed in the course of globalisation. The value chains will be readjusted," says Ralph Wichers, chief economist of the German Engineering Federation (VDMA). In the companies, there is always a balancing act between the production manager, who wants to do everything himself, and the controller, who wants to reduce costs. It is in the DNA of German machine builders to always try something new.

However, this does not mean that production can be brought back to Germany so easily, even if one would like to. Many products of German mechanical engineering companies are so specialised that there is only one world market for them or no market at all. Moreover, many countries to which German companies export demand that they also produce in their country. For the German economy, therefore, turning away from globalisation is not an option at all.

At the moment, companies are "driving on sight", trying to make ends meet from day to day, says Jörg Wuttke, President of the German Chamber of Commerce in Beijing. Nobody knows what will happen next and the recovery in China will take a long time. But there is nothing left to do but think globally. ,,What do you do when the virus is raging in Nigeria and the masses of people are making their way to ***Europe***?'

**Conspiracy theories and insults: National thinking goes as far as the grotesque**

**The global institutions that would be in demand in such a crisis are weakened**

**Bringing production back to Germany? It is not that simple**

**Graphic**

The virus dominates the world: In the Chinese city of Fujian, images of helpers in the Corona crisis are projected onto skyscrapers. Photo: afp

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**Geographic: *EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (79%); TEXAS, USA (79%); BRAZIL (79%); POLAND (79%); ***EUROPE*** (67%); GERMANY (59%); EASTERN EUROPE (57%)

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**End of Document**

[***Discussion on 'exit strategy'; First voices in Berlin and Brussels call for an early relaxation of the measures to contain the coronavirus. The Federal Government strives for a unified line***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5YHK-KFR1-JBF1-0204-00000-00&context=)

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

**Length:** 684 words

**Byline:** BY MARKUS BALSER, KAROLINE META BEISEL, CONSTANZE VON BULLION AND KRISTIANA LUDWIG

**Body**

**Berlin/Brussels** - In its fight against the Corona crisis, the German government is trying to take a consistent line. However, differences are growing in Germany and ***Europe*** over the conditions under which the restrictions on public life can be lifted again. Business associations warned of the consequences of a long-term standstill in companies. Meanwhile, Brussels is also considering what a so-called exit strategy might look like. Federal Interior Minister Horst Seehofer (CSU), on the other hand, rejected all considerations of prematurely easing exit restrictions for economic reasons. As long as the virus rages, there is no alternative to protecting people," Seehofer told the *Süddeutsche Zeitung*. Restoring the ability to function at the cost of many deaths or even sick people who are cured but have permanent damage is out of the question for me. He was not available for such measures, Seehofer said: "Not with me.

Proposals for a gradual easing of exit restrictions should also be rejected. It is an illusion to believe that a virus can be controlled gradually so that only the 90-year-olds or 80-year-olds or 70-year-olds are affected," Seehofer said. I don't believe in spouting such slogans: The economy must soon be put back on track. That's all just fine hollering. He pleaded for "the strictest standards when it comes to breaking the chains of infection". What is needed is "great discipline until about Easter time".

After the closure of shops and strict curfews, voices had grown louder to consider an exit strategy soon. 'In the long term, we cannot paralyse the entire country,' said the chief executive of the Association of Towns and Municipalities. The President of the German Association of the Automotive Industry, Hildegard Müller, warned urgently of the consequences of a long-term lockdown: "We cannot completely shut down public life in Germany and the production of industry for many months and bring it to a standstill," she said. The Bundesverband mittelständische Wirtschaft took a similar position.

Health Minister Jens Spahn (CDU) had also temporarily given the impression that the federal government was already concerned with returning to normality. The question of "how we leave this crisis mode becomes more important every day", he said in an interview with Die *Zeit*. I want to be able to give a good answer by Easter at the latest. A gradual return to normality is conceivable. During this time, the elderly 'may have to be asked to limit their contacts and, if in doubt, to stay at home'. On Thursday, after Seehofer's intervention, there was no more talk of a strategy until Easter.

Citizens are experiencing the most severe cuts to civil liberties in the history of the Federal Republic, Spahn said in Berlin. But this is still the calm before the storm. What matters now, he said, is to "stick to the measures that the Länder and local authorities have decided on and are implementing". If "everyone is consistent with each other until Easter", it might be possible to talk about a change after Easter. This depends on whether the spread of the coronavirus slows down. But this would only be known in about 14 days.

The question of what the way out of the crisis might look like also occupied the heads of state and government of the ***European*** Union at their video conference on Thursday afternoon. Council President Charles Michel had already announced in advance that he would ask the ***EU Commission to*** draw up an "exit strategy": "We need similar, more harmonious criteria, according to which we can lift the strict measures now introduced piece by piece," he said. He also called for the establishment of a "real ***European*** Centre for Crisis Management" to be better prepared for future crises.

**Classification**

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**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject:** CORONAVIRUS COVID-19 (92%); POLITICS (90%); SOCIAL DISTANCING (90%); VIRUSES (90%); PUBLIC POLICY (90%); CORONAVIRUSES (89%); GERMAN POLITICAL PARTIES (89%); POLITICAL PARTIES (89%); EASTER (86%); PLANT CLOSURES (78%); INTERVIEWS (78%); HEADS OF STATE & GOVERNMENT (78%); CLOSURES & SHUTDOWNS (76%); HEALTH MINISTRIES (73%); LEADERS (70%)

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

**Industry:** HEALTH MINISTRIES (73%); VEHICLE INDUSTRY (63%); VEHICLE SECTOR OVERVIEW (50%)

**Person:** HORST SEEHOFER (94%); JENS SPAHN (73%)

**Geographic:** BERLIN, GERMANY (88%); BRUSSELS, BELGIUM (88%); BRUSSELS CAPITAL REGION (93%); GERMANY (90%); BELGIUM (79%); ***EUROPE (***78%)

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[***FOREIGN; ECJ does not rule***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5YHK-KFR1-JBF1-0222-00000-00&context=)

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**Section:** Politics; Munich; Bavaria; Germany; p. 9

**Length:** 169 words

**Byline:** DPA

**Body**

**Luxembourg** - In the dispute over judicial reform in Poland, Polish judges have suffered a setback before the ***European*** Court of Justice (ECJ). For formal reasons, the Luxembourg judges did not want to rule on the Polish disciplinary proceedings on Thursday. Nevertheless, they backed the Polish judges on one point (Cases C-558/18 and C-563/18). The government in Warsaw, however, sees itself strengthened in its position. Despite international criticism, the national conservative PiS government has been restructuring Poland's judiciary for years and putting judges under pressure. The reforms have already ended up before the ***European*** Court of Justice several times. The background to the current proceedings are the regulations introduced in 2017 for disciplinary proceedings against judges. In two court cases, Polish courts expressed concern that their rulings could lead to disciplinary proceedings against the respective judge.

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

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**Subject: COURTS OF** THE ***EUROPEAN*** UNION (99%); INTERNATIONAL COURTS & TRIBUNALS (91%); TRIBUNALS (90%); JUDICIAL PROCESSES (90%); INSTITUTIONS OF THE ***EUROPEAN*** UNION (90%); JUDGES (90%); PUBLIC POLICY (90%); COURT HEARINGS AND PROCEEDINGS (78%); COURT DECISIONS (77%)

**Geographic:** WARSAW, POLAND (79%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (90%); POLAND (93%); ***EUROPE*** (88%); LUXEMBOURG (88%).

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[***Fall after seven weeks; vote of no confidence against Kosovo's head of government Kurti***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5YHK-KFR1-JBF1-0224-00000-00&context=)

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**Section:** Politics; Munich; Bavaria; Germany; p. 9

**Length:** 715 words

**Byline:** PETER MÜNCH

**Body**

**Vienna** - Kosovo's Prime Minister Albin Kurti of the left-wing nationalist party Vetëvendosje (Self-Determination) has been ousted by a vote of no confidence in parliament after only seven weeks in office. The formal reason was a disagreement with his conservative coalition partner LDK over the course to be taken in the Corona crisis. But behind this is a power struggle between the prime minister and President Hashim Thaçi. Richard Grenell, appointed by US President Donald Trump as his special envoy for Serbia and Kosovo, who is also US ambassador in Berlin and Washington's top intelligence coordinator, appears only half in the background as the string puller.

The coalition dispute was triggered when Kurti dismissed Agim Veliu, the interior minister appointed by the LDK. He had demanded the declaration of a state of emergency, which would have given President Thaçi far-reaching powers of intervention. The old forces in the LDK then joined forces with the opposition to topple the head of government. Some younger LDK politicians, such as the successful top candidate in the recent parliamentary election, Vjosa Osmani, resisted the move. But they could not prevent the no-confidence vote in parliament late on Wednesday night from being supported by 82 of the total 120 MPs. As a loud sign of protest in times of curfew, thousands of people in the capital Pristina drummed on pots and iron balcony bars in their homes at the same time as the parliamentary session.

Kurti had taken office as head of government at the beginning of February with the promise to fight corruption and organised crime in Kosovo. In doing so, he deliberately disturbed the circles of those forces from the former so-called Kosovo Liberation Army (UÇK), which had always set the tone in the former Serbian province that was declared independent in 2008. Thaçi also comes from the UÇK. After the dismissal of the interior minister, he had asked the police not to follow Kurti's measures against the corona virus.

At the core of this power struggle, however, is the question of which course to take in the negotiations with Serbia on the recognition of independence. Kurti wanted the parliament to have more of a say. So far, the talks had been led by President Thaçi, who together with Serbian President Aleksander Vu&ccaron;i&cacute; had already ventilated the idea of a land swap along ethnic lines two years ago. This was vehemently rejected by Germany and other ***EU partners with the*** argument that such a border change in the Balkans could plunge other states such as Bosnia or Northern Macedonia into new conflicts.

However, this ***European*** course is being countered from Washington. Last autumn, Trump commissioned his supposed all-purpose weapon Grenell to broker a "deal" between Serbia and Kosovo, which could be helpful in the presidential election campaign. It is assumed that the border changes will also be put back on the negotiating table. Grenell exerted enormous pressure immediately after Kurti's inauguration, demanding that the new head of government lift the 100 per cent punitive tariffs on Serbian goods imposed in 2018 as a gesture towards Belgrade. However, Kurti was only willing to withdraw part of the tariffs and make everything else dependent on Serbian steps towards recognition.

With this attitude, Kurti turned the Americans against him. Grenell tweeted angrily: "Tariffs must fall completely. Mr Kurti is making a serious mistake.' Threats were made to withdraw economic aid. The president's son, Donald Trump Jr., even suggested the closure of the US military base in Kosovo. When the vote of no confidence was called, the German and French ambassadors in Pristina took Kurti's side and jointly called for the government not to be overthrown in these tense times. The US ambassador, on the other hand, said he was "delighted" with the no-confidence vote.

**Page 4**

**Corona was the cause. Behind it is a power struggle that also affects the *EU* and the USA**

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject:** HEADS OF STATE & GOVERNMENT (96%); LEGISLATIVE BODIES (90%); POLITICS (90%); PRESIDENTS OF STATE (90%); PUBLIC POLICY (90%); PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS (89%); CURFEW (78%); ***EUROPEAN UNION (78%)***; CORRUPTION (78%); US PRESIDENTS (78%); VOTERS & ELECTIONS (78%); ELECTIONS & CAMPAIGNS (77%); CORONAVIRUS COVID-19 (76%); INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES (73%); PRIME MINISTERS (73%); ELECTIONS (73%); PROTESTS & DEMONSTRATIONS (66%); ORGANISED CRIME (65%); ETHNICITY & ETHNICITY (63%); TARIFFS (60%); CORONAVIRUSES (50%); VIRUSES (50%)

**Person:** DONALD TRUMP (79%)

**Geographic:** BELGRADE, SERBIA (79%); BERLIN, GERMANY (58%); VIENNA, AUSTRIA (58%); ***EUROPE (79%); EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (79%); KOSOVO (94%); SERBIA (94%); ***EUROPE (79%);*** NORTH AMERICA (79%); NORTH MACEDONIA (79%); GERMANY (59%).

**Load-Date:** March 30, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Farmers prevail; EUCommission postpones implementation of fertiliser regulation***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5YHK-KFR1-JBF1-01N4-00000-00&context=)

Süddeutsche Zeitung

Friday 27 March 2020

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**Section:** Bavaria; Munich West; Bavaria Region; p. 11

**Length:** 463 words

**Byline:** CWS

**Body**

**Munich** - So now, once again, the farmers have prevailed. If the Bundesrat approves the new, much stricter rules for fertilising fields and pastures this Friday, the ***EU Commission*** will extend the deadline for implementing the new requirements until 1 January 2021. This was not to be expected. Until recently, the ***EU Commission assumed*** that the new Fertiliser Ordinance would come into force immediately after approval by the Bundesrat in April. And ultimately. Otherwise, it had threatened the federal and state governments with 314 million ***euros in*** fines per year.

The new fertiliser ordinance is one of the main reasons for the mass protests by farmers in recent months. Even though the groundwater in many places in Germany and Bavaria is contaminated with the pollutant nitrate, the farmers do not want to accept the new requirements for keeping it clean. They kept up the pressure until the end. Recently, they have even invoked the Corona pandemic as a reason for their resistance. The network "Land schafft Verbindung" (LSV), which is organising the protests, explained that securing the food supply is particularly important in these times. The fertiliser ordinance risks reducing Germany's self-sufficiency in food, said LSV spokesperson Andreas Bertele recently. Germany is already dependent on food imports. Currently, the degree of self-sufficiency across all products is 85 to 90 per cent. For vegetables, it is below 50 per cent, for fruit even lower. In view of the Corona pandemic, politicians have to make decisions for the benefit of the population, said Bertele. Therefore, the procedure for the new fertiliser regulation should be suspended until the situation had eased. The Bavarian Minister of Agriculture, Michaela Kaniber (CSU), joined some of her state colleagues in this demand.

The conflation of the Corona pandemic with the dispute over the new fertiliser ordinance is arbitrary in the view of many observers. This is the case, for example, for the mayor of Abensberg and president of the municipal association, Uwe Brandl (CSU). In a letter to Minister President Markus Söder (CSU), Brandl calls it "unbearable" that the LSV network now wants to "make the consumer a pawn in the fertiliser dispute" and announces that it will "deny him food" in the Corona pandemic. The population is fighting for its health, many fear for their existence, the economy is struggling for survival. Therefore, the state government should not give in to the LSV's demand. Brandl's intervention was to no avail. The farmers at least managed to get a postponement of three quarters of a year.

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject:** GERMAN BUNDESRAT (90%); ***EUROPEAN UNION (***90%); LEGISLATIVE BODIES (90%); GERMAN POLITICAL PARTIES (89%); PANDEMICS (89%); POLITICS (89%); POLITICAL PARTIES (89%); GOVERNMENT CABINETS (89%); CORONAVIRUS COVID-19 (88%); EPIDEMICS (88%); MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE (78%); HEADS OF STATE & GOVERNMENT (78%); PUBLIC POLICY (78%); INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS (77%); PROTESTS & DEMONSTRATIONS (74%); MAYORS (68%); FOOD IMPORTS & EXPORTS (67%); IMPORT TRADE (65%)

**Industry:** AGRICULTURES (90%); AGRICULTURAL MINISTRIES (78%); FOOD AND EXPORTS (67%)

**Geographic:** LIEGE, BELGIUM (90%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (93%); BAVARIA, GERMANY (89%); GERMANY (89%).

**Load-Date:** March 30, 2020

**End of Document**

[***FOREIGN; New EUMediterranean Mission***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5YHK-KFR1-JBF1-0220-00000-00&context=)

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Friday 27 March 2020

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**Section:** Politics; Munich; Bavaria; Germany; p. 9

**Length:** 189 words

**Byline:** DPA

**Body**

**Brussels** - The ***EU*** has agreed on a mandate for the new "Irene" mission to enforce the UN arms embargo against Libya. The new operation is to monitor the embargo from the air, by satellite and at sea, as dpa learned from diplomatic circles. This means that the international community is returning to the Mediterranean with ships after a one-year absence. In principle, the foreign ministers had already agreed in February on a successor mission to Operation 'Sophia', which expires at the end of March. However, the maritime part of the mission was the most controversial. Austria and Hungary were concerned that such a mission could lead to more migrants making the dangerous crossing from Africa to ***Europe because*** they could assume they would be rescued. The agreement reached by the foreign ministers of the ***EU states*** took these concerns into account. According to the agreement, the ships will not be deployed in the central Mediterranean, but much further east, far away from the flight routes, for example off Benghazi or the Suez Canal.

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject: *EUROPEAN UNION*** (92%); FOREIGN RELATIONS (90%); EMBARGOES & SANCTIONS (90%); POLITICS (90%); PUBLIC POLICY (90%); ARMS EMBARGOES (77%); UNITED NATIONS (72%)

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

**Industry:** ARMS TRADE (77%)

**Geographic:** BRUSSELS, BELGIUM (58%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (91%); BRUSSELS CAPITAL REGION (79%); ***EUROPE*** (88%); HUNGARY (79%); AFRICA (73%); LIBYA (73%); AUSTRIA (58%).

**Load-Date:** March 30, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Full braking; Since Thursday, 70 percent of the Italian economy has been at a standstill. This means that the country is losing 100 billion euros in economic output***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5YHK-KFR1-JBF1-0247-00000-00&context=)

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Friday 27 March 2020

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

**Length:** 558 words

**Byline:** ULRIKE SAUER

**Body**

**Rome** - It was not an easy decision, but it was necessary. Italy's head of government Giuseppe Conte addressed the country in a Facebook video last Saturday. It is shortly before midnight, and the prime minister's forehead is deeply wrinkled with worry. We are slowing down the economic engine, but we are not shutting it down," Conte says. He thus announces the nationwide closure of factories. Only companies that are indispensable for supplying the population are exempt from the production stop. The measures are draconian, but we have no choice," says the prime minister, introducing his fifth government decree in the fight against the Covid 19 epidemic. It is the fifth tightening of measures to curb the deadly viral infection in a month. As of Thursday, 70 per cent of the economy is now at a standstill.

The industrial blockade was considered the ultimate remedy. On 21 March, when it was decided, 793 people died of the lung disease in Italy. It was the darkest day since the outbreak of the epidemic four weeks earlier. Conte could no longer withstand the pressure. The governors of the worst-hit regions along the Alpine rim and the mayors of the Corona capitals in the north had been demanding the *shutdown for* days. Finally, the trade unions also pushed for a national shutdown. In turn, they had been besieged by their members from the disaster areas to give absolute priority to health over turnover. Spontaneous work stoppages had already been taking place for weeks in factories, offices and call centres, with the workers emphasising their demands for stricter safety regulations.

The industrialists, on the other hand, had tried to prevent the general shutdown of production. The production chains are so closely interwoven that there is a danger that the shutdown will also block vital sectors,' warned the industry association Confindustria. Moreover, entrepreneurs fear that many companies will not survive the forced closure. Trade unions and industry struggled for days with the government over which companies could be excluded from the blockade. The blockade will now be in place until 3 April. Life is our most precious asset and we can close companies all over Italy, but we have to be clear that many of them will not reopen,' said Carlo Bonomi, head of the Milan Industrialists. "When this nightmare is over, we will be in a war economy," he says.

The shutdown will cost the country 100 billion ***euros*** a month in economic output. We must now do everything we can to ensure that the shutdown is not definitive for companies," says Confindustria boss Vincenzo Boccia.

The government has approved a first aid programme of 25 billion ***euros.*** Finance Minister Roberto Gualtieri announced a new package of the same amount for the beginning of April to support the economic restart. No one can estimate how much the economy will crash in 2020. The decline will be "manageable", Gualtieri assures. What is essential is that the inevitable and deep fall is quickly followed by an upswing," says Deputy Finance Minister Antonio Misiani.

**Graphic**

Barred shop doors. A man stands in front of a shop. Photo: Roberto Monaldo/AP

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject:** PRODUCTION FACILITIES (90%); SOCIAL NETWORKS ON THE INTERNET (90%); HEADS OF STATE & GOVERNMENT (90%); ECONOMY & ECONOMIC INDICATORS (90%); DISASTER RELIEF (89%); ECONOMIC NEWS (89%); CLOSURES & SHUTDOWNS (89%); LEADERS (87%); CORONAVIRUS COVID-19 (78%); PRIME MINISTER (78%); CONSUMER HEALTH INFORMATION (76%); EPIDEMICS (74%); DEATH & DEATH (74%); WAR & ARMED CONFLICT (73%); TRADE UNIONS (71%); VIRUSES (69%); CITIES (66%); MAYORS (52%)

**Company:** FACEBOOK INC (58%)

**Ticker:** FB (NASDAQ) (58%)

**Industry:** NAICS519130 INTERNET PUBLISHING & BROADCASTING & WEB SEARCH PORTALS (58%); INTERNET & WWW (90%); PRODUCTION FACILITIES (90%); INTERNET SOCIAL NETWORKS (90%); WEBSITES & WEB PORTALS (90%); CONSUMER HEALTH INFORMATION (76%); INTERNET SEARCH PORTALS (76%)

**Geographic:** MILAN, ITALY (79%); ROME, ITALY (79%); ITALY (94%)

**Load-Date:** March 30, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Von der Leyen criticises egoism of the EUstates***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5YHK-KFR1-JBF1-01YX-00000-00&context=)

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

**Length:** 62 words

**Byline:** . DPA

**Body**

**Munich** - Commission President Ursula von der Leyen has sharply criticised the ***EU states for going it*** alone in the Corona crisis. ***Europe is*** at a crossroads, "history is looking at us", she appealed to the heads of state and government. Let us do the right thing together: with one big heart and not 27 small ones'.

**Page 8**

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject: *EUROPEAN UNION*** (90%); PUBLIC POLICY (90%); POLITICS (88%); HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT (88%); CORONAVIRUS COVID-19 (72%)

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

**Person:** URSULA VON DER LEYEN (88%)

**Geographic: *EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (91%); ***EUROPE*** (90%)

**Load-Date:** March 30, 2020

**End of Document**

[***GREAT BRITAIN; matters of fate***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5YHK-KFR1-JBF1-020X-00000-00&context=)

Süddeutsche Zeitung

Friday 27 March 2020

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

**Length:** 839 words

**Byline:** BY CATHRIN KAHLWEIT

**Body**

The British are proud of their "Blitz Spirit" - the spirit of resistance and courage to survive during the German bombing raids in the Second World War. During the election campaign, Brexit Prime Minister Boris Johnson invoked this spirit like a corporate identity that needed to be rediscovered; in a grotesque reversal of cause and effect, he promised that the country would even master a no-deal Brexit and emerge from it in new greatness.

In the Corona crisis, it is once again the "Blitz Spirit" that is supposed to unite the British. Critics like the historian Richard Overy, however, point out that fatalism and sloppiness once also contributed to what was later to become a myth. People would have endangered themselves without need and continued to drink in pubs while the bombs were falling. Some would rather sit stoically under a Union Jack flag and wait than take refuge in one of the hastily built bunkers. Overy calls this 'defiantly British' - national pride coupled with defiance.

In the broken world of everyday life, there is little left of a socially caring public spirit; it is now being reactivated as a response to the coronavirus. The *Times* rants about the "quiet heroism" of the population. This is pathetic nonsense for now, but the truth is that 500,000 volunteers have come forward to help out in the health system.

Otherwise, the behaviour of many British seemed to be characterised by the same conviction that historians observed on the island in 1940/1941: Fate cannot be influenced by caution. Last weekend, when hundreds died in southern Europe and the British were supposed to stay at home, many went shopping and hiking. To this day, the cabinet has not managed to explain which rules apply to whom. Many still do not abide by them.

Downing Street has taken a criminally long time to switch to real crisis mode. By sticking to the internationally criticised model of herd immunity, the fastest possible infection and immunisation of millions, the economy and freedom were to be protected - especially in Brexit times. The neoliberal ethics of Johnson and his eccentric chief advisor Dominic Cummings are based on the writings of British philosophers such as the utilitarians Jeremy Bentham and John Stuart Mill: morally right is what makes as many people as possible happy. This borders on pure populism, especially in times of crisis, mixed with arrogance. What civilised nation would have wanted to put all the elderly and chronically ill under house arrest for three months and leave them to fend for themselves while the younger ones go about their daily lives - in the hope that things won't get so bad?

For a long time, what the medical profession said was of no interest. Johnson, convinced of *British Exceptionalism, had* to retrain: for too long the Brexiteers squad in Downing Street, which had not been put together according to competence but according to compliance in the Brexit question, had arrogantly claimed that the country had enough of experts. Only when more and more experts predicted chaos and suffering did the mood tip. On one point the hubris continues: Johnson does not want to admit that the Brexit date cannot be kept and that a trade deal with the ***EU*** is not feasible. Brexit in times of Corona - what a plan.

Britain is now weeks behind other countries due to political failures and indecision in containing the disease. It is well known how emaciated and underfunded the NHS, the National Health Service, has been for many years. Even in normal flu winters, there are horror pictures from the hospitals. It is only now that emergency care is being provided, which should have been prevention. At the same time, one can't shake the suspicion that it's still all about friend-foe thinking according to the Brexit scheme: a major contract for the construction of additional ventilators has now been awarded to ***EU exit supporter*** James Dyson. Otherwise, the legendary Civil Service is now being called in, companies are converting their production, the military is supposed to help. Much still smells of chaos and patchwork. Johnson himself is at times a risk: he cannot communicate complex issues clearly, perhaps he doesn't want to. Meanwhile, parliament pauses - officially out of caution - and leaves the field to the government.

Security experts are rightly angry because warnings were ignored. They are much more sceptical than Johnson, who despises pessimists and still has not found credibility in the role of statesman. At the latest when there are supply problems, they warn, riots will break out. Then another British philosopher, Thomas Hobbes, might be right: Man is man's wolf.

**Brexit supporters like to vilify experts. This is one reason why researchers have now been heard late**

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject:** BREXIT (89%); WAR & WARLIKE CONFLICT (89%); ETHICS (78%); PRIME MINISTER (78%); HISTORY (77%); WORLD WAR II (77%); CORONAVIRUS COVID-19 (75%); CHRONIC DISEASES (71%); VACCINES (71%); VACCINATION & IMMUNISATION (71%); DEATH & DYING (69%); SOCIAL ASSISTANCE & WELFARE (68%); CORONAVIRUSES (66%); VIRUSES (66%); CURFEW (50%)

**Industry:** VACCINES (71%); VACCINATION & IMMUNISATION (71%)

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

**Geographic:** UNITED KINGDOM (88%); SOUTHERN EUROPE (69%)

**Load-Date:** March 30, 2020

**End of Document**

[***500 000 000 000 Euro; The EUfinance ministers agree on an aid package for cash-strapped states in the Corona crisis. The dispute over joint bonds remains; in a fortnight' time the heads of government discuss***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5YMT-1001-DXX2-P50K-00000-00&context=)

Süddeutsche Zeitung

Saturday 11 April 2020

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

**Length:** 780 words

**Byline:** BY BJÖRN FINKE, THOMAS KIRCHNER AND OLIVER MEILER

**Body**

As is well known, a compromise is never a victory, at most a draw. In Italy, however, the hard-won agreement of the ***EU finance ministers on an*** aid package in the Corona crisis is commented on by all sides only in absolute categories. Italy wins," says Roberto Gualtieri, the social-democratic finance minister of the country that has been hit so hard by the pandemic. For the right-wing opposition leader Matteo Salvini, on the other hand, the agreement is a "caporetto", a devastating defeat, as bad as that of the Italian army in 1917, in the twelfth Isonzo battle in the First World War.

After long debates, the 27 finance ministers of the Union agreed on Thursday evening on aid programmes for ailing states of about half a trillion ***euros*** - that is 500,000,000,000 ***euros***. At the same time, they postponed the dispute over so-called Corona bonds, i.e. joint ***European*** debt to overcome the crisis. In recent weeks, this dispute had reopened old rifts between North and South, between wealthy states like Germany and the Netherlands and highly indebted ones like Italy. These rifts had already made it difficult to overcome the sovereign debt crisis a few years ago.

Italy, in particular, is campaigning massively for the ***EU to*** issue common bonds. Governments are supposed to use the proceeds to finance economic stimulus packages to boost the economy after the pandemic. Forecasts by the International Monetary Fund show how necessary this will be. Its director Kristalina Georgieva says the situation will be worse than at any time since the Great Depression of the 1930s.

All ***EU members*** would be jointly liable for the controversial Corona bonds. Because financially strong states like Germany would also back the bonds, the interest rate, i.e. the risk premium, would be low. France, Spain and six other countries support the demand from Rome. But governments like Germany and the Netherlands have always rejected the communitarisation of debt. Italy therefore complains about a lack of solidarity.

The ministers had already deliberated in the night from Tuesday to Wednesday before their video session on Thursday evening. Nevertheless, they continued to postpone the dispute over bonds. Their final declaration only promises to create a temporary 'reconstruction fund' alongside the half a trillion ***euros in*** emergency aid, which is supposed to allow for economic injections after the pandemic. How big the pot is to be, whether it will be part of the ***EU budget*** and how it will be filled remains open. The ministers are asking their superiors, the heads of state and government, for 'guidance'. They are expected to approve the aid package at a video summit in a fortnight. Italy's Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte made his position clear on Friday evening: he would fight "until the end" for joint bonds, for example in the form of ***Eurobonds.*** He called the rescue package agreed on by the finance ministers the day before a first step towards a common ***European*** responsibility, but said it was "still insufficient".

The agreed aid package consists of three parts: First, the ***European*** Investment Bank (EIB) is to facilitate 200 billion ***euros in*** loans for SMEs with guarantees. For this, the member states must provide 25 billion ***euros in guarantees.*** Secondly, the ***EU Commission*** will grant favourable loans if expenditure on short-time allowances rises sharply. Up to 100 billion ***euros are at stake***; here, too, governments must provide guarantees. Thirdly, the ***euro bailout fund*** ESM is offering loans of up to 240 billion ***euros***. Countries can reserve up to two percent of their economic output as loans.

The ministerial switch almost failed because Italy and the Netherlands could not agree on the conditions of the ESM loans for a long time. The Hague fought for the usual tough conditions, but was isolated with them. Prime Minister Mark Rutte does not seem to mind making himself extremely unpopular, at least in all of Southern Europe: One should not be impressed by protests from Italy and Spain," he says.

Behind the intransigent attitude is the experience that the Netherlands has put its budget in order with painful reforms; unlike states like Italy. Moreover, the country is one of the ***EU net contributors,*** so it already contributes a lot to the Brussels budget anyway. The culture of communication also plays a role. In the traditional trading nation, one does not like to mince one's words - and accepts angry contradiction.

**Page 4**

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject:** CORONAVIRUS COVID-19 (94%); ***EUROPEAN UNION (***91%); HEADS OF STATE & GOVERNMENT (90%); BONDS & NOTES (90%); PUBLIC POLICY (90%); POLITICS (90%); FIRST WORLD WAR (90%); SECURITIES & OTHER INVESTMENTS (89%); FINANCE MINISTRIES AND AUTHORITIES (89%); PANDEMICS (89%); EURO CRISIS (78%); ECONOMIC CRISIS (78%); ECONOMY & ECONOMIC INDICATORS (78%); ***EUROPEAN*** UNION INSTITUTIONS (78%); INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND (78%); FOREIGN AID (78%); GOVERNMENT BUDGETS (78%); POLITICAL DEBATES (78%); BAILOUTS (78%); GREAT DEPRESSION (77%); EPIDEMICS (77%); PRIME MINISTER (76%); WAR & ARMED CONFLICT (76%); EUROBONDS ***&*** EUROBONDS ***(75%);*** CURRENCIES (75%); GERMAN STIMULUS PROGRAMMES 2008-2009 (73%); INTEREST RATES (71%)

**Industry:** BONDS & NOTES (90%); SECURITIES & OTHER INVESTMENTS (89%); FINANCE MINISTRIES & AGENCIES (89%); INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND (78%); GOVERNMENT BUDGETS (78%); ***EURO CRISIS (***78%); CURRENCIES (75%); ***EUROBONDS*** & EUROBONDS (75%); INTEREST RATES (71%); INVESTMENT BANKING (70%)

**Geographic:** ROME, ITALY (79%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (95%); ITALY (94%); ***EUROPE (***90%); NETHERLANDS (88%); FRANCE (79%); SPAIN (79%); GERMANY (74%).

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**End of Document**

[***EUROPA; Miniature package***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5YMT-1001-DXX2-P51F-00000-00&context=)

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Saturday 11 April 2020

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

**Length:** 563 words

**Byline:** BY CERSTIN GAMMELIN

**Body**

What is particularly striking about the ***European*** rescue package against the consequences of Corona, which was passed after all, is that it is structurally very similar to the German one. There is a programme for short-time work, loans for companies and loans for states; a total of 500 billion ***euros***. When Olaf Scholz, the German Finance Minister, now speaks of a great success, that may well be true - for himself. For ***Europe*** it looks different.

What is good for the Federal Republic cannot be bad for its ***European*** neighbours. According to this motto, Scholz has fought for the German plans against the economic slump to be transferred to ***Europe*** as a miniature. The ***European*** Investment Bank, similar to the German development bank KfW, is to be allowed to extend more loans to companies. The ***European*** Commission has launched the 'Sure' short-time work programme to keep people in jobs. The ***euro bailout fund*** ESM is to provide unbureaucratic help to states that get into financial difficulties.

The signal is ambivalent. Yes, it is undoubtedly positive that the ministers have come together as in previous crises and put together a joint financial package. They show that even in times when everyone is keeping their distance and old walls are being raised, not to mention resentment, it is possible to achieve something together in ***Europe.*** They achieve what is still missing in migration - that everyone supports a compromise.

The flip side is that the ministers' response to the dramatic Corona pandemic is a small-scale technocratic one, not a political one. Well, that was also the case in earlier years - and yet it always worked out well. That's true, on the one hand. On the other hand, everyone agrees that the crisis caused by the virus is the greatest challenge in the history of ***Europe***; even the German Chancellor sees it that way.

But the finance ministers have negligently missed the chance to negotiate an adequate rescue plan. Their package will not prevent the economy from going steeply downhill. Germany has so far earmarked almost 1200 billion ***euros in*** grants and loans to mitigate the crisis. For the whole of ***Europe,*** with its 460 million inhabitants, there is to be 500 billion ***euros.*** The main burden clearly lies with the nation states.

This is the real problem to which the ministers are turning a blind eye. The ***EU states*** will have to get into dramatic debt. And thus drift further apart. If model pupil Germany takes on massive new debts today, the total amount of liabilities is still only about two-thirds of what Italy is already carrying. But if Rome and Madrid also take on such high additional debts, and they will have to, then they will come closer to Greece. The agreed credit assistance will further this effect.

The true message of the ***European*** finance ministers can therefore be found between the lines. Olaf Scholz and his colleagues have placed the fate of ***Europe in the*** hands of the ***European*** Central Bank. In the end, it will have to buy up the government bonds and keep its big promise to save the ***euro*** - whatever it may cost.

**The Brussels compromise will not prevent the economy from going downhill**

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject:** BAILOUTS (90%); POLITICS (90%); ***EUROPEAN UNION*** (89%); FINANCE MINISTRIES & AGENCIES (89%); ***EUROPEAN*** UNION INSTITUTIONS (89%); ***EURO CRISIS (***78%); CORONAVIRUS COVID-19 (77%); HEADS OF STATE & GOVERNMENT (77%); CENTRAL BANKS (77%); FOREIGN AID (76%); NEGLIGENCE (74%); INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORGANISATIONS (74%); ECONOMIC DOWNTURN (74%); SECURITIES & OTHER INVESTMENTS (74%). OTHER INVESTMENTS (74%); PANDEMICS (72%); GOVERNMENT BONDS (70%); BONDS & NOTES (69%); HISTORY (65%); EPIDEMICS (64%)

**Organization: *EUROPEAN UNION*** (94%)

**Industry:** FINANCE MINISTRIES & AGENCIES (89%); ***EURO CRISIS (***78%); CORPORATE LENDING (77%); CENTRAL BANKS (77%); SECURITIES & OTHER INVESTMENTS (74%); GOVERNMENT BONDS (70%); BONDS & NOTES (69%); INVESTMENT BANKING (69%)

**Geographic:** MADRID, SPAIN (79%); ROME, ITALY (79%); BRUSSELS, BELGIUM (57%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (93%); BRUSSELS CAPITAL REGION (79%); ***EUROPE (***92%); ITALY (79%); GERMANY (74%); GREECE (57%).

**Load Date:** April 11, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Financial expert on debt crisis; "German savers could lose 30 per cent".***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5YMT-3YP1-JBK9-22H6-00000-00&context=)

Bild

Saturday 11 April 2020

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**Section:** p. 2; issue 86

**Length:** 293 words

**Byline:** Fpi

**Body**

Brussels - The Corona pandemic is becoming the most expensive crisis in ***EU history***!

On Thursday, the ***EU finance ministers*** agreed on a gigantic aid package worth 540 billion ***euros***! Goal: secure jobs, prevent state bankruptcies.

The most important instruments:

Loans for ***European*** SMEs from the ***European*** Investment Bank (200 billion ***euros***)

Loans for states to finance short-time work benefits (100 billion ***euros***).

Loans from the ***EU*** ESM ***fund*** for states to combat the Corona consequences (240 billion ***euros***).

Not considered: joint liability for debts in the form of "***euro bonds***". Heavily indebted Italy was in favour, Germany and Holland against.

Nevertheless, the bailout package is fraught with controversy because the tough conditions for ESM loans have been dropped. The only, but vaguely formulated condition: states may use the ***EU billions*** "for direct and indirect health costs".

It is also unclear whether the Bundestag will vote on the billion-euro package! When asked by BILD, the Ministry of Finance did not want to commit itself, saying only that this would result "if necessary" from the proposals.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel (65, CDU) demanded: "The programmes must be put into effect as quickly as possible". Union faction leader Ralph Brinkhaus (51, CDU) warned at "Funke": "We should not lose more time through discussions."

A fortnight ago, the ECB had already announced that it would buy bonds in the amount of 750 billion ***euros to*** support indebted states.

Financial expert Leonhard Fischer (57) warns in BILD of a "slow and creeping inflation" in the next ten years with direct consequences for German savers: "Our saved assets can lose 30 percent of their purchasing power."

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** BIBU

**Subject: *EUROPEAN UNION*** (91%); CORONAVIRUS COVID-19 (90%); FINANCE MINISTRIES & AGENCIES (90%); PANDEMICS (90%); POLITICS (90%); DEBT CRISIS (90%); BONDS (78%); CORONA FINANCIAL AID (78%); GERMAN POLITICAL PARTIES (78%); EUROBONDS & EUROBONDS (78%)***;*** DEBTOR COUNTRIES (78%); SECURITIES & OTHER INVESTMENTS (78%); ECONOMIC CRISIS (78%); HEADS OF STATE & GOVERNMENT (77%); GERMAN CHANCELLORS (73%); GERMAN PARLIAMENT (73%); EPIDEMICS (73%); INSTITUTIONS OF THE ***EUROPEAN*** UNION (73%); INFLATION (68%)

**Industry:** FINANCIAL MINISTRIES AND AUTHORITIES (90%); BONDS & BONDS (78%); EUROBONDS ***&*** EUROBONDS ***(78%);*** SECURITIES & OTHER CAPITAL INVESTMENTS (78%); INVESTMENT BANKING (72%)

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

**Geographic:** BRUSSELS, BELGIUM (59%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (94%); BRUSSELS CAPITAL REGION (79%); ***EUROPE*** (89%); ITALY (79%); GERMANY (58%); NETHERLANDS (58%)

**Load Date:** April 11, 2020

**End of Document**

[***CORONA COSTS; Get the trillions from the money launderers***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5YMT-1001-DXX2-P54F-00000-00&context=)

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Saturday 11 April 2020

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**Section:** Economy; Commentary; Munich; Bavaria; Germany; p. 21

**Length:** 631 words

**Byline:** BY MARKUS ZYDRA  
  
Markus Zydra

**Body**

The 'bazooka', an anti-tank weapon, is supposed to do the trick. This is the fighting term used by Federal Finance Minister Olaf Scholz (SPD) to describe the 1.2 trillion ***euro*** rescue package to combat the Corona crisis. Scholz hopes for the Draghi effect. May the political promise be enough and only a few guarantees become due. But 2012 was about fighting a financial crisis, now the world is heading into a self-imposed recession. It is quite possible that the German government - unlike Draghi for his 'Whatever it takes' - will actually have to put money on the table. 1 200 000 000 ***euros***. A figure with an incredible number of digits. Who is going to pay for that?

The debate on burden sharing has begun. Private households and companies that regularly and honestly remit their tax do not want to do it alone. SPD leader Saskia Esken therefore demanded that the rich in the country should give up some of their wealth. This was an expected proposal, which does not make it worse. But she did not think it through to the end.

Why is it always the honest who have to pay for catastrophes? What about those who evade taxes, who have acquired their wealth dishonestly and who launder their dirty earnings from prostitution, drug and arms trafficking, especially in Germany? The federal government has looked the other way for far too long when it comes to financial crime. The confiscation of 77 clan properties in Berlin is too little. What about the big fish? Keywords are Panama Papers, Russian Laundromat, Danske Bank. These cases caused outrage, but the money has largely remained with the criminals. They were able to launder it, for example by buying gold, real estate and companies. The Munich Security Conference puts the global money laundering volume at 4.2 trillion dollars, part of which also finances global terrorism. In an elaborate study, the University of London calculated tax evasion in the ***EU at*** 825 billion ***euros in*** 2015. Every tax evasion is at the expense of the community, which lacks money for hospitals, medicine and personnel.

Why do politicians shy away from doing the obvious by amending the law accordingly? Namely, to freeze and confiscate all assets where the beneficial owner, i.e. the beneficiary, cannot be identified beyond doubt. Example: A suspicious real estate deal in a small Swabian town, possibly with connections to the Russian or Italian mafia? The German state should confiscate the house. Suspicious bank accounts with straw men as owners, but behind which criminals are suspected? The judiciary should freeze the money. Within a set period of time, the true owner would have to prove to the authorities how he earned all that money and where he paid tax on it. Otherwise the assets would go to the state. The Italian justice system works with such a reversal of the burden of proof in mafia cases. Why not the German one?

In recent weeks, politicians have decided many things in the fight against the Corona crisis that one thought were not possible. The world now needs trillions for reconstruction and a global Marshall Plan. The German government, the ***EU*** and G20 should arrest the assets of money launderers in the international financial system. When, if not now? Many honest people surely expect this. Society must take back the money from those who do not deserve it.

**The federal government has looked the other way on financial crime for far too long**

fears that money laundering is undermining the global economy.

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**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject:** POLITICS (91%); GERMAN POLITICAL PARTIES (90%); POLITICAL PARTIES (90%); FRAUD & FINANCIAL CRIME (89%); CORONAVIRUS COVID-19 (89%); FINANCE MINISTRIES AND AUTHORITIES (89%); MONEY LAUNDERING (89%); ***EUROPEAN*** UNION INSTITUTIONS (89%); ORGANISED CRIME (89%); TAX FRAUD (89%); TAXES & TAXATION (89%); POLITICAL DEBATES (78%); ECONOMIC CRISIS (78%); BAILOUTS (77%); ***EUROPEAN UNION*** (77%); PUBLIC POLICY (77%); RICH (76%); LEGISLATION (75%); RECESSION (73%); TERRORISM (73%); PROSTITUTION (66%)

**Company:** DANSKE BANK AS (54%)

**Ticker:** DANSKE (CPH) (54%)

**Industry:** NAICS522110 COMMERCIAL BANKING (54%); SIC6021 NATIONAL COMMERCIAL BANKS (54%); BUSINESS BANKS (90%); FINANCIAL MINISTRIES AND AUTHORITIES (89%); Laundries (64%); REAL ESTATE TRADE (63%); HOSPITALS (61%)

**Person:** OLAF SCHOLZ (58%)

**Geographic:** LONDON, ENGLAND (79%); BERLIN, GERMANY (58%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (79%); BAVARIA, GERMANY (59%); ITALY (92%); PANAMA (79%); GERMANY (74%); RUSSIAN FEDERATION (73%).

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[***One crisis exacerbates the other; The Corona pandemic makes it even harder than before for sea rescuers to bring refugees ashore***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5YMT-1001-DXX2-P521-00000-00&context=)

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Saturday 11 April 2020

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

**Length:** 626 words

**Byline:** KAROLINE META BEISEL,  
  
OLIVER MEILER

**Body**

**Munich/Rome** - 149 rescued people on board the *Alan Kurdi*, and no country in sight that is willing to take them in - the situation is reminiscent of last summer. We had expected a quarantine order, but not that it would escalate like this,' says Gorden Isler on the phone, the spokesman for the German organisation Sea-Eye. On the night of Good Friday, Italian forces had taken a mentally unstable person off the ship. But 149 other refugees are still on the boat - and food and medicine are slowly running out.

Italy had closed its ports a few days ago with a hastily drafted decree signed by four ministers, including Health Minister Roberto Speranza, who is not usually consulted in such matters. In the decree, Italy declares itself unable to serve as a safe haven for refugee ships in the Mediterranean that are sailing under a foreign flag and have not agreed their journey with the coordination centre in Rome. The reason: the Corona crisis.

The national health emergency is so great that all the country's doctors, nurses and logistics are needed to fight the virus. This implies that people are safer at sea than in Italy," says Gorden Isler. I find that rather cynical. Malta is taking a similar approach. And war-torn Libya, which officially has 14 people infected with Corona, does not want to allow the rejected ships to dock either - on a coast guard ship off Tripoli, about 280 people are waiting to be allowed to go ashore.

The German Interior Ministry on Monday called on sea rescuers to "not take up any voyages at the moment and to recall ships that have already gone to sea", according to a letter. When the letter reached the *Alan Kurdi,* however, the crew was already in the process of bringing people on board. "But we would also have set off if we had had the letter beforehand," says Isler. The question of where the people can be disembarked has to be solved politically.

Thus, one crisis exacerbates the other - while the situation in the camps on the Greek islands continues to be catastrophic, and fears of a spread of the coronavirus are rising there as well. As *Der Spiegel* first reported, a German tour operator had offered the ***EU Commission to*** accommodate people on one of its cruise ships at cost price. However, the Commission rejected the offer - for the same amount of money, many more people could be accommodated in other ways, such as in empty hotels or flats on the islands that are to be used first. As the Greek government announced on Thursday, Switzerland now also wants to take over 20 minors from the islands, similar to Luxembourg and Germany before; Austria had donated 181 living containers. 40 of them are to be taken to a new camp on the island of Samos, the rest will be distributed to the other islands according to need.

Church representatives called on the ***EU member states to*** prevent a humanitarian crisis in Greece. The refugee commissioner of the German Bishops' Conference, Archbishop Stefan Heße, said that "political blockades must be overcome and - despite Corona-related restrictions - a quick solution found". The Central Committee of German Catholics (ZdK) called the weeks of procrastination in accepting minors from the islands "shameful": "We have to show that humanity in ***Europe*** is not a decoration, but one of its basic pillars," ZdK President Thomas Sternberg told the *Passauer Neue Presse*.

**Graphic**

The Alan Kurdi is not allowed to dock in Italy - the country had closed its ports a few days ago with a hastily drafted decree. Photo: afp

**Classification**

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**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject:** CORONAVIRUS COVID-19 (92%); PANDEMICS (90%); HEALTH POLICY (90%); PUBLIC POLICY (90%); POLITICS (89%); ISLANDS & REEFS (89%); ***EUROPEAN UNION (89%)***; REFUGEE CRISIS IN EUROPE (***78%)***; VIRUSES (76%); EPIDEMICS (76%); ***EUROPEAN*** UNION INSTITUTIONS (76%); PORT SECURITY (75%); HEALTH MINISTRIES (74%); EASTER (71%); DOCTORS (69%); CORONA VIRUSES (66%); GREEK FINANCIAL CRISIS (61%)

**Industry:** WATER DRIVES (90%); HEALTH POLICY (90%); PORTS (90%); PORT SAFETY (75%); HEALTH MINISTRIES (74%); PERSONNEL SHIPPING (70%); DOCTORS (69%); GREEK FINANCIAL CRISIS (61%)

**Geographic:** ROME, ITALY (91%); TRIPOLI, LIBYA (79%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (92%); ITALY (90%); GREECE (88%); LIBYA (79%); ***EUROPE (79%);*** LUXEMBOURG (79%); SWITZERLAND (78%); GERMANY (59%); AUSTRIA (58%); MALTA (56%).

**Load-Date:** April 24, 2020

**End of Document**

[***COMMENT; The package must go to parliament***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5YMT-3YP1-JBK9-22HB-00000-00&context=)

Bild

Saturday 11 April 2020

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**Section:** p. 2; issue 86

**Length:** 192 words

**Byline:** Filipp Piatov

**Body**

The ***EU aid package*** is here, the dreaded ***euro bonds*** are off the table. Germany will not be liable for debts incurred by other states. That's good!

But there is no question of the "targeted" aid promised by the government. Tough loan covenants were replaced by vague sham requirements. Highly indebted countries like Italy and Greece receive billions to combat the "direct or indirect" consequences of the Corona crisis.

What does that mean? Will German tax money soon be used to restructure the Italian airline Alitalia, which was already bankrupt long before the crisis? Who will make sure that the loans are not wasted on ailing bankrupt companies?

The Germans are ready to do their part to get ***Europe*** out of the Corona crisis. But only if they can trust the measures.

They must not be adopted in a rush, as Chancellor Merkel demands. Nor without discussion, as Union faction leader Brinkhaus would like. As a reminder: the Bundestag is not there to rubber-stamp.

All details of the aid package must be put to the test. In our democracy this means: to the parliament!

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** BIBU

**Subject: *EUROPEAN UNION*** (90%); BANKRUPTCIES & INSOLVENCY PROCEEDINGS (90%); EUROBONDS ***&*** EUROBONDS (***78%)***; DEBTOR COUNTRIES (78%); HEADS OF STATE & GOVERNMENT (78%); CORONAVIRUS COVID-19 (76%); GERMAN CHANCELLORS (73%); GERMAN PARLIAMENT (73%); EDITORIALS & COMMENTARIES (73%); TAXES & TAXATION (73%)

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

**Industry: *EUROBORROWINGS*** & EUROBONDS ***(78%***); AIRLINES (70%)

**Person:** ANGELA MERKEL (78%)

**Geographic: *EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (79%); ITALY (73%); GERMANY (58%); ***EUROPE*** (58%); GREECE (58%)

**Load Date:** April 11, 2020

**End of Document**

[***When judges save the world; A spectacular ruling in the Netherlands has strengthened the hopes of environmentalists to achieve stricter climate policies. Is this really a good idea?***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5YS7-MV61-JBF1-02DP-00000-00&context=)

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Monday 27 April 2020

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

**Length:** 1830 words

**Byline:** BY THOMAS KIRCHNER

**Body**

**The Hague -** When the Hoge Raad, the Dutch Supreme Court, delivered its verdict, Marjan Minnesma of the climate foundation Urgenda burst into jubilation. She and her fellow campaigners knew that they had won an amazing, perhaps revolutionary victory on that 20 December 2019. In the third and thus final instance, the High Council upheld a district court's 2015 decision and ordered the government to reduce the country's greenhouse gas emissions by 25 per cent by the end of 2020 compared to 1990 levels. Climate change threatens "the lives, well-being and livelihoods of many people around the world, including the Netherlands", said presiding judge Kees Streefkerk. The consequences are already being felt.' The defendant government, which had only sought a 20 percent reduction, promised to implement the ruling.

The Hague was not the only place to cheer. This is the most important climate change ruling in the world so far," said David Boyd, UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and the Environment, in December, "it confirms that the climate emergency threatens human rights and that rich nations have an obligation to reduce emissions quickly and comprehensively. Climate activists going to court is nothing new; some 1500 'climate lawsuits' have been filed worldwide. But nowhere have judges gone nearly as far as in the Netherlands. For the first time, a government there has been legally forced to adopt stricter climate policies by invoking fundamental rights. The 2015 court decision has motivated organisations in Germany, France, Belgium, Ireland and other countries to try something similar. Lawsuits have also been filed against the ***European Union.***

However, the Urgenda ruling was also strongly criticised. The Dutch judiciary had violated the separation of powers, commented mainly conservative politicians and commentators, and had entered terrain that was reserved for politics. In doing so, they repeated the government's main argument in the proceedings: Such far-reaching decisions should be made by parliament and be the responsibility of parliament - not judges. So is the urgency procedure really the 'breakthrough' that climate activists see it as? Does it provide a lever to get reluctant politicians to act before it is too late? Or have the judges simply gone too far?

Marjan Minnesma disagrees. Those who make the laws and those who execute them are too closely linked, she says. To maintain the balance of power, she says, the judiciary must step in where parliament fails: in controlling the executive. The government is not allowed to do what it wants. That is why citizens - or organisations - must be able to go to court to remind governments of their own norms.

This is exactly what Urgenda did in 2013, demanding a 25 to 40 percent reduction in emissions on behalf of nearly 900 citizens. In 2015, the District Court of The Hague ruled that it had to be 'at least 25 per cent'. The likelihood of harm to this and future generations is so great and concrete that the state must 'make an appropriate contribution, greater than the current one, to counter the threat of climate change'. Otherwise, it would be neglecting its 'duty to protect'.

This duty to protect is a broad legal field. What it encompasses in terms of climate policy is nowhere specifically laid down. Minnesma says Urgenda has "given colour" to this "open" norm in its complaint: by referring to the Netherlands' international obligations as a co-signatory of the Paris Climate Treaty or to the scientific findings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. The government had made clear on many occasions how dangerous it considered climate change, also because large parts of the Netherlands were below sea level and warmer temperatures could lead to flood disasters. But then the executive did not act accordingly. The judges only reminded the government of its duty to protect. They did not invent a norm.'

Maarten Groothuizen, justice policy spokesman for the left-liberal government party D66, has a similar view: "This is how jurisprudence works. Judges have to make sure that the government sticks to its own rules. And if they are asked to do so by citizens, they have to react. They can't say it's too complicated for them.' Sure, you can disagree legally, but you have to accept the decision.

But what does that mean? 'stick to your own rules'? There is no law in the Netherlands that specifies exactly by what percentage the government must reduce greenhouse gas emissions. There are only political declarations of intent, obligations in the ***EU framework*** or under international agreements to which the Netherlands is a signatory, and experts urging action. From this, the first instance derived the 'duty to protect'. However, it did not stop there. The second and especially the third instance additionally relied on the ***European*** Convention on Human Rights (ECHR), which guarantees a 'right to life' in Art. 2 and a 'respect for private and family life' in Art. 8. This reference is delicate. For the ***European*** Court of Human Rights, which ensures compliance with the Convention, has not yet itself comprehensively clarified what could be derived from these articles for policy against climate change. And the Dutch constitution does not recognise such rights.

Why did the highest judges nevertheless invoke the ECHR? They were aware of the 'boldness' of their ruling, says Marc de Werd, professor at the University of Amsterdam and judge at the city's Court of Appeal, because they were forcing the government to take a far-reaching step. Therefore, they probably wanted to 'secure themselves more deeply' and 'get more ammunition'. But their approach also has to do with a Dutch peculiarity: The country does not have a constitutional court that reviews laws for compatibility with the 'Grondwet'. However, it can and even must examine whether regulations are compatible with international law, which expressly takes precedence over national laws. In Germany, the Federal Constitutional Court would not rely on the ECHR in such a case, but on its own law, the Basic Law," says de Werd. The argumentation of the Hoge Raad, whose judgement he considers correct, makes it easy for critics to claim that 'foreign law' is being applied here, that '***Europe***' is dictating the procedure.

But politicians like Thierry Baudet of the nationalist Forum for Democracy go much further in their criticism. The ex-law lecturer, who believes that climate change is an invention of hysterical leftists, attacks the judges head-on. They have become 'political activists', he says, seeing themselves as 'crowbars to resolve unresolved social problems'. Referring to another momentous ruling that rejected the government's nitrogen policy, Baudet even warns of a "dikastocracy", a rule of the judges. The judges are part of the "left-liberal elite" that is leading the country astray.

The judiciary and the government indignantly reject Baudet's accusations. Such statements ultimately undermine confidence in our constitutional state," says Justice Minister Sander Dekker of the right-wing liberal VVD. Some people seem to talk about 'activism' whenever they don't like a judgement'. The judges had "done nothing more than interpret the laws and regulations that the parliament has enacted". The verdict was not pleasant for the government. "But we should be happy to live in a country where even the executive loses such disputes time and again. It is not for nothing that we are watching the developments in Poland and Hungary with wary eyes: if the judiciary were only the extended arm of the government and always proved it right, we would have a bigger problem'.

De Werd also draws a connection to Poland, where he took part in a demonstration against the government's judicial reform in January, dressed in judges' robes. A crisis of the rule of law usually starts with the judges," he wrote in the *Volkskrant* newspaper, "they are always an easy target. Justice Minister Dekker, however, warns against alarmism on both sides. It must be allowed to discuss the constitutional implications of the Urgenda ruling. About the separation of powers, the relationship of the three state powers to each other. About the quality of legislation, which occasionally produces norms that require a great deal of interpretation. About the question of whether the Netherlands also needs a constitutional jurisdiction. On the application and interpretation of international law, such as the ECHR.

Such judgements, says Dekker, can also be "a moment of self-reflection". Lessons can be learned from them. For example, what it means when heads of government sign international agreements with fixed objectives. It's not just about the photo and the certificate, but citizens can refer to them afterwards. It is therefore necessary to 'examine more critically what we are committing ourselves to internationally'. Once you have committed yourself, you have to 'work hard' to achieve the goals.

The Dutch government has reacted constructively to the ruling. On Friday, it announced that it would adopt 30 of the 54 environmental measures proposed by Urgenda and spend three billion ***euros on the*** package. Among other things, emissions from coal-fired power plants are to be reduced by 75 per cent, and one will even be shut down. Marjan Minnesma celebrates this as an "enormous gain". It will give many people hope that "law can be used as a strategic instrument for change". Without the Supreme Court ruling, this package would not exist," says Green Party politician Tom van der Lee.

Whether this legal route would also be viable elsewhere, however, is an open question. The Administrative Court of Berlin dismissed a lawsuit based on Urgenda as inadmissible, as did the Court of Justice of the ***European*** Union. Nuremberg law professor Bernhard Wegener writes in the "Verfassungsblog" that courts are overburdened when it comes to judging the state's management of climate change. This is nothing less than an "overwhelming task for mankind". It is doubtful that the judiciary, with its instruments and capabilities tailored to individual (fundamental) legal protection, can make a meaningful contribution.

**1500 "climate lawsuits" have been filed worldwide - also against the *EU***

**Judgments like in the Netherlands could also be 'a moment of self-reflection'.**

**Graphic**

Radiant joy on a grey winter day: on 20 December 2019, Marjan Minnesma and her foundation Urgenda succeeded in forcing the Dutch government to change its climate policy in court. Photo: Ana Fernandez/imago

**Classification**

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**Journal Code:** SZ

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**Industry:** EMISSIONS (89%)

**Geographic:** DEN HAGUE, NETHERLANDS (93%); ***EUROPE (***79%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (79%); NETHERLANDS (90%); FRANCE (79%); ***EUROPE (79%);*** GERMANY (59%); BELGIUM (58%).

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**End of Document**

[***Plan meets reality; In July, Germany takes over the Council Presidency of the EU - The German government had ambitious plans. Now it must be seen how much of the ambitions can remain in view of the Corona crisis.***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5YS7-MV61-JBF1-02D3-00000-00&context=)

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

**Length:** 802 words

**Byline:** BY DANIEL BRÖSSLER

**Body**

**Berlin -** The dates are all still in the calendar. On 2 and 3 July, the visit of Urusla von der Leyen and her entire ***EU Commission to*** Berlin, a few days later an informal meeting of ***EU interior ministers*** in Dresden and then one of trade ministers in Saarbrücken. Later, in September, the big ***EU-China summit*** in Leipzig. On 1 July, Germany will take over the rotating ***presidency of the EU Council*** and thus assume a kind of ***European*** host role for six months. During the presidency, a number of meetings and conferences normally take place in the country of the presidency. In addition, the Presidency can set priorities and determine the ***European agenda to a*** certain extent. Normally.

Only two months before the start, the German government is still not sure what will actually be able to take place normally during the Presidency. Most meetings, including the ***EU-China summit***, will probably have to be held by video. This Wednesday, Chancellor Angela Merkel (CDU) and her ministers will devote a special cabinet meeting to the problem. The Secretary General of the Council of the ***EU,*** Jeppe Tranholm-Mikkelsen, will be a guest. Afterwards, it should be clearer what can remain of the originally grand plans of the German Presidency in view of the Corona crisis.

This will be a real tour de force for the entire German government," Federal Foreign Minister Heiko Maas (SPD) told the *Süddeutsche Zeitung*. The expectations of Germany are "huge to take on this leadership role as an honest broker and dynamic driver". This applies to the management of the Corona crisis as well as to the "major future issues of the ***EU*** - from climate policy to the future relationship with Great Britain, digitalisation and the framework for the ***EU budget***". Here, Germany has already declared its willingness to make temporarily higher contributions.

However, Maas is also putting on the brakes, because Brussels has not been lacking in warnings not to overload the presidency. The practical restrictions in the political process "set limits", warns Maas. Some important dossiers could not be completed as planned under the current Croatian Presidency. In addition, "we have to be prepared that some procedures will continue to be slower and more cumbersome in the second half of the year due to the restrictions imposed by Corona". It is now a matter of 'finding a reasonable balance between ambitious demands and realistic goals'. But the guiding principle is clear: "***European*** integration should be made stronger by the Corona crisis.

In her weekly podcast, German Chancellor Angela Merkel (CDU) also stated that her goal was "that at the end of the German Presidency, we have more ***Europe*** and a ***Europe that is*** better suited to the 21st century than it is today". It is a matter of 'doing something to improve ***Europe's*** economy, to do something for social cohesion, to think about the future - and that means climate and environmental issues'. Merkel thus made it clear that she does not want to completely overturn the original plans for the German Presidency. In the draft programme entitled 'Our path: innovative, just, sustainable', 'ambitious climate protection policy' is given some space. During its Council Presidency, the German government wants to advance the draft of a ***European*** climate law with the aim of establishing 'legally binding' climate neutrality for the ***EU*** by 2050.

Merkel also mentioned 'an efficient ***European*** health system in all member states' as well as work on contentious issues such as the financial transaction tax, minimum taxes and emissions trading for ships or aircraft as concrete tasks. There is an incredible amount of work waiting for us, and Germany is ready to make its contribution," Merkel promised.

From the point of view of the opposition in the Bundestag, however, such announcements do not match the actual state of planning. It is not enough to proclaim the 'Corona Council Presidency'. We need a substantive thrust," criticised Franziska Brantner, the Greens' spokesperson on ***European policy. In the*** end, the ***EU*** needs "more social cohesion, it must be more crisis-proof and sustainable". While the crisis shows the vulnerability of the ***European*** Union, Germany is too passive. The German government 'refuses to accept that it has a leadership responsibility and that German interests are ***European.*** We will pay a high price for this'.

**Page 4**

**There have been recent warnings from Brussels not to overload the Presidency**

**Graphic**

Still routine in Brussels in 2019, currently unimaginable: an ***EU summit*** at which participants like Angela Merkel are not only virtually present. Photo: O. Matthys/dpa

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject:** POLITICS (92%); ***EUROPEAN UNION*** (91%); ***EU PRESIDENCY (***90%); CORONAVIRUS COVID-19 (90%); GERMAN POLITICAL PARTIES (90%); POLITICAL PARTIES (90%); CALENDAR OF EVENTS (90%); PUBLIC POLICY (90%); HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT (89%); GERMAN CHANCELLORS (89%); STATE BUDGETS (78%); INSTITUTIONS OF THE ***EUROPEAN*** UNION (77%).

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

**Person:** ANGELA MERKEL (93%); URSULA VON DER LEYEN (79%)

**Geographic:** BERLIN, GERMANY (73%); LEIPZIG, GERMANY (73%); DRESDEN, GERMANY (58%); SAARBRÜCKEN, GERMANY (58%); BRUSSELS, BELGIUM (58%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (94%); SAXONY, GERMANY (88%); BRUSSELS, GERMANY (79%); SAARLAND, GERMANY (73%); ***EUROPE*** (93%); GERMANY (90%); CROATIA (79%); BELGIUM (73%); CHINA (73%); UNITED KINGDOM (73%)

**Load-Date:** April 27, 2020

**End of Document**

[***EUROPAGermany matters***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5YS7-MV61-JBF1-02CN-00000-00&context=)

Süddeutsche Zeitung

Monday 27 April 2020

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

**Length:** 209 words

**Byline:** DANIEL BRÖSSLER

**Body**

The German government is probably not sure whether to consider it a particularly fortunate or an unfortunate coincidence that Germany, of all countries, is taking over the ***EU Council Presidency in*** July. In the fight against the Corona pandemic, the expectations on Germany are already enormous. This is true when it comes to overcoming the economic consequences of the crisis. But it is also true when it comes to the conflicting interests within the Union.

The German government cannot hide from these expectations. The negotiations on the future ***EU budget*** will not only require mediation, but also the good example that Germany will have to set. In the struggle for democracy, Germany in particular owes ***Europe a*** clear "no" if, for example, the Hungarian Viktor Orbán abuses the pandemic to further expand his power. And vis-à-vis powers like China, it will also depend on Berlin's willingness to articulate ***European*** interests more confidently.

If it is serious about ***Europe***, the German government will have no choice but to use the Council Presidency and take it for what it is: a blessing in disguise.

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject: *EU PRESIDENCY*** (90%); ***EUROPEAN UNION*** (90%); POLITICS (90%); STATE BUDGETS (78%); CORONAVIRUS COVID-19 (77%); EPIDEMIA (72%); PANDEMIA (72%)

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

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

**Person:** VIKTOR ORBAN (77%)

**Geographic:** BERLIN, GERMANY (58%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (92%); GERMANY (90%); ***EUROPE*** (90%); CHINA (58%).

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[***With scissors in the head; China-critical EUreport is not only criticised in Beijing***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5YS7-MV61-JBF1-02DH-00000-00&context=)

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

**Length:** 485 words

**Byline:** MATTHIAS KOLB

**Body**

**Brussels** - It all started with an email on Tuesday. At 7:09 a.m., *Politico'*s "Playbook" newsletter, a must-read in the Brussels bubble, landed in digital inboxes. It quoted in advance from a ***European*** External Action Service (EEAS) report warning of Corona disinformation campaigns from China and Russia. The EEAS regularly publishes reports on *fake news,* so diplomats and journalists expected to find the study online soon.

The SZ reported on the internal study on Wednesday, but it was not until Friday afternoon that the analysis was published on EUvsDisinfo. ***eu.*** There, everyone can now read about 'evidence' of 'a coordinated action by official Chinese sources to deflect any blame for the outbreak of the pandemic'. Then on Friday night, the *New York Times* described what had been going on behind the scenes since Tuesday. There were immediate protests in Brussels and Beijing.

If the report contains "what is described", it would be "very bad for cooperation", a senior official in Beijing has threatened, Reuters quoted a diplomatic dispatch as saying. According to the *Times,* an adviser to ***EU foreign affairs chief*** Josep Borrell asked for precise evidence and not to focus so much on China and Russia because "we are already seeing strong pressure from China". In response, an analyst accused the superiors of 'self-censorship'. The fact that the online version now omits a passage about an attack by the Chinese embassy in Paris on French MPs, as well as the phrase "China is waging a global disinformation campaign", is seen by the *Times* as evidence of a "softening" of the report. The EEAS rejects this, but some ***MEPs*** announced their intention to question Borrell.

There was no buckling, thinks the Green Reinhard Bütikofer. The communication was clumsy, but the substance is the same. The EEAS criticises Beijing's propaganda strategies very clearly,' says the head of the ***EU Parliament***'s China delegation to the SZ. Since Corona, he has registered a more critical view of the People's Republic in many ***EU states*** and welcomes the plans to become less dependent on suppliers from China. Bütikofer emphasises that the ***EU will*** declare China a 'systemic rival' as early as 2019, which had infuriated Beijing.

While their ***EU ambassador*** Zhang Ming sees China as a victim, ***EU diplomats do*** not doubt Beijing's threats. This is known from the capitals. Margarete Bause, a member of the Green Party in the Bundestag, confirmed that the Ministry of the Interior had "made individual contacts with Chinese diplomats with the aim of making positive public statements about China's coronavirus management". The German government's formulation that they 'did not comply' with the requests is tamer than the EEAS report.

**Greens politician Bütikofer: Communication is 'clumsy'**

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject:** POLITICAL PARTIES (89%); ***EUROPEAN UNION (89%)***; POLITICS (89%); GERMAN POLITICAL PARTIES (89%); PUBLIC POLICY (89%); INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS (78%); GERMAN PARLIAMENT (78%); FAKE NEWS (78%); LEGISLATIVE BODIES (78%); FOREIGN OFFICES & DIPLOMATIC SERVICES (77%); DIPLOMATIC SERVICES (77%); CENSORSHIP (77%); CORONAVIRUS COVID-19 (77%); VIRUSES (76%); PANDEMICS (72%); FRENCH PARLIAMENT (70%); EPIDEMICS (69%); LEADERS (67%); CORONAVIRUSES (50%)

**Geographic:** PEKING, CHINA (94%); BRUSSELS, BELGIUM (89%); PARIS, FRANCE (79%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (95%); BRUSSELS CAPITAL REGION (93%); ÎLE-DE-FRANCE, FRANCE (50%); ***EUROPE*** (90%); CHINA (90%); EAST ASIA (88%); FRANCE (79%); RUSSIAN FEDERATION (72%); BELGIUM (59%).

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**End of Document**

[***The aid packages with which the economy finds its way out of the Corona Valley will also have some influence on climate protection, says Green Party leader Anton Hofreiter. The states have enough time to come up with clever ideas.***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5YS7-MV61-JBF1-02CX-00000-00&context=)

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Monday 27 April 2020

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

**Length:** 1153 words

**Byline:** INTERVIEW: MICHAEL BAUCHMÜLLER  
  
miba

**Body**

On Anton Hofreiter's desk, his mobile phone is stuck in a tripod, behind it hangs an oil painting of an Alpine landscape. It is the setting for the video conferences of these days. Beyond Covid-19, there is another pressing issue that is rarely discussed: the climate crisis. There is so much to prepare, says the leader of the Green parliamentary group. For the time after the pandemic.

**SZ: Mr Hofreiter, the virus dampens many things - the climate protection debate, but also the Greens' poll ratings. Was that it for the climate as a top issue?**

Anton Hofreiter: No, certainly not. There are surveys according to which two thirds of people expect the climate crisis to be as bad as the Corona pandemic - if nothing is done. We are seeing this right now with the April drought: the climate crisis will not go away just because a virus is there.

**Nevertheless, policy on climate has been miles away from the drive it is developing around the virus.**

Yes, unfortunately. The pandemic develops within days, it acutely threatens the lives of hundreds of thousands. For Ms Merkel, it is clear that action must be taken. The climate crisis has a different dynamic. It develops over years and decades, it seems less acute.

**Does it also have to become acute in the climate first?**

That would be a fatal mistake. One lesson from the pandemic is that we must also listen to science when it comes to other crises. It has been pointing out for a long time that we don't have much time left in the fight against the climate crisis. And that means we need to think more about prevention: What can we do now to still prevent the worst? How we emerge from this crisis will become very important.

**What do you think?**

We have cut back on our daily lives because of the Corona crisis. This has massive economic consequences. So very soon we will have to talk about economic stimulus and eventually an investment package. That is where we will soon set the course for our future.

**The car industry already has an idea for this: a premium for car purchases.**

The old model of the scrapping premium makes no sense. On the other hand, I can imagine an innovation premium for climate-friendly drive systems, for example when it comes to sensible hybrids or zero-emission cars. An increased purchase subsidy could help. My condition for this is an overall concept that includes a bonus-malus system after the crisis and the dismantling of environmentally harmful subsidies such as the diesel privilege. And we also have to accelerate the climate-friendly transformation of small and medium-sized businesses, for example suppliers. This could be done through local transformation funds in which trade unions and municipalities are involved in addition to companies.

**How will you make it clear to the employees on the line that their job will never be the same again?**

The car industry was already in crisis before. The question is no longer: zero-emission cars yes or no. But rather: Will they be produced here or not? This means that the question is no longer whether the industry has to reorganise itself - but whether it will succeed in doing so in time. This has long been clear to the trade unions.

**Aren't you afraid that environmental standards will come under pressure because they allegedly hinder recovery?**

There will be such voices. But even in the economy there is a strong counter-movement. Many have realised that the best way to save the economy is with climate protection, not without it. The interests are different today than they were ten years ago, after the last big crisis. The starting position is much better.

**However, the car industry is not the only climate change issue: there is also heavy industry, the chemical industry, even agriculture.**

Our economy must become climate neutral everywhere, no question about it. Agriculture itself must be more climate-friendly, but at the same time it is struggling with the consequences of global warming. The chemical industry must move away from oil as a raw material. The building stock must be renovated more quickly. That's why we have to continue to look at the price on carbon dioxide, which will certainly help us with the conversion. But there are also a lot of good ideas: The steel industry is betting on green hydrogen. The companies are often further along than the brakemen in the government think.

**What role does *Europe* play in all this?**

In any case, the ***EU has*** presented something with the *Green Deal that* we can build on. Now we need to raise the ***European*** climate targets. Germany has a key role to play here, if only because of its Council Presidency in the second half of the year. At the Petersberg Climate Dialogue, the Chancellor should already make a presentation.

**You mean the meeting of states taking place this week at Germany's invitation - at least virtually.**

Yes, and this meeting is important. Of course, we are also losing time in climate protection because of the pandemic. But we can use this time to prepare decisions, to exchange ideas on what smart investment packages might look like. In the end, the climate crisis, like Corona, remains a global crisis. And this time, the states really have time to plan something smart for the time after. A unique opportunity.

**Ten years of the Petersberg Climate Dialogue**

When it first took place, global climate diplomacy was in its deepest crisis. A few months earlier, the Copenhagen climate summit had failed grandiosely, and hopes for a new climate agreement had been dashed. In May 2010, the then Environment Minister Norbert Röttgen (CDU) therefore invited to the 'Climate Dialogue' at Petersberg near Bonn. Ministers from more than 40 countries, both industrialised and developing, attended. The Chancellor also took part - as she has done at every climate dialogue since.

In the meantime, the annual meeting, which from then on took place in Berlin, has become a permanent fixture in international climate diplomacy. No decisions are made there; it has more of an atmospheric character. When the dialogue resumes this Monday and Tuesday, it will be more difficult: it will be a video conference. The Chancellor, like UN Secretary-General António Guterres, will be connected this time. Nevertheless, it is one of the few opportunities for the states to exchange views on climate protection at all this year. We will discuss together how we can translate our climate goals into real action," says British Energy Minister Alok Sharma. Together with Federal Environment Minister Svenja Schulze (SPD), he is hosting this year's meeting.

Sharma was supposed to chair the UN Climate Change Conference in Glasgow, Scotland, in November. But the major event fell victim to the Corona pandemic - which is now also setting the agenda for the Petersberg Dialogue. Both crises are about global cooperation, says Schulze. The question of how the world community organises the relaunch of the global economy is crucial for climate protection.

**Graphic**

Anton Hofreiter, 50, has led the Green Party's parliamentary group in the Bundestag together with Katrin Göring-Eckardt since 2013. He grew up in Sauerlach near Munich and holds a doctorate in botany. Photo: dpa

Soon for everyone? Minister President Wilfried Kretschmann has been driving an electric vehicle that promises zero emissions since December 2018. Photo: Arnulf Hettrich/Imago

**Classification**

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**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject:** CORONAVIRUS COVID-19 (90%); GERMAN POLITICAL PARTIES (90%); EPIDEMICS (90%); ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION (90%); PANDEMICS (90%); POLITICAL PARTIES (90%); MOUNTAINS (78%); POLITICAL DEBATES (76%); POLLS & SURVEYS (76%); GOVERNMENT SUBSIDIES & FUNDING (70%); SCRAPPAGE SCHEMES (61%); TRADE UNIONS (60%)

**Industry:** TRANSPORTATION PRODUCTION (88%); VEHICLE PRODUCTION (85%); VEHICLE SECTOR OVERVIEW (61%); DEPARTURE PREPARATION PROGRAMS (61%)

**Load-Date:** April 27, 2020

**End of Document**

[***CDU POLITICIAN NORBERT RÖTTGEN WARNS; "GERMANY AND EUROPE ARE TOO DEPENDENT ON CHINA"***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5YS6-MWK1-JBK9-20KM-00000-00&context=)

Bild

Monday 27 April 2020

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**Section:** p. 2; issue 98

**Length:** 348 words

**Byline:** Fpi

**Body**

Berlin - The world finally wants to know how the deadly Corona virus originated. At the wild animal market in Wuhan? In a secret laboratory? And: how long was the emergence of the virus concealed from the world?

Foreign Minister Heiko Maas (53, SPD) demanded in BILD that China play "a constructive role" in clarifying such issues. Australia's government therefore wants to initiate an independent investigation at the World Health Organisation (WHO).

But Beijing brusquely rejects the demand for investigations as "politically motivated". Those who criticise the role of the Chinese government are "maliciously" distorting its "goodwill".

DOCH: Despite these affronts, the German government does not want to talk about countermeasures. Neither against the Chinese state nor against Chinese companies that are closely linked to the state leadership.

BILD wants to know: Have we become too dependent on China?

Yes, says foreign policy expert Norbert Röttgen (54, CDU) to BILD: "Germany and ***Europe*** have become too dependent on China." He criticises the fact that the German government nevertheless does not want to exclude the Chinese Huawei Group from the expansion of the new mobile phone network 5G. With China's participation, one would "grant the Chinese state decisive influence via Chinese companies".

When asked by BILD, the German Dax giants reveal how important China is for their business: BMW makes 19.7% of its total turnover in China. Volkswagen delivers a massive 40% of its cars there. At supplier giant Continental, 22% of turnover comes from Asia, and China has "a corresponding share of it".

The German chemical and pharmaceutical industries cannot do without China either. Bayer makes eight percent of its sales there, BASF eleven percent, Merck over 14 %.

FDP politician Johannes Vogel (37) criticises the German government's lax attitude towards Beijing. ***Europe*** must "counter Chinese propaganda in the Corona crisis much more offensively". Vogel to BILD: "We are in a tough system competition with China."

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** BIBU

**Subject:** POLITICS (91%); CORONAVIRUSES (90%); GERMAN POLITICAL PARTIES (90%); POLITICAL PARTIES (90%); VIRUSES (90%); CORONAVIRUS COVID-19 (89%); FOREIGN POLICY (77%); INVESTIGATIONS (77%); INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS (77%); CORPORATE SALES (77%); MINISTRIES OF HEALTH (76%); UNITED NATIONS ORGANISATIONS (71%); PHARMACEUTICAL SECTOR PERFORMANCE (70%).

**Company:** CONTINENTAL AG (81%)

**Organisation: *EUROPEAN UNION*** (91%); WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (83%)

**Ticker:** CON (FRA) (81%)

**Industry:** NAICS326211 TIRE MANUFACTURING (EXCEPT RETREADING) (81%); SIC7539 AUTOMOTIVE REPAIR SHOPS, NEC (81%); SIC3011 TIRES & INNER TUBES (81%); 5G (77%); HEALTH MINISTRIES (76%); PHARMACEUTICAL SECTOR PERFORMANCE (70%); CHEMICAL MANUFACTURING (69%); PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY (65%)

**Geographic:** BEIJING, CHINA (92%); BERLIN, GERMANY (59%); WUHAN, CHINA (58%); ***EUROPE (***92%); CHINA (91%); EAST ASIA (90%); GERMANY (89%); ASIA (79%); AUSTRALIA (79%).

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**End of Document**

[***EUCouncil Presidency 'will be a real tour de force'.***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5YS7-MV61-JBF1-02C9-00000-00&context=)

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Monday 27 April 2020

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

**Length:** 72 words

**Byline:** DBR

**Body**

**Berlin** - In view of the pandemic, Federal Foreign Minister Heiko Maas (SPD) has warned against expecting too much of Germany's ***EU Council Presidency, which*** begins in July. This will be a real tour de force for the entire federal government," he told the SZ. The restrictions in the political arena set "limits". Now it was a matter of "finding a reasonable balance between ambitious demands and realistic goals".

**Pages 4, 6**

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject:** POLITICS (91%); ***EU-PRESIDENCY*** (90%); GERMAN POLITICAL PARTIES (90%); ***EUROPEAN UNION (90%)***; POLITICAL PARTIES (90%); EPIDEMIES (73%)

**Geographic:** BERLIN, GERMANY (59%)

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**End of Document**

[***COMMENT; China gives us the finger***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5YS6-MWK1-JBK9-20KH-00000-00&context=)

Bild

Monday 27 April 2020

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**Section:** p. 2; issue 98

**Length:** 223 words

**Byline:** Paul Ronzheimer

**Body**

Last week, ***EU experts*** revealed how the Chinese government was deliberately spreading disinformation about the Corona virus. But because Beijing put pressure on Brussels, the official ***EU report*** was rewritten and glossed over. What a kowtow!

The German government is also in danger of losing all credibility. Both Foreign Minister Heiko Maas and Economics Minister Peter Altmaier have been convinced in recent weeks that China must play a "constructive role" in clarifying how the Corona virus could have emerged in the first place.

And what is China doing? Give us all the finger!

Every demand for transparency is met with a new lie, every explanation is denied. Ruler Xi Jinping can only proceed in this way because he knows that the economic threat alone makes almost all politicians buckle before China. German companies have too much to lose. China's long arm therefore reaches into all ministries and all the way to the Chancellor's Office.

At the same time, the time should have come for the ***EU*** heads of state to finally talk about sanctions. What more are we supposed to put up with?

Anyone who makes it so openly clear that no independent investigation is desired into where the virus originated must finally suffer harsh consequences.

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** BIBU

**Subject:** CORONAVIRES (90%); CORONAVIRUS COVID-19 (90%); ***EUROPEAN UNION (90%)***; POLITICS (90%); VIRUSES (90%); HEADS OF STATE & GOVERNMENT (78%); EMBARGOES & SANCTIONS (73%); LEADERSHIP ARTICLES & COMMENTS (73%); PRESIDENTS OF STATE (73%)

**Person:** PETER ALTMAIER (79%); XI JINPING (79%)

**Geographic:** PEKING, CHINA (79%); BRUSSELS, BELGIUM (58%); CAPITAL REGION OF BRUSSELS (79%); CHINA (90%)

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**End of Document**

[***FORUM; Europe Thinking in solidarity; The common future of the states must also be financed jointly.***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5YW6-4961-JBF1-03SB-00000-00&context=)

Süddeutsche Zeitung

Monday 11 May 2020

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**Section:** Economy; Forum; Munich; p. 16

**Length:** 1116 words

**Byline:** By Oliver Hermes

**Body**

Our continent is in the midst of a test of historic proportions: many people in ***Europe are*** losing their lives, are threatened by loss of jobs and prosperity. ***European*** solidarity in health and increasingly also in economic matters is being subjected to a litmus test in the Corona crisis. At the heart of the matter is the solidarity and sovereignty of our community of states. On closer examination, these questions are not being asked only today, but the crisis is now forcing us to find answers quickly. This is also a great opportunity: ***Europe's*** hour can still strike; what was neglected in the past and in the times before the Corona crisis could now be made up for at an accelerated pace.

Entrepreneurs always look for opportunities in a crisis. The same should apply to ***European*** politics. It is about building a sovereign and solidary ***Europe*** that is more than a junior partner of the USA in security matters, and more than a junior partner of China in economic matters. Central to this is a ***European*** industrial strategy worthy of the name. In their video conferences to date, the heads of government of the ***EU states have*** first decided on what is 'necessary' to deal with the Corona crisis. The measures decided will also benefit ***European*** industrial companies with their approximately 30 million employees as the backbone of the ***European*** economy. But the measures are not enough. They are only a minimum step. They only provide an answer to the obvious, to what is *obvious*, namely the acute and short-term management of the economic and social effects of the crisis. However, now is exactly the right time to think beyond *the obvious, to* lead the continent into a new era. Confidence in the ***European*** markets must not be lost. A pure reconstruction fund that is limited to supporting the national economies in their current state would be too short-sighted. What is needed is a "***European Go-Ahead Fund***".

It is obvious that ***Europe's*** value chain needs to be stabilised so that individual member states do not fail either as customers or suppliers. Beyond the obvious, it would be necessary to now compensate for ***Europe's*** backlog in research, development and education and also to specifically focus on the digital transformation and climate change as absolute priorities for the future. In the context of the digital transformation, ***European*** industry should not only focus on creating smart products, systems and solutions and building digital production facilities. It is a matter of using a real turbo-booster to drive the digitalisation of sales and marketing processes, including distribution processes, in a future-oriented way. In this respect, the USA and the Asians are a bit ahead of us: they look at the digital transformation from the 'front end', i.e. from the customer's point of view. In ***Europe,*** under the label 'Industry 4.0' or 'Industry du Futur', it is often thought of from the 'back end', i.e. from procurement and production processes. The aim is to increase customer retention and loyalty among ***European*** industrial customers through digitalisation.

The climate is strongly negatively affected by long-term developments and rightly remains one of the top issues at all levels of society. Here, the ***EU has*** set the right tone with the Green Deal. Many ***European*** industrial companies are already climate protection companies. A future-oriented fund should not only save these climate protection-oriented companies, but give them the opportunity to position themselves even better on global markets. The products, systems and solutions that protect the climate are usually also those with the highest digital intelligence. The goal of a ***European*** Future Fund should therefore be to unite and align the components 'climate protection' and 'digital transformation'. Coping with the consequences of the Corona pandemic coupled with a necessary future orientation of ***Europe*** represents a Herculean task for the ***EU member states.*** Here, too, we must think beyond the obvious: The issue of ***Eurobonds*** must therefore no longer be a taboo subject. The ruling of the Federal Constitutional Court on government bond purchases by the ***European*** Central Bank makes it clear that the ***European*** community of law is not losing its importance, but that a common political consensus among the states of the ***Eurozone to*** stabilise the ***Euro is*** gaining in importance. We must all now recognise the challenges for our common continent that are crucial for the future and also take responsibility for future generations. The prosperous northern European countries should therefore enter into joint liability for weaker member states. Community problems and crises require community solutions. The economic power of the northern ***EU countries*** is inconceivable without the south and east of ***Europe***; in the ***European*** single market, supply chains and sales markets have long since become ***Europeanised***. If ***European*** countries get into economic difficulties, they lose customers and suppliers. Accordingly, a substantial number of jobs are also at risk in the ***EU*** countries blessed with export surpluses.

The ***EU does*** not deserve its name if it manages crises with a primarily national focus and the member states do not stand up for each other in solidarity. ***Europe's*** common future must also be financed jointly. It is important to convince investors in the context of issuing bonds that the ***EU***'s strategy is correct and future-oriented, that it generates growth and ultimately leads to a reduction in the debt of the member states. Thinking outside the box, it is therefore important to set strategic agreements as conditionalities for the issuance of bonds. These must guarantee that it is not the past but the future of our continent that is being financed. Then a potentially risk-induced rise in interest rates could also be kept in check. The terms ***Eurobonds*** or even Corona bonds are wrongly chosen for this and point to the past. What we need now are '***European Go-Ahead Bonds***' to finance clearly focused issues for the future.

**The strength of the northern *EU countries* is not conceivable without the south and east**

**Graphic**

Oliver Hermes is Chairman of the Board of the Wilo Group and Chairman of the Ost-Ausschuss - Eastern Europe Association of German Business. The author gives his own opinion. Photo: oH

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject:** CORONAVIRUS COVID-19 (90%); DIGITAL ECONOMY (77%); HEADS OF STATE & GOVERNMENT (77%); ECONOMY & ECONOMIC INDICATORS (77%); PUBLIC POLICY (77%); POLITICS (74%); ***EUROPEAN UNION (***73%); PRODUCTION FACILITIES (73%); CUSTOMER LOYALTY STRATEGIES (71%); CUSTOMER RELATIONSHIP MANAGEMENT (71%); CUSTOMER RELATIONS (68%); CLIMATE CHANGE (60%)

**Organization: *EUROPEAN UNION*** (94%)

**Industry:** MARKETING & ADVERTISING (78%); DIGITAL ECONOMY (77%); PRODUCTION SYSTEMS (73%); CUSTOMER LIABILITY STRATEGIES (71%)

**Geographic: *EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (79%); ***EUROPE*** (96%); CHINA (79%)

**Load-Date:** May 29, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Von der Leyen threatens Germans with EU-proceedings***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5YW6-7811-JBK9-219V-00000-00&context=)

Bild

Monday 11 May 2020

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**Section:** ; p. 3; issue 109

**Length:** 97 words

**Byline:** Hjv

**Body**

Brussels - The ***EU*** resents criticism from Germany!

In a controversial ruling, the Federal Constitutional Court had objected to the ***European*** Central Bank's multi-billion euro purchases of government bonds. It was the first time that Karlsruhe went against the ***European*** Court of Justice.

Now the counterattack: ***EU Commission President*** Ursula von der Leyen (61, photo) threatens legal action, "up to and including infringement proceedings". The last word on ***EU law*** will be spoken at the ***European*** Court of Justice - "and nowhere else".

**Graphic**

Photo: OLIVIER HOSLET/EPA/AFP

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** BIBU

**Subject: *EUROPEAN UNION*** (92%); COURTS OF THE ***EUROPEAN UNION (90%); TRIBUNALS (90%);*** COURT CASES (90%); INSTITUTIONS OF THE ***EUROPEAN*** UNION (90%); INTERNATIONAL COURTS & TRIBUNALS (90%); SUPREME COURT (88%); SOVEREIGN BONDS (88%); CENTRAL BANKS (88%); EU REGULATION (73%); ***EUROPEAN LAW (73%);*** BREACH OF CONTRACT ***(73%)***

**Industry:** STATE BANKS (88%); CENTRAL BANKS (88%)

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

**Geographic:** BRUSSELS, BELGIUM (59%); KARLSRUHE, GERMANY (58%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (91%); BRUSSELS CAPITAL REGION (59%); ***EUROPE*** (89%); GERMANY (58%)

**Load-Date:** May 11, 2020

**End of Document**

[***On the back burner; climate protection and trade relations - Angela Merkel wanted to be the EUCouncil Presidency to clarify relations with China. The Corona pandemic is now thwarting the Chancellor's ambitious plans.***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5YW6-4961-JBF1-03PW-00000-00&context=)

Süddeutsche Zeitung

Monday 11 May 2020

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

**Length:** 1348 words

**Byline:** BY DANIEL BRÖSSLER, LEA DEUBER AND MATTHIAS KOLB

**Body**

**Berlin/Brussels/Munich** - It was an ambitious programme that Angela Merkel outlined on 23 January: in Davos, the Chancellor enthused that "for the very first time, an ***EU-China summit*** with all 27 member states" would take place - in September in Leipzig. She named two goals for the centrepiece of her ***EU Council Presidency:*** On the one hand, the investment protection agreement with Beijing, which is so important for ***Europe's*** economy, should be concluded; on the other hand, she hopes for progress in climate protection. If China introduces its planned emissions trading system, said the Chancellor at the class meeting of the global elite, and if this could be linked to the ***European system, "***we would have a huge piece of the world covered" and could thus set an example.

In Brussels, Merkel's appearance at the World Economic Forum was seen as proof that she wanted to push for a unified ***EU*** policy on China and to bring Germany's weight to bear. The self-confidence from the previous year was to be used: In March 2019, the ***EU Commission*** presented a ten-point plan for a "strategic perspective" in dealing with China, and the heads of state and government described the country as a "strategic rival". Although the People's Republic is a partner of the ***EU, it is*** also a "systemic competitor".

On 23 January, however, the Chinese metropolis of Wuhan was also sealed off to stop the spread of the Corona virus. By mid-March, at the latest, when half of ***Europe*** imposed contact bans, it was clear that Corona was destroying the original choreography. The meeting of ***EU Commission*** President Ursula von der Leyen and Council President Charles Michel with Premier Li Keqiang in Beijing, scheduled for the end of March? Postponed. Now it is to take place in June - virtually. The pandemic is not only a priority; because of the protection requirements, the ***EU machinery is*** only working at about a quarter of its capacity.

Preparations for Leipzig are 'on the back burner', they say. The ambassadors have not yet dealt with the topic, although "the most intensive preparatory work" is necessary. This is the only way to prevent some ***EU states from*** loudly promoting their own interests - and the unity from crumbling. Merkel also wanted to visit Beijing in July. The trip has not yet been cancelled.

Reinhard Bütikofer, head of the China delegation in the ***EU Parliament***, ventures a prognosis: "Merkel will not be able to present many results. There is no progress on climate protection, especially since the UN summit in Glasgow planned for November has been postponed. On market access, a central part of the investment protection agreement, Xi Jinping is not prepared to make "relevant concessions". Negotiations have been going on since 2013. While China's companies in ***EU states are*** hardly subject to regulation, foreign companies in China are harassed in many sectors. Jörg Wuttke, President of the ***European*** Chamber of Commerce in China, notes a certain "weariness" regarding promises from Beijing to enforce fairer rules.

The fact that the conflict between the USA and China is escalating and the accusations are becoming more severe almost daily worsens the position for the ***EU,*** Bütikofer believes: "Beijing cannot give Brussels anything that Washington would immediately demand for itself. Mikko Huotari, head of the Merics Institute in Berlin, sees the problem in the focus on the one summit in Leipzig: "It would make sense to first work through the measures from March 2019. So far, progress has been made on perhaps two or three points.'Wuttke calls for more self-confidence. ***Europe*** is the largest buyer of Chinese products, its companies set global standards, and the ***EU*** is an important investment destination for China's companies: 'We don't always have to look left and right. China needs us.

For Noah Barkin of the think tank German Marshall Fund, Merkel "raised expectations that were too high to be fulfilled". This has led to a kind of "self-censorship": Compared to other ***EU countries,*** Berlin is very reluctant to criticise China's aggressive foreign policy. The opposition also considers the German government's reaction too timid. The attempt of the People's Republic to influence the narrative around the outbreak of the corona virus at the ***European*** level and in Germany makes a mockery of our institutions', says Gyde Jensen (FDP), chairwoman of the human rights committee in the Bundestag. Merkel must make human rights violations in Xinjiang and China's role in the corona pandemic a top priority and "make it clear that for us as the ***EU***, human rights are non-negotiable".

An answer to a small question by the Greens suggests that the federal government could be much more cautious on this sensitive issue. It is available to the *Süddeutsche Zeitung. When* asked what role the human rights situation would play in Leipzig, it is pointed out that it is 'an ***EU*** event chaired by the President of the ***European*** Council', which is being prepared in the regular ***EU bodies.***

Green MEP Margarete Bause finds this disappointing. The coalition partners are outdoing each other with ambitious plans for the Council Presidency. But when it comes to dealing with the world power China and the central issue of human rights, the government acts as if it were sitting at the cat's table in Brussels'. Germany has weight in the circle of 27 member states and with the ***EU Council Presidency*** both the opportunity and the obligation to "put systematic human rights violations, repression, total surveillance and censorship by the leadership in Beijing on the agenda and to condemn them clearly and unequivocally".

In the same statement, the Federal Foreign Office writes that it is concerned to observe that China is attempting to "undermine established human rights standards and weaken the international human rights system". It said it was "very concerned" by reports corroborated by the China Cables that up to one million members of Muslim minorities were being held in detention camps in Xinjiang. It 'strongly condemns' the crackdown. The confidential documents, published by an international research group in 2019, revealed the secret guidelines for the mass detention. The SZ was also involved in the revelation. In its answer to the Greens, the government stresses that it is 'actively engaged in the creation of an ***EU sanctions regime*** for human rights violations'. FDP MP Jensen also demands this commitment from Foreign Minister Heiko Maas (SPD).

The ***EU Parliament*** will also debate China on an ongoing basis, says Reinhard Bütikofer. The Green fears that the situation in Hong Kong, where Beijing is increasingly fighting the demonstrators, will escalate around the September election: We ***MEPs*** will continue to support Hong Kong's democracy movement and draw attention to it with debates'. Hardly anyone expects the global environment to improve by September. Critics fear that the summit will degenerate into a photo op for Beijing's propaganda, which depends on global recognition for its domestic audience in its dispute with Washington. Will President Xi travel to Leipzig at all? It is still too early to make a prediction,' Foreign Minister Maas just told the *Augsburger Allgemeine*. Noah Barkin, who talks to insiders in Berlin, Brussels and Paris, does not believe that the Leipzig summit will take place virtually. There, some expect to be able to justify the meagre results with Corona. Others hoped for a cancellation: "I have heard from diplomats that the champagne has already been chilled for the moment when Leipzig is officially removed from the calendar".

**Beijing cannot give the *Europeans* anything that Washington would not also demand immediately**

**Some have chilled the champagne - in case the Leipzig summit is cancelled**

**Graphic**

At the World Economic Forum in Davos, Chancellor Merkel outlined her vision for ***Europe's*** relationship with China. On the day of her speech, Beijing sealed off the metropolis of Wuhan, where the Corona epidemic was running rampant, here travellers leaving Wuhan at the last minute arrive in Hangzhou. Photos:FABRICE COFFRINI/Afp (2)

**Classification**

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**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject:** CORONAVIRUS COVID-19 (92%); ***EUROPEAN UNION (***92%); GERMAN CHANCELLORS (91%); ***EU PRESIDENCY (***90%); HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT (90%); POLITICS (90%); PUBLIC POLICY (90%); ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION (90%); PANDEMICS (89%); INTERNATIONAL GOVERNANCE (77%); INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORGANISATIONS (77%); POLITICAL PARTIES (77%); UNITED NATIONS (77%); EPIDEMICS (75%); LEGISLATIVE BODIES (73%); ***EU REGULATION*** (72%); ***EUROPEAN*** UNION INSTITUTIONS (72%); EMISSIONS (71%); CLEAN AIR REGULATIONS (71%); PRIME MINISTERS (71%); MINISTRIES OF COMMERCE & CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE (71%); VIRUSES (70%); LEADERS (65%); CORONAVIRUSES (50%)

**Organisation:** WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM (83%); ***EUROPEAN UNION*** (54%)

**Industry:** MARKETING & ADVERTISING (78%); EMISSIONS (71%)

**Person:** ANGELA MERKEL (94%); XI JINPING (79%); URSULA VON DER LEYEN (79%); LI KEQIANG (79%)

**Geographic:** PEKING, CHINA (94%); LEIPZIG, GERMANY (88%); BRUSSELS, BELGIUM (86%); BERLIN, GERMANY (58%); WUHAN, CHINA (58%); GLASGOW, SCOTLAND (54%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (96%); CAPITAL REGION BRUSSELS (93%); SAXONY, GERMANY (73%); GRAUBÜNDEN, SWITZERLAND (58%); ***EUROPE (***93%); CHINA (90%); EAST ASIA (73%); BELGIUM (73%); GERMANY (59%)

**Load-Date:** May 23, 2020

**End of Document**

[***FOREIGN; Poland praises Karlsruhe ruling***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5YW6-4961-JBF1-03R3-00000-00&context=)

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Monday 11 May 2020

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

**Length:** 153 words

**Byline:** DPA

**Body**

**Warsaw** - The Polish government has welcomed the controversial ruling of the German Federal Constitutional Court on the ***European*** Central Bank. The decision is "one of the most important rulings in the history of the ***European*** Union", Polish Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki wrote to the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Sonntagszeitung*. It was perhaps the first time that it had been said with such clarity: 'The treaties are created by the member states, and they determine where the limits of competence lie for the ***EU*** institutions'. In Poland, the national-conservative PiS government is restructuring the judiciary; the ***European*** Court of Justice intervened several times because it saw ***EU law*** violated. Karlsruhe had objected to the ECB's government bond purchases on Tuesday, the first time it had gone against an ECJ ruling.

**Classification**

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**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject:** INSTITUTIONS OF THE ***EUROPEAN*** UNION (91%); ***EUROPEAN UNION (***91%); COURTS OF THE ***EUROPEAN*** UNION (90%); TRIBUNALS (90%); JUDICIAL DECISIONS (90%); INTERNATIONAL COURTS & TRIBUNALS (90%); CENTRAL BANKS (90%); PUBLIC POLICY (90%); POLITICS (90%); HEADS OF STATE & GOVERNMENT (78%); SUPREME COURT (77%); SUPREME COURT OF THE TRIBUNALS (90%); CENTRAL BANKS (90%); PUBLIC POLICY (90%); POLITICS (90%); HEADS OF STATE & GOVERNMENT (78%); SUPREME COURT (77%); ***EU REGULATION (***72%); ***EUROPEAN LAW (***71%)

**Industry:** CENTRAL BANKS (90%)

**Geographic:** KARLSRUHE, GERMANY (88%); WARSAW, POLAND (79%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (94%); POLAND (93%); ***EUROPE (***90%).

**Load-Date:** May 23, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Tough rules for state entry; The EUCommission imposes conditions when governments support corporations with capital. This could affect Lufthansa - and many other companies.***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5YW6-4961-JBF1-03SM-00000-00&context=)

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

**Length:** 694 words

**Byline:** BY BJÖRN FINKE

**Body**

**Brussels** - No dividends, no bonuses, no takeovers: If the state helps a company in the Corona crisis with a capital injection and becomes a shareholder, it must adhere to strict conditions. The ***EU Commission***'s competition watchdogs published rules at the weekend on how governments can support companies with capital and so-called subordinated loans, i.e. particularly risky loans. The German government has reserved 100 billion ***euros in*** its new economic stabilisation fund for such state investments; among others, Lufthansa is in discussion about joining the fund. This set of rules would then apply to this.

The Brussels authority has already made it easier for governments to help industries affected by the pandemic with subsidies, guarantees and normal loans. But for some companies this is not enough - they need more capital but cannot find investors. That is why the Commission is now further relaxing its state aid rules and wants to allow governments to provide capital to crisis groups and become major shareholders, at least until summer 2021. In return, however, the managers must submit to strict requirements. The reason given in the authority's decision is that such capital injections would otherwise "strongly distort competition between companies".

Banks that were rescued by capital injections during the financial crisis had to adhere to similar rules of conduct. However, the new rules are only aimed at companies outside the financial sector. Compared to an earlier draft, which is available to the SZ, it has been slightly toned down: deadlines have been extended and thresholds increased. Governments had pushed for this during the consultations. Nevertheless, the Commission continues to impose a tight corset. For example, approval is only possible if the business has not had any problems by the end of 2019 - old cases are not to be supported.

And companies where the state is on board are not allowed to pay dividends or buy back shares - except from the government. Bonuses for managers are forbidden. As long as the state's shareholding has not been significantly reduced, competitors or suppliers may not be taken over either. Only a maximum ten percent stake in other firms is possible, unless the commission decides that a takeover of the other firm is essential for survival. Aid recipients must also report on how their activities serve significant ***EU policy*** objectives, such as the fight against climate change.

The government should be adequately remunerated for its capital input. The goal is a quick exit. If the government still holds at least 15 percent of the shares after six years, the Commission wants to see a restructuring plan. Margrethe Vestager, the Commission Vice-President in charge, says it is a matter of 'upholding ***European*** values and ensuring fair conditions of competition'.

However, there are doubts about the fairness of state aid. The Commission has so far approved a good 100 applications from governments for Corona support packages. Almost two trillion ***euros in*** grants, loans and guarantees are involved. However, half of the sum is accounted for by Germany alone, while companies in ailing states such as Greece have to make do with considerably less aid.

A Commission spokeswoman says the divergences between countries are "huge" and probably also related to the financial situation of governments. Representatives of the authority and southern European states therefore fear that companies from wealthy countries could weather the crisis much better than their rivals in poorer regions. This would distort competition and deepen differences between economically strong and weak states, they say. Preventing this is "vital for survival", says Commission Vice-President Valdis Dombrovskis. Therefore, the authority is considering its own aid programme for capital injections.

**Germany accounts for half of all approved subsidies. Critics consider this unfair**

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject:** SHAREHOLDERS (90%); ***EUROPEAN*** UNION INSTITUTIONS (90%); ***EUROPEAN UNION (90%);*** POLITICS (90%); SECURITIES & OTHER INVESTMENTS (89%); BONUSES (89%); DIVIDENDS (89%); ECONOMIC CRISIS (78%); EU MERGER REGULATION (78%); BUSINESS ACQUISITIONS (78%); PUBLIC POLICY (78%); MANAGER BONUSES (78%); CORONAVIRUS COVID-19 (78%); ***EU REGULATION (***77%); GOVERNMENT SUBSIDIES & GRANTS (73%); PANDEMICS (73%); SHARE BUYBACK PROGRAMMES (63%); EPIDEMICS (55%)

**Company:** DEUTSCHE LUFTHANSA AG (58%)

**Ticker:** LHA (FRA) (58%)

**Industry:** NAICS481112 SCHEDULED FREIGHT AIR TRANSPORTATION (58%); NAICS481111 SCHEDULED PASSENGER AIR TRANSPORTATION (58%); SIC4512 AIR TRANSPORTATION, SCHEDULED (58%); SECURITIES & OTHER CAPITAL ASSETS (89%); SHARE REPURCHASE PROGRAMMES (63%)

**Geographic:** BRUSSELS, BELGIUM (73%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (93%); BRUSSELS CAPITAL REGION (92%); SOUTHERN ***EUROPE (***79%); ***EUROPE (***73%); GERMANY (59%); GREECE (58%)

**Load-Date:** May 26, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Berlin concerned about human rights; EUSummit with China will be a balancing act for the German government***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5YW6-4961-JBF1-03NH-00000-00&context=)

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

**Length:** 198 words

**Byline:** SZ

**Body**

**Munich/Berlin/Brussels** - According to the German government, China is trying to "undermine established human rights standards and weaken the international human rights system". This was stated in an answer to a Green Party question. This is being observed "with concern". When asked about the role of human rights at the ***EU-China summit*** planned for September, the Foreign Office pointed out that it was an ***EU*** event chaired by the President of the ***European*** Council and prepared in the regular ***EU bodies.*** When it comes to dealing with the world power China, the government acts as if it were sitting at the cat's table in Brussels," criticises Green Party politician Margarete Bause. Whether the summit can take place is unclear because of the Corona crisis. Especially in these difficult times, we need to strengthen international cooperation - also with challenging partners like China", says Jürgen Hardt, foreign policy spokesman of the CDU/CSU parliamentary group, who is in favour of the meeting. At such a summit, however, we must also speak plainly.

**Page 7**

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject: *EUROPEAN UNION*** (91%); POLITICS (91%); TALKS & MEETINGS (90%); PUBLIC POLICY (90%); POLITICAL PARTIES (90%); INTERNATIONAL GOVERNMENT TALKS (90%); FOREIGN RELATIONS (78%); FOREIGN POLICY (78%); HEADS OF STATE & GOVERNMENT (78%); ***EU PRESIDENCY (***77%); INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS (77%); CORONAVIRUS COVID-19 (73%); FOREIGN OFFICES & DIPLOMATIC SERVICES (72%); GERMAN POLITICAL PARTIES (72%)

**Geographic:** BERLIN, GERMANY (73%); BRUSSELS, BELGIUM (73%); BRUSSELS CAPITAL REGION (91%); CHINA (90%); ***EUROPE (***78%); BELGIUM (58%).

**Load-Date:** May 23, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Conservationists file complaint with EU***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5YW6-4961-JBF1-039F-00000-00&context=)

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**Section:** Bavaria; Munich West; Bavaria Region; p. 9

**Length:** 384 words

**Byline:** CWS

**Body**

**Nuremberg** - High land consumption and industrial agriculture with its massive use of artificial fertilisers and pesticides are the two central reasons why threatened animal species such as the field hamster have fewer and fewer opportunities in Bavaria. The German Nature Conservation Union (Bund Naturschutz, BN) has therefore now filed a complaint with the ***EU Commission*** against the Free State of Bavaria. The field hamster is a strictly protected species ***throughout Europe.*** The ***EU member states*** have committed themselves to taking measures against the extinction of the rare animals. Bavaria is far from doing so. The populations in the region between Würzburg, Schweinfurt and Kitzingen continue to decline. This region is the last one in Bavaria where field hamsters can still be found. The aim of our complaint is that the Free State finally develops an effective protection concept for the field hamster,' says BN leader Richard Mergner. The Free State should no longer violate the ***EU***'s nature conservation requirements.

Field hamsters are the only species of the hamster genus found in ***Europe.*** The rodents are about the size of guinea pigs and make widely branching burrows under fields. They eat cereals and other crops and are in deep hibernation in winter. Field hamsters are closely related to the Syrian golden hamster, which are very popular as pets. From the perspective of conservationists, field hamsters are a flagship species. If they feel at home in a region, many other species do well there too. BN leader Mergner therefore emphasises: 'Many other rare species of the agricultural landscape would benefit from a good protection concept for the field hamster'. But the efforts made so far have not borne fruit. It is true that the Free State launched its own species assistance programme for the rodents almost 20 years ago. Nevertheless, their numbers continue to decline dramatically. Between 2017 and 2019 alone, they more than halved, according to the BN. For this reason, the nature conservation association is now calling for a binding protection concept for the species' last habitats in Bavaria. They should no longer be managed as intensively by farmers as they have been up to now, says Mergner. In addition, it is imperative that construction activity be restricted there.

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject:** ANIMALS (92%); ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION (92%); ***EUROPEAN UNION*** (91%); ENDANGERED SPECIES (91%); ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION MOVEMENT (90%); ECOSYSTEMS & HABITATS (89%); NATURE & ANIMAL PROTECTION ORGANISATIONS (78%); PESTICIDES (78%); ***EUROPEAN UNION INSTITUTIONS (73%); PETS (72%).*** HABITATS (89%); NATURE AND ANIMAL PROTECTION ORGANISATIONS (78%); PESTICIDES (78%); ***EUROPEAN*** UNION INSTITUTIONS (73%); PETS (72%)

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

**Industry:** Pesticides (78%); Fertilisers (78%); Farmers (78%)

**Geographic:** NUREMBERG, GERMANY (58%); WÜRZBURG, GERMANY (58%); BAVARIA, GERMANY (90%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (90%); ***EUROPE*** (88%); SYRIA (56%).

**Load-Date:** May 23, 2020

**End of Document**

[***The advisor who wouldn't listen; Dominic Cummings is the British Prime Minister's closest confidant and co-creator of the Brexit course. The fact that he ignored Corona conditions and does not regret it now also puts Boris Johnson in trouble***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:600D-CRM1-JBF1-03M8-00000-00&context=)

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Tuesday 26 May 2020

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

**Length:** 865 words

**Byline:** BY ALEXANDER MÜHLAUER

**Body**

**London** - Boris Johnson knows how tough headlines can be. But even for him, the former journalist, reading the newspapers on Monday morning must have been torture. Even the *Daily Mail*, which actually always defends Johnson, had had enough of his behaviour. The front page featured the Prime Minister and his confidant Dominic Cummings, below which was written in capital letters: "What planet are they on?" The view in the other papers was not more pleasing to Johnson. 'A cheat and a coward', ran the *Daily Mirror* headline. And the *Sun* tried a pun reminiscent of a Hollywood comedy: 'Dome and Dumber'.

The night before, Johnson had tried to defend this same Dom. Dominic Cummings, the prime minister "s most important advisor, had travelled by car from London to Durham in northern England at the end of March with his wife, who suffers from corona symptoms, and his four-year-old son. Cummings" parents and his sister, who was supposed to look after his child, live there because he feared that he himself had been infected with Covid-19. And so it was. But according to government regulations, Cummings should not have gone to Durham. Firstly, because his wife would have had to stay at home in London with corona symptoms. Secondly, because a 420-kilometre journey would only have been permitted for exceptional reasons.

On Monday evening, Cummings finally explained his side of the story. He gave a press conference in the garden of Downing Street. So Cummings sat at a table with his shirt sleeves rolled up, a glass of water in front of him, and read out his statement. He confirmed the car journey and invoked exceptional circumstances. He had no one in London to look after his child if his wife and he were seriously ill. In addition, his house in London had been the target of harassment. He was worried that this situation would get worse.

Asked if he regretted his behaviour, Cummings said: "No, I don't regret what I did. I think what I did was reasonable. Given the extraordinary circumstances, it seemed the least risky thing to do.' He said he was not surprised that people were very upset about his behaviour, but he hoped the public would recognise that he had been in a difficult situation. He had not informed Johnson in advance about his trip to Durham because the Prime Minister himself was ill with the virus at the time. He did not want to bother him with it. He had not thought of resigning in the last few days, Cummings said.

Johnson sees no reason for that either, he wants to stick with his advisor. Cummings had "followed the instincts of every father", Johnson had said at a press conference on Sunday. He could not pillory him for that. His chief adviser had acted "in every way responsibly, legally and with integrity". After Johnson's appearance, however, many questions remained unanswered.

No wonder, then, that the indignation was not only great in the newspaper editorial offices. In Johnson's Conservative Party, too, resistance was growing stronger and stronger. By Monday afternoon, a dozen Tory MPs had publicly opposed Cummings. Labour leader Keir Starmer immediately called for an official enquiry into the affair. Doctors and clergy also vented their anger at the behaviour of those in Westminster. The Prime Minister is treating people 'like fools' and 'without respect', tweeted Nicholas Baines, the Bishop of Leeds.

The impression that the government does not take the Corona regulations seriously is a fatal signal, according to experts. For example, social psychologist Stephen Reicher, who is a member of a government advisory group, predicts that "more people will die" because "Cummings" behaviour shows that compliance with lockdown rules is allowed to be undermined. This would be a disaster for the government, because already no ***European*** country has had more people die from Covid-19 than the UK. Depending on the survey method, there are between 37 000 and 50 000 deaths.

In the opinion of many virologists, the government imposed the lockdown too late. While other states in ***Europe*** were in the process of restricting public life, Johnson was still shaking hands unconcernedly. As an advisor, Cummings was one of the driving forces behind Johnson's Corona policy. According to research by the *Times,* he was initially convinced to back herd immunity, according to which it would make sense for as many healthy people as possible to become infected in order to form a kind of immunity shield for the old and pre-sick. According to government insiders, Cummings explained the government's strategy at the end of February: "herd immunity, protect the economy, and if that means some pensioners die, *too bad*". Downing Street rejected the quote as fabricated.

**First he advocated the concept of herd immunity, now he discredits the government**

**Graphic**

Dominic Cummings, adviser to the British prime minister, has come under fire for travelling to see his parents in breach of the rules. Photo: Aaron Chown/dpa

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject:** PRIME MINISTERS (92%); HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT (91%); UK PRIME MINISTERS (90%); POLITICS (89%); PRESS CONFERENCES (89%); BREXIT (78%); POLITICAL PARTIES (77%); RESIGNATIONS (77%); CORONAVIRUS COVID-19 (70%)

**Person:** BORIS JOHNSON (92%)

**Geographic:** LONDON, ENGLAND (90%); ENGLAND (92%); UNITED KINGDOM (58%)

**Load-Date:** June 2, 2020

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[***EU intervenes in Lufthansa thriller***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:600C-T0W1-JBK9-228H-00000-00&context=)

Bild

Tuesday 26 May 2020

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**Section:** ; p. 2; issue 121

**Length:** 210 words

**Byline:** Jcb  
  
Harb

**Body**

Berlin - Mega-quarrel about Lufthansa! After long negotiations on a rescue package, the crane airline and the German government finally reached an agreement yesterday. The state wants to give nine billion ***euros in*** exchange for two seats on the supervisory board. But the rescue is still not certain!

Because now ***EU Competition Commissioner*** Margrethe Vestager (52, photo) has announced resistance! Brussels is said to have demanded that the German airline give up take-off and landing rights at its main locations in Frankfurt and Munich.

Officially, the commissioner tells BILD: If ***EU states*** contribute more than 250 million ***euros*** for company bailouts, "additional efforts" must be made to preserve competition. This is the case with Lufthansa's €9 billion package.

And the federal government?

Is pissed off about the demand from Brussels! "We won't let them do that to us," said Angela Merkel (65, CDU) at the CDU presidium meeting on Monday, according to participants.

In Berlin they smell "clear power politics", because the responsible general manager Olivier Guersent (58) is French. The fear: Guersent wants to weaken Lufthansa's hubs and thus strengthen the competitor Air France-KLM.

**Graphic**

Photo: DOMINIK SOMMERFELD

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** BIBU

**Subject: *EUROPEAN UNION*** (90%); POLITICS (90%); POLITICAL PARTIES (90%); GERMAN FEDERAL CHANCELLORS (79%); BAILOUTS (78%); PUBLIC POLITICS (78%); GERMAN POLITICAL PARTIES (73%); BOARD OF DIRECTORS & SUPERVISORS (73%)

**Company:** DEUTSCHE LUFTHANSA AG (92%); AIR FRANCE-KLM SA (50%)

**Ticker:** LHA (FRA) (92%); AF (PAR) (50%); AF (AMS) (50%)

**Industry:** NAICS481112 SCHEDULED FREIGHT AIR TRANSPORTATION (92%); NAICS481111 SCHEDULED PASSENGER AIR TRANSPORTATION (92%); SIC4512 AIR TRANSPORTATION, SCHEDULED (92%); AIRLINES (91%)

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

**Geographic:** BERLIN, GERMANY (74%); BRUSSELS, BELGIUM (73%); FRANKFURT, GERMANY (58%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (93%); BRUSSELS CAPITAL REGION (88%); ***EUROPE (***73%); BELGIUM (56%).

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**End of Document**

[***In search of the billions; Ukraine only receives money from the IMF if the country prevents oligarchs from enriching themselves. They fight back with lawsuits***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:600D-CRM1-JBF1-03P9-00000-00&context=)

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Tuesday 26 May 2020

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

**Length:** 967 words

**Byline:** FLORIAN HASSEL

**Body**

**Warsaw** - In the end, even more than 16,000 amendments and a court action against the speaker of parliament did not help to prevent one of the most important reform laws in Ukrainian history: On 21 May, President Volodimir Selensky signed a law on how to deal with nationalised banks. The very next day, the Kiev bureau chief of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) declared that Ukraine could now count on five billion dollars in loans. A formal decision will be made in Washington at the beginning of June. After that, Kiev can also count on another three billion dollars from the ***EU*** and the World Bank - and avoid the threat of national bankruptcy.

Even before the Corona crisis, the country of 44 million inhabitants had to calculate very carefully. The national budget does not even amount to the equivalent of 40 billion ***euros.*** But by the end of 2022 alone, Kiev must repay more than 22 billion ***euros in*** foreign debt. But the IMF and other lenders that followed it refused new loans. The IMF was mainly bothered by the disappearance of billions in Ukrainian banks.

The demise or nationalisation of about 100 banks, many of which served criminal operations or money laundering, cost taxpayers about $15 billion after 2014. The largest single item was Privat Bank, Ukraine's largest bank. According to the National Bank (NBU) and the financial detective agency Kroll, Privat Bank was looted of $5.5 billion under its former owners, mainly oligarchs Ihor Kolomoiskiy and Gennady Bogulyubov. At the end of 2016, Ukraine had to nationalise the bank. Since then, there has been a fierce battle over the missing billions. The now state-owned private bank has sued the oligarchs and their business partners in London and the USA, in Israel, in Cyprus and in Geneva for the return of the billions transferred abroad by front companies and chain transfers. Kolomoiskij and Bogoljubow publicly deny any guilt - and are leading hundreds of counterclaims in Ukraine with allies in order to have the entire bank returned to them. Their chances were not even bad: suitable verdicts are often for sale in Ukraine. Already in spring 2019, a Kiev court declared the nationalisation allegedly illegal in a scandalous ruling. Further rulings are pending.

The IMF therefore demanded that Kiev rule out the return of nationalised banks by law. But Kolomoiskij, who helped make Selenskij president in 2019, is a powerful man. He owns factories and the most-watched TV station, and up to 40 deputies in parliament safeguard his interests. Most recently, Kolomoiskij allies tried to prevent the adoption of the banking law with 16 583 amendments. When the parliament nevertheless passed the banking law in an accelerated procedure on 13 May, Kolomoiskij's allies sued the speaker of parliament and took him to court for alleged illegal adoption of the law.

But President Selensky signed the law. Already by mid-June, Kiev hopes, the IMF could transfer 1.75 billion dollars, and again as much by the end of the year. Another two billion dollars are to come from the ***EU***, another billion from the World Bank. Ukraine can use the money well: The economy is collapsing massively in the Corona crisis, the budget deficit could be around eight percent instead of two.

However, Kolomoiskij's fight is not over. It is true that the new banking law rules out the return of the private bank to the oligarchs. Even if a judge were to declare the nationalisation illegal, former bank owners may only be compensated with money. And above all: not Ukrainian, but only internationally recognised Western auditors are allowed to determine who has actually been harmed: Kolomoiskij and his partners - or the bank and the taxpayers. As early as 2018, a London judge spoke of evidence of "fraud of epic proportions" allegedly committed by ex-owners.

However, the fact that President Selensky signed the banking law does not mean that he broke with Kolomoiskiy. According to ex-national bank head Valeria Gontareva, it was only because Selensky, facing state bankruptcy, had no other choice. At the same time, however, the president or his associates are apparently actively preventing the authorities and the judiciary from taking action against the oligarch.

On 5 March, for example, Selensky fired Ruslan Ryaboshapka, the prosecutor general known as a reformer - according to his account, because he investigated Kolomoisky and his partners too quickly and successfully because of the alleged billion-euro fraud at Privat Bank. Selensky also fired Prime Minister Honcharuk, according to the weekly Serkalo *Nedelji,* also after a dispute over Kolomoiskij. In parliament, too, the president has so far done nothing to exclude deputies representing Kolomoiskij's interests from the presidential faction 'Servants of the People'. And the oligarch has other allies in parliament, such as ex-prime minister Yulia Tymoshenko, leader of the Fatherland Party. After the adoption of the banking law, she announced that she would appeal to the Constitutional Court to declare the law unconstitutional. The Constitutional Court is one of Ukraine's unreformed courts; under President Yanukovych, judges received millions of dollars for favourable rulings. If the court overturns the banking law, the IMF would probably stop further transfers to Kiev.

**The owners of the private bank had probably let a lot of money disappear**

**Court rulings are often for sale, even those of the Constitutional Court**

**Graphic**

Ukrainian oligarch Ihor Kolomoiskij is fighting a banking law - and he has influential supporters. Photo: Valentyn Ogirenko/Reuters

**Classification**

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**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject:** INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND (90%); LEGAL ACTIONS (90%); NATIONALISATION (90%); BANKING REGULATION & FINANCIAL SUPERVISION (89%); ***EUROPEAN UNION (89%)***; LITIGATION (89%); LEGISLATION (89%); LEGISLATIVE BODIES (89%); INTERNATIONAL GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS (89%); GOVERNMENT BUDGETS (89%); PUBLIC FINANCE (89%); CENTRAL BANKS (77%); CORONAVIRUS COVID-19 (76%); UNITED NATIONS ORGANISATIONS (76%); ECONOMY & ECONOMIC INDICATORS (76%); CURRENCIES (76%); PUBLIC DEBT (76%); MONEY LAUNDERING (73%); FRAUD & FINANCIAL CRIME (72%); FOREIGN DEBT (71%); POPULATION SIZE (71%); SCANDALS (66%)

**Industry:** INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND (90%); BANKING REGULATION & FINANCIAL SUPERVISION (89%); GOVERNMENT BUDGETS (89%); BUDGETS (78%); CENTRAL BANKS (77%); CURRENCIES (76%).

**Geographic:** KIEV,UKRAINE (94%); LONDON, ENGLAND (79%); WARSAW, POLAND (79%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (92%); UKRAINE (96%); ISRAEL (58%); CYPRUS (58%)

**Load-Date:** June 2, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Winner thanks to the president; Poland's Supreme Court now has a new chairperson who was not appointed according to the rules - but is close to the government***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:600D-CRM1-JBF1-03MN-00000-00&context=)

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

**Length:** 737 words

**Byline:** FLORIAN HASSEL

**Body**

**Warsaw** - Polish President Andrzej Duda has decided to appoint Ma&lstrok;gorzata Manowska, a lawyer close to the national populist government, as the new president of the Supreme Court (SN). The SN is the highest authority in all civil and criminal cases and also decides in politically controlled special chambers on the annulment of actually final judgements, on the dismissal of judges and prosecutors and on the validity of elections. This authority may soon become decisive after the highly controversial presidential election, which is pending despite the Corona crisis.

Ma&lstrok;gorzata Manowska is a specialist in civil law. The 56-year-old lawyer became well-known during the first period of government of the national populist PiS party from 2005 to 2007, when Manowska was Secretary of State under Justice Minister Zbigniew Ziobro, who has been Justice Minister and Prosecutor General again since 2015 and one of the architects of the dismantling of the rule of law in Poland. Another state secretary under Ziobro at the time was Andrzej Duda, Poland's current president, also appointed by PiS.

After PiS returned to government at the end of 2015, Manowska first became the head of the State School for Judges and Prosecutors and then a judge at a Warsaw court of appeal. In 2018, the government unconstitutionally dissolved the previously independent State Judicial Council (KRS), which was responsible for the selection of all judges, and reconstituted it in a politically dependent manner. After her selection by the 'neo-KRS', Manowska became a Supreme Court judge in November 2018.

However, their status as judges is in question, as is that of more than 40 other 'neo'-SN judges: according to a ruling of the Court of Justice of the ***EU*** (ECJ) and decisions of still independently appointed judges of the Supreme Court, the new, politically dependent judges may not all be independent judges in the sense of ***EU law***. All of their decisions may be deemed non-existent and disregarded or challenged.

The same applies to the procedure leading to Manowska's appointment as SN president. Article 183.3 of the Polish Constitution stipulates that Poland's president appoints the president of the Supreme Court on the proposal of the plenary assembly of all judges of this body. The president may only appoint a candidate who has been elected and proposed by the majority of SN judges, noted ex-constitutional judge Piotr Tuleja, for example.

There was this clear majority: On Saturday, 50 judges elected W&lstrok;odzimierz Wróbel as candidate for the office of President of the Court in the SN plenary session. Wróbel is one of the judges still appointed independently and enjoys an excellent reputation as a criminal lawyer and uncompromising representative of judicial independence. Ma&lstrok;gorzata Manowska, the pro-government candidate, on the other hand, received only one out of eight possible points in a ranking by Poland's independent judges' association Iustitia - and only 25 votes from the "neo-judges" in the vote.

Poland's president had previously appointed an "acting president of the court", which the constitution does not provide for. The latter now presided over the selection of candidates - and refused to let the Assembly vote on a formal proposal for the president after its vote for Wróbel. On the basis of a new law that contradicts the constitution, the court regulations and presumably also ***EU law,*** Duda then chose the new court president from among five candidates - and appointed his old colleague Manowska as the new SN president.

According to the 50 still independently appointed Supreme Court judges, after the denied vote on the winning candidate, the selection is not complete, the president should not have appointed anyone. Ex-Constitutional Court President Andrzej Zoll also commented on TVN that Manowska's appointment had "no legal basis whatsoever". Constitutional lawyer Marcin Mactzak called her appointment 'the next gross breach of the constitution by President Andrzej Duda'. According to the 50 still independently appointed SN judges, not only every decision of the new court president is in question, but also the authority of the Supreme Court in general.

**An expert says the decision has "no legal basis whatsoever".**

**Graphic**

At the head of Poland's Supreme Court: Ma&lstrok;gorzata Manowska was previously a subordinate of the Minister of Justice and Prosecutor General. He pushed for the ruling party to gain control over the judiciary. Photo: imago

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**Industry:** LAWYERS (78%)

**Geographic:** WARSAW, POLAND (92%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (92%); POLAND (94%)

**Load-Date:** June 2, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Europe Law; The EU may and must help hard-pressed member states in the Corona crisis with all its resources for economic reconstruction***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:603K-7H61-DXX2-P206-00000-00&context=)

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**Section:** Opinion page; Munich; Bavaria; Germany; p. 5

**Length:** 1075 words

**Highlight:** By Christoph Vedder

**Body**

All over ***Europe, there is a*** heated debate about the right way out of the crisis and how the ***EU*** can help its member states that, like Italy or Spain, have been hit particularly hard by the pandemic. Sceptics of the planned aid argue that it could not be covered by EU law. But they overlook this: Triggered by the terrorist attacks in Madrid and London in 2004 and 2005, Article 222 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the ***EU*** (TFEU) contains a legally binding peacetime assistance clause. It applies when a member state is affected by a 'terrorist attack' or a 'natural or man-made disaster' - the cause is irrelevant. A 'disaster' is 'any situation which has or may have serious effects on people, the environment or property'. The Covid 19 pandemic is such a situation.

Article 222 is primarily aimed at events that can be located in a Member State, even if the cause may lie outside the Union. But it also covers a 'situation' that is present to a greater or lesser extent in all Member States. Even if Article 222 was not originally aimed at global pandemics, it is legal craftsmanship to rethink existing legal norms in relation to new situations.

On the surface, Article 222 obliges assistance in combating the pandemic itself: medical equipment and personnel, medicines, logistics, quarantine and travel restrictions, but also, as happened, the treatment of patients from other member states. But Article 222 also includes combating the consequences of a disaster: the economic and social consequences caused by Covid-19, such as mass unemployment, short-time work, insolvencies, collapse of economic sectors. Such situations can themselves be a disaster in the sense of Article 222 and thus go beyond the economic policy left in the hands of the Member States under the Treaties.

The Union shall mobilise all the means at its disposal', says Article 222. That sounds like Mario Draghi later on and is meant to be. If necessary, the Union can and must help with everything its constitutional foundations allow. When it comes to rescuing and rebuilding the economic foundations, this is first and foremost the Union's budget. So it is a fortunate circumstance that the Union is in the process of drawing up the overall budget for 2021 to 2027 anyway. The Union budget is adopted by the Council and the ***European*** Parliament on a proposal from the Commission. It is legitimised by the ***European*** Parliament through direct democracy and does not require the consent of national parliaments. The Council is a Union institution committed to the objective of the 'well-being of the peoples' of the Union as formulated in Article 3 of the Treaty on ***European Union*** (TEU) and not to national egoisms.

Whatever the ***EU budget*** and the ***European*** Central Bank are able to do within their mandate is safeguarded by Article 222. The 'no bail-out' clause, according to which the ***EU*** and its states are not liable for the debts of individual Member States, as well as other limits on economic policy remaining with the Member States, do not affect the Union budget. The Member States, for their part, are free from obligations under Union law when they provide assistance under Article 222.

Germany holds the presidency of the Union in the second half of the year. The building sites are: Democracy, the rule of law and a free society within the Union, and the Union's position in the world between the USA, China, Russia and Africa. The prerequisite for both is the preservation of the economic and social foundations of the 'well-being of the peoples' of the Union.

The founding and development of the Union followed political will and visions as ways out of crises. ***European*** integration would hardly have emerged from petty debates about financing issues. 70 years ago, the French Foreign Minister Robert Schuman launched the Coal and Steel Community, which was followed in 1957/58 by the ***European*** Economic Community. This overcame the consequences of the war for Western Europe and brought Germany back into the circle of the Western world. The price was the transfer of sovereign rights to a 'supranational' structure. This is the core of the Union's successful work and an essential element of our Basic Law. The Treaty of Maastricht in 1992 with the introduction of the ***euro*** accompanied German unification. With the Treaty of Lisbon in 2009, the Union has finally become a democratically constituted, power-sharing, constitutional political union of a special kind.

Democracy and human rights are not self-perpetuating. Functioning constitutional, economic and social foundations are the prerequisite for strong democracy. This lesson from the 1920s and 1930s can be seen again today. The Union is still one of the three great economic powers. ***Europe's*** position in the world is above all a question of the strength and attractiveness of its democratic, constitutional and liberal system. During its ***EU Presidency,*** Germany must not miss the historic opportunity to bring the mutual assistance clause in peace to life in order to let the Union shine as a beacon of the Western understanding of state and society, both internally and externally.

The global competition to see which system best overcomes Covid-19 is on. Solidarity is not altruism. The ***EU*** is only as strong as the willingness of its members to let the Union do its work. What support it wants to provide is a matter of political will. All member states benefit from an economically and socially functioning Union. In addition, Covid-19 has global implications and affects the Union's global economic interdependence. It is about the ***EU*** and its member states as a whole.

**The founding and development of the Union followed political will and vision**

*Christoph Vedder, 72, is Professor Emeritus of Public Law, International Law and* ***European Law*** *at the University of Augsburg.*

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**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

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**Subject:** CORONAVIRUS COVID-19 (92%); PANDEMICS (91%); EPIDEMICS (90%); ***EUROPEAN UNION (***90%); LEGISLATIVE BODIES (89%); ***EUROPEAN*** UNION INSTITUTIONS (89%); POLITICS (89%); ECONOMIC POLICY (89%); PUBLIC POLICY (89%); GOVERNMENT BUDGETS (78%); BAILOUTS (77%); GRANTS (77%); INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORGANISATIONS (77%); DISASTER RELIEF (77%); NATURAL DISASTERS (77%); TERRORISM (76%); CENTRAL BANKS (72%); TERRORIST ATTACKS (71%)

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

**Industry:** BUDGETS (78%); STATE BUDGETS (78%); CENTRAL BANKS (72%)

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

**Geographic:** LONDON, ENGLAND (79%); MADRID, SPAIN (79%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (95%); ***EUROPE (***93%); SPAIN (92%); ITALY (79%)

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**End of Document**

[***Dispute over budget and aid; The EUfinance ministers discuss the Corona pot. Criticism from Christian Democrats in Parliament***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:603K-7H61-DXX2-P236-00000-00&context=)

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**Length:** 769 words

**Byline:** BJORN FINKE

**Body**

**Brussels** - It is an impressive double fraction with six variables - and it decides on tens of billions of ***euros***. The ***EU Commission*** wants to use this formula to calculate the maximum amount of money that can flow to individual member states from the planned Corona aid pot. But a dispute has broken out between the governments about whether the authority is using the right criteria. Other variables or weightings lead to different results, to the benefit of one country, to the detriment of its neighbour. On Tuesday afternoon, the ***EU finance ministers*** exchanged views on these and other disputes surrounding the aid pot and the new ***EU budget***.

The video conference is intended to help prepare a meeting of the heads of state and government at the end of next week. However, an agreement on the financial package is not expected at this summit either. For that, real top-level meetings in Brussels will be necessary, which are to take place in July. In total, a good 1.8 trillion ***euros are at stake***: a fortnight ago, Commission President Ursula von der Leyen presented a draft for the ***EU budget*** from 2021 to 2027, which comprises 1.1 trillion ***euros.*** She also presented the Corona aid pot. For this, the authority wants to incur 750 billion ***euros in*** debt. The money is supposed to massively increase the ***EU budget in the*** first years; according to the proposal, 500 billion ***euros are*** to flow via ***EU programmes*** as grants to states, 250 billion ***euros*** as loans.

Besides the distribution key, the volume and the question of how much will be transferred as a non-repayable grant and how much as a loan are controversial among the governments. Especially Austria, the Netherlands, Denmark and Sweden are pushing for a smaller volume and a smaller share of grants. Austria's Finance Minister Gernot Blümel said before the conference on Tuesday that the overall package was "not acceptable to us in its current form, not only in terms of volume but also in terms of content".

The Quartet also calls for aid money from the Corona pot to be tied to strict conditions. The main beneficiaries will be Italy and Spain - countries that have been hit hard by the pandemic and are already heavily indebted. The southern European governments are therefore arguing for the largest possible share of subsidies and rather lax conditions. There is also disagreement about the repayment of the debt the Commission is taking on. Von der Leyen proposes to pay off the bonds between 2028 and 2058, but the German government wants an earlier start and a shorter period.

The Commission wants to disburse 310 of the ***€500*** billion in grants through a new ***EU programme to*** support government investment and reform. Governments must submit plans with eligible projects. The plans are to take into account the reform proposals that the Commission regularly publishes for individual countries - and which governments have so far similarly regularly ignored.

The authority hopes that its reform proposals will be taken more seriously by this requirement - and that it will ensure that the money is used wisely. Critics, however, are calling for tougher conditions and controls. Such tones can also be heard in the ***European Parliament***, for example in the EPP, the group of ***European*** Christian Democrats. MEPs have to approve the budget and the aid pot in the end. On Tuesday, the Presidium of this largest group in the Parliament decided to set up a working group for the aid package. The group is to accompany the debate and work out proposals for improvement.

One of the initiators is CDU MP Markus Pieper. The money must not be allowed to sink into the Spanish social welfare system," says Pieper, who sits on the parliamentary budgetary control committee. Rather, we need a binding earmarking for future investments. The Commission could also learn from the rules for the structural funds, the Brussels aid pots for disadvantaged regions: Here, the countries have to publish the recipients of the subsidies. In case of misuse, the governments have to pay back the money.

A cross-party initiative from the ***European Parliament is*** fighting for another demand: Eleven MEPs, including Andreas Schwab from the CDU and Reinhard Bütikofer from the Greens, suggest in a letter to von der Leyen that money from the Corona pot should only be paid out if governments refer to the ***EU***'s help in the subsidised investments - for example with a plaque on buildings.

**Graphic**

Commission head Ursula von der Leyen at the ***European Parliament***. Photo: Reuters

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject: *EUROPEAN UNION*** (91%); FINANCE MINISTRIES & AGENCIES (90%); ***EUROPEAN*** UNION INSTITUTIONS (90%); GOVERNMENT BUDGETS (90%); LEGISLATIVE BODIES (89%); POLITICS (89%); TALKS & MEETINGS (78%); PANDEMICS (72%); HEADS OF STATE & GOVERNMENT (72%); SECURITIES & OTHER INVESTMENTS (71%); BONDS & NOTES (66%); EPIDEMICS (50%)

**Organization: *EUROPEAN*** PARLIAMENT (59%)

**Industry:** FINANCIAL MINISTRIES AND AUTHORITIES (90%); GOVERNMENT BUDGETS (90%); BUDGETS (78%); SECURITIES & OTHER CAPITAL ASSETS (71%); BONDS & LOANS (66%)

**Person:** URSULA VON DER LEYEN (91%)

**Geographic:** BRUSSELS, BELGIUM (73%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (94%); BRUSSELS CAPITAL REGION (92%); AUSTRIA (88%); ITALY (78%); SPAIN (78%); SOUTHERN EUROPE (78%); BELGIUM (73%); DENMARK (73%); ***EUROPE (73%);*** NETHERLANDS (73%); SWEDEN (73%).

**Load-Date:** June 10, 2020

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[***ECONOMIC CRISIS; What to do now; BY ALEXANDER HAGELÜKEN***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:603K-7H61-DXX2-P200-00000-00&context=)

Süddeutsche Zeitung

Wednesday 10 June 2020

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

**Length:** 988 words

**Body**

After the Vienna stock market crash of 1873, the industrialised countries experienced a slump. The historian Hans Rosenberg reports from these years "an economic spirit tending towards constant lamentation, social discontent becoming chronic and an increase in ideological aggressiveness". The World Bank now draws on this distant period to illustrate the consequences of the Corona pandemic: 'Since 1870, the economy has never contracted in so many countries at the same time as it is now'. And when the world economy collapses, hardly any country is affected as much as Germany.

No larger ***European*** state depends on sales abroad as much as the Federal Republic. While the export share of the French, British or Italians is 30 percent, here it is almost half. That is how much the economic fate of Germany's citizens is determined by what happens on the other side of the border.

On Tuesday, statisticians reported how little *Made in Germany is now being* bought abroad: exports in April were 30 percent lower than a year earlier. 30 billion ***euros disappeared into*** thin air, more than the annual turnover of Metro or SAP. The Institute for the World Economy notes that exports are Germany's 'Achilles heel'. In his epic poem, Homer describes the heel as the part of the body where the Greek hero is vulnerable in the battle for Troy - which brings him death.

Nevertheless, the Greeks defeated Troy in the end. The German government is not defenceless either. However, it urgently needs to defend itself, both nationally and internationally. Corona threatens to reinforce a deglobalisation that has already begun and could permanently weaken Germany.

In the 2008 financial crisis, the industrialised countries vowed not to fight each other with tariff increases. This helped to overcome the slump. In the Corona crisis, however, the USA and China are firing protectionist salvos. The historian Rosenberg might say that ideological aggressiveness is on the rise. If the US and China do indeed torpedo the recovery of the global economy, they are behaving more stupidly than they did in 2008, falling back into the protectionism that exacerbated the depression of the 1930s. And, incidentally, also the founding crisis after the Vienna stock market crash of 1873.

Even more dangerous for Germany in the long term is that Corona is fuelling the trend to manufacture as much as possible in its own country. US President Trump has been trying for some time to force companies to manufacture cars and other products for Americans *in* America. China is doing something similar. This is perhaps understandable when it comes to essential medicines. But if there is further deglobalisation, it threatens the prosperity that the international division of labour has created. Consumers suffer as they are cut off from better and cheaper goods from abroad. And nations that export a lot - like Germany - suffer.

The federal government should champion trade with a completely different verve than it has done so far. This includes alliances with states and new agreements. The more nations stand together, the more likely it is that the US and China will realise that protectionism is a country that harms itself the most. Such a German strategy requires things that many Germans dislike: for example, the Mercosur trade agreement with South America and a restart of the TTIP talks with the US as soon as sanity returns to the White House with a new president.

For the time being, Germany's export heel will pose bigger problems. The federal government should strengthen domestic demand in order to be less dependent on foreign trade. It needs to stimulate consumption for a longer period of time, as it is doing now with the stimulus package. And it should turn its attention to ***Europe,*** where Donald Trump is not sabotaging trade - and where two-thirds of exports go.

The Federal Republic was not always so strong in trade. Its export share has doubled since reunification. This is also due to the ***euro***, which many citizens condemn as an expensive mistake. Globalisation researcher Ian Goldin is right: Without the pact with Southern Europe, Germany would still have the Mark and would be a shadow of what it is today. It is therefore in Germany's interest to implement the reconstruction plan for the ***EU*** quickly. And the government should work to extend the single market - to services, energy and finance - after a prolonged standstill.

As if that were not enough politically, another challenge is emerging. While industry continues to deglobalise through Corona, services are growing unchecked. The winners of the pandemic are Amazon and Zoom. This exposes local weaknesses. While Germany's share of global trade in goods is three times as large as Britain's and almost as large as America's, the situation is different when it comes to trade in services. Here, the British are almost as strong as the Federal Republic and the USA twice as strong.

In America, Amazon, Apple and Google were created, some of which are worth more on the stock market than all 30 German Dax companies together. The Dax is dominated by companies like VW and Siemens, whose founder's most important innovation was the dynamo. Werner von Siemens revolutionised the world through electrification, but the world of 1866.

Although Siemens has repeatedly come up with innovations since its founding, too little has come from the German economy as a whole in recent times. In the boom of the past years, it missed the change to digital services. Now it needs new ideas - and smart support from the government. The golden export years of the car and machine manufacturers are not simply coming back to Corona.

**The pandemic has also led to deglobalisation. For Germany, this trend is rather dangerous. Hardly any other country is so dependent on exports.**

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject:** STOCK MARKET CRASHES (90%); EXPORT TRADE (90%); CORONAVIRUS COVID-19 (89%); HISTORY (89%); GREAT DEPRESSION (89%); PROTECTIONISM (89%); ECONOMY & ECONOMIC INDICATORS (89%); ECONOMIC CRISIS (89%); CORPORATE SALES (78%); ECONOMIC DEPRESSION (78%); TREATIES & AGREEMENTS (76%); POLITICS (75%); ECONOMIC RECOVERY (73%); PANDEMICS (71%); HEADS OF STATE & GOVERNMENT (70%); DEATH & DYING (65%); US PRESIDENTS (63%); TRADE AGREEMENTS (62%); EPIDEMICS (57%)

**Industry:** EXCHANGE CRASHS (90%)

**Person:** DONALD TRUMP (79%)

**Geographic:** VIENNA, AUSTRIA (73%); GERMANY (92%); NORTH AMERICA (92%); CHINA (90%); ***EUROPE (***79%); GREECE (70%)

**Load-Date:** June 10, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Symbolic figure of resistance; A Polish judge feels he is being bullied by disciplinary measures - and raises accusations against the EU***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:603K-7H61-DXX2-P216-00000-00&context=)

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

**Length:** 937 words

**Byline:** FLORIAN HASSEL

**Body**

**Warsaw -** It is not every day that judges across the country stop work in protest. But on Tuesday morning, judges across Poland interrupted hearings or file studies to protest a hearing at a special court in Warsaw. There, a disciplinary chamber at the Supreme Court was deliberating whether to lift Igor Tuleya's immunity. The Warsaw judge is a symbolic figure in Poland of the struggle for the rule of law.

This has been largely eliminated under Poland's national populist government since 2015, according to critics. The Disciplinary Chamber, for example, was established in 2018 as a politically dependent special court to discipline or dismiss judges, prosecutors, lawyers and even notaries. According to several decisions of the Court of Justice of the ***EU*** (CJEU) and the until recently independent Polish Supreme Court, the Disciplinary Chamber is not a court. According to this reading, its politically dependent appointed judges are possibly not judges, and their decisions are invalid. On 8 April, the ECJ banned Poland from any further activity of the Disciplinary Chamber. But Warsaw did not care, allowed the Chamber to continue and ruled on Tuesday in a case against Judge Tuleya.

Igor Tuleya, 49 years old, distinctive blue glasses, unruly shock of hair sticking up, has in recent years often swapped his judge's robe and suit outside the courtroom for an olive-green army parka or T-shirts with inscriptions such as 'This judge is still alive!'; he has led a protest march of judges from all over ***Europe*** through Warsaw and explained to his compatriots as a speaker at rock festivals, cafés or civic centres all over the country what the elimination of the rule of law means from his point of view.

On Tuesday morning, the Disciplinary Chamber deliberated whether Tuleya's immunity should be lifted in order to charge the judge with allegedly exceeding his authority and violating his official duty. Possible punishment: loss of judicial office and up to three years imprisonment. Tuleya himself stood outside the courthouse with other lawyers and activists, refusing to attend the session because he does not recognise the disciplinary chamber as a court.

Judge Tuleya neither dealt drugs nor took bribes. His offence is worse from the government's point of view: the judge acted against an alleged breach of law by those in power. At the end of 2016, Poland's opposition blocked the parliamentary chamber after the expulsion of a deputy. The government majority converted a side room into a session chamber and passed the 2017 budget - admittedly without the minimum number of MPs. Attendance lists and minutes were apparently manipulated, opposition MPs were prevented from entering the chamber or objecting.

The opposition filed a complaint against this, and Tuleya ordered the public prosecutor's office to investigate. But the prosecutor's office quickly closed the case, which was directed against her top boss, Justice Minister Prosecutor General Zbigniew Ziobro, as well as against Poland's strongman in the background, Jaros&lstrok;aw Kaczy&nacute;ski. Tuleya ordered that the investigation be reopened - and that 230 parliamentarians, including Kaczy&nacute;ski, be investigated on suspicion of making false statements.

The prosecution now wants to indict Tuleya for its part. A politically dependent disciplinary commissioner opened eight cases against the judge, one of them for "judicial excess" following a request by Tuleya to the ECJ. Since late 2015, the government has demoted or sanctioned hundreds of judges, prosecutors and lawyers.

Tuleya reckons that he could lose his job - and not even the legal profession would be open to him in Poland: Lawyers are also subject to the new disciplinary chamber. Like many judges, Tuleya bought a flat years ago and took out a loan for it. If I lose the judgeship, I will have to sell the flat. At least he doesn't have a family to support. Tuleya is single, one son is already 18. As a precaution, Tuleya has cancelled purchases.

In the judge's view, the ***EU Commission is*** also not taking consistent action against the dismantling of the rule of law in Poland and Hungary, Romania or the Czech Republic because of 'overriding political interests' such as budget talks. I think the unspoken thinking is: let the Eastern Europeans clean up their own mess when their government changes again. Instead of immediately applying to the ECJ for heavy fines against Poland because of the continued work of the disciplinary chamber, the ***EU Commission*** merely asked Warsaw for further 'explanations and information'.

The public is still following the Tuleya case closely. International judges' associations protested; on the eve of the Warsaw trial, Poles demonstrated for Tuleya in 150 cities. And so, on Tuesday afternoon, after a closed session, the spokesperson of the Disciplinary Chamber announced that Tuleya's immunity would not be lifted. However, the decision is not legally binding.

Judge Tuleya continues to see the "so-called disciplinary chamber" as "an illegal court. The most worrying thing is that these proceedings have been set up at all'. According to Poland's judges' association Iustitia, the government is still taking action against dozens of other judges and prosecutors.

**Tuleya's immunity will not be lifted for the time being after all**

**Graphic**

'This judge is still alive! As a speaker at festivals or civic centres, Igor Tuleya explains what the elimination of the rule of law means. Photo: Omar Marques/Getty

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject: *EUROPEAN UNION*** (90%); COURTS OF THE ***EUROPEAN UNION (90%); TRIBUNALS (90%);*** JUDGES (90%); PUBLIC POLICY (90%); PROFESSIONAL MISCONDUCT (89%); JUDICIAL PROCESSES (89%); INSTITUTIONS OF THE ***EUROPEAN*** UNION (89%); MINISTRIES OF JUSTICE (89%); POLITICS (89%); RULE OF LAW (89%); PROSECUTORS (89%); INDICTMENTS (78%); BRIBERY (78%); NOTARIES (78%); SUPREME COURT (78%); LAWYERS (78%); INVESTIGATIONS (77%); PROTESTS & DEMONSTRATIONS (76%)

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

**Industry:** NOTaries (78%); LAWYERS (78%)

**Geographic:** WARSAW, POLAND (94%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (92%); POLAND (94%); ***EUROPE (***79%)

**Load-Date:** June 10, 2020

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[***GERMAN EU-Council Presidency; Alone in the world***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:606S-T1P1-DXX2-P32G-00000-00&context=)

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

**Length:** 575 words

**Byline:** BY DANIEL BRÖSSLER

**Body**

The Belgian Paul-Henri Spaak, one of the founding fathers of the ***European*** Community, coined a phrase in 1957 that is still often quoted today, but is actually no longer true. In ***Europe*** there are only two types of states, said Spaak, small ones and ones that do not yet know they are small. In the meantime they know it - in principle. This is true for France, after all a nuclear power with a permanent seat on the UN Security Council, and also for Germany, still the fourth largest economy in the world. The global shifts in power have also forced the big players in the ***EU to*** realise how small and vulnerable they are on a global scale. Therein lies the paradox of the German ***EU Presidency, which*** begins on 1 July. Hopes rest on Germany because it is perceived as strong. But Germany must seize the opportunity of this presidency because it knows about its weakness.

Only together can ***Europeans*** effectively meet international challenges, the German government postulates in its programme for the ***EU Council Presidency*** adopted this Wednesday. Yet the situation is even grimmer than described in the programme. ***Europe is up*** against a China that is by no means only committed to economic advancement, but also - as the Corona pandemic has shown - wants to prove the superiority of its model of digital totalitarianism. ***Europe*** is challenged by a Russia that does not accept borders and openly acts as a revisionist power. This manifests itself in contract killings and cyberattacks, but also in Vladimir Putin's recent extensive defence of the Hitler-Stalin Pact.

Most seriously, ***Europe is being*** left alone by the United States. When the programme of the Council Presidency states that the USA is the closest foreign and security policy partner outside the ***EU, in*** times of Donald Trump this does not inspire courage, but fear. If he is re-elected, Trump will most likely destroy what is left of the transatlantic partnership. If Democrat Joe Biden wins, the peoples of the free world can breathe a sigh of relief, but the ***Europeans*** cannot sit back and relax. No American president will slip back into the old role of their protector.

The consequences of the pandemic are thus weakening ***Europe at*** a time when it cannot afford to be weak. This is taken into account by the plan for a reconstruction fund to counteract the economic crash of first some and then, as is to be expected, all ***EU states. The*** second part of the answer, however, lies in the global political capability called for by former ***EU Commission President*** Jean-Claude Juncker. The goal must be a much stronger bundling of forces, including military forces. In terms of foreign policy, the principle of the lowest common denominator is not enough. A start would be a united and determined stance towards China - not only when it comes to investments, but also when it comes to Hong Kong. China tries to stifle any criticism with massive intimidation. As long as the ***Europeans*** make themselves smaller in the world than they have to, this will work.

***Europe* must finally stand strong and united to resist dangerous powers**

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject: *EU PRESIDENCY*** (90%); ***EUROPEAN UNION*** (90%); INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORGANISATIONS (90%); POLITICS (89%); DEFENCE & MILITARY POLICY (89%); FOREIGN POLICY (78%); INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS (78%); HEADS OF STATE & GOVERNMENT (77%); US DEMOCRATIC PARTY (73%); ASSASSINATION (73%); US PRESIDENTS (73%); CORONAVIRUS COVID-19 (71%); UNITED NATIONS (70%); US POLITICAL PARTIES (68%); EPIDEMICS (65%); PANDEMICS (65%)

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

**Industry:** DEFENCE POLICY & MILITARY POLICY (89%)

**Person:** DONALD TRUMP (79%); JEAN-CLAUDE JUNCKER (79%); VLADIMIR PUTIN (71%)

**Geographic: *EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (96%); NORTH AMERICA (92%); ***EUROPE (***91%); GERMANY (89%); CHINA (87%); FRANCE (79%); HONG KONG (56%); RUSSIAN FEDERATION (55%).

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**End of Document**

[***There is a lack of funds; EUCommission praises GDPR - but there is also criticism***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:606S-T1P1-DXX2-P35F-00000-00&context=)

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

**Length:** 541 words

**Byline:** KAROLINE META BEISEL

**Body**

**Brussels** - Didier Reynders may be an ***EU Commissioner***, and as a former Belgian Foreign Minister he may have travelled all over the world. But at the end of the day, he's just someone who doesn't like too many pop-up windows when he's surfing the internet: "The tendency, even among commissioners, is to just click 'yes' to get access to the information you're looking for," Reynders says on Wednesday as he presents a report in Brussels on the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and whether it has proved its worth in the two years since it came into force.

All in all, the regulation is a great success, says Reynders, two thirds of ***EU citizens are*** aware of its existence. But how can we help them organise access to their data even better?" asks the commissioner, who also has an idea: "Maybe with a new kind of application that allows you to centrally manage the permissions granted to all providers. The ***EU Commission*** therefore wants to promote innovation in this area.

When the GDPR came into force in 2018, companies in particular were not so enthusiastic about the new rules, as Reynders and his colleague V&ebreve;ra Jourová admitted this Wednesday. They feared excessive bureaucracy and a brake on innovation. I have good news," said Jourová: the feared measures have not materialised. Instead, the GDPR balances user and business interests. It is a model for the whole world.

So everything is wonderful with data protection in ***Europe***? Not quite. On Wednesday, the ***European*** Data Protection Board repeated via Twitter a criticism it had already voiced before: the national data protection authorities could only be as good as the financial and human resources with which they are equipped. "In most member states, authorities say they do not have sufficient resources," the committee wrote back in February.

In its report, the ***EU Commission notes*** that the equipment of most authorities has improved significantly between 2016 and 2019, especially in Ireland and Luxembourg, where many large tech companies are based. But part of the truth is that the Irish data protection authority has not yet closed any of its big cases against Facebook. Jourová, however, did not want to criticise Ireland for this: "Thorough investigations take time," she said. The national authorities are independent and there is nothing the Commission can do to speed up their procedures. We have to let them do their job well and wait for the results. Critics say the length of procedures in these countries is one of the reasons why these locations are so popular with tech companies in the first place. In this respect, Ireland would have no interest at all in speeding up the procedures.

Data protection authorities could also become more powerful by cooperating within the ***EU.*** The GDPR allows such cooperation. However, the report states that such cooperation is still too rare: Up to now, international cooperation has often meant agreeing on "the lowest common denominator".

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject: *EUROPEAN UNION*** (91%); ***EU DATA PROTECTION REGULATIONS*** (90%); ***EUROPEAN UNION*** INSTITUTIONS (90%); FOREIGN RELATIONS (89%); DATA PROTECTION LAWS (89%); SOCIAL NETWORKS ON THE INTERNET (89%); COURT PROCEDURES (63%); INVESTIGATIONS (62%)

**Company:** FACEBOOK INC (52%)

**Ticker:** FB (NASDAQ) (52%)

**Industry:** NAICS519130 INTERNET PUBLISHING & BROADCASTING & WEB SEARCH PORTALS (52%); EU DATA PROTECTION REGULATIONS (90%); INTERNET & WWW (90%); WEBSITES & WEB PORTALS (90%); DATA PROTECTION LEGISLATION (89%); SOCIAL NETWORKS ON THE INTERNET (89%); INTERNET SEARCH PORTALS (77%).

**Geographic:** BRUSSELS, BELGIUM (73%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (95%); EUROPE (91%); BRUSSELS CAPITAL REGION (91%); BELGIUM (88%); ***EUROPE (***88%); LUXEMBOURG (78%).

**Load-Date:** June 25, 2020

**End of Document**

[***The double Scholz; Why the Finance Minister's brother is famous in Paris***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:606S-T1P1-DXX2-P31F-00000-00&context=)

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

**Length:** 546 words

**Byline:** CERSTIN GAMMELIN

**Body**

One knows the French pathos, this tendency to exaggerate everything a little. And one is not surprised when the Minister of Economy and Finance, Bruno Le Maire, speaks of a "great honour" to be with his "friend Olaf" for the first time after the Corona outbreak. One accepts it when he adds, also in German: "I must say that Olaf is very famous in Paris. He has always supported Franco-German friendship'. Oh, was that really so? But then it gets interesting: But I also have to say that his brother Jens Scholz is also very famous in France. Because he has admitted many patients in Kiel. So, thank you Olaf, for everything you have already done. But thank you also to your brother. This is really a big German family, the Scholz family.'

Olaf Scholz looks unusually moved. What happened there? A call to Jens Scholz, an anaesthesiologist, head of the Schleswig-Holstein University Hospital in Kiel. He is the middle of the three brothers: Olaf, born in 1958; Jens, born in 1959; Ingo, born in 1960. Oihjoihjoi, says Jens Scholz, he, famous? He didn't notice anything about the French minister's appearance. But of course it was "a great sign of ***European*** solidarity" that we were able to set together; the lives of six French Covid 19 patients were saved, the problem of the unresolved assumption of costs was really solved in solidarity, everything quickly and unbureaucratically.

So it is possible, one thinks, and remembers how petty and complicated the extra budget for the ***Eurozone*** negotiated by Scholz and Le Maire a year ago turned out to be, which no one talks about any more. The middle brother has shown *en passant* how things can be done differently.

On 30 March at 6 p.m., Jens Scholz says, the call for help reached him. Could Kiel take in French Covid 19 intensive care patients the very next day? Of course, no problem at all,' he replied - although nothing was prepared. When the military plane landed and brought six patients, everything still worked out, thanks to help from Hamburg, Schleswig-Holstein, the Bundeswehr and aid organisations. When at some point the French patients woke up in the foreign environment and could say that the German food did not taste as good as the French food, "then we knew that they were out of the woods," Jens Scholz says.

When it came to the question of who should pay for it, Olaf came into play again. A military plane, intensive care transports, intensive care therapy, 'you can't get that for 1.50 ***euros***', says Jens. We said, 'Wouldn't it be ***European*** solidarity if the German government took over the costs? The Corona cabinet did indeed decide on this proposal.

It is striking that the elder has also been planning bigger since then. At Easter, he and Le Maire pushed through a 540 billion ***euro*** immediate corona package; in May, both ended the eternal dispute over ***euro bonds.*** The compromise is the ***EU Reconstruction Fund***, which is to provide subsidies to states that are particularly weakened by Corona. Suddenly something is happening in ***Europe*** because of Corona.

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject:** FINANCIAL MINISTRIES AND AUTHORITIES (89%); POLICY (89%); ***EUROPEAN UNION*** (78%); STATE BUDGETS (78%); CORONAVIRUS COVID-19 (77%); ***EUROZONE (77%);*** CURRENCY UNIONS (77%); ***LEADERSHIPS*** (67%); ***EUROBORROWINGS*** & EUROBONDS (50%)

**Industry:** FINANCIAL MINISTRIES AND AUTHORITIES (89%); BUDGETS (78%); STATE BUDGETS (78%); ***EUROZONE*** (77%); CURRENCY UNIONS (77%); EUROBONDS & EUROBONDS ***(***50%)

**Person:** OLAF SCHOLZ (56%)

**Geographic:** PARIS, FRANCE (92%); KIEL, GERMANY (88%); HAMBURG, GERMANY (78%); SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN, GERMANY (92%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (79%); ÎLE-DE-FRANCE, FRANCE (73%); FRANCE (94%); ***EUROPE (***88%).

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**End of Document**

[***Corona consequences in focus; Berlin presents work programme for EUCouncil Presidency***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:606S-T1P1-DXX2-P32P-00000-00&context=)

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

**Length:** 443 words

**Byline:** DANIEL BRÖSSLER

**Body**

**Berlin -** Shortly before Germany's ***EU Council Presidency*** begins on 1 July, German Chancellor Angela Merkel (CDU) wants to demonstrate solidarity with French President Emmanuel Macron. Merkel will receive Macron on Monday in Meseberg, Brandenburg, as the first state guest since the beginning of the Corona pandemic. In doing so, she is sending a signal ahead of the difficult negotiations on the ***EU Commission***'s 750 billion ***euro*** reconstruction plan, which she initiated together with the French president. The German government sees overcoming the consequences of the Corona pandemic as the main task of the six-month German Council Presidency. On Wednesday, it adopted the work programme for this, which has the motto "Together. Making ***Europe*** strong again'.

Germany wants to be the motor and moderator of the ***EU Council Presidency***," said Federal Foreign Minister Heiko Maas (SPD). The task will be to 'build bridges and find solutions that ultimately benefit all people in ***Europe***'.

The ***Europeans*** have already shown solidarity in the crisis, now they must also show their ability to act externally. We do not want to be patronised, we want to go our own way and be able to shape geopolitics," said Maas. According to the programme, the German government will "place the management of the economic and social consequences of the Covid 19 pandemic at the centre of our efforts".

Accordingly, the goal is that during the German Council Presidency both the "building instrument" and the new seven-year budget framework, including the necessary legal acts, are adopted. The funds should be made available "as quickly as possible". However, disbursements are not expected until the beginning of 2021 at the earliest. There is still considerable opposition to the plan, which provides for both loans and grants, from Austria and the Netherlands, among others. At a summit on 17 July, the heads of state and government want to seek a compromise in Brussels.

The federal government also wants to "direct its attention to the major transformation processes of our time, such as climate change, digitalisation or the transformation of the world of work". Criticism came from the opposition. Franziska Brantner, ***European policy*** spokesperson for the Greens in the Bundestag, called the paper "disappointing and oblivious to the future". Crisis management alone is not enough; Germany must "set the course for a sustainable, social and sovereign ***EU***".

**Page 4**

**Germany wants to be 'motor and moderator', says Heiko Maas**

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

**Person:** ANGELA MERKEL (92%)

**Geographic:** BERLIN, GERMANY (73%); BRUSSELS, BELGIUM (58%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (94%); BRUSSELS CAPITAL REGION (79%); BRANDENBURG, GERMANY (58%); ***EUROPE (***92%); GERMANY (90%); FRANCE (90%); BELGIUM (73%); NETHERLANDS (73%); AUSTRIA (73%)

**Load-Date:** June 25, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Between the waves; In parts of the US, the coronavirus is running rampant like never before. Trump appeases, the EU considers longer entry ban***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:606S-T1P1-DXX2-P33R-00000-00&context=)

Süddeutsche Zeitung

Thursday 25 June 2020

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

**Length:** 780 words

**Byline:** KAROLINE META BEISEL, ALAN CASSIDY

**Body**

**Brussels/Washington -** For Donald Trump and his vice president, the pandemic seems to be over. There will be no second wave of the coronavirus," Mike Pence wrote in the *Wall Street Journal a* few days ago: "We are winning the battle against the invisible enemy. Pence was right about one thing: it is indeed misleading to speak of a second wave - because the first wave is still in full swing in many areas of the US. More than half a dozen states are currently seeing more new daily infections than at any time since the pandemic began. On Tuesday, 35,000 new infections were registered nationwide - the most since the end of April.

Texas is struggling with a strong outbreak. There, about 5000 new infections per day were recorded at last count. Republican Governor Greg Abbott spoke of an "unacceptable" spread of the virus and called on people to stay at home. The resort town of Myrtle Beach in South Carolina is also becoming a new hotspot. Texas and South Carolina are two of those states that moved early to reopen the economy. However, record high infections were also reported by authorities in California, where tighter restrictions had been in place, Florida and the desert state of Arizona.

The critical situation in Arizona did not stop Trump from holding another campaign event there on Tuesday. This time he appeared in a mega-church in front of thousands of students, most of whom were not wearing mouth guards, according to local media. The president has recently repeated his claim that the high number of cases in the US is due to increased testing. If there was less testing, there would be fewer Corona cases - and the US would not compare so badly internationally. These tests are a double-edged issue," Trump said.

However, the increase in infections cannot simply be explained by increased testing. At least seven states have seen a significant increase in hospitalisations. On Tuesday, the number of deaths also rose for the first time since 8 June - to 800 nationwide. Tom Frieden, the former head of the CDC, expects at least 20 000 more deaths within the next month. So far, around 120,000 people have died in the USA as a result of the coronavirus.

Anthony Fauci, the US government's top immunologist, told a congressional committee on Tuesday of a "disturbing increase". The current director of the CDC, Robert Redfield, told the same committee that Covid-19 had "brought this nation to its knees".

Brussels, too, is closely following the advances and setbacks of the USA in the fight against the virus. This is because the restrictions on entry from outside the ***EU*** agreed among the member states will only apply until 1 July; the member states are currently negotiating for whom and under what conditions the restrictions could then be lifted.

The only thing that has been agreed on so far is that the ***EU*** would like to make this decision together - even though this would not be legally necessary. In view of the now largely restored freedom of travel in the Schengen area, an ***EU diplomat*** says, "Anything else would be absurd: "Anything else would be absurd. In the details, however, much is still unclear. In concrete terms, it is mainly a question of which criteria should be used to make the decision for individual countries, and also what procedure should be used to regularly review the selection made in this way.

Conceivable criteria include the rate of those currently ill or trends in the number of new infections. In addition, the question of reciprocity could play a role: Those who do not let in ***EU citizens themselves*** could not expect to be allowed to enter the ***EU*** themselves. In practice, this last point is the subject of debate, because some countries continue to exclude entry from particularly affected countries such as Italy or Belgium. Some member states also believe that decisions on travel facilitation should be guided not only by epidemiological criteria but also by political considerations, so as not to smash diplomatic china.

However, if the ***EU countries*** agree on an approach based on epidemiological criteria, it should no longer make much difference to the USA what these are: Either way, they would probably end up on the list of countries that will have to wait a little longer for open borders.

**Graphic**

In Santa Monica in the US state of California, new infections continue to rise. On Tuesday alone, there were 5000 new cases. Photo: Jae C. Hong/AP

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**Company:** WALL STREET JOURNAL (58%)

**Industry:** HEALTH POLICY (72%); HEALTH MINISTRIES (71%); STATISTICAL AGENCIES FOR HEALTH (66%)

**Person:** DONALD TRUMP (79%)

**Geographic:** BRUSSELS, BELGIUM (73%); BRUSSELS CAPITAL REGION (91%); ARIZONA, USA (90%); SOUTH CAROLINA, USA (90%); TEXAS, USA (90%); FLORIDA, USA (58%); CALIFORNIA, USA (58%); NORTH AMERICA (79%); BELGIUM (73%).

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[***The ball is in the court again; The EU wants to resolve the conflict between Serbia and Kosovo***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60B0-BN21-JBF1-03M9-00000-00&context=)

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Friday 10 July 2020

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

**Length:** 733 words

**Byline:** DANIEL BRÖSSLER, MATTHIAS KOLB

**Body**

**Berlin/Brussels** - Richard Grenell has no longer been the US ambassador to Germany since the beginning of June, which is probably why the number of recipients of his tweets has dwindled, at least in political Berlin. Those who still follow him got to know Grenell from an unexpected side this week - as a diplomat. We are pleased that the ***Europeans are*** holding a meeting on 10 July for further discussions with Serbia and Kosovo,' announced Grenell, who is still President Donald Trump's special envoy to both countries. In that capacity, he had been working on a deal to bring Serbia and Kosovo together and, incidentally, to dupe the ***Europeans.***

At the core was the idea of an exchange of territories, which was rejected by the ***EU*** and especially by Germany. At a summit meeting in the White House on 27 June, this should have been pushed forward with Serbian President Aleksandar Vu&ccaron;i&cacute; and Kosovo's head of state, Hashim Thaçi. But the meeting fell through after the Kosovo Tribunal's prosecutor's office announced an indictment against Thaçi. Germany and France immediately took the initiative. This Friday, President Emmanuel Macron and German Chancellor Angela Merkel (CDU) are joining forces with Vu&ccaron;i&cacute; and Kosovo Prime Minister Avdullah Hoti. The message is that the ***Europeans*** are taking over again.

Another Trump deal has failed miserably. Everything he touches in foreign policy backfires,' says Nils Schmid, the SPD's foreign policy spokesman in the Bundestag. In his double function as ambassador and special envoy, it had been a pleasure for Grenell to take the reins of action in the Balkans out of the ***Europeans' hands.*** He celebrated a small triumph in February on the sidelines of the Munich Security Conference when Vu&ccaron;i&cacute; and Thaçi signed the Memorandum of Understanding for a new railway line under his wing. ***European*** diplomats viewed Grenell's actions with horror, fearing that an exchange of territory would open a Pandora's box in the Balkans.

Now the ***EU*** finally wants to make up for what it has failed to do since the declaration of independence of the former Serbian province in 2008 - a settlement between the hostile states and the recognition of Kosovo by Serbia. Miroslav Laj&ccaron;ák, the ***EU's*** special representative for the Western Balkans, is taking part in the video consultations alongside EU ***foreign affairs*** representative Josep Borrell. Both plan to welcome Hoti and Vu&ccaron;i&cacute; to Brussels on Sunday to inject momentum into the Belgrade-Pristina dialogue on normalising bilateral relations, which has stagnated since November 2018. The appointment of the former Slovak foreign minister as *special envoy* in April should send a positive signal: Laj&ccaron;ák will look after the region 'round the clock' and is supposed to make it clear to Kosovars and Serbs that they have a ***European*** future. In Berlin, hopes are pinned on Laj&ccaron;ak. On Tuesday, Foreign Minister Heiko Maas (SPD) received him for lunch.

Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and Council President Charles Michel also always stress the importance of a close connection between the Western Balkans and the ***EU***. Unlike five years ago, more ambition is back - also to limit the influence of Russia or China. We must have the steering wheel in our hands," says a diplomat familiar with the matter. Even if the actions of Trump's special envoy Grenell were seen as unhelpful, there are still hopes for cooperation: "Things always move forward in the Balkans when ***Europe*** and America act together. The Kosovars in particular are pushing for close US involvement. There is great frustration there that there is still no relaxation of the visa requirement for travel to the Schengen area - although Kosovo, according to the Commission, fulfils all the technical requirements. If sceptical member states could give up their resistance here, it would increase the ***EU***'s credibility. It is important that the ***EU*** keeps its word," says Schmid.

If Belgrade and Priština can muster the necessary political will, Brussels is now saying, the ***EU*** could help negotiate a comprehensive and legally binding agreement: This could be done within months.

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**Industry:** DEFENCE POLICY & MILITARY POLICY (89%)

**Person:** ANGELA MERKEL (79%); URSULA VON DER LEYEN (79%); DONALD TRUMP (78%)

**Geographic:** BERLIN, GERMANY (88%); BELGRADE, SERBIA (78%); BRUSSELS, BELGIUM (73%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (94%); BRUSSELS CAPITAL REGION (92%); KOSOVO (94%); ***EUROPE (92%);*** SERBIA (92%); GERMANY (89%); SLOVAKIA (79%); FRANCE (78%); BELGIUM (58%).

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[***'This was never thought of in the worst dreams'; Polish sociologist Krzysztof Wojciechowski laments the erosion of the rule of law in his homeland, but still sees a chance***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60B0-BN21-JBF1-03JY-00000-00&context=)

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

**Length:** 1024 words

**Byline:** INTERVIEW: VIKTORIA GROSSMANN

**Body**

Krzysztof Wojciechowski heads the Collegium Polonicum at Viadrina University in Frankfurt/Oder. Born in Warsaw, he studied sociology and philosophy and has lived on the German side of the Oder for more than 30 years.

**SZ: In the run-off election between President Andrzej Duda and his challenger Rafa&lstrok; Trzaskowski, a neck-and-neck race is expected on Sunday. How deep is the rift in Polish society?**

Krzysztof Wojciechowski: It's a kind of civil war, except that we no longer attack each other with pitchforks, but with words. Poland is roughly split in two. A war of thought is raging over models of the future, over world views, over people's self-esteem.

**Isn't it about belonging to *Europe*?**

No one questions that Poland belongs to ***Europe*** and should continue to belong to the ***European*** Union, or that we should cooperate economically according to the principles of the market economy. But yes, it looks like a country that for 1,000 years dreamed of playing in the first ***European*** league has now reached the league, and now it is shooting itself out of the group photo.

**That means that the fears of 2015, when the conservative PiS came to power, have come true?**

Yes and no. There were many who said that this party will introduce dictatorship, but they did not. Other things have turned out worse than what even the pessimists predicted. Namely, the appropriation of the public media, which was never imagined in the worst dreams. Then there is the demolition of the legal system. It is not a system that dances to the tune of the Minister of Justice or that of PiS party leader Jaros&lstrok;aw Kaczy&nacute;ski, but it is a system in which complete chaos reigns. Which judge was legitimately appointed, which was not. The chaotic is more frightening than the brutal.

**Nevertheless, the PiS and the president it supports, Duda, are experiencing a lot of popularity, otherwise the election successes so far would be inexplicable.**

A large part of the population, about 45 percent, are behind the PiS, united. And it works with this simple method, money in the pocket, and the television says everything will be fine.

**And an extremely conservative world view to boot.**

What I accuse Duda of is consolidating what should not be consolidated. That is a belief that the world of 20 or even 500 years ago was fine and should always continue. No, the world is changing and what was 50 years ago is no longer valid. The world is complicated, we can't just keep eating pork steak with sauerkraut and have a fat car and then 500 Z&lstrok;oty plus for the kids. We have to think about the biosphere, the climate, the ageing of society, migration. And Duda doesn't think about that, the PiS doesn't think about that. They don't demand the process of rethinking and learning in society. Issues such as renewable energies are not taken seriously. That is the fault of the ruling parties.

**Did the PiS do anything right?**

What the PiS has undoubtedly done right is social policy. Poland has risen unnoticed from a poor country to a prosperous one. The previous governments did not draw any conclusions from this. They did not realise that the wealthy should also share within society. The GDP may have been half that of Germany, but child benefit was a tenth of that, why? But you also have to share internationally, that's what the PiS blocked.

**In other Eastern European countries, corruption is a big problem - and also a reason why politicians cling to power.**

The PiS is ideologically driven, but is not a party of nepots who line their own pockets. Kaczy&nacute;ski is an ascetic, Mateusz Morawiecki, the millionaire, was already rich before he became prime minister. They are not money-hungry people, but of course they are power-hungry.

**What drives them?**

They have a vision of the state, and that vision is: the state cracks down. A simple-minded state that spanks where there is a problem.

**How do you assess the measures taken by the *EU*?**

What I accuse the ***EU of is that*** they think in clichés. When a party shakes up the judicial system, they think, oh, they want to introduce dictatorship right away. The PiS diagnosis was a good one: the Polish judicial system is inefficient. But the remedy was not to denounce the judges as communists. It was to organise the system better. In my opinion, in cases like Poland or Hungary, the ***EU*** no longer has a duty to support them financially. Especially since these countries see this as a success, according to the motto, look at you, we don't give a damn about them, and they still give us money for it. The Union should be a bit more energetic and determined in these disputes, but of course not in such a way that the Union falls apart. It would be better to be in the same boat as Poland and Hungary, even if the boat is constantly rocking.

**Will everything be better if the opposition candidate Rafa&lstrok; Trzaskowski wins?**

I would like Trzaskowski to win. But even if he wins, it will be a difficult time. Then we have the model of institutionalised insecurity like in Spain or Italy. The forces within these democracies are so differentiated and turned against themselves that there is almost an ungovernability of the country, that it does not move forward.

**And if Duda wins?**

Populists also fight among themselves. The first PiS government failed because of an internal party dispute, they wanted to shoot down one person and shot down the whole government. That was already a foretaste. They like to act, but they are argumentative. It will not be harmonious, even if Duda wins.

**The PiS is ideologically driven, but it is not a party of nepotists who are lining their own pockets.**

**Graphic**

Krzysztof Wojciechowski, 63, is the director of the Collegium Polonicum, a research institution of the ***European University*** Viadrina in Frankfurt (Oder) and the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan. Photo: Adam Czernenko/Collegium Polonicum

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

**Geographic:** WARSAW, POLAND (78%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (79%); POLAND (91%); ***EUROPE (***90%).

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[***Irishman Donohoe becomes head of the EuroGroup***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60B0-BN21-JBF1-03T3-00000-00&context=)

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**Byline:** DPA

**Body**

**Brussels - The** Irish Finance Minister Paschal Donohoe will be the new head of the ***Euro Group***. This was decided by the 19 states of the common currency on Thursday, as outgoing group head Mario Centeno announced on Twitter. Donohoe had the support of the ***European*** People's Party, he prevailed against Nadia Calviño of Spain and Pierre Gramegna of Luxembourg.

**Page 4**

**Classification**

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**Geographic:** BRUSSELS, BELGIUM (58%); ***EUROPE (***73%); LUXEMBOURG (78%); ***EUROPE (***73%)

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[***PROFILE; Paschal Donohoe; Surprising new head of the Euro-Group***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60B0-BN21-JBF1-03T6-00000-00&context=)

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**Byline:** BJORN FINKE

**Body**

The favourite was beaten in round two: the 19 finance ministers of the states with the ***euro currency*** elected the Irishman Paschal Donohoe as president of their body - the ***Euro Group*** - on Thursday evening. Beforehand, observers had given his Spanish colleague Nadia Calviño better chances, although the consensus in Brussels was that it would be a close race. Debate and voting took place via video link. At the press conference afterwards, the 45-year-old Donohoe could therefore be seen at his desk, the Irish and ***EU flags*** in the background. The politician from the Christian Democratic party Fine Gael said the economic "challenges are great, but we will be stronger and overcome them".

The ***Euro Group*** usually meets once a month, immediately before the meetings of all 27 ***EU finance ministers***. The presidency has existed since 2005 - for the first holder, Jean-Claude Juncker, it was the springboard to becoming head of the ***EU Commission.*** Donohoe, who has been finance minister for three years, cannot, however, give instructions to his 18 ministerial colleagues as chairman of the ***Eurogroup.*** His power is limited to setting the agenda and seeking consensus between divided camps.

For example, the ministers are discussing aspects of the Corona aid packages. In addition, Donohoe, who studied politics and economics in Dublin, must try to finally make progress on the Banking and Capital Markets Union, the very tough project to create common financial markets.

So far, the father of two has had a fast-paced career. He first worked for the consumer goods company Procter & Gamble in the UK before entering politics in Ireland. Since 2011, Donohoe, whose first name is pronounced like Pascal, has been sitting for a Dublin constituency in Dáil Éireann, the parliament. A good two years later, he became a minister for the first time. He once said that Helmut Kohl was one of his political role models in ***Europe.*** Donohoe is President of the ***Euro Group for an*** initial period of two and a half years, with re-election possible. The previous head of the body, Mário Centeno, could not reapply because he resigned as Portugal's finance minister.

To win on Thursday, it was necessary to get at least ten of the 19 ministerial votes. After the first round of voting, Luxembourg treasurer Pierre Gramegna was eliminated, after which the decision had to be made between Donohoe and Calviño. The elections were secret, but Donohoe could count on the support of many Christian Democratic governments. Critics, however, argued against him that Dublin always blocks moves to give the ***EU*** more power in tax policy. Donohoe himself recently warned that the ***EU*** should not introduce a tax for digital companies on its own.

His rival Calviño, on the other hand, is a member of a social democratic government. She could hope for votes from this camp as well as from other southern European countries like Italy, which suffer from high debts just like her home country. France and the black-red German government had also promised her support. So the four most powerful economies in the ***eurozone*** - Germany, France, Italy and Spain - were behind her, but Donohoe was apparently able to collect many votes from smaller northern and eastern European states. Calviño had made herself unpopular with some of these countries: two years ago, she joked that the so-called Hanseatic Group, a loose alliance of ***euro states*** around the Netherlands and the Baltic states, were just "small countries with small weight". This mockery may now have taken its revenge.

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**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

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**Company:** PROCTER & GAMBLE CO (54%)

**Ticker:** PGP (PAR) (54%); PG (NYSE) (54%)

**Industry:** NAICS325620 TOILET PREPARATION MANUFACTURING (54%); NAICS325611 SOAP & OTHER DETERGENT MANUFACTURING (54%); NAICS322291 SANITARY PAPER PRODUCT MANUFACTURING (54%); SIC2844 PERFUMES, COSMETICS, & OTHER TOILET PREPARATIONS (54%); SIC2841 SOAPS & OTHER DETERGENTS, EXCEPT SPECIALTY CLEANERS (54%); SIC2676 SANITARY PAPER PRODUCTS (54%); EURO ***(***90%); ***EUROZONE*** (90%); FINANCE MINISTRIES AND AUTHORITIES (90%); CURRENCIES (90%); BANKING AND FINANCE OVERVIEW (73%); MONETARY UNIONS (73%)

**Person:** JEAN-CLAUDE JUNCKER (79%)

**Geographic:** DUBLIN, IRELAND (93%); BRUSSELS, BELGIUM (58%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (95%); ***EUROPE (***93%); BRUSSELS CAPITAL REGION (79%); FRANCE (92%); ITALY (90%); SPAIN (90%); ***EUROPE (79%);*** LUXEMBOURG (79%); PORTUGAL (79%); SOUTHERN EUROPE (79%); UNITED KINGDOM (79%); BELGIUM (78%); GERMANY (59%).

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

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**Byline:** BY VIKTORIA GROSSMANN

**Body**

**Rafa&lstrok; should fix it**

**A surprising number of Poles are pinning their hopes on the opposition's charismatic presidential candidate, who was only running as a substitute**

Long before the candidate is seen, a woman with white hair and a purple rain jacket shouts 'Rafa&lstrok! Rafa&lstrok;!' that she chokes. Polish and ***European flags*** are waved in front of her, always in pairs, she stands on her tiptoes, a friend supports her. They stand in a crowd of maybe 2000, maybe more, waiting for Rafa&lstrok; Trzaskowski. He is the mayor, the mayor of Warsaw, but now he wants to be president of the whole country. He must have chosen this place in the old Hanseatic city, which the Poles call Szczecin and the Germans Stettin, carefully. It is the "Square of Solidarity", the Solidarno&sacute;&cacute;.

This is where the so-called 'Dialogue Centre on Upheavals' is located, which deals with the country's recent history. Trzaskowski now also wants to make history, he wants to break the power of the ruling Law and Justice Party, PiS for short. On Sunday, he goes into the run-off against Andrzej Duda, the incumbent president, who is derided by opponents as a "biro" because he signs all the laws put before him by the PiS. A neck-and-neck race is expected. It could be a matter of a few thousand votes, say observers.

Here in Szczecin, in the far north-west of the country, right on the German border, Trzaskowski is on safe ground. Young, old, women, men stand in the square - the only thing that unites them is that they all live in a western-oriented, prosperous big city. Here, people traditionally support the party that put up Trzaskowski, the Civic Platform, or PO for short. Thank you, thank you', the people shout at him. Before he even says anything. He speaks of a tolerant and open Poland. His audience holds up posters to him: Rafa&lstrok; help!', 'We want democracy back'. The youthful-looking Trzaskowski, smart, tanned, is immensely popular, yet he has only been the PO's candidate for barely two months, after the original candidate, parliamentary speaker Ma&lstrok;gorzata Kidawa-B&lstrok;o&nacute;ska, withdrew because of poor poll ratings.

Two vans with large posters on the loading areas surround the square for the entire 40 minutes or so that his appearance lasts. On one, Trzaskoswki is smiling, with his election slogan 'Strong President, United Poland'. On the other, however, Trzaskowski is denigrated as incompetent and it is claimed that he wants to take back ***the*** child benefit of 500 Z&lstrok;oty, about 112 euros. This had been introduced by the PiS. Trzaskowski, however, has clearly declared his support for it. Moreover, the president does have some powers in Poland. He can block laws, undo them, but he cannot do that.

Meanwhile, Andrzej Duda is travelling in the east and south-east of the country in the last days before the election. In cities like Augustów or Rzeszów and in rural areas. Where people are also waving white and red Polish flags, but also flags with the national emblem, the eagle. Duda's Facebook account is overflowing with photos: The president hugging old women, the president bending down to children, the president honouring war veterans. The family is the highest good and the president is the father of all.

On the account for his candidacy, AndrzejDuda2020, things are less harmonious. Supporters defame Trzaskowski in every possible way. Particularly conspicuous in recent days is the hatred of anything German or even foreign. For example, Trzaskowski is accused of employing a French company to provide public heating in Warsaw and German, Italian and Turkish companies for other services. This was spurred on by Duda himself when he attacked the correspondent of the daily newspaper *Welt at the* beginning of the week, accusing Germany of interfering in the Polish election campaign *(see adjacent report)*.

Bartosz Wieli&nacute;ski is familiar with such attacks on the media. His newspaper, *Gazeta Wyborcza*, therefore sided with Trzaskowski in the election campaign. Gazeta *Wyborcza*, literally election newspaper, first appeared before the first free elections after the end of socialism. In Szczecin, too, the extra Gazeta *przed Wyborcza* is now distributed, the gazette *before* the election. The editors see Duda as a danger to Poland.

Everything we have gained is at stake," says the deputy editor-in-chief of the daily. The state media have been completely taken over. Smear campaigns are being waged there. Even in the People's Republic of Poland, people did not lie like this. Newspapers like his, says Wienli&nacute;ski, are ignored and bled dry. In 2016, he says, they were stripped of advertisements from all state-owned companies, government institutions cancelled subscriptions to *Gazeta* - still a leading daily in the country with 244,000 digital subscribers, Wieli&nacute;ski says. In 55 cases, the government has filed lawsuits against *Gazeta*, on the other hand, it refuses interviews, does not invite to press conferences. The tabloid *Fakt*, which is partly owned by the Axel Springer group, was also no longer invited.

While Duda's campaign relies on such attacks and stirs up fears or incites against homosexuals, Trzaskowski addresses the grievance in the media during the election campaign. It could be a clever strategy. According to Adam Traczyk of the German Council on Foreign Relations, even PiS supporters are now disturbed by the one-sided reporting of the public broadcaster. Almost "North Korean conditions" prevail in Poland. But precisely those areas in which Duda has the most supporters receive only these stations and no private and independent ones.

Even PiS opponents concede that the party has not done everything wrong in recent years. When Duda was elected to office in 2015 - as a candidate against the incumbent president Bronis&lstrok;aw Komorowski, supported by the PO - society had promised itself change. Many Poles had had enough of the PO, which ruled between 2007 and 2014. "Some people, especially in the countryside, felt disconnected," explains Adam Traczyk. They felt like second-class Poles. The PO had forgotten them in its desire for change and had expected too much of some people. The PiS has recognised this. Not only Duda, but also Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki now travels incessantly through the country, shaking hands even in the smallest villages. With a simple message: We are like you, we are there for you. President of the Polish Cause' is Duda's slogan.

Trzaskowski and Duda will be touring the country until Friday evening. Two men of the same age, 48 years old, both studied. Their wives will also be there, Agata Kornhauser-Duda, a former German teacher, and Ma&lstrok;gorzata 'Gosia' Trzaskowska, an economist. So it's not about generations, academics versus non-academics, young versus old. Nor is it about conservative versus progressive-left. The PO belongs to the ***European*** People's Party in the ***European Parliament***, just like the CDU. The choice is between the rule of law and openness to the ***EU*** - or isolation and withdrawal.

**President Duda is on the road these days, especially in rural eastern and south-eastern Poland**

**The PiS had recognised that many Poles in the countryside felt disconnected**

**Graphic**

Youthful, smart, tanned: opposition candidate Rafa&lstrok; Trzaskowski, here at an election campaign appearance earlier this week, is also the opposite of Poland's incumbent president on the outside. Photo: Omar Marques / Getty

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**Geographic:** WARSAW, POLAND (73%); POLAND (91%)

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[***EUROPEAN UNIONStruggling for the right path***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60F5-XJ91-DXX2-P50W-00000-00&context=)

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**Section:** Forum & Letters to the Editor; Letter to the Editor; Munich; Bavaria; Germany; p. 14

**Length:** 1213 words

**Byline:** Hans Oette, Neuenstadt  
  
Helena Diechtl, Munich  
  
Stefan Reiserer, Unterschleissheim  
  
Wolfgang Pollner, Gräfelfing  
  
.  
  
Werner Voß, Wiehl

**Body**

On "Hurray, we are still alive" and "A high price" of 22 July and on "Disagreement about money and values" of 20 July:

**Germany must change course**

For obvious reasons, Germany is interested in getting the economy going again in the poorhouse of ***Europe. In*** 2019, we achieved exports of 1,328 billion ***euros*** and an export surplus of 223 billion ***euros***. This was achieved by exploiting all technical possibilities, by low social standards and with the help of politics. The large slaughterhouse Tönnies also exported 50 per cent of its annual turnover of 6.1 billion ***euros.***

Now some states want to tie financial aid for poor countries to the usual 'reforms' that are supposed to make these countries more competitive. So that they themselves can export more and thus reduce their unemployment and debt. But the austerity policy with social cuts, dismantling and privatisation of education and health care etc. has already claimed a high number of lives in many countries due to the Corona pandemic.

Whatever the outcome of the struggle for aid, with or without the 'reforms': The preservation of jobs through German mega-exports is part of an economic war and drives up debt towers that will collapse at some point. It would be better now to channel the overcapacities into the expansion of renewable energies.

In 1945, German industry was largely destroyed, and yet soon afterwards it brought about the economic miracle. Against this background, no one understands why the coal phase-out should only be possible by 2038. We will destroy the climate and poor countries if German policy does not finally change course.

**Do not defame the thrifty**

It is strange that in an SZ commentary, prime ministers of states who are concerned that trillions are used carefully are defamed as 'austerity populists'. I am grateful to these ladies and gentlemen for standing up for the taxpayers. By the way, Messrs Rutte, Bettel and Kurz are quite right to mention that they have to be accountable to their taxpayers at home. It is very strange that one has practically never heard Mrs Merkel explicitly state that she is, after all, accountable to the German taxpayers. One almost has the impression that Mrs Merkel is serving herself to give away 400, 500 billion ***euros***! Of course, Mr Macron is also in favour of this plan, France benefits just as much as Italy and Spain from this Corona aid fund. Germany, on the other hand, pays extra for it.

There is always talk of solidarity and that the southern states of Corona were hit so hard. It's true, but there's a history to it. Health care was saved to death in these states. The ***EU*** consists of 27 states of very different character, and it is good that they do not all allow themselves to be dictatorially patronised by so-called axes. It would also be nice not to disrespectfully call the politicians criticising this line nationalists.

**Parliament does not have to do anything**

In view of the problems the ***EU has*** to deal with, it may seem marginal to the authors of page three (, 'Hooray, we are still alive'). Nevertheless, the apparently ineradicable 'language rule' according to which a body, in this case the ***MEPs, '***must agree to the package' defies logic. Of course, the MEPs do not have to agree to 'the package', but they must and will (more or less freely) decide on it - which is by no means the same thing.

**Five principles for a new *EU***

The recent summit of the heads of government has shown with almost unparalleled clarity where the ***EU***'s design flaws lie. The ***EU*** can only act efficiently and show strength on the world political stage if it decides to fundamentally restructure its organisation. Therefore: Say goodbye to the present ***EU*** and build a new Union, ***Europe*** needs it!

This new ***EU*** should be governed by the following basic rules: First, the majority principle applies to voting. Secondly, members can be excluded by a two-thirds majority in the event of serious violations of economic and political rules. Thirdly, states that violate the canon of values of the separation of powers (for example, the rule of law) can be excluded. Fourthly, countries that are recipients of payments from the ***EU*** must agree to accept audits of how the payments are used. And fifth, foreign and security policy is transferred from the nation states to the ***EU.***

Only if the ***EU*** decides to reorganise itself from the ground up does it have a chance of meeting the immense challenges of the future. The image of disunity, as it was shown again at the summit, makes the ***EU the*** plaything of populists on the inside and autocrats on the outside.

**Sovereignty is being eroded**

The planned joint bond purchase of the 27 ***EU states in the*** amount of up to

750 billion ***euros*** shows more and more how far removed from democracy Brussels is. For the ***EU Commission*** naturally wants to know how the money is invested in a future-oriented manner or with the right political priorities in the respective countries and subsequently controlled. These are countries that, together with their citizens, from Estonia to Portugal or from Ireland to Greece, are far removed from Brussels. The head of the economic experts, Lars Feld, goes one better and sees the ***EU*** on the way to becoming a federal state. Individual countries are no longer in a position to take responsibility themselves. Marcel Fratzscher, President of the German Institute for Economic Research, is on the same wavelength, welcoming bond purchases as a step towards fiscal union.

All this shows that the ***EU is*** instrumentalising the Corona crisis to undermine the sovereignty of nation states. ***Europe*** is a continent with many, very different countries. The citizens of these countries have constituted themselves into 27 different states. It is the natural right of people with the same culture, tradition, history and language, or even a common will, to unite to form a commonwealth in the form of a constitutional state, a republic, and to reject any domination from outside.

The sovereignty of a democratic constitutional state also includes budgetary sovereignty on its own responsibility, as the royal right of national parliaments. Especially, but not only in the southern countries, serious structural problems arose long before the Corona pandemic, such as over-indebtedness of public budgets, high unemployment, lack of competitiveness. This was also created by the common currency of the ***euro***, accompanied by de facto common debt. If the national currencies had been retained, Greece, for example, would have had the opportunity to regain its competitiveness through the devaluation of the drachma. This possibility no longer exists in the ***euro area.***

**Graphic**

SZ drawing: Michael Holtschulte

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**Industry:** ALTERNATIVE & RENEWABLE ENERGY (65%); ENERGY POLICY (65%)

**Geographic: *EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (93%); SOUTHEASTERN USA (79%); ***EUROPE (***92%); GERMANY (90%); FRANCE (79%); ITALY (79%); SPAIN (79%)

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[***Summer drama for billions; EUParliament and governments negotiate the financial package. A sea of interests is at stake***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60F5-XJ91-DXX2-P4YP-00000-00&context=)

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

**Length:** 1077 words

**Byline:** BY BJÖRN FINKE AND MATTHIAS KOLB

**Body**

**Brussels** - The ***European Parliament***'s message to the heads of state and government is clear: while your agreement on the ***€750*** billion Corona reconstruction package is 'historic', many other decisions do not please us - and must be improved for us to vote in favour. On Thursday, 465 MEPs voted in favour of a resolution that calls for clear changes to the ***EU budget*** for 2021 to 2027. The 150 MEPs who voted 'no' come mainly from the right-wing 'Identity and Democracy' group, which includes the AfD, and the '***European*** Conservatives and Reformers', dominated by Poland's ruling PiS party.

There was little dissent among the four large groups that call themselves 'pro-European'. The Social Democrats and the Liberals of 'Renew' recorded only three and five dissenting votes respectively; in the Christian Democratic EPP group, it was mainly the MEPs of Viktor Orbán's Hungarian Fidesz party and almost all representatives of Chancellor Sebastian Kurz's Austrian People's Party who rejected the sharp resolution. There, they seem completely satisfied with the negotiating skills of their party leaders. No one from the Greens voted against the resolution; they are sending Rasmus Andresen, the only German, to the six-member team that will negotiate amendments with ***EU governments*** on behalf of the Parliament.

Since Germany took over the rotating Presidency of the Council in July, the Federal Government will represent the Member States in the talks with MEPs. The ***Minister of State for Europe***, Michael Roth (SPD), who was also present in the Brussels plenary session on Thursday, is responsible for the contact. The ***EU ambassadors of*** the member states are now discussing the negotiating mandate, which could be adopted as early as Wednesday. However, because Brussels is getting emptier by the day, negotiations are not likely to begin until the end of August or the beginning of September.

The ***European Parliament will*** then meet from 14 to 17 September, again in Strasbourg, if the Corona situation allows. The MEPs must approve the budget package for it to enter into force. But negotiator Andresen says in an interview with the *Süddeutsche Zeitung* that he does not believe that this will be possible as early as this plenary week: after all, the talks with the ***EU governments*** on amendments will only start shortly beforehand and will probably not yet be concluded.

Thursday's resolution serves as a negotiating mandate for the Parliament. It calls for more certainty that the ***EU*** should get new sources of revenue. The summit agreed to introduce a plastic levy and to work towards establishing other ***EU taxes.*** This should make it easier for the Commission to repay the debt for the Corona aid pot. But Andresen is sceptical: "With every single tax idea, there is always at least one state that has an interest in vetoing it. The ***EU governments*** would therefore have to make more detailed commitments, for example on revenue targets.

In addition, the Parliament demands that the ***EU budget be put to the*** test once again by the end of 2024 at the latest. Then revenue and expenditure could be adjusted for the remaining budget years until 2027. The summit rejected this, but Andresen says he can "well imagine that the ***EU governments will*** approach us".

The MPs also complain that the budget is much smaller than they had demanded. They now want to push through more money for research funding, for example. According to Andresen, it will probably be difficult to change the overall size of the budget, but it should be possible to increase individual initiatives such as the Erasmus student exchange programme: "There will always be a buffer.

The fact that almost everyone in the Parliament is loudly grumbling about 'cuts' is part of the strategy, but not entirely correct. Budget Commissioner Johannes Hahn, for example, calculates that the budgeted funds for Erasmus or the Horizon research programme are significantly higher than in the seven-year budget from 2014 to 2020, but they are below the demands of the Parliament or the plans of the Commission. Nevertheless, the Austrian is satisfied: As shrewd negotiators, we have set our proposals high.

As Chair of the Committee on Budgetary Control, Monika Hohlmeier plays a central role when it comes to ***European*** funds. The CSU politician has been in the ***European Parliament*** since 2009 and expects "brutal pressure" from some governments on their MEPs. The fact that some heads of government now want to put the Parliament under time pressure is "a real joke", Hohlmeier told the SZ. For months, she had only heard from the member states: We do not have a negotiating position on this yet. She stresses that the MEPs are not concerned with obstruction, but with doing their job in a democracy: We are not an autocracy à la Putin, where one person decides and everyone has to follow.

Like Green Andresen, Christian Socialist Hohlmeier urges a strong rule of law mechanism. The summit decision must be sharper: "For me, it is about defining clear targets that each country has to meet. She warns against a party-political instrumentalisation of the debate and would like to see a link to the Copenhagen criteria of 1993, which every country had to fulfil when ***joining the EU.*** In addition to institutional stability, democratic order and the rule of law, respect for and protection of minorities are also mentioned here. According to Hohlmeier, every government should be committed to these standards. She also demands that the ***European Parliament be*** given control rights in the allocation of funds from the Corona pot, which could be solved with an inter-institutional agreement.

After approval by the ***EU Parliament,*** the drama would not be over yet. In 23 of 27 member states, the parliaments must approve the novelty of allowing the Commission to incur large-scale debt for the Corona pot. Maybe even 24 - "Slovenia is still looking into it", says Budget Commissioner Hahn. Such a ratification usually takes one to two years. Now it has to be completed by the end of the year: That would be 'a galactic achievement'.

**'As shrewd negotiators, we have set our proposals high', says the Commissioner**

**Graphic**

Commission President Ursula von der Leyen walks past Italy's Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte as she arrives for the ***EU summit. The*** decisions of the meeting must now be approved by the ***EU Parliament.*** Photo: Francisco Seco/AP

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**Organisation: *EUROPEAN*** PARLIAMENT (91%); ***EUROPEAN UNION*** (54%)

**Industry:** BUDGETS (89%); STATE BUDGETS (89%)

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

**Geographic:** brussels, belgium (88%); strasbourg, france (79%); ***european*** member states (94%); brussels metropolitan area (92%); ***europe (***90%); poland (79%); hungary (79%); germany (59%); austria (58%).

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[***BRIEFLY REPORTED; EU for Huawei alternatives***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60F5-XJ91-DXX2-P529-00000-00&context=)

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**Section:** Economy; Munich; Bavaria; Germany; p. 25

**Length:** 106 words

**Byline:** REUTERS

**Body**

**Brussels** - According to the ***EU Commission, the*** member states of the ***European*** Union should quickly take action in the construction of the 5G mobile network so as not to become dependent on a single provider. There must be progress soon on the path so as not to be too dependent on risky companies, the ***EU Commission said on*** Friday, aiming to push back the presence of Chinese equipment supplier Huawei. ***European*** suppliers Nokia and Ericsson offer themselves as alternative suppliers, ***EU officials*** said.

**Classification**

**Language: GERMAN**; DEUTSCH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** SZ

**Subject: *EUROPEAN UNION*** (93%); INSTITUTIONS OF THE ***EUROPEAN*** UNION (90%); INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORGANISATIONS (90%)

**Industry:** 5G (88%); MOBILE COMMUNICATION (88%)

**Geographic:** BRUSSELS, BELGIUM (58%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (93%); BRUSSELS CAPITAL REGION (79%); ***EUROPE (***73%)

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[***Airbus to settle dispute with US; Group changes state aid rules and hopes for end to punitive tariffs***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60F5-XJ91-DXX2-P527-00000-00&context=)

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**Section:** Economy; Munich; Bavaria; Germany; p. 25

**Length:** 375 words

**Byline:** BJORN FINKE

**Body**

**Brussels** - ***European*** aerospace and defence group Airbus is seeking to settle a years-long subsidy dispute with Boeing and the US government. The company announced on Friday that it had reached an agreement with France and Spain on changes to investment subsidies for the *A350* long-haul aircraft. This means that these subsidies now conform to the requirements of the World Trade Organisation (WTO), it said. Therefore, there is no longer any justification for US punitive tariffs; this is the "last step to be able to end the long-lasting dispute".

The dispute began back in 2004 and since then the United States and the ***EU have accused*** each other of supporting Airbus and its American rival Boeing with different subsidies that do not comply with WTO rules on fair trade. The latest round in the dispute was launched by the WTO last October. The Geneva-based organisation allowed Washington to impose up to 7.5 billion dollars in punitive tariffs in response to ***European*** violations. Affected are, for example, US imports of wine from Germany and France, Parmesan cheese from Italy and olive oil from Spain. Imports of aircraft have also been made more expensive. ***EU Trade Commissioner*** Phil Hogan called on Washington on Friday to lift the tariffs immediately because of the compliance of Airbus and the ***European*** governments.

The ***EU*** has also made proposals to Washington on how to settle the dispute amicably and how to deal with subsidies in the industry in the future. But the US government has so far refused to enter into these talks. Hogan threatened that the ***EU in*** turn could now impose punitive tariffs if there was no agreement or if the United States did not abolish its tariffs.

This threat is possible because the WTO has ruled in another case that Boeing also benefited from unfair subsidies. In the coming weeks, the Geneva-based organisation will decide on the volume of punitive tariffs that may be imposed by the ***EU.*** After that, Hogan could impose them immediately. The ***EU*** has already drawn up a list of products to be affected.

**Classification**

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**Journal Code:** SZ

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**Company:** AIRBUS SAS (92%); BOEING CO (90%)

**Organization:** WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION (90%)

**Ticker:** BOE (LSE) (90%); BA (NYSE) (90%)

**Industry:** NAICS336411 AIRCRAFT MANUFACTURING (92%); SIC3721 AIRCRAFT (92%); NAICS336414 GUIDED MISSILE & SPACE VEHICLE MANUFACTURING (90%); NAICS336412 AIRCRAFT ENGINE & ENGINE PARTS MANUFACTURING (90%); SIC3761 GUIDED MISSILES & SPACE VEHICLES (90%); AIRLINES (90%); AEROSPACE SECTOR PERFORMANCE (90%); DEFENCE SECTOR PERFORMANCE (90%); AIRCRAFT ENGINES (78%)

**Geographic:** BRUSSELS, BELGIUM (58%); ***EUROPEAN*** MEMBER STATES (94%); BRUSSELS CAPITAL REGION (79%); NORTH AMERICA (93%); SPAIN (90%); ***EUROPE (***88%); FRANCE (88%); ITALY (78%); GERMANY (74%).

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[***Hope and catch; When it comes to their fish, the British get emotional. After Brexit, they now want to regain control of their sea. A visit to the English North Sea coast***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60F5-XJ91-DXX2-P52R-00000-00&context=)

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**Section:** Report; Munich; Bavaria; Germany; p. 30

**Length:** 2459 words

**Byline:** BY ALEXANDER MÜHLAUER

**Body**

**Grimsby/Hessle** - There are days when life just rumbles along. And then there are those like 9 December 2019, a day Martyn Boyers says with conviction: "That was the best we've ever had here.

Boyers, 64 years old, narrow-faced, is the boss of the fish market in Grimsby, a coastal town with 90,000 inhabitants in the north-east of England. Few people get carried away here, unless they remember the good old days when the fishing port was one of the largest in the world. Today, the docks are almost deserted, with only a few ships lying at anchor. It's good to have someone come to town who doesn't just talk about the glorious past. Someone who promises a bright future. Someone who gives hope. Someone like Boris Johnson. Back then, on 9 December 2019, a Monday.

It was no coincidence that Johnson came here three days before the House of Commons election. Grimsby has been what is called a Labour town for the past decades. Tories had virtually no chance. But then, in the middle of the Brexit chaos, someone like Johnson emerged and made a clear promise to the British people: "Let's get Brexit done. That was also his message in Grimsby, where he was guided through the auction hall of the fish market by Boyers on that Monday morning. Blue and yellow plastic boxes filled with cod and haddock are stacked here under bright fluorescent lights. 15 000 tonnes are auctioned off every year.

The numbers didn't seem to interest Johnson that much, though; he was in campaign mode. A joke here, a handshake there, in between holding a fat cod in front of the cameras. After all, he wanted everyone to see what he was campaigning for: the great British fish and its no less great fishermen. Like all market traders, Johnson wore wellies, a hat and a waterproof jacket - all white. He smiled a lot and said phrases that went down pretty well. For example: "The day will come when British ships will reclaim some of the spectacular wealth of our seas that we have lost over the past decades.

Fish market boss Boyers realised that day that something fundamental had changed in his city. There was suddenly hope again. People who Boyers knew had voted Labour all their lives were suddenly completely enthusiastic. 'I'm voting for you' was probably the phrase Johnson heard most often that day. "I realised that day that Boris was going to win," says Boyers. And so it happened that the Labour MP who had represented the Great Grimsby constituency in London until then was also replaced. Now a Conservative from Johnson's party sits there.

Boyers, who calls former Labour Prime Minister Tony Blair his favourite, also voted Tory. He had already voted Leave in the Brexit referendum in 2016. His wife, on the other hand, is on the Remainer side. She thinks Johnson is ruining the country. The Boyers are like many others in the kingdom: Brexit has divided families all over the country.

Things have changed in London since Johnson's election triumph. But in Grimsby? The town is also struggling with the Corona pandemic, of course, but otherwise?

A good six months after Johnson's visit, Martyn Boyers sits in his office in the fish market and looks out over the docks as if searching for something. Seagulls circle over the water, a few ships are anchored. He thinks, then says: "Boris delivered Brexit, but fish is still a toxic issue in politics. The contribution of fishing to British economic output is very small, he says, but something else is much more important anyway: "Fish is an emotional issue for us Brits".

If you want to understand why this is so, Boyers recommends going to any place by the sea. Almost everywhere on the coast you will find shops selling fish and chips. If there is a British national dish, this is it. During the World Wars, it was one of the few foods in the kingdom that was not rationed. Winston Churchill called the combination of fried fish and chips 'the good fellows'. And despite some fast food competition from India, America or Turkey, fish and chips are still very popular. In London and other big cities, you can order the dish in any decent pub. For the British, fish and chips have a symbolic power that goes far beyond taste.

No wonder, then, that fish is one of the sticking points in the Brexit negotiations between London and Brussels. When the transition period ends at the end of the year, the British want to have sole control over their waters and rich fishing grounds again. Brexiteers want back what they believe they have lost: Sovereignty. Boyers, the fish market boss, has a similar view: "The cod wars with Iceland hurt us a lot in the seventies. And then the government voluntarily gave up our fishing rights to the ***EU***.

In Grimsby, fishing has always been a matter for large companies, not family businesses like on the English south coast. When London had to give way in the dispute with Iceland, catch quotas from Brussels followed in the course of the Common Fisheries Policy - and with them the decline of fishing in Grimsby. The fish processing industry held on, and to this day the raw fish is imported and delivered in refrigerated lorries. To the Boyers fish market.

Since Brussels has been deciding what quantities of fish member states are entitled to in ***EU waters***, countries like France, Germany and the Netherlands also have the right to fish in British fishing grounds. The government in London now wants to change that. The UK wants to negotiate new quotas with the ***EU*** every year. Thanks to their fishing grounds, the British have leverage in the negotiations that should not be underestimated. Fishing does not even contribute one percentage point to the British gross domestic product, but it enjoys a reputation among the population that the far more important financial industry will never achieve.

However, anyone who thinks that the British want to regain sovereignty over their waters mainly because they want to keep all the fish for themselves is wrong. Most of the fish caught in the British sea is exported to the ***EU,*** such as salmon and herring. But the types of fish that the British prefer to eat come from Iceland or Norway: cod and haddock. And so, despite all the disputes with Brussels, there are also British fishing companies that insist that the government in London does not lose sight of the negotiations with the Nordic countries.

At the head of such a company is Jane Sandell. If you want to get to her from Grimsby, you have to take the bridge over the Humber. The river stretches for kilometres into the flat land. On the other side is Hessle, a suburb of Hull. Sandell, CEO of UK Fisheries, has her office in a business park. From there she manages the operations of her vessels; they are mainly in Icelandic and Norwegian waters. The crews are usually in the sea for six weeks, catching what the English, Scots and Welsh need for their fish and chips.

Sandell, 42, square glasses, is convinced that this dish is part of the British soul, just like the sea. She says: "We have a special relationship with the sea: our land has not been conquered since 1066 because we have the water around us. The coast, the fish and the sea, she says, are all part of the British identity.

Sandell herself grew up in a coastal town, where the Thames flows into the North Sea. Later she studied biology in Swansea and Hull. She won't say whether she voted for Brexit. Private matter. But to ensure that her concerns are not lost in the dispute with Brussels, she regularly phones Barrie Deas, the head of the British Fisheries Federation (NFFO). Its headquarters are in York. Because of Corona, however, no guests are being received there at the moment. Deas works from home. When you talk to him on the phone about the Brexit negotiations, he sounds quite confident.

He recently had a video call with David Frost, the UK's chief negotiator. Frost assured him that the concerns of the fishing industry were a very high priority. All we want is to become a sovereign independent coastal state again - like Norway," says Deas. He assumes that there will be a deal in October at the latest, after all, the ***EU states*** would want to continue fishing in British waters.

His expectation pretty much coincides with the negotiators' timetable. This week, Frost and ***EU chief negotiator*** Michel Barnier met in London. It was no coincidence that they had British salmon for dinner together in Downing Street. The only thing is that they made no progress on the issue. If there is to be a breakthrough, it will probably be after the summer break. Whether fish will be part of the so-called *endgame* in the negotiations cannot yet be said. But one thing is certain: Johnson cannot afford to lose on this emotional issue. In this respect, British fishermen can be hopeful.

In Grimsby, some are not quite as optimistic as the Prime Minister. A Wednesday evening in July, shortly before 6 pm. The ships that were out at sea during the day are slowly coming back into the harbour. Martin Brydges, the lock keeper, decides who is allowed in. He says: Our fishermen are almost all gone and they won't be coming back. Most of the men who sail into Grimsby Marina in the evening have nothing to do with fishing. They work in the wind farms off the coast during the day. There, energy is generated that the country needs. The new age," says Brydges and smiles mildly.

He himself is now 62, he stopped fishing four years ago. His back could no longer cope. It was not easy for him. His grandfather was a fisherman. So was his brother, but he now lives in Thailand. Brydges has never visited him there, and he doesn't want to. What would he do in Thailand? He wants to stay here. England is his home.

For decades, he set off from Grimsby to the North Sea for one to three weeks at a time. He caught cod and haddock in Norwegian waters and earned good money with it. The money is also what he misses most now; of course also the fun on board. He called it 'pleasure trips' when he set sail with the boys. It was a piece of freedom, he says. And that's exactly what he wants now, figuratively speaking, to have again - for his country.

Governments in London, whether Labour or Tories, have ceded more and more power to Brussels over the past decades. Or as Brydges says: "The politicians have shat on our sovereignty". That's why he wanted to get out of the ***European*** Union. I voted for democracy," he says.

He sounds a little bitter at times, but Brydges doesn't let his humour be taken away. One of his heroes is Freddie Frinton. The comedian was once born in Grimsby and is still one of the town's most revered sons long after his death. Brydges can still be amused by Frinton's sketches today. But above all about the not really explainable tradition that the Germans watch 'Dinner for One' every year on New Year's Eve. *Same procedure as every year.* Is that really still true?" he wants to know. What can you say? There is some truth in it. Brydges can hardly believe it. Because here in England, hardly anyone knows the film. The butler James, who so delightfully stumbles over the head of a tiger skin, is largely unknown in his home town of Grimsby.

When one of the last ships comes into the harbour, Brydges suggests going out for some fish. In Cleethorpes, right next to Grimsby, there is one of the best fish and chips restaurants. They have only been allowed to open again for a few days, the lockdown was relaxed here on the coast after four months. Around Cleethorpes pier there is a children's carousel, a Ferris wheel and slot machines. Everything is out of order. Of the stalls on the beach, only one in three is open. The smell of fish and fried donuts is in the air. The waves crash against the piers. A few young people sit scattered on the beach, drinking beer and smoking. As it gets dark, the glowing cigarettes are about the only thing glowing that evening apart from the streetlights.

In any case, not much is happening in the centre of Grimsby. There is a notice in the window of a department store in the pedestrian zone: closed because of Corona; please visit the nearest shop in Lincoln. But it takes almost an hour by train to get there. The only shops that seem to be doing well since the lockdown are hair salons. This is probably mainly because they were only allowed to reopen at the beginning of July. And a new haircut is needed more urgently than new trousers. You can get a haircut for men in Grimsby for the equivalent of seven ***euros***.

Seen from London, Grimsby may be a town without perspective. But anyone who thinks that underestimates the people there. People like Martyn Boyers. He has been the boss of the fish market for almost 20 years now. But in that time he has always dared to do something new. Grimsby is still famous for its old fish market, but Boyers has developed the business. He now also rents out properties. And then there are the wind turbines, out in the sea. Ever since the offshore parks came into existence, he has had two business cards with his name on them - one from the fish market, the other from the port company responsible for the energy production.

When Martyn Boyers stands on the balcony of his office, he can see the wind turbines. Sometimes, when the weather is bad, he has to squint his eyes. But he knows: as long as they keep turning, it will keep going.

**The fish market boss voted Tory. But his favourite is Labour man Tony Blair**

**The British prefer to eat cod and haddock - from Norway and Iceland**

**There are hardly any fishermen here any more. Out at sea, the men now work in the wind farms**

**Graphic**

Big fish: During the election campaign, Boris Johnson visited the Grimsby fish market. He promised nothing less than a glorious future. Photo: Ben Stansall/REUTERS

Living for the fish: Jane Sandell, Martyn Boyers and Martin Brydges (top to bottom). Photos: AM

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[***BRIEFLY REPORTED; 35 million illegal weapons***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60F5-XJ91-DXX2-P50C-00000-00&context=)

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**Body**

**Brussels** - According to official estimates, 35 million illegal firearms are in circulation in the ***European*** Union. There are good laws against this, but they are not implemented in all ***EU states,*** criticised the responsible ***EU Commissioner*** Ylva Johansson on Friday. She wants to improve cooperation between investigators ***across Europe.*** The smuggling of firearms in express parcels, cars and long-distance buses - so-called "ant trade" - is to be targeted. In addition, signal pistols, which can easily be converted into lethal weapons, and the import of weapon parts, which are assembled and partly completed with the help of 3-D printers, will be targeted.

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