

**Date and Time:** Saturday 16 January 2021 15:56:00 CET

**Job Number:** 134246223

**Documents (48)**

1. [*EU squabbles over Minsk sanctions; Belarus EU squabbles while opposition activist disappears*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:60ST-N611-DYMH-R0M4-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

**Client/Matter:** -None

**Search Terms:** european union OREUOReuro\*OR European\*

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Content Type** | **Narrowed by** |
| News | Sources: NRC Handelsblad,De Telegraaf; Time sequence: Sep 08, 2020 Until Sep 08, 2020 |

2. [*EU angry at UK for scrapping N Ireland deal*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:60ST-N611-DYMH-R0MK-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

**Client/Matter:** -None

**Search Terms:** european union OREUOReuro\*OR European\*

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Content Type** | **Narrowed by** |
| News | Sources: NRC Handelsblad,De Telegraaf; Time sequence: Sep 08, 2020 Until Sep 08, 2020 |

3. [*Transport companies sue ministry*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:60ST-N611-DYMH-R0P1-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

**Client/Matter:** -None

**Search Terms:** european union OREUOReuro\*OR European\*

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Content Type** | **Narrowed by** |
| News | Sources: NRC Handelsblad,De Telegraaf; Time sequence: Sep 08, 2020 Until Sep 08, 2020 |

4. [*The European storm that has yet to break; Column*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:60ST-N611-DYMH-R0P4-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

**Client/Matter:** -None

**Search Terms:** european union OREUOReuro\*OR European\*

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Content Type** | **Narrowed by** |
| News | Sources: NRC Handelsblad,De Telegraaf; Time sequence: Sep 08, 2020 Until Sep 08, 2020 |

5. [*Who gets the first shot; battle for distribution of corona medicine erupts*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:60SR-R8P1-DY4D-Y01G-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

**Client/Matter:** -None

**Search Terms:** european union OREUOReuro\*OR European\*

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Content Type** | **Narrowed by** |
| News | Sources: NRC Handelsblad,De Telegraaf; Time sequence: Sep 08, 2020 Until Sep 08, 2020 |

6. [*Ireland misses out, a Latvian gets a trading book*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:60ST-N611-DYMH-R0MB-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

**Client/Matter:** -None

**Search Terms:** european union OREUOReuro\*OR European\*

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Content Type** | **Narrowed by** |
| News | Sources: NRC Handelsblad,De Telegraaf; Time sequence: Sep 08, 2020 Until Sep 08, 2020 |

7. [*Bickering begins even before Brexit talks start;Question marks over whether Brits will stick to departure deal*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:60SR-R8P1-DY4D-Y02R-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

**Client/Matter:** -None

**Search Terms:** european union OREUOReuro\*OR European\*

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Content Type** | **Narrowed by** |
| News | Sources: NRC Handelsblad,De Telegraaf; Time sequence: Sep 08, 2020 Until Sep 08, 2020 |

8. [*Letters*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:60SR-R8P1-DY4D-Y04H-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

**Client/Matter:** -None

**Search Terms:** european union OREUOReuro\*OR European\*

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Content Type** | **Narrowed by** |
| News | Sources: NRC Handelsblad,De Telegraaf; Time sequence: Sep 08, 2020 Until Sep 08, 2020 |

9. [*All focus on the earning capacity of our economy;Emerging from the crisis investing: the main objective of the growth fund is not to become greener, but stronger*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:60SR-R8P1-DY4D-Y00T-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

**Client/Matter:** -None

**Search Terms:** european union OREUOReuro\*OR European\*

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Content Type** | **Narrowed by** |
| News | Sources: NRC Handelsblad,De Telegraaf; Time sequence: Sep 08, 2020 Until Sep 08, 2020 |

10. [*Industry fears CO2 tax; Works councils fear jobs due to climate alliance*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:60SR-R8P1-DY4D-Y02F-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

**Client/Matter:** -None

**Search Terms:** european union OREUOReuro\*OR European\*

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Content Type** | **Narrowed by** |
| News | Sources: NRC Handelsblad,De Telegraaf; Time sequence: Sep 08, 2020 Until Sep 08, 2020 |

11. [*Documentary Kampf um Griechenland Arte, 22.45-0.20; Focused*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:60ST-N611-DYMH-R0NV-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

**Client/Matter:** -None

**Search Terms:** european union OREUOReuro\*OR European\*

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Content Type** | **Narrowed by** |
| News | Sources: NRC Handelsblad,De Telegraaf; Time sequence: Sep 08, 2020 Until Sep 08, 2020 |

12. [*Navalny wakes up from coma; 'Long-term damage cannot be excluded'.*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:60SR-R8P1-DY4D-Y024-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

**Client/Matter:** -None

**Search Terms:** european union OREUOReuro\*OR European\*

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Content Type** | **Narrowed by** |
| News | Sources: NRC Handelsblad,De Telegraaf; Time sequence: Sep 08, 2020 Until Sep 08, 2020 |

13. [*Kaag wants to hand us over to Brussels;Letter of the day*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:60SR-R8P1-DY4D-Y04J-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

**Client/Matter:** -None

**Search Terms:** european union OREUOReuro\*OR European\*

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Content Type** | **Narrowed by** |
| News | Sources: NRC Handelsblad,De Telegraaf; Time sequence: Sep 08, 2020 Until Sep 08, 2020 |

14. [*Belgian government in the making; seven-party monster coalition in the starting blocks*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:60SR-R8P1-DY4D-Y020-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

**Client/Matter:** -None

**Search Terms:** european union OREUOReuro\*OR European\*

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Content Type** | **Narrowed by** |
| News | Sources: NRC Handelsblad,De Telegraaf; Time sequence: Sep 08, 2020 Until Sep 08, 2020 |

15. [*Expulsions happen under the radar in Spain; Migration An agreed cat-and-mouse game*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:60X1-73W1-DYMH-R14F-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

**Client/Matter:** -None

**Search Terms:** european union OREUOReuro\*OR European\*

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Content Type** | **Narrowed by** |
| News | Sources: NRC Handelsblad,De Telegraaf; Time sequence: Sep 23, 2020 Until Sep 23, 2020 |

16. [*Cabinet gambles too often on a happy ending with climate policy;Commentary*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:60X1-73W1-DYMH-R15B-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

**Client/Matter:** -None

**Search Terms:** european union OREUOReuro\*OR European\*

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Content Type** | **Narrowed by** |
| News | Sources: NRC Handelsblad,De Telegraaf; Time sequence: Sep 23, 2020 Until Sep 23, 2020 |

17. [*The SP remains a political maverick*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:60X1-73W1-DYMH-R154-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

**Client/Matter:** -None

**Search Terms:** european union OREUOReuro\*OR European\*

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Content Type** | **Narrowed by** |
| News | Sources: NRC Handelsblad,De Telegraaf; Time sequence: Sep 23, 2020 Until Sep 23, 2020 |

18. [*Hydrogen subsidy; Finanscoop*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:60WY-9281-DY4D-Y4DC-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

**Client/Matter:** -None

**Search Terms:** european union OREUOReuro\*OR European\*

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Content Type** | **Narrowed by** |
| News | Sources: NRC Handelsblad,De Telegraaf; Time sequence: Sep 23, 2020 Until Sep 23, 2020 |

19. [*Secret services sloppy with passenger data*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:60X1-73W1-DYMH-R14P-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

**Client/Matter:** -None

**Search Terms:** european union OREUOReuro\*OR European\*

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Content Type** | **Narrowed by** |
| News | Sources: NRC Handelsblad,De Telegraaf; Time sequence: Sep 23, 2020 Until Sep 23, 2020 |

[*Greece in breach of Europeanlaw'; Migration Policy*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:60X1-73W1-DYMH-R14Y-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

**Client/Matter:** -None

**Search Terms:** european union OREUOReuro\*OR European\*

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Content Type** | **Narrowed by** |
| News | Sources: NRC Handelsblad,De Telegraaf; Time sequence: Sep 23, 2020 Until Sep 23, 2020 |

21. [*Unemployment in the eurozone is now lower than in the US - but will it stay that way? Eurozone and USCan we see unemployment on both sides of the Atlantic as a test of which model works better? TheEU's or the US's? ;xxx xxx*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:60X1-73W1-DYMH-R14C-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

**Client/Matter:** -None

**Search Terms:** european union OREUOReuro\*OR European\*

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Content Type** | **Narrowed by** |
| News | Sources: NRC Handelsblad,De Telegraaf; Time sequence: Sep 23, 2020 Until Sep 23, 2020 |

22. [*Agency: extra strict control regime for corona vaccines;Corona crisis*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:60X1-73W1-DYMH-R14K-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

**Client/Matter:** -None

**Search Terms:** european union OREUOReuro\*OR European\*

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Content Type** | **Narrowed by** |
| News | Sources: NRC Handelsblad,De Telegraaf; Time sequence: Sep 23, 2020 Until Sep 23, 2020 |

23. [*Corona news EU summit postponed*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:60X1-73W1-DYMH-R14X-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

**Client/Matter:** -None

**Search Terms:** european union OREUOReuro\*OR European\*

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Content Type** | **Narrowed by** |
| News | Sources: NRC Handelsblad,De Telegraaf; Time sequence: Sep 23, 2020 Until Sep 23, 2020 |

[*Tax advantages for organic products'; Political action should also entice thrifty consumers to buy organic products*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:60WY-9281-DY4D-Y4CW-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

**Client/Matter:** -None

**Search Terms:** european union OREUOReuro\*OR European\*

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Content Type** | **Narrowed by** |
| News | Sources: NRC Handelsblad,De Telegraaf; Time sequence: Sep 23, 2020 Until Sep 23, 2020 |

25. [*Can the EU still solve this corruption?*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:6116-SR41-JC5G-14FP-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

**Client/Matter:** -None

**Search Terms:** european union OREUOReuro\*OR European\*

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Content Type** | **Narrowed by** |
| News | Sources: NRC Handelsblad,De Telegraaf; Time sequence: Oct 08, 2020 Until Oct 08, 2020 |

26. [*EU wants to punish Kremlin for poisoning Navalny; freeze on assets of top Russian army officials*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:6114-VVP1-JBNC-737N-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

**Client/Matter:** -None

**Search Terms:** european union OREUOReuro\*OR European\*

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Content Type** | **Narrowed by** |
| News | Sources: NRC Handelsblad,De Telegraaf; Time sequence: Oct 08, 2020 Until Oct 08, 2020 |

27. [*Another scoop on EU climate targets; European Parliament: 60% CO2 by 2030*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:6114-VVP1-JBNC-736J-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

**Client/Matter:** -None

**Search Terms:** european union OREUOReuro\*OR European\*

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Content Type** | **Narrowed by** |
| News | Sources: NRC Handelsblad,De Telegraaf; Time sequence: Oct 08, 2020 Until Oct 08, 2020 |

28. [*The Netherlands is very influential in the EU'.*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:6116-SR41-JC5G-14FR-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

**Client/Matter:** -None

**Search Terms:** european union OREUOReuro\*OR European\*

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Content Type** | **Narrowed by** |
| News | Sources: NRC Handelsblad,De Telegraaf; Time sequence: Oct 08, 2020 Until Oct 08, 2020 |

29. [*European Parliament commits to 60 percent CO2 reduction*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:6116-SR41-JC5G-14HS-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

**Client/Matter:** -None

**Search Terms:** european union OREUOReuro\*OR European\*

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Content Type** | **Narrowed by** |
| News | Sources: NRC Handelsblad,De Telegraaf; Time sequence: Oct 08, 2020 Until Oct 08, 2020 |

30. [*'No lowering of charges through EU funds'; Conte does not want to betray confidence*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:6114-VVP1-JBNC-737H-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

**Client/Matter:** -None

**Search Terms:** european union OREUOReuro\*OR European\*

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Content Type** | **Narrowed by** |
| News | Sources: NRC Handelsblad,De Telegraaf; Time sequence: Oct 08, 2020 Until Oct 08, 2020 |

31. [*Extra green ambition*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:6114-VVP1-JBNC-7369-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

**Client/Matter:** -None

**Search Terms:** european union OREUOReuro\*OR European\*

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Content Type** | **Narrowed by** |
| News | Sources: NRC Handelsblad,De Telegraaf; Time sequence: Oct 08, 2020 Until Oct 08, 2020 |

32. [*Party seems dead, ultra-right not*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:6116-SR41-JC5G-14F8-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

**Client/Matter:** -None

**Search Terms:** european union OREUOReuro\*OR European\*

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Content Type** | **Narrowed by** |
| News | Sources: NRC Handelsblad,De Telegraaf; Time sequence: Oct 08, 2020 Until Oct 08, 2020 |

33. [*Strength of the euro puts a brake on figures; Headaches at listed companies not just about Corona*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:614B-DKM1-JBNC-7313-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

**Client/Matter:** -None

**Search Terms:** european union OREUOReuro\*OR European\*

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Content Type** | **Narrowed by** |
| News | Sources: NRC Handelsblad,De Telegraaf; Time sequence: Oct 23, 2020 Until Oct 23, 2020 |

34. [*Listening less to Greenpeace*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:614B-DKM1-JBNC-7308-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

**Client/Matter:** -None

**Search Terms:** european union OREUOReuro\*OR European\*

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Content Type** | **Narrowed by** |
| News | Sources: NRC Handelsblad,De Telegraaf; Time sequence: Oct 23, 2020 Until Oct 23, 2020 |

35. [*Polish rule of law is also our rule of law*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:614D-BM11-DYMH-R1TF-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

**Client/Matter:** -None

**Search Terms:** european union OREUOReuro\*OR European\*

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Content Type** | **Narrowed by** |
| News | Sources: NRC Handelsblad,De Telegraaf; Time sequence: Oct 23, 2020 Until Oct 23, 2020 |

36. [*Bad figures, but no lockdown for Belgium yet;Corona crisis*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:614D-BM11-DYMH-R1SG-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

**Client/Matter:** -None

**Search Terms:** european union OREUOReuro\*OR European\*

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Content Type** | **Narrowed by** |
| News | Sources: NRC Handelsblad,De Telegraaf; Time sequence: Oct 23, 2020 Until Oct 23, 2020 |

37. [*Windmills allowed in Veenkoloniën; Judge: no construction ban*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:614B-DKM1-JBNC-730F-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

**Client/Matter:** -None

**Search Terms:** european union OREUOReuro\*OR European\*

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Content Type** | **Narrowed by** |
| News | Sources: NRC Handelsblad,De Telegraaf; Time sequence: Oct 23, 2020 Until Oct 23, 2020 |

38. [*Stopping the nuisance; special alderman tackling EU migrants*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:614B-DKM1-JBNC-733B-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

**Client/Matter:** -None

**Search Terms:** european union OREUOReuro\*OR European\*

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Content Type** | **Narrowed by** |
| News | Sources: NRC Handelsblad,De Telegraaf; Time sequence: Oct 23, 2020 Until Oct 23, 2020 |

39. [*Poland court makes abortion virtually impossible*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:614D-BM11-DYMH-R1T5-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

**Client/Matter:** -None

**Search Terms:** european union OREUOReuro\*OR European\*

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Content Type** | **Narrowed by** |
| News | Sources: NRC Handelsblad,De Telegraaf; Time sequence: Oct 23, 2020 Until Oct 23, 2020 |

40. [*EU women finish work on Tuesday*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:617J-N4T1-JC5G-1405-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

**Client/Matter:** -None

**Search Terms:** european union OREUOReuro\*OR European\*

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Content Type** | **Narrowed by** |
| News | Fonti: NRC Handelsblad,De Telegraaf; Sequenza temporale: Nov 07, 2020 Fino a Nov 07, 2020 |

41. [*A despondent duck dream*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:617J-N4T1-JC5G-13XY-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

**Client/Matter:** -None

**Search Terms:** european union OREUOReuro\*OR European\*

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Content Type** | **Narrowed by** |
| News | Fonti: NRC Handelsblad,De Telegraaf; Sequenza temporale: Nov 07, 2020 Fino a Nov 07, 2020 |

42. [*Bidenomics: business with our hands tied;Bidenomics: let us not count ourselves too rich*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:617J-N4T1-JC5G-13YX-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

**Client/Matter:** -None

**Search Terms:** european union OREUOReuro\*OR European\*

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Content Type** | **Narrowed by** |
| News | Fonti: NRC Handelsblad,De Telegraaf; Sequenza temporale: Nov 07, 2020 Fino a Nov 07, 2020 |

43. [*Scholarship week*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:617J-N4T1-JC5G-1404-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

**Client/Matter:** -None

**Search Terms:** european union OREUOReuro\*OR European\*

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Content Type** | **Narrowed by** |
| News | Fonti: NRC Handelsblad,De Telegraaf; Sequenza temporale: Nov 07, 2020 Fino a Nov 07, 2020 |

44. [*Others meddle with our history ;In Europe*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:617J-N4T1-JC5G-13XX-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

**Client/Matter:** -None

**Search Terms:** european union OREUOReuro\*OR European\*

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Content Type** | **Narrowed by** |
| News | Fonti: NRC Handelsblad,De Telegraaf; Sequenza temporale: Nov 07, 2020 Fino a Nov 07, 2020 |

45. [*No, Islam offers help*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:617J-N4T1-JC5G-13YK-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

**Client/Matter:** -None

**Search Terms:** european union OREUOReuro\*OR European\*

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Content Type** | **Narrowed by** |
| News | Fonti: NRC Handelsblad,De Telegraaf; Sequenza temporale: Nov 07, 2020 Fino a Nov 07, 2020 |

46. [*Tax science has sold itself;The rule of law Tax science has failed;The rule of law*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:617J-N4T1-JC5G-13YB-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

**Client/Matter:** -None

**Search Terms:** european union OREUOReuro\*OR European\*

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Content Type** | **Narrowed by** |
| News | Fonti: NRC Handelsblad,De Telegraaf; Sequenza temporale: Nov 07, 2020 Fino a Nov 07, 2020 |

47. [*No Headline In Original*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:617J-N4T1-JC5G-13YN-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

**Client/Matter:** -None

**Search Terms:** european union OREUOReuro\*OR European\*

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Content Type** | **Narrowed by** |
| News | Fonti: NRC Handelsblad,De Telegraaf; Sequenza temporale: Nov 07, 2020 Fino a Nov 07, 2020 |

48. [*Macron is right, Islam is in crisis;Has Islam been in crisis for a long time, writes Ruud Koopmans.*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:617J-N4T1-JC5G-13YC-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1516831)

**Client/Matter:** -None

**Search Terms:** european union OREUOReuro\*OR European\*

**Search Type:** Terms and Connectors

**Narrowed by:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Content Type** | **Narrowed by** |
| News | Fonti: NRC Handelsblad,De Telegraaf; Sequenza temporale: Nov 07, 2020 Fino a Nov 07, 2020 |

[***EU bickering over Minsk sanctions; Belarus***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60ST-N611-DYMH-R0M4-00000-00&context=) [***EU Struggles while opposition activist disappears***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60ST-N611-DYMH-R0M4-00000-00&context=)

NRC Handelsblad

8 September 2020 Tuesday

1st Edition

Copyright 2020 NRC Media B.V. All Rights Reserved



**Section:** CONTENTS; Page 1

**Length:** 1177 words

**Byline:** Chris Hensen

**Dateline:** Amsterdam

**Body**

**ABSTRACT**

Belarus

The ***EU*** Member States cannot agree on which Belarusians should be included in the sanctions list.

**FULL TEXT:**

While in Belarus the last protest leaders flee the country or are otherwise defused - on Monday local media reported that opposition leader Maria Kolesnikova was picked up from the street by masked men and taken away in a minibus - the ***European Union is still*** considering punitive measures against the regime in Minsk.

Almost a month ago, the ***European Union*** announced it: on 14 August, ***European*** foreign ministers declared that economic sanctions (travel bans, freezing of bank accounts abroad) would be imposed on Belarusian officials who had been involved in rigging the elections and in the violence against citizens demonstrating against them in recent weeks. But four weeks later, ***European*** leaders have yet to officially announce how many people will be on that blacklist, and more importantly, who.

At a ***European*** Commission press conference on Monday, details were again withheld. A spokesman stressed that the "political will" to get out of it "as soon as possible" was there. It is no longer a question of if, but only of when", the spokesman said.

**Patience of some is running out**

But some Member States have run out of patience. Lithuania's Foreign Minister Linas Linkevicius told the Financial Times on Sunday that Brussels' inaction undermines the credibility of its foreign policy. Sometimes we react too late and our measures are too fragmented to impress people in power. If we don't stand firm for our values, we destroy them."

Dissatisfied with the lack of ***European*** measures, Lithuania, together with the two other Baltic States - Latvia and Estonia - already made its own plan last week: the three ***EU Member States*** themselves imposed travel bans on thirty high-ranking Belarusian officials, including President Aleksandr Lukashenko. The latter was all the more piquant because ***European*** sanctions against the Belarusian leader are a sensitive issue for some Member States. Germany, for example, does not want a confrontation with Russia, which supports Lukashenko.

There was already sharp criticism of the foreign policy of the ***EU***, which now wants to be a geopolitical player. Norbert Röttgen, the chairman of the foreign committee of the German Bundestag and a possible successor of Angela Merkel, said last week that the ***EU*** threatened to make itself "irrelevant" if it did not take firm action against Russia, after the poisoning of opposition leader Aleksej Navalny. The ***EU*** has so far only condemned that poisoning verbatim. Röttgen: ,,The question is: 'Don't ***Europeans*** ever do anything?' If they do, nobody will take us seriously any more."

The absence of sanctions is not necessarily unwillingness. For example, the ***EU*** wants to avoid being whistled back by the ***European*** Court of Justice in Luxembourg after it has imposed sanctions, because it has not 'sealed' its sanctions 100 per cent. Whoever takes far-reaching, freedom-restricting measures against people has to substantiate that they are justified, provide evidence of the offences that led to the sanctions. That takes time. Previously, the court had invalidated similar sanctions against Iranian government officials precisely because of the lack of evidence. That was a painful loss of face for ***European*** politicians.

**Divided**

But that there are divisions cannot be denied. Apart from disagreement over whether Lukashenko himself should be on the list, there is also bickering over the length of the list, for example. Anonymous ***EU diplomats*** told Reuters on Monday that 31 people are currently on the list. Originally, there were supposed to have been 14, but some Member States thought that was far too few. Recently, therefore, another 17 people were added to the list.

And then such ***European*** 'negotiations' always have their own dynamics. Greece and Cyprus have not yet expressed support for the sanctions, according to Reuters. Within the ***EU***, these countries are themselves campaigning for strong sanctions against another country, Turkey, with which they are in conflict in the Mediterranean Sea. In the case of sanctions, all ***EU member states*** must express their support. According to ***European*** diplomats, Greece and Cyprus would be willing to give their support, but then also strong sanctions against Turkey would have to be in place.

**Emptying bank accounts**

How to proceed? According to the diplomats, the ***EU*** is expected to announce the final list on 21 September. The sanctions could then take effect on the 22nd. It would also already be largely clear who is on the list, the Interior Minister Yuri Karayev, for example, as well as his deputy, responsible for the tough police action after the elections.

But according to the same diplomats, people could still be taken off the list and put back on again by 21 September. Whether the final list will resemble the Baltic States at all is also questionable. Diplomats are silent about this. If only because they can wake up sleeping dogs: after all, the ***EU*** also wants to freeze bank accounts. If Brussels already hints at who will be on the list, it will give those people the chance to empty their bank accounts quickly.

Greece and Cyprus only join if there are also sanctions against Turkey

**Belarusian opposition activist Maria Kolesnikova on the run and arrested at Ukraine border, according to state media**

The Belarusian opposition activist Maria Kolesnikova was "abducted" by unknown masked men in Minsk on Monday. The independent Belarusian news portal Tut.by wrote this on the basis of an eyewitness. The woman, whose surname is not known, stated that she had seen Kolesnikova being snatched from the street in Minsk by masked men and worked into a van. She added that she did not dare to film the event for fear of being taken away.

In addition to Kolesnikova, three members of the Coordination Council have been missing since Monday. Her spokesman Anton Rodnenkov, who confirmed the abduction, disappeared shortly afterwards. Two other members of the opposition, Ivan Kravtsov and Maksim Bogretsov, have also disappeared. Three other members of the council were arrested earlier.

The 38-year-old Kolesnikova, a former music teacher, is one of the most prominent members of the opposition still in Belarus. She works together with the presidential candidate Svetlana Tichanovskaya, who fled to Lithuania, and with Veronika Tsepkalo, who has also left the country. The women took matters into their own hands after their husbands were arrested

According to state news agency Belta, Belarusian border police arrested Kolesnikova near the border with Ukraine on Tuesday morning after she allegedly tried to leave the country.

**Graphic**

Students protested against electoral fraud in Minsk last week, at the beginning of the new academic year.

Photo Tut.By/AFP

**Classification**

**Language:** DUTCH; ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Embargoes + Sanctions (94%); ***European*** Union (88%); International Relations (80%)

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

**End of Document**

[***EU UK angry that N Ireland deal could be scrapped***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60ST-N611-DYMH-R0MK-00000-00&context=)

NRC Handelsblad

8 September 2020 Tuesday

1st Edition

Copyright 2020 NRC Media B.V. All Rights Reserved



**Section:** OUTSIDE; Page 14

**Length:** 541 words

**Dateline:** Amsterdam

**Body**

**ABSTRACT**

Brexit

If there is no Brexit deal on 15 October, the British want to tinker with the agreements on the border of Northern Ireland and Ireland.

**FULL TEXT:**

The ***European Union*** has reacted angrily to the British government's plans to stop negotiating with the ***EU*** if no agreement is reached by 15 October. Ursula von der Leyen, president of the ***European*** Commission, said on Twitter that she expects the British government to abide by existing exit agreements, "an obligation under international law and a precondition for any future partnership". ***EU negotiator*** Michel Barnier warned on Monday that existing agreements must be respected.

Former UK Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond spoke on Twitter of a "dangerous step". In Northern Ireland, the reaction was also incomprehensible. Michelle O'Neill of the nationalist party Sinn Féin tweeted that to deviate so far from the current protocols would be a huge "betrayal" and endanger the Good Friday Agreement that brought peace in 1998.

The eighth round of negotiations on the Brexit deal started this Tuesday in London. Trade and governance are on the agenda, as well as energy, mobility and legal issues. It is not expected that an agreement will be reached this round. Whether the 15 October deadline will be met remains to be seen. The transition period ends on 31 December - even if no deal is reached. Earlier, the UK already ruled out extending the transition phase.

**Law in the making**

According to the FT, London even has a law in the pipeline that would allow it to partially undo agreements on the Northern Ireland border in the current deal, should the parties fail to reach agreement. If that law comes into force, the UK would back away from one of the most sensitive issues in the Brexit negotiations.

The UK has not been a ***member of the EU*** since 31 January, but it is still keeping to a number of agreements during the transition period. This period ends in December. The parties had previously set mid-October as the deadline.

The ***EU*** is very clear about the timetable. So am I", Prime Minister Johnson said on Monday. He stressed that an agreement must be in place by 15 October if it is to enter into force before the transition period ends. "If we don't reach an agreement by then, I can't imagine that a free trade agreement can be reached between us and then we both have to accept that and look to the future." Such a No Deal scenario would be "a good outcome" for the UK, according to the prime minister.

Three anonymous sources told the FT on Monday that the new UK single market bill contains matters that go against ongoing Brexit agreements. According to the newspaper, these include rules on customs supervision in Northern Ireland and agreements on state aid. The BBC has confirmed that.

Downing Street says it is working on a backstop in case the negotiations fail. But critics fear the proposal across the Northern Ireland border could lead to a breakdown in trust between the negotiating partners.

**Classification**

**Language:** DUTCH; ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject: *European*** Union (94%); Arms Control + Disarmament (81%); Arms Embargoes (81%); Peace Process (73%); ***European*** Union Regulation + Policy (65%)

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

**End of Document**

[***Transport companies sue ministry***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60ST-N611-DYMH-R0P1-00000-00&context=)

NRC Handelsblad

8 September 2020 Tuesday

1st Edition

Copyright 2020 NRC Media B.V. All Rights Reserved



**Section:** ECONOMICS; Page 1

**Length:** 506 words

**Byline:** Mark Duursma  
  
Jos Verlaan

**Dateline:** Amsterdam

**Body**

**ABSTRACT**

NS operating licence

Awarding the exclusive operation of almost the entire railway network to NS would be in breach of ***European*** regulations.

**FULL TEXT:**

Five transport companies are taking the Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management to court. They believe that State Secretary Stientje van Veldhoven (D66) is acting unlawfully by awarding NS exclusive operation of virtually the entire railway network from 2025 onwards.

Arriva, Transdev (Connexxion), Keolis, Qbuzz and EBS, united in the Federation of Mobility Companies in the Netherlands (FMN), will this week issue a summons in civil proceedings. In the writ of summons, which is in NRC's possession, the transport companies argue that Van Veldhoven is acting in violation of ***European*** regulations and the general principles of proper administration. The Netherlands is wrong to close off the way to more market forces in the rail sector, say NS' competitors. With the preliminary relief proceedings, they want to prevent the provisional government decision from becoming final.

In June, Van Veldhoven informed the Lower House that the concession for the national railway network (main rail network) from 2025 will again go to NS, just like the current concession from 2015 to 2025. The concession will be awarded by private treaty, without a call for tenders in which interested parties can compete. The main rail network covers 95% of the train passenger kilometres in the Netherlands. NS pays the government ***€80*** million a year to be allowed to carry out the concession.

The FMN companies, Dutch parts of foreign concerns, provide rail transport on regional lines, commissioned by provinces. From 2025 onwards, the transport companies also want to be active on parts of the main rail network, for example in combination with NS.

According to the transport companies, Van Veldhoven wants to circumvent the ***European*** rules with 'subterfuges'. Since the turn of the century, ***European Union*** policy has focused on rail liberalisation, confirmed in 2016 in the Fourth Railway Package. For public passenger transport, the credo is 'tender unless'. From the end of 2023, strict conditions will apply to prevent rail concessions from being put out to tender. By awarding the new concession to NS 4.5 years before the expiry of the current concession, Van Veldhoven prevents the Netherlands from having to meet those conditions.

In her letter to parliament, Van Veldhoven wrote that she opted for direct award because of NS's good performance and to give the company 'stability, investment security and scope for sustainable cooperation'. Van Veldhoven: "This will enable us to offer passengers high-quality door-to-door travel with sufficient frequency after 2024 as well."

The Dutch position is encountering more resistance. The German company FlixMobility, known for the FlixBus, is also considering legal action because the decision would make international train connections impossible. On Wednesday, the Lower House will speak with the State Secretary about market forces on the railways.

Transporters say minister uses 'subterfuge' to circumvent EU rules

**Graphic**

Photo Getty

**Classification**

**Language:** DUTCH; ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Industry:** Rail Transportation (94%); Public Transportation (93%); Trains (63%)

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

**End of Document**

[***The European storm that has yet to break; Column***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60ST-N611-DYMH-R0P4-00000-00&context=)

NRC Handelsblad

8 September 2020 Tuesday

1st Edition

Copyright 2020 NRC Media B.V. All Rights Reserved



**Section:** ECONOMICS; Page 2

**Length:** 610 words

**Byline:** Menno Tamminga

**Body**

The ***Eurosceptic*** and the central Eurobanker are in complete agreement. A ***euro storm*** is lurking. Economist Bert de Vries, former minister (Social Affairs, CDA), is the ***eurosceptic***. Within one or two years, the ***European*** currency union will face "a new debt crisis", he wrote recently in NRC.

Economist Klaas Knot, central banker in Amsterdam and Frankfurt, foresees "more debt crises, more emergency aid and lower welfare" if the Netherlands and the other member states do not cooperate more closely soon. Last week, in the HJ Schoo lecture organised by Elsevier Weekblad, he argued in favour of giving up Dutch sovereignty in economic policy. De Vries, on the other hand, wants to abandon the "frenetic" attempts at more ***euro cooperation***, he said in NRC.

De Vries and Knot are opposites who agree on the essence: ***European*** monetary union has delivered the opposite of what leading politicians thought it would. The countries have not moved closer together in their economic performance, as was the intention. On the contrary.

As Knot cautiously puts it: the ***euro*** has the tendency to lead to economic imbalances within ***Europe***. In my words: the ***euro*** is not a binding agent, but a divisive force. Is it actually fair to blame the ***euro***? Or is it the large, historical differences between the participating countries?

Perhaps the structure of the economy, such as the relationship between industry, agriculture and services, productivity, and socio-economic decision-making, is simply better adapted to trends such as liberalisation and globalisation in one country than another. As a result, the envisaged ***European*** harmony is an arena of political envy and strife.

Is there a solution? Knot urges more intensive cooperation and the surrender of national sovereignty. Effective coordination of budgetary and stimulus policy could narrow the difference between northern European leaders and southern laggards. In Italy, that would "probably take decades", Knot suggests. See you in 2060...

The question that Knot does not answer is: do Spain and Italy also want to give up sovereignty with us? It doesn't look like it. They were adamantly against stricter supervision of their spending of money from the ***European*** Recovery Fund.

Most strikingly, Knot alludes to the possibility of countries with unsustainable debts sitting down with their creditors, such as banks, to ease the burden. In practical terms, such a country risks going bankrupt à la Argentina, the creditors have to write off part of their claims - otherwise they might get even less back - and our ***euro partner*** makes a 'go-around' like bankrupt companies do. In addition to the recovery fund, there will be an emergency regulation for failed ***euro countries***. The implementation of this is, incidentally, "far from problem-free", Knot acknowledges.

Such debt restructuring plus "restart" replaces the Italian solution from before the ***euro*** when economic growth stagnated: devaluation of the lira. That gave a boost to exports and supported tourism. With the ***euro*** this is no longer possible. Knot's idea of debt restructuring does the same as devaluation, but by different means. De Vries openly opts for the reintroduction of national currencies so that governments can devalue again.

Will politicians fix the inherent contradictions in the short term? De Vries' fear of a debt crisis is more realistic than Knot's hope for the deus ex machina.

Menno Tamminga writes here every Tuesday on corporate policy and the economy.

The envisaged ***European*** harmony is an arena of political envy and strife

**Notes**

Menno Tamminga writes here every Tuesday on enterprise policy and the economy.

**Classification**

**Language:** DUTCH; ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Monetary Unions (94%); Central Banks (77%); ***European*** Union (73%); Monetary Policy (65%); Economic Crisis (63%)

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

**End of Document**

[***Who gets the first shot; battle for distribution of corona medicine erupts***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60SR-R8P1-DY4D-Y01G-00000-00&context=)

De Telegraaf

8 September 2020 Tuesday

Netherlands

Copyright 2020 Mediahuis Nederland BV All Rights Reserved



**Section:** INDOOR; Page 12

**Length:** 970 words

**Byline:** Martijn Schoolenberg

**Body**

Battle over distribution of corona drug unleashed

by Martijn Schoolenberg

Amsterdam - In the midst of the gigantic vaccine race, one crucial question remains unanswered: who will actually be the first to get the drug once it is available? While the WHO and experts argue that vaccines should be distributed fairly around the world, in reality countries are falling over each other to make separate deals with pharmaceutical companies. This is not smart.

The United States and the United Kingdom, in particular, have stirred up the 'rat race'. They have been buying hundreds of millions of vaccines from ***European*** companies since spring. Meanwhile, countries such as China and Russia are also working on vaccines. Spurred on by the investments of the US and the UK, ***European*** Member States also rushed to do so. The Netherlands, Italy, Germany and France, for example, already concluded a 300 million-dose deal with drug manufacturer AstraZeneca in June.

The ***European*** Commission recently took over that contract and has now reached an agreement in principle with five different pharmaceutical companies to supply more than one billion doses to be distributed among the Member States on the basis of population. A supply contract worth ***EUR*** 336 million has already been signed with one of them, AstraZeneca. It is hoped that 30 million doses can be received by the end of this year. The Netherlands is entitled to approximately 1.2 million doses. The ***European*** Commission made the purchase so that all member states would get the same prices and have the vaccine at the same time.

Fierce

The WHO reacted furiously to these 'private' deals. Because that organisation launched the COVAX programme just this year: a worldwide group purchase in order to be able to vaccinate 20 per cent of the population in each participating country with a total of 2 billion doses by the end of next year. In this way, poor countries can also arm themselves against the virus. Within the programme, rich countries will put up the money, while poor countries will offer the volume of their population so that together they gain market power.

The separate deals by the US, UK and ***European*** countries threaten to be at the expense of that programme, because those doses would no longer be available worldwide. The philosopher Marcel Verweij is therefore surprised by these efforts. That is not smart. Because by simply distributing vaccines to each other, you can prevent the virus from spreading internationally and eventually affecting your own country.

Deny

The Ministry of Health, however, denies that the Netherlands is thinking only of itself. We have written a letter in which we indicate that we want to join COVAX", says a spokesperson. Within the ***European*** Commission it has been stated that there should be room for the vaccines purchased to also be made available to countries outside the region that are less well-off." Discussions are currently taking place on this. However, the 18 billion ***euros required*** for COVAX were not scraped together overnight. The ***EU*** has already promised a contribution of 400 million. But the US is not yet supporting the programme.

An international group of ethicists and philosophers also argued in the professional journal Science that the vaccine should be distributed across borders. According to them, it is better to look at how you can minimise the loss of healthy life years through the virus. And you can base that on life expectancy. The researchers emphasise that when calculating this, it is important to always look at the best conditions that can be found in the world for an age category, regardless of where the person lives.

If we take local life expectancy into account when calculating the potential loss of life years, only people from rich countries will receive a vaccine and poor countries will be left out because the latter have fewer healthy life years to gain," says Lisa Herzog. She is assistant professor of political philosophy at the University of Groningen and co-authored the article. That goes against the ethical principle that every individual is equal.

WHO

The scientists therefore reject the WHO's view that it is best to distribute vaccines according to population size. Herzog: "For example, the virus is more widespread in some countries than in others, so a vaccine is needed more there. The current virus situation is therefore included in the model. At a later stage, the damage to the economy and the individual consequences can then be examined.

And how will the vaccines actually be distributed in our country? As far as Verweij is concerned, priority is given to care providers and the most vulnerable groups. Care providers can save lives through their work and have a lot of contact with the elderly and other more vulnerable people. Whether you should also immediately vaccinate the elderly or younger people in frail health depends on the effectiveness of the vaccine for those groups. The general flu vaccine works the least on people who need it the most. That could also be the case with corona and then it might be better to vaccinate the people who come into contact with the elderly."

For Verweij, the argument that young people have many years of life to lose and should therefore be given priority does not play a role. They are less at risk anyway; it's only in intensive care that it becomes a different story and they should be given priority. But you must never look at vaccination solely as a means of protecting individuals. It mainly prevents further virus transmission and that benefits everyone."

A ministry spokesperson reports that the Health Council was recently asked for advice on who in our country should receive the vaccine first.

**Classification**

**Language:** DUTCH; ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** Tlg-NL

**Subject:** Vaccines (94%); Viruses (84%); Public Health (82%); Epidemics (78%); Infectious Disease (73%); Diseases + Disorders (63%); Medicine + Health (63%); Medical Research (62%); COVID-19 Coronavirus (61%)

**Industry:** Pharmaceuticals Agents + Products (69%)

**Load-Date:** September 7, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Ireland misses out, a Latvian gets trading book***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60ST-N611-DYMH-R0MB-00000-00&context=)

NRC Handelsblad

8 September 2020 Tuesday

1st Edition

Copyright 2020 NRC Media B.V. All Rights Reserved



**Section:** IN THE NEWS; Page 2

**Length:** 464 words

**Byline:** Clara van de Wiel

**Dateline from** Brussels

**Body**

**ABSTRACT**

***European*** Commission

The appointment of the Latvian Valdis Dombrovskis is a setback for Ireland, which saw its Commissioner Phil Hogan leave.

**FULL TEXT:**

Ireland loses influential trade portfolio in ***European*** Commission. The place of the Irish ***Commissioner*** Phil Hogan, who resigned last month, will be taken by the Latvian Valdis Dombrovskis, who is currently responsible for Economy in the Commission. This was announced by the President of the ***European*** Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, on Tuesday morning.

***MEP*** Mairead McGuinness is to be nominated as the new ***European Commissioner*** on behalf of Ireland with responsibility for financial services and the capital markets union. The previous Irish ***Commissioner*** Hogan stepped down last month under heavy pressure after violating coronary rules.

The Commission's reshuffle is a major blow to Ireland, which had a cardinal position in trade - especially in light of Brexit and shifting relations with the United States and China.

Yet it was not least because of strong pressure from Ireland itself that Hogan resigned at the end of August. Although member states have no authority over 'their' ***European Commissioner***, Irish Prime Minister Micheál Martin and Deputy Prime Minister Leo Varadkar repeatedly called on Hogan to reconsider his position. The departure of the experienced Hogan, who is valued in Brussels, means that the country has now also lost its trade portfolio.

**Intricate puzzle**

Hogan's resignation gave Commission President Von der Leyen quite a few headaches: after all, the composition of the Commission is a complex puzzle in which political colour, nationality and competence all play a role.

As both Hogan and Dombrovskis and McGuinness come from the same political family, the Christian Democrats can be satisfied. In fact, the change will bring Von der Leyen something: McGuinness' arrival will mean an almost complete gender balance in the Commission - a deeply cherished wish of the German (female) Commission President.

The new ***European*** Trade ***Commissioner***, Dombrovskis, is a dyed-in-the-wool politician who was previously Prime Minister of Latvia and has been a member of the ***European*** Commission since 2014. He has held the position of Trade Commissioner since Hogan's departure on 26 August. It is noteworthy that Let remains responsible for the contact with the ***Eurogroup***, the deliberation of the finance ministers of the ***Eurozone***.

Mairead McGuinness has been in the ***European*** Parliament since 2004, the last three years as Vice-President. Before the Irish can be appointed as a new ***European Commissioner***, the ***European Parliament will*** question and vote on her nomination.

Ireland had a cardinal position in trade, which it is now losing

**Classification**

**Language:** DUTCH; ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject: *European*** Union (94%); Economic Policy (65%)

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

**End of Document**

[***Bickering begins even before Brexit talks start; Question marks over whether Britons will stick to exit deal***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60SR-R8P1-DY4D-Y02R-00000-00&context=)

De Telegraaf

8 September 2020 Tuesday

Netherlands

Copyright 2020 Mediahuis Nederland BV All Rights Reserved



**Section:** FINANCIAL; page 24

**Length:** 576 words

**Byline:** Dorinde Meuzelaar

**Body**

Doubts about whether Brits will keep to exit agreement

by Dorinde Meuzelaar and Ruud Mikkers

Amsterdam - Will the British keep to the terms of the exit agreement agreed with the ***EU*** or not? A law is said to be in the making that will call those agreements into question, bringing a hard Brexit closer again. The pound tumbled against the dollar and the ***euro*** in fear of this.

Just before a new round of Brexit negotiations was due to start, the British appeared to put a bomb under the talks on the future relationship with the ***EU***. According to business newspaper Financial Times, a bill will be published on Wednesday with new rules on state aid and the border with Northern Ireland that run counter to the agreement the UK made with the ***EU*** in October.

The news was soon contradicted by Secretary of State George Eustice, but the pain was already done. I trust the British government to implement the withdrawal agreement, an obligation under international law and a condition for a future relationship", tweeted ***European*** Commission President Ursula von der Leyen. Without a divorce agreement, the British cannot conclude a free trade agreement with the ***EU*** as far as Brussels is concerned. .

On the currency market, the news was also taken seriously, with the rate of the British pound plunging against the ***euro*** and the dollar. By the end of Monday afternoon, the pound had gained almost 1% against the dollar and over 0.8% against the ***euro***.

The past few weeks the pound gained some strength, but now we see a retreat again", says Rabobank economist Stefan Koopman. Investors are getting a bit nervous now."

Currency strategist Peter Krpata ( ING) said the uncertainty, "after a calm summer", was back in the British currency. We think the pound is not prepared for this.

At the same time, behind the scenes in Brussels the question is being asked whether the soup really is eaten so hot by the British. On Tuesday, Michel Barnier, the ***EU'***s chief negotiator, leaves for London for a new round of negotiations for which expectations among diplomats are particularly low. We can't even agree on whether it's the eighth or ninth round", jokes one Brussels diplomat.

Especially the rules for a level playing field are a burden for the British. The ***EU*** only wants to give the UK access to the ***European*** internal market (without quotas and without tariffs) if the British business community is more or less bound by the same rules as their ***EU colleagues***. These include social and environmental standards but also state aid rules. A second headache is the catching of fish in British waters. The UK wants to renegotiate the fish quotas every year, but the ***EU*** considers this unworkable.

Meanwhile, time is running out. Boris Johnson mentions 15 October as the last possibility to have an agreement on the future trade relationship. On 1 January next year, the transition period, during which all EU rules still apply, ends and before that date the British and the EU countries still have to approve the treaty. But Koopman sees a few weeks slack: ,,But anyone who has been following Brexit for a bit longer knows that such deadlines do not necessarily have to be met."

Uncertainty is back in the sterling exchange rate

**Classification**

**Language:** DUTCH; ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** Tlg-NL

**Subject: *European*** Union (94%); ***European*** Union Regulation + Policy (67%); Central Banks (63%)

**Load-Date:** September 7, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Letters***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60SR-R8P1-DY4D-Y04H-00000-00&context=)

De Telegraaf

8 September 2020 Tuesday

Netherlands

Copyright 2020 Mediahuis Nederland BV All Rights Reserved



**Section:** WATU-SAY; Page 18

**Length:** 1143 words

**Body**

Contradictory

D66 leader Sigrid Kaag rules out cooperation with the PVV and Forum for Democracy in advance. Strange, when you consider that during the Ceta debate on 14 February last she said the following: 'If we go out into the world like this and exclude people on the basis of a different opinion (...), we won't get very far'. How contradictory can you be!

Charles Gaillac

Undemocratic

Kaag excludes PVV and Forum from cooperation. But what does the D of D66 stand for again?

S. Veltman

Turret

Mrs Kaag's pro-European speech in any case makes it clear that D66 will not be a major party in next year's elections and that the words 'I'm going for the Torentje' should be understood to mean that she will be visiting it!

Wim Takken

Delivered

Sigrid Kaag believes that the Netherlands must surrender its sovereignty to ***Europe***. Knowing that you are then at the mercy of countries that do not have their housekeeping in order. Pouring money into a bottomless pit of Italy, among others. We work until we are 70 and they retire at 62, which we will pay for. You must be out of your depth to propose this. The same goes for excluding parties like PVV and FvD. A reasonably large part of the population has democratically ensured that they have the right to exist. But as always, only party interests count and not the national interest.

E.M. Gijsbers

Clarity

Sigrid Kaag, D66's list leader, has indicated that she does not want to govern with the PVV or FvD after the elections. Given the major differences in party positions, it is an open door. After all, a coalition including D66, PVV and FvD would stop time. Against this background, it is good that Kaag is providing clarity so that her voters are not surprised after the election.

Henk Versteeg, Nunspeet

Sailing License

Once again, the Directorate-General for Public Works and Water Management wants to develop new super-smart toys that are doomed to fail in advance. It is, of course, too crazy for words that, in the year 2020, people can just go sailing anywhere with a boat, unhindered by any knowledge. Why don't we start with the obligation of a simple small sailing licence on all large, busy waterways in all sectoral areas that fall under radar guidance, such as the IJ? In this way, the majority of recreational boaters, who impulsively get into a boat in large numbers, would no longer be allowed to cross the IJ, and this would prevent a great deal of dangerous sailing behaviour on this very busy waterway.

Freek van IJken,

Amersfoort

Care

It is a pity that many attribute things that are not going well to corona. In the care sector, the work pressure was already too high before the corona crisis. Salaries were already too low. And many unimportant rules were already in place. It is easy to attribute this to Corona, but that is not the truth. It is the government together with the insurance companies that have minimised care and increased the regulatory burden.

Jan Timmerman,

Soesterberg

Less

If Geert Wilders, in addition to being party leader and group leader, would also call himself a word artist, there would be fewer lawsuits against him. Then the judiciary and the Public Prosecution Service would be less overburdened and it would cost considerably less tax money.

N. van Oijen, Harderwijk

Cough

The government advises people to stay at home as soon as they have a sniffle or cough. It is easy to call in sick when you are a civil servant, because your salary will continue to be paid anyway. But it's quite different if you work for a small company or if you are a self-employed person. With the latter group, the rule is still: 'if you don't work, you don't eat'.

Kees Hooreman, Haarlem

Russian gas

Trump has repeatedly warned Western Europe not to become too dependent on Russian natural gas. This fell on deaf ears. Germany is now asking for ***European*** support in measures against Russia in connection with the poisoning of the Russian opposition leader. There will be little enthusiasm for this. Nobody wants to be left out in the cold this winter.

Ronald Baaten, Asten

Growth fund

The cabinet wants to continue stimulating the economy with a sum of ***€20*** billion over the next five years in a National Growth Fund. Where is the tree that grows so much money? You can put that ***euro-money machine*** on a higher speed, but the debts will then increase proportionally or even faster to unknown heights.

F. Heeffer, Uden

Kieft

What a fantastic interview with Wim Kieft. This is really the way Wim Kieft is, just do it. I like listening to him as an analyst and with VI. He is often right, has humour, self-mockery and is honest. Many footballers can take an example from him.

Els Osenga, Badhoevedorp

Messi

Keep Messi to his contract and only allow him to leave if he receives 700 million? Now he is staying for another year with no guarantee that he will show full commitment throughout the season. A player who wants to leave should not be thwarted, because he no longer delivers extreme performances and can even become a nuisance. Koeman is happy with a dead ringer.

J.A.A. Goossens,

Zwaanshoek

Rent increase

The Chamber reacts furiously to the exorbitant rent increases. At the time, Mrs Ollongren had the opportunity to meet the people halfway, but in all her 'wisdom' she decided not to act on all the advice, she knew better. So we can conveniently ignore the effect of the Chamber's anger, because Ollongren, like a few other ministers, is insensitive to it.

Chris Cats, Almere

Connect

Now that many people are losing their jobs due to corona, the annual rent increase continues. Any leniency towards families that are already struggling to make ends meet was brushed aside by D66 Minister Ollongren. And that party wants to be the biggest with Sigrid Kaag, who wants to connect. Yes, yes, who do they want to connect? Is it now so difficult for our politicians to help the weaker members of society by not implementing any extra increases this year?

Sonja Wijmer

Caravan ownership

What a surprise that there are more caravans in the north and east of the Netherlands! In the Randstad most people have a postage stamp-sized garden or live in a flat. They all have to hire expensive storage and can never leave spontaneously, because you have to call days in advance. You can leave that thing in front of your door for a maximum of three days. That is not the same as getting your caravan from behind your house!

Bea Pugliese, Hoofddorp

Tour

Did you watch the Tour de France? Did you see tens of thousands of people, with or without mouth masks, cheering on the riders from close by? These spectators were certainly not at the required distance. If this is allowed, then we can go back to filling up the football stadiums with people who want to cheer on their team.

Ronald Kranenburg,

Lisse

**Classification**

**Language:** DUTCH; ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** Tlg-NL

**Subject:** COVID-19 Coronavirus (94%); Epidemics (73%); Communities + Neighborhoods (71%); Public Finance (70%); Infectious Disease (63%)

**Load-Date:** September 7, 2020

**End of Document**

[***All focus on the earning capacity of our economy; Emerging from the crisis investing: the main objective of the growth fund is not to become greener, but stronger***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60SR-R8P1-DY4D-Y00T-00000-00&context=)

De Telegraaf

8 September 2020 Tuesday

Netherlands

Copyright 2020 Mediahuis Nederland BV All Rights Reserved



**Section:** INDOOR; Page 4

**Length:** 500 words

**Body**

Emerging from the crisis investing: main objective of growth fund is not to become greener, but stronger

Finally, the government is coming up with the long-awaited growth fund. The size is much smaller than initially intended. But the fund does mark a turnaround in thinking: from austerity to investment.

A year ago, it was leaked via De Telegraaf that the Ministers of Finance, Wopke Hoekstra, and of Economic Affairs, Eric Wiebes, were planning to set up an investment fund, filled with no less than 50 billion ***euros***. Monday morning was the day. The plans see the light of day, but the fund has been more than halved in the meantime. Hoekstra and Wiebes want to put ***EUR*** 20 billion into strengthening the Dutch economy in the next five years.

The corona crisis has led to a readjustment of ambitions. The uncertainty is now so great, with tens of billions in aid going out, that the government is somewhat more cautious about allowing the national debt to rise in order to make investments. Nevertheless, the launch of the National Growth Fund is a clear change in thinking. This time, the Netherlands will not exit the crisis in austerity but in investment.

Incidentally, it is worth remembering that during the credit crisis we did not immediately start to cut spending and increase taxes either. Perhaps many people remember this, but in the first years the choice was made to stimulate the economy. Former finance minister Wouter Bos allowed the budget deficit to increase substantially in 2009 and 2010, in line with the other EU countries.

Only when the credit crisis became a ***euro crisis*** did the government tighten the budget reins. The fear of losing status on the financial markets was very high. And Brussels wanted to prevent the ***European*** budget rules from disappearing completely from view. Many economists at the time were critical of the government's austerity drive in The Hague, because it meant that the Netherlands would be squeezing its economy.

The other side is that the Dutch government does have financial room for manoeuvre. The national debt had fallen below 50 per cent of gross domestic product before the corona crisis. As the interest rate is also around 0 per cent, this is the ultimate moment to come up with such an investment fund.

The Wopke/Wiebes Fund focuses on three areas: education, innovation and infrastructure. It is remarkable that climate and sustainability have not been chosen as a separate category. The main objective is not so much to come out of the crisis greener, but to strengthen the earning capacity of the Dutch economy.

Even apart from the corona crisis, the outlook for the Dutch economy is poor. The ageing of the population is changing the ratio of working to non-working people. This puts pressure on our productivity and makes the affordability of the welfare state more difficult. Therefore, the hope is that well-targeted investments can contribute to a stronger economy and improve prospects.

**Classification**

**Language:** DUTCH; ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** Tlg-NL

**Subject:** Economic Crisis (94%); Public Finance (94%); National Debt (75%); Gross Domestic Product (68%); Public Debt (68%); Consumption (63%); Economic Growth (62%); Population + Demographics (62%)

**Load-Date:** September 7, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Industry fears CO2 tax; Works councils fear jobs due to climate alliance***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60SR-R8P1-DY4D-Y02F-00000-00&context=)

De Telegraaf

8 September 2020 Tuesday

Netherlands

Copyright 2020 Mediahuis Nederland BV All Rights Reserved



**Section:** FINANCIAL; page 22

**Length:** 636 words

**Body**

Works councils fear jobs due to climate alliance

Tens of thousands of employees in the chemical sector fear for their jobs if the Dutch cabinet introduces an excessively strict national CO2 tax, according to the chairmen of works councils at eleven major chemical companies.

They look forward with great trepidation to the announcement of the plans on Budget Day, they write in a letter to the Lower House and the cabinet.

We, the works councils of the industrial companies in the Netherlands, are very concerned about the future of our sector. The Corona crisis is leaving deep scars and possibly permanent scars on many companies. We call on the government not to take unnecessary risks with our jobs and the future of our families with the design of the CO2 tax for the industry," says the joint letter.

The presidents of the employee representatives are not trying to prevent any form of sustainability in the energy-intensive chemical sector. On the contrary. We too believe that greenhouse gas emissions must be reduced to virtually zero by 2050. But we will never achieve this goal if our companies are chased across the border,' says the letter handed over on Tuesday. Leaking production, CO2, jobs and perhaps even the departure of companies from the Netherlands benefits no one, including the climate. Not even the climate."

Investment

The idea for a national CO2 levy stems from the climate agreement, which the cabinet fleshed out last year. Through a levy on CO2 emissions, Minister Wiebes (Climate) hopes to tempt the heavy and chemical industries, including steel, fertiliser and raw materials producers, to invest heavily in order to achieve lower emissions of greenhouse gases. In total, Dutch industry must reduce its emissions by 14.3 million tonnes of CO2 by 2030.

Time and again, however, the government has been warned about the dangers of a climate all-encompassing ***Europe***. Last year, consulting firm PwC already mentioned the serious risk of 'leakage effects'. If a company, often headquartered outside our borders, finds the tax and/or the necessary investments too expensive, it may shift its production to abroad. We are really in favour of sustainability," says Gideon Simmelink, chairman of the works council at ExxonMobil in Rotterdam. But we want to do it in such a way that it happens in the Netherlands.

The works councils had already sounded the alarm earlier, and now feel strengthened by a recent recommendation of the Social and Economic Council (SER) to the government. The SER, too, advises the government not to introduce plans on its own, but to join ***Europe***. That is also possible now that ***European Commissioner*** Timmermans (Climate Change) and possibly a majority of the ***European Parliament*** want an even stricter target for 2030. But that would also be regulated through the ***European*** Emissions Trading System (ETS). Simmelink: ,,This would ensure a level playing field for our companies."

Most works councils represent companies located in the Botlek area, or in the other major petrochemical clusters in our country, such as the area around Terneuzen, South Limburg and Delfzijl. These are regions with sometimes economically fragile structures and historically high unemployment rates. Moreover, employment is already under pressure in some of them.

In 2017, for example, Nouryon, AkzoNobel's old chemical branch, was still threatened with a hostile takeover. At the time, trade unions and politicians mobilised for the company precisely because of the need to preserve jobs. Tata Steel in IJmuiden was recently the scene of major strikes. They were successful; there will be no forced redundancies until 2026.

We are for sustainability

**Classification**

**Language:** DUTCH; ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** Tlg-NL

**Subject:** Emissions (94%); Pollution + Environmental Impacts (86%); Energy + Environment (65%)

**Load-Date:** September 7, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Documentary***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60ST-N611-DYMH-R0NV-00000-00&context=) [***Kampf um Griechenland Arte, 22.45-0.20.***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60ST-N611-DYMH-R0NV-00000-00&context=)[***; Featured***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60ST-N611-DYMH-R0NV-00000-00&context=)

NRC Handelsblad

8 September 2020 Tuesday

1st Edition

Copyright 2020 NRC Media B.V. All Rights Reserved



**Section:** THE GUIDE; Page 10

**Length:** 187 words

**Body**

In this confrontational documentary, Greek filmmaker Yorgos Avgeropoulos shows the consequences of the Greek debt crisis. In 2010, in the wake of the financial crisis that had broken out two years earlier, the country was unable to repay its debts. The republic was forced to hold out its hands, both to Brussels and the IMF. When the civil war in Syria broke out a year later, the Greeks were also overwhelmed by a large number of refugees. The consequences of these two disasters were enormous. The drastic austerity programmes imposed by the ***EU*** eroded health care, increased social inequality and led to a resurgence of nationalism and fascism. The film includes exclusive footage filmed behind the scenes in 2015 during the negotiations between the Greek government and its ***European*** lenders. The director also shows the lives of people from different layers of Greek society, such as a refugee couple from Syria, a mother whose child was murdered by right-wing extremists and an activist for gay rights.

**Classification**

**Language:** DUTCH; ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Economic Crisis (94%); International Relations (88%); ***European*** Union (82%); War + Conflict (69%); ***European*** Union Regulation + Policy (68%); Food Products (65%)

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

**End of Document**

[***Navalny wakes up from coma; 'Long-term damage cannot be excluded'.***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60SR-R8P1-DY4D-Y024-00000-00&context=)

De Telegraaf

8 September 2020 Tuesday

Netherlands

Copyright 2020 Mediahuis Nederland BV All Rights Reserved



**Section:** OUTSIDE; Page 17

**Length:** 404 words

**Byline:** Rob Savelberg

**Body**

Long-term damage cannot be ruled out'

by Rob Savelberg

BERLIN - The condition of poisoned Kremlin critic Alexei Navalny has improved. He has been brought out of his artificial coma and off the respirator, the Charité Hospital in Berlin reported in a statement on Monday.

Doctors decided that Navalny could be brought out of his artificial coma and he is responding to speech, the hospital added. "Long-term damage due to the severe poisoning cannot be excluded."

The poisoning of the Kremlin critic, for which Moscow brutally blames Berlin, has put German-Russian relations under severe strain. The almost completed gas pipeline across the bottom of the Baltic Sea, a billion-dollar project of Gazprom, German companies and Shell among others, now threatens to fail at the last minute. On Monday, Chancellor Merkel started to carefully withdraw her hands from Nord Stream II.

Foreign Minister Heiko Maas already considered the possibility of a construction freeze on Sunday: "I hope the Russians will not force us to change our attitude." A day later, the chancellor concurred: "It is wrong to rule out such a thing." After Navalny was transferred to Berlin, German doctors and military experts revealed that Putin's main opponent had been felled with the Soviet poison Novichok.

We are now discussing the consequences with our ***European*** partners", Merkel said yesterday. NATO and the international organisation against illegal chemical weapons in The Hague (OPCW) are also considering steps. The two candidates Friedrich Merz and Norbert Röttgen for the presidency of the conservative governing party CDU spoke out more strongly against the gas pipeline.

,,If Nord Stream II is phased out now, that would be the maximum confirmation for Putin. He would feel supported to continue with his policy", said Röttgen, foreign spokesman of the CDU. Friedrich Merz is the most popular among conservative voters. He wants a two-year construction freeze.

Christian Democratic Party leader Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer also changed course. But the left-wing coalition partner SPD is still hesitating. Party leader Norbert Walter-Borjans: "Germany will cut itself off if Nord Stream II is shut down."

Angela Merkel no longer rules out blowing up Nord Stream II

**Classification**

**Language:** DUTCH; ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** Tlg-NL

**Subject:** International Relations (94%); Taxes + Taxation (75%)

**Industry:** Nuclear Energy (67%); Nuclear Power Plants (67%)

**Load-Date:** September 7, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Kaag wants to hand us over to Brussels; Letter of the day***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60SR-R8P1-DY4D-Y04J-00000-00&context=)

De Telegraaf

8 September 2020 Tuesday

Netherlands

Copyright 2020 Mediahuis Nederland BV All Rights Reserved



**Section:** WATU-SAY; Page 18

**Length:** 130 words

**Body**

Letter of the day

Pride comes before a fall! I hope that this saying can be applied when it comes to Sigrid Kaag.

The new party leader of D66 has ambitious plans for the Netherlands. Her victory speech makes my hair stand on end. If it is up to her, we will be handed over to Brussels and we will have to give the little sovereignty we have left to the ***EU***.

She also thinks that we do not want to recognise institutional racism. She and her husband should return to Palestine as soon as possible.

Mrs Kaag's ambition is to become Prime Minister of the Netherlands and probably to get a high ***EU function*** afterwards. Know what you are going to vote for, otherwise there will be no Netherlands left thanks to D66.

Cornelia Beukelman

Stichtse Vecht

**Classification**

**Language:** DUTCH; ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** Tlg-NL

**Subject: *European*** Union (94%); ***European*** Union Regulation + Policy (71%)

**Load-Date:** September 7, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Belgian government in the making; seven-party monster coalition in the starting blocks***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60SR-R8P1-DY4D-Y020-00000-00&context=)

De Telegraaf

8 September 2020 Tuesday

Netherlands

Copyright 2020 Mediahuis Nederland BV All Rights Reserved



**Section:** OUTSIDE; Page 16

**Length:** 411 words

**Byline:** Ruud Mikkers

**Body**

Monster coalition of seven parties is in the starting blocks

by Ruud Mikkers

Brussels - The eighth wonder of the world is in the making: fifteen months after the elections and almost two years after the fall of the Michel cabinet, a new government seems to be in place in Belgium.

A monster coalition of seven parties is in the starting blocks to form a new government. Yet there are still some bumps to take. The cautious optimism about this 'Vivaldi coalition' (the political colours correspond with the four seasons) was immediately dented on Monday when CD&V, the Flemish Christian Democrats, walked out in a dissatisfied mood. But the expectation was that the folds would be smoothed out.

Seven parties will take part in the substantive negotiations: the French-speaking and Dutch-speaking social democrats, the liberals from both sides of the language border, the green parties from both language communities and the Flemish Christian Democrats. The largest party, N-VA, does not participate, nor does Vlaams Belang. This means that a new government - if there is one - cannot count on a majority on the Flemish side.

,,We are in a time of corona. Something has to happen now. Since December 2018 we have not had a full government", says political commentator Liesbeth Van Impe. Then Prime Minister Michel's cabinet fell over the Marrakesh Pact. When Michel then left to work for the ***EU***, the relatively unknown Sophie Wilmès succeeded him.

It is hoped that although the substantive negotiations have yet to begin (there is an outline agreement) the government can take office quickly, with 17 September as an informal deadline.

One of the issues that still needs to be resolved is the question of which party will provide the Prime Minister. Given the fact that Flanders is underrepresented and that the last two missionary prime ministers (Di Rupo and Michel) were French-speaking, the Flemish parties think it is time for someone from this side of the language border again. But there are voices in French-speaking Belgium calling for Sophie Wilmès to return to her post, not someone who is very popular with the Flemish people.

She is just too light. She is clearly someone who is punching above her weight." says Liesbeth Van Impe about the acting Prime Minister. But never say never. Suppose that a last-minute exchange is needed. In this country, anything is possible.

N-VA and Vlaams Belang step aside

**Classification**

**Language:** DUTCH; ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** Tlg-NL

**Subject: *European*** Union (94%); Political Parties (82%); Capital Gains Tax (74%); International Relations (68%); Teaching + Teachers (65%); Politics (63%)

**Load-Date:** September 7, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Deportations happen under the radar in Spain; Migration***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60X1-73W1-DYMH-R14F-00000-00&context=) [***An agreed cat-and-mouse game***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60X1-73W1-DYMH-R14F-00000-00&context=)

NRC Handelsblad

23 September 2020 Wednesday

1st Edition

Copyright 2020 NRC Media B.V. All Rights Reserved



**Section:** CONTENTS; Page 1

**Length:** 794 words

**Byline:** Koen Greven

**Dateline:** Ceuta/Madrid

**Body**

**ABSTRACT**

Report Spain and Morocco

While Brussels presents a new migration plan this Wednesday, Spain and Morocco have had agreements for years about deporting Moroccans without procedures. How does this public secret work?

**FULL TEXT:**

Reduan Mohamed Jalid (44) knows better than anyone what the young Moroccans who live between the rocks in the port of Ceuta - waiting for a chance to flee to the Spanish mainland - need. The Spaniard with Moroccan roots listens to them, pats them on the back despite the corona or gets them hot rolls with meat. Jalid has often seen the dreams of many migrants of building a better life in ***Europe*** evaporate. If Spain catches an illegal Moroccan, Morocco takes him back", the human rights activist explains. There is little we can do about it.

For years, there has been a hopeless cat-and-mouse game between migrants and the Guardia Civil in Ceuta and Melilla. Since 1995, numerous barriers have had to be overcome in order to enter the Spanish exclaves. The Schengen Agreement came into force for Spain at that time, and since then the two exclaves have formed the new external border of the ***European Union***. There are several fences up to six metres high, made even more impenetrable with barbed wire. Spain recently spent ***EUR*** 32 million to raise the fence to ten metres this year.

The coronavirus has temporarily eased the anxiety of the thousands of migrants in the Spanish exclaves. Because the border crossing between Ceuta and Morocco has been closed since March, migrants without valid documents are now tolerated. And even if they manage to reach the Spanish coast across the Strait of Gibraltar, they are not sent back: Morocco is not taking anyone back now. As soon as free travel is allowed again, the Spanish authorities bring back Moroccans to their country daily via the exclaves.

**Taken from the street by the police**

In practice, Spain distinguishes between different groups. Sub-Saharans from countries like Mali, Senegal and Niger, who reach the exclaves over the border fences or by sea, can usually apply for asylum. Underage migrants disappear into overcrowded shelters. Adult, illegal Moroccans are outlaws. I have often seen them being taken from the street by the police to be handed over to Morocco. That is their biggest fear", says Jalid.

Hidden from public view and political noise, Spain and Morocco have been cooperating on migration issues. In 1992, Spain struck a deal with Morocco that would allow it to send back "illegal immigrants" without having to follow special procedures - the country has been reprimanded several times by Brussels for this. Until recently, these were almost exclusively Moroccans. It is an open secret that in return, Spain provides Morocco with all kinds of compensation, from border control equipment to relaxed rules on trade agreements.

Spain acts out of fear, says Morocco expert Ignacio Cembrero (66) on the phone from Madrid. The opinion maker, who in 2006 wrote the book Far Neighbours about the relationship between both countries, thinks that his country should act differently: Spain would be much stronger if it would sit down with Morocco together with other ***EU member states***. But the government is afraid that Morocco will then no longer cooperate in the fight against terrorism or that the migrant tap will be opened".

According to Cembrero "the question is whether the mutual agreements are in accordance with international treaties". Spain and Morocco operate in Ceuta and Melilla separately from the ***European*** border guards of Frontex. Media and human rights organisations are kept at a distance. Numerous organisations have protested in Brussels against this non-transparent migration policy, which in recent years has also resulted in groups of sub-Saharans being sent back without any procedures.

It was therefore a major setback for them when the ***European*** Court of Human Rights ruled in February that Spain had not violated human rights by immediately sending two African migrants who had climbed over the fence near Melilla in August 2014 back to Morocco without allowing them to seek asylum. According to the ruling, they had chosen "not to follow the legal procedures that exist to enter Spanish territory legally".

Jalid and many others fear that the ruling will be interpreted as a licence to act harshly against migrants if a new wave of migration starts after the pandemic. The influx will then be enormous", Cembrero thinks.

Spain wants to increase the fencing around Ceuta to ten metres by this year

**Classification**

**Language:** DUTCH; ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Illegal Immigrants (94%); Immigration (94%); Refugees (73%); Police Forces (69%)

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

**End of Document**

[***Cabinet gambles too often with climate policy Comment***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60X1-73W1-DYMH-R15B-00000-00&context=)

NRC Handelsblad

23 September 2020 Wednesday

1st Edition

Copyright 2020 NRC Media B.V. All Rights Reserved



**Section:** OPINION; page 17

**Length:** 575 words

**Body**

**ABSTRACT**

Greenhouse gases

**FULL TEXT:**

The Netherlands has "set the bar higher" than the ***European Union***. With these words, the current cabinet started the chapter on climate in the coalition agreement in 2017. Since last week, they are outdated. While the Dutch cabinet aims for 49 percent less CO2 emissions in 2030, the ***European*** Commission wants to achieve a 55 percent reduction: necessary for the Paris climate agreement.

These proportions are characteristic of Dutch climate policy. On several occasions, the Netherlands has sought the lower limit of what is considered necessary to tackle global warming. That was the case with the Urgenda ruling. And it seems to be happening again with the climate agreement concluded last year.

In 2015, the court ruled in the Urgenda case: CO2 emissions had to be reduced much further by 2020 to limit the danger of climate change. 25 per cent less emissions than in 1990 is the minimum, the court ruled. A majority in the Lower House called on the cabinet to take additional measures against the greenhouse quickly. Yet nothing extra happened, for three years.

After the Supreme Court ruled in favour of Urgenda at the end of 2019, the government could do no more. The corona crisis is now helping unintentionally: factories and cars are at a standstill. Emissions are decreasing, but for the years after 2020 that is certainly not enough.

Therefore, the government also wants to reduce the power production of coal-fired power plants. But again, the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Change does not opt for certainty. On Friday, the ministry announced that if one coal-fired power station were to close, voluntarily and in return for payment, the measures against the other coal-fired power stations would be relaxed. The climate gains nothing from this.

The fact that even the highest court considered a 25% reduction in greenhouse gases by 2020 to be the absolute minimum seems to have been forgotten. While every measure taken now will curb global warming and also bring the national climate target for 2030 closer.

This cabinet was never that busy with Urgenda, but it was with the next milestone: 49 per cent less CO2 in 2030. To meet the target, the Dutch climate agreement was written last year after lengthy polders' negotiations, with detailed plans for sectors such as industry and agriculture.

Yet the same thing seems to be happening again.

Last November, the Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency (PBL) calculated whether the government would exceed its 49 per cent target with this agreement. No, was the verdict: the measures are good for 43 to 48 per cent CO2 reduction. The PBL's prognosis did not have any political consequences and the Cabinet was committed to working out the agreement.

It would then at least be reasonable if an extra crumple zone were provided for in the case of an important building block of that agreement, the CO2 tax for industry.

On Prinsjesdag, the details became known, and again it was disappointing. The PBL already foresees that the CO2 tax may turn out to be too low to meet the climate agreement.

They are always small setbacks, but they always end up at the expense of the K at the Ministry of Economic Affairs: the climate. And in the end, that adds up.

In the 2017 coalition agreement, the cabinet wrote something else. It would argue in ***Europe*** for a CO2 reduction of 55%. Now that ***Europe*** has reached that point, the Netherlands is insufficiently prepared.

The fact that the highest court considered a 25 per cent reduction in greenhouse gases by 2020 to be the lower limit seems to have been forgotten.

**Classification**

**Language:** DUTCH; ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Emissions (90%); Pollution + Environmental Impacts (82%); Climate Change (68%)

**Industry:** Coal Industry (94%)

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

**End of Document**

[***The SP remains a political maverick***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60X1-73W1-DYMH-R154-00000-00&context=)

NRC Handelsblad

23 September 2020 Wednesday

1st Edition

Copyright 2020 NRC Media B.V. All Rights Reserved



**Section:** INDOOR; Page 12

**Length:** 736 words

**Byline:** Rik Rutten

**Dateline:** The Hague

**Body**

**ABSTRACT**

Election programme

The SP wants to change everything: The Netherlands must leave the ***euro***, get rid of health insurers and no rent increases in the coming years.

**FULL TEXT:**

Neoliberalism is under fire. More and more cracks are appearing in the bastion of politics that has held our country in its grip for so long", writes the Socialist Party on the first page of its draft programme for the Lower House elections, Stel een daad (Set an Act), which was published on Tuesday.

Cracks in neo-liberalism: it is political language that has become commonplace in the Binnenhof in a short time, with leaders of political groups who, just like last year, seized upon the General Political Review to reject the excesses of capitalism and with a liberal Prime Minister who in recent months referred to the Netherlands as a country "that is deeply socialist at its core" and who declared during the General Affairs Council that healthcare "is not a market".

When SP leader Lilian Marijnissen, who is preparing for her first parliamentary elections as list leader, praised Mark Rutte (VVD) in the House of Representatives for embracing an SP slogan, the latter grinned: "Let's cancel it then?"

It is the SP's curse: one party after the other is making the same noise as Marijnissen, but apart from the rhetoric, the competition is taking little from her - except voters. The party now has fourteen seats, in the polls eight to eleven.

In terms of content, the SP remains an outsider. Although other parties share the concerns about an unbridled free market, nobody wants to intervene in it as deeply as the SP. The government", says the programme, "must henceforth be able to intervene when national interests, such as employment, the environment or the presence of crucial industries, are at risk.

In concrete terms, the SP wants to oblige companies in future to share their profits not only with their directors and shareholders, but also with their employees. The minimum wage is to be raised to 14 ***euro*** per hour. Internet should be free for everyone, as should public transport in the city and the region for children and the elderly.

**Out of the *euro***

With regard to healthcare, which has been a classic SP campaign theme for years, the party is reviving an old hobbyhorse: commercial healthcare insurers must make way for a national healthcare fund, paid for by income-dependent healthcare premiums. Healthcare cowboys won't get a chance anymore", the party says.

In the housing market, too, the SP wants to raise its profile in the coming campaign. The party proposes handing over housing corporations to their tenants, freezing rents throughout the coalition period and setting up a 'national building plan' to combat the housing shortage. Ultimately, these interventions should ensure that Dutch households spend no more than a quarter of their income on housing costs. Currently, households pay on average one-third of their income in housing costs, and for less affluent groups this can be more than half.

The differences with the other left-wing parties are greatest in the ***European*** field. The SP advocates "a very different ***Europe***". That means: no further expansion of the ***European Union*** and a departure from the ***euro***. Instead, the Netherlands should "make preparations for the development of a new currency" with comparable economies.

**Left-wing alliance**

Last week, the SP presented a counter-budget with GroenLinks and the PvdA; at the beginning of this year, renewed left-wing cooperation seemed imminent. But big differences concerning ***Europe*** complicate such a close alliance. GroenLinks and the PvdA, on the other hand, are decidedly pro-European. Of all the parties in the Lower House, apart from the SP, only the Party for Freedom and Forum for Democracy are outspoken advocates of an exit from the ***eurozone***.

The party position on racism is much less pronounced. The word is only used in passing, in passages about sports and educational materials. Internally, the Socialists have long been debating whether the anti-racism struggle goes hand in hand with the class struggle, or in fact gets in the way of it. Part of the party wants the SP to make itself more firmly heard within the anti-racism movement, but the party leadership fears that too much attention to 'identity politics' will distract from the issue. Among them is Ronald van Raak, the chairman of the programme committee, who recently announced that he would be leaving the House of Representatives after fourteen years. At the moment, the party has fourteen seats in the Lower House.

**Graphic**

Lilian Marijnissen last week at the General Political Review.

Photo David van Dam

**Classification**

**Language:** DUTCH; ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Political Parties (94%); Politics (67%)

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

**End of Document**

[***Hydrogen subsidy; Finanscoop***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60WY-9281-DY4D-Y4DC-00000-00&context=)

De Telegraaf

23 September 2020 Wednesday

Netherlands

Copyright 2020 Mediahuis Nederland BV All Rights Reserved



**Section:** FINANCIAL; page 25

**Length:** 437 words

**Body**

Finanscoop

At the beginning of September, the ***European Union*** once again indulged in a piece of unadulterated anti-publicity in the Netherlands. Brussels believed that the Netherlands should not allocate subsidies intended for reducing CO2 emissions and generating sustainable energy to projects that subsidise hydrogen. A rare show of unity ensued among parties that usually clash in the climate debate, from Greenpeace to the aviation sector, from the nuclear energy lobby to wind and solar enthusiasts. What nonsense', is the collective response in a nutshell.

Why is hydrogen in the picture for subsidies at all? After two decades in which policy makers blindly focused on generating more and greener electricity, the realisation has grown that modern society will always need molecules too, for example for aviation or for blast furnaces. A 100% electric society is not possible.

The problem with hydrogen, however, is that it has to be produced. You cannot - cheaply - drill a hole in the ground and let it flow out. Generations of very expensive electrolysis devices must be developed, scaled up and built, and even then hydrogen will probably approach the low cost of fossil fuels at best. The cost will therefore outweigh the benefit, hence the demand for subsidies. Initially, this was 'only' a few tens of millions of ***euros***.

What does Brussels say now? The Dutch power grid, currently still fed mainly by gas-fired power stations and coal-fired power, is still too polluting. Subsidising hydrogen production will increase the demand for coal and gas power, and thus contribute to more CO2 emissions in the first place.

There is no doubt about it. However, we did not hear that argument either when over 200 000 electric and hybrid cars were driven on the roads in a tax-friendly manner. At the time, it was often said that the system built in this way would eventually be suitable for 100% green energy. And so the end justifies the means.

Hence the sensible comment by Greenpeace in particular: 'Let's change that subsidy into an innovation subsidy'. Because the Netherlands has considerable hydrogen ambitions. If that means taking one step backwards in CO2 emissions in order to take two steps forwards, then we should not let a few Brussels technocrats prevent us from doing so.

Moreover, should a new nuclear power plant be built, it could replace the coal power that helps produce the hydrogen.

Edwin van der Schoot

The Netherlands has

substantial ambitions

**Classification**

**Language:** DUTCH; ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** Tlg-NL

**Subject:** Emissions (77%); Alternative Fuel Vehicles (76%)

**Industry:** Alternative + Renewable Energy (94%); Energy + Utilities (82%); Energy + Utility Trade (65%); Fuel Cell Technology (64%)

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

**End of Document**

[***Secret services sloppy with passenger data***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60X1-73W1-DYMH-R14P-00000-00&context=)

NRC Handelsblad

23 September 2020 Wednesday

1st Edition

Copyright 2020 NRC Media B.V. All Rights Reserved



**Section:** IN THE NEWS; Page 2

**Length:** 344 words

**Byline:** Anna Herter

**Dateline:** Amsterdam

**Body**

**ABSTRACT**

Critical reports

The intelligence services collect passenger data, but this is not always done lawfully, according to the CTIVD.

**FULL TEXT:**

The secret services do not always operate lawfully when collecting and processing personal data. This is evident from two reports published on Tuesday by the supervisory body, the CTIVD. In particular, they concern passenger data collected by the AIVD and MIVD from airlines between May 2018 and November 2019.

The services collect passenger lists that can be useful when investigating threats from abroad. According to the CTIVD, data relating to millions of passengers were wrongly not designated as 'bulk datasets'. A bulk dataset is a collection of data the majority of which relate to organisations and individuals who will probably never be relevant to the intelligence services.

The services must observe additional rules in the case of data designated as such. For example, they must regularly check whether the sets cannot already be deleted.

**Relevance of collected data**

The fact that data were sometimes wrongly classified is also due to shortcomings in the law, says the CTIVD. Under the 2017 Intelligence and Security Services Act (Wet op de inlichtingen- en veiligheidsdiensten), also referred to as the 'dragnet law', when data are collected the intelligence services must indicate 'as soon as possible' how relevant the data are for research. However, the datasets are so large that it is difficult to quickly determine which information is relevant. Under pressure from the Act, the secret services have sometimes incorrectly designated sets as relevant.

The intelligence services collect information about passengers on flights from outside the ***European Union*** or the Schengen area. This data plays a 'crucial role' in investigations into terrorism, among other things, writes Minister Kajsa Ollongren (Interior, D66) together with Minister Ank Bijleveld (Defence, CDA) in an accompanying letter to the two reports to the Lower House.

**Graphic**

Departure hall at Schiphol.

Photo by Lex van Lieshout/ANP

**Classification**

**Language:** DUTCH; ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Government Departments + Authorities (94%); Justice Departments (86%); Terrorism + Counterterrorism (67%); National Security (63%)

**Industry:** Computer Networks (70%); Internet + Www (69%)

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

**End of Document**

[***Greece violates the European law'; Migration policy***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60X1-73W1-DYMH-R14Y-00000-00&context=)

NRC Handelsblad

23 September 2020 Wednesday

1st Edition

Copyright 2020 NRC Media B.V. All Rights Reserved



**Section:** IN THE NEWS; Page 6

**Length:** 691 words

**Byline:** Toon Beemsterboer

**Dateline:** Istanbul

**Body**

**ABSTRACT**

Background Greek-Turkish border

Aid organisations file a complaint because Greece sends migrants directly back to Turkey without allowing them to apply for asylum.

**FULL TEXT:**

Aid organisations Oxfam and WeMove ***Europe*** on Tuesday filed a complaint with the ***European*** Commission against Greece for the mass deportation of migrants to Turkey. The deportations would be illegal under ***European*** law. On Wednesday, the ***European*** Commission will present its new migration and asylum plan, which is especially urgent after the fire earlier this month in camp Moria.

The aid organisations are assisted by the law firm De Brauw Blackstone Westbroek, which submitted a 54-page complaint. It accuses Greece of systematically violating ***European*** law by stopping migrants at land borders and at sea and sending them straight back to Turkey without giving them a chance to seek asylum.

Oxfam and WeMove believe that the ***European*** Commission can no longer ignore the abuses at the Greek-Turkish border. Other organisations have been asking for clarification for months. The Commission is the guardian of ***European*** law, and should guarantee the fundamental rights of everyone in ***Europe***," said Marissa Ryan, Oxfam's head of ***Europe***. The commission must quickly find out whether the Greek authorities respect ***European*** law and, if necessary, take legal action.

The complaint includes evidence from three independent monitors, two academic researchers and the Turkish coastguard. It shows that since March 2020 at least 1,072 asylum seekers have been returned in 31 deportations. Some organisations speak of 1,800 deportations. However, there is sometimes a lack of sufficient legal evidence to substantiate these incidents.

**Denial in all tones**

Despite this, Athens vehemently denies that such practices take place. Greek Prime Minister Mitsotakis told CNN in August, in response to a story in The New York Times. According to Mitsotakis, the newspaper had paid too much attention to the Turkish coast guard and Greece is the victim of a disinformation campaign. "The Greek coastguard has literally saved tens of thousands of migrants at sea."

Athens is still getting away with it. The expulsion policy has the tacit support of the ***European*** Commission, which earlier this year praised Greek border guards as the shield of ***Europe***. Yet the expulsions do not seem to become part of the new ***European*** migration policy, which will be presented tomorrow. In an interview last week with the Financial Times, Ylva Johansson, ***EU Commissioner*** for Home Affairs, stressed that fundamental rights, such as the right to asylum, would not be affected.

However, the emphasis in the plans is on sending back failed asylum seekers. In 2019, only 31.5% of failed asylum seekers in the ***EU*** were sent back to their own country. The year before, the percentage was 35.6%. There are various reasons for this. For example, countries refuse to accept people whose papers have been lost or stolen.

Athens has already shortened the asylum procedure and restricted the right of appeal to send migrants back to Turkey more quickly. But Ankara still refuses to take in migrants from Greece. The Commission hopes that the promise of investment will encourage other countries to take back their citizens. If they refuse, their access to the Schengen zone will be restricted.

Aid organisations fear that the deportations will eventually have a legal basis. They point to a judgment of the ***European*** Court of Human Rights. The court ruled in February that Spain had not violated human rights by sending two migrants who had climbed over the fence at the Spanish exclave of Mellila back to Morocco without a chance of asylum. According to the court, their expulsion was the result of their illegal crossing. Greece could use this judgment to justify its expulsions.

Reports like this offend our coastguard Kyriakos Mitsotakis Greek Prime Minister

**Graphic**

A detained refugee is staying in a Greek foreigners' prison in Filakio.

Photo Piet den Blanken/ANP

**Classification**

**Language:** DUTCH; ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Refugees (94%); Property + Housing Regulation + Policy (67%)

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

**End of Document**

[***Unemployment in the eurozone is now lower than in the US - but will it stay that way? ; Eurozone and the US***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60X1-73W1-DYMH-R14C-00000-00&context=)[***Can you see unemployment on both sides of the ocean as a test of which model works better; Labour market***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60X1-73W1-DYMH-R14C-00000-00&context=) [***Which crisis model works? The EU's or the US's? ; xxx***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60X1-73W1-DYMH-R14C-00000-00&context=) [***xxx***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60X1-73W1-DYMH-R14C-00000-00&context=)

NRC Handelsblad

23 September 2020 Wednesday

1st Edition

Copyright 2020 NRC Media B.V. All Rights Reserved



**Section:** CONTENTS; Page 1

**Length:** 986 words

**Byline:** Mark Beunderman

**Dateline:** Amsterdam

**Body**

**ABSTRACT**

Corona Procession

The pandemic has created a rare picture for the labour market on both sides of the Atlantic. ***Europe*** is now doing better than the US. But the US may yet emerge stronger from the crisis.

**FULL TEXT:**

The corona crisis has produced many shocking economic figures: record GDP contractions, unprecedented budget deficits. There are also figures that do not make the headlines, but are remarkable.

Take the unemployment figures in ***Europe***, compared with those in the United States. In March, unemployment in the US suddenly shot up over that in the ***eurozone*** - and it is still there. That has never happened since the ***euro was launched*** in 1999. The US, whose population (330 million) is about the same as the ***eurozone***, came out of the previous crisis stronger and created more jobs.

By 'corona' this picture seems to have changed. Whereas 3.5 percent of the US population was unemployed in February, the figure for April was 14.3 percent. In the meantime, however, unemployment in the US has dropped significantly, to 8.4 per cent in August. Although the ***eurozone was*** no less affected by the coronary crisis, unemployment has risen much less, from 7.3 percent in February to 7.9 percent in July. The differences within the ***eurozone*** are huge - a country like Spain is at 16 per cent - but all over ***Europe*** the trend is the same: unemployment is creeping up only slowly.

You could see the unemployment figures as a test for the socio-economic models on both sides of the Atlantic: who is best able to prevent mass unemployment through Covid-19? ***Europe***, with its public social safety nets? Or the US, with its dynamic market capitalism? At the same time, unemployment figures say a lot, but not everything.

That there is such a thing as a '***European*** social model' is clearer than ever since this crisis. All ***European*** countries, Brexit Britain included, shot in the spring in the same reflex. To prevent massive job losses during the pandemic, they decided to subsidise employers to continue paying wages. The model is based on the German system of Kurzarbeit (short-time work) that saved many jobs in industry during the previous crisis. Every ***European*** country has its variant of what in the Netherlands is the NOW. Without this large-scale government intervention, unemployment in the ***eurozone*** would now be around 10 percent, ING estimates.

**Redundancies in the US**

In the US, with its relaxed dismissal rules, things were different. There were many immediate layoffs in April, when the lockdowns halted economic traffic in several states. But not all of the millions of Americans who ended up in the unemployment statistics were on the street. Many had been put on temporary leave. In the meantime, according to American rules, they were considered unemployed. In the meantime, large groups have returned to work - hence the rapid recent drop in unemployment in the US.

The American social model proved not to be heartless: until August, corona workers were entitled to an extra 600 dollars (510 ***euros***) a week from the federal government, on top of the often meagre regular benefits that vary from state to state. Most people who received this extra support were temporarily earning more than they were in their jobs, according to academic research. Meanwhile, the unemployed receive only $300 extra per week.

**Definition of unemployment**

As the official unemployment rates in the US and the ***eurozone*** approach each other again, the question is what is and what is not included. In both cases, it is the internationally agreed definition of unemployment, whereby a person is only 'unemployed' if he or she is available and actively looking for a job. If you include people who have withdrawn from the labour market - for whatever reason - the picture is worse in both the US and ***the eurozone***, but especially in the US. The broadest definition of the US unemployment rate now puts it at just over 14 per cent, after peaking at over 22 per cent in April. Not all statistics for the ***eurozone*** are available yet, says Aline Schuiling, economist at ABN Amro. But based on the country data that are already available, she estimates that the unemployment rate in the ***eurozone according to*** the broadest definition will be 10.5 percent.

So even by that definition, the ***eurozone*** seems to be doing better. But for how long? Schuiling speaks of "hidden unemployment" in ***Europe***. Jobs that have not yet disappeared because they are "artificially" maintained, can still disappear as soon as the wage subsidies end. When the subsidies disappear, differs from country to country. Germany extends the subsidies until the end of 2021, in the Netherlands the NOW is being phased out until mid 2021.

For the Netherlands, the Netherlands Bureau for Economic Policy Analysis (CPB) had a less than reassuring message in the Budget Memorandum: the "blow" on the labour market "is largely still to come". The Planning Bureau estimates that one million people still fall under the NOW scheme. Unemployment in the Netherlands, down from 3 percent in February and now 4.6 percent, will reach 6 percent in 2021, it expects.

**New jobs**

If the picture in ***Europe*** continues to deteriorate, and there is still a major wave of redundancies, it may well be that it is not ***Europe*** but the US that emerges from the corona crisis with a stronger labour market. Another factor is that US capitalism has a good track record in creating new jobs after a recession. According to some economists, ***European*** wage subsidies only hinder changes in the economy - and thus the creation of new jobs. Which social model worked best during the great pandemic, the ***European*** or the American one? It is still too early to judge.

Do ***European*** social safety nets work better than the American model?

**Graphic**

***Eurozone*** avoids large spike in unemployment

US President Donald Trump last month at a building products company in Old Forge, Pennsylvania.

Photo Brendan Smialowski/AFP

**Classification**

**Language:** DUTCH; ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Labor Force (94%); Unemployed Persons (94%); Unemployment Rates (92%); Social + Economic Status (87%); Economic Conditions (74%); Central Banks (63%); Population + Demographics (63%)

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

**End of Document**

[***Agency: extra strict control regime for corona vaccines; Corona crisis***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60X1-73W1-DYMH-R14K-00000-00&context=)

NRC Handelsblad

23 September 2020 Wednesday

1st Edition

Copyright 2020 NRC Media B.V. All Rights Reserved



**Section:** IN THE NEWS; Page 2

**Length:** 640 words

**Byline:** Chris Hensen

**Dateline:** Amsterdam

**Body**

**ABSTRACT**

Medical safety

Corona vaccines are being developed so rapidly that medical experts are vigilant.

**FULL TEXT:**

The ***European*** Medicines Agency (EMA) is to introduce a special monitoring regime to ensure the safety of future corona vaccines once licences have been granted and vaccination programmes launched. This was said by the head of the EMA's clinical trials working group, Fergus Sweeney, at a hearing in the ***European*** Parliament on Tuesday. EMA is introducing this strict regime because of the uncertainties surrounding the vaccines, which are being developed under great time pressure.

The regulator checks whether the drugs are safe during the testing phase but also after people have been vaccinated. For this second phase, Sweeney said, an extra strict regime is being put in place, with side effects being monitored even more intensively than usual for new drugs. Such tough regimes are normally always put in place for new vaccines, but for the future corona vaccines they are particularly important as they will be developed in a very short time (one to two years instead of the usual ten) and millions of people will be vaccinated at once. It is extremely important that we start checking on a large scale," says Sweeney.

Sweeney spoke at a digital hearing where ***MEPs*** wanted to question those involved in the development, testing, approval and future distribution of vaccines. However, there were hardly any representatives of the big pharmaceutical companies to ask critical questions, with only the French pharmaceutical company Sanofi and the lobby club for ***European*** pharmaceutical companies EFPIA responding to the invitation. ***MEPs were*** critical, among other things, of the "total lack of transparency" about the contracts now being concluded by the ***European*** Commission with pharmaceutical companies on future supplies (these contracts are secret). They also expressed concern about the safety of future vaccines.

**Political pressure**

Both the regulator and the representatives of the pharmaceutical companies stressed that all safety requirements will be met, and that no "corners will be cut" during the testing and approval phases. According to the EMA, additional stringent post-authorisation monitoring does not mean that vaccines are unsafe, but rather that the agency is taking the issue seriously.

There are concerns within the EMA about the speed of vaccine development and the (political) pressure the agency is under. Earlier this month, ***European*** Commissioner Stella Kyriakides (Public Health) expressed expectations of a working vaccine by the end of this year - while no data from the final testing phases has yet been submitted to the EMA by pharma companies for review. Both the Russians and the Chinese have approved vaccines for use. According to an insider, it is likely that all contracts with pharmaceutical companies will be concluded within a few weeks. Those manufacturers are already producing in advance, so the doses will soon be ready. After that, the ball is in the court of the medicines agency: only approval is then needed to (partially) get normal life back on track in ***Europe***.

In order to set up the enhanced control regime, the EMA is asking the ***European*** Commission for "additional support", Sweeney said. Given the scale of the vaccination programmes, control is even more intensive than usual. ***EU member states*** carry it out de facto, but the EMA coordinates and supervises. The agency's employees - almost 900 people - are already "heavily burdened", Sweeney said. The Commission - and the EU countries - will have to provide "additional resources" to carry out the tasks properly.

**Graphic**

Vaccine factory in Spain working for the American company Novavax. Producing vaccines quickly can be risky.

Photo Salvador Sas / EPA

**Classification**

**Language:** DUTCH; ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Vaccines (94%); Public Health (73%); Epidemics (62%); Viruses (62%)

**Industry:** Pharmaceuticals Agents + Products (71%)

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

**End of Document**

[***Corona News***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60X1-73W1-DYMH-R14X-00000-00&context=) [***EUsummit postponed***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60X1-73W1-DYMH-R14X-00000-00&context=)

NRC Handelsblad

23 September 2020 Wednesday

1st Edition

Copyright 2020 NRC Media B.V. All Rights Reserved



**Section:** IN THE NEWS; Page 4

**Length:** 167 words

**Body**

Because EU President Charles Michel has to go into quarantine, the scheduled summit of ***European*** government leaders this week has been postponed. Michel himself tested negative on Monday. The summit will be moved to next week.

The National Coordination Centre for Patient Distribution (LCPS) will make an inventory of available hospital beds for patients with Covid-19 starting Wednesday.

Seventeen of the twenty-five regional GGDs are now conducting fewer source and contact investigations in the event of positive coronal cases. The reason is the increase in the number of infections and the shortage of manpower.

In the United Kingdom, corona measures are being tightened further. Catering establishments have to close at 10pm.

Argentina's economy experienced a historic contraction in the second quarter of 2020. Compared to the second quarter of 2019, the economy of the South American country shrank by 19.1 percent. According to economists, the figures are mainly due to the effects of the corona crisis.

**Classification**

**Language:** DUTCH; ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** COVID-19 Coronavirus (94%); Epidemics (80%); Population + Demographics (69%); Stock Market Updates (67%); Infectious Disease (64%)

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

**End of Document**

[***Tax advantages for organic products'; Political action should also entice thrifty consumers to buy organic products***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60WY-9281-DY4D-Y4CW-00000-00&context=)

De Telegraaf

23 September 2020 Wednesday

Netherlands

Copyright 2020 Mediahuis Nederland BV All Rights Reserved



**Section:** FINANCIAL; page 22

**Length:** 621 words

**Body**

Political action should also entice thrifty consumers to buy organic products

Abolish VAT on organic groceries and encourage organic farming. Only with drastic measures can organic sales be boosted and the Netherlands meet the ***EU*** targets.

Organic food and organic farming are not becoming commonplace in the Netherlands, while Brussels wants a quarter of the total agricultural land in the ***EU*** to be farmed organically by 2030. A goal that the Netherlands will not even come close to with the current development.

On Wednesday, Agriculture Minister Carola Schouten will be presented by organic chain organisation Bionext with the 2019 trend report with ten points of advice to make a start with the ***European*** ambition.

Reign

Large measures may be difficult now, because the government is at the end of its term", admits director Michaël Wilde of Bionext, which represents the entire chain from farmer to retailer. But something really has to happen, otherwise we will not be able to move forward."

The Dutch continue to watch their pennies when shopping and walk past the shelf of organic products to choose the cheaper conventionally produced vegetables, meat and dairy products.

Of the €27.6 billion in food sold by supermarkets last year, €883.9 million came from organic products, according to the chain organisation's report. That is a share of 3.21%. In 2018, it was 3.05%.

That is very little compared to other ***European*** countries. Certainly in our neighbouring countries", says Wilde. In our neighbouring countries, the organic share is around 10%.

Less bonding

The Dutch spend only eight cents of every ***euro*** they earn on food. That is relatively little and 68% also indicate that they choose non-organic food because of the price. We have less of an attachment to our food and the landscape than people in other countries", explains Wilde of the Dutch thriftiness. Austrians, for example, are confronted on a daily basis with the landscape they live in and the food that is produced there. That makes you appreciate it more. In Denmark, public buildings only offer organic food, so it becomes the norm."

Few Dutch farmers are prepared to make the switch to organic. The share of organic farming is nowhere near the EU average, with Austria having the largest area with almost a quarter of the total agricultural area. We therefore advocate a targeted approach in the Netherlands, whereby both the demand for organic products and the supply of them grow in a balanced way."

The threshold for farmers must be lowered by preventing contradictory legislation and making the switch easier. At present, a farmer has to produce organically for three years before his products can be sold as such.

Shopping

The sector is already pleading for a public campaign about the difference between organic and conventional food, and to abolish VAT on organic food. In May, the Court of Audit already criticised the 'inadequate' provision of information by the government.

Furthermore, conventional products must become more expensive by also passing on the social costs, is the advice. At the moment, for example, the damage to soil or surface water caused by crop protection products is borne by the taxpayer", explains Wilde.

Groceries will therefore be a little more expensive, the leader of the organic chain organisation acknowledges. But on the other hand, it also leads to lower social costs, which we will see reflected in taxes."

Common is now too cheap

**Classification**

**Language:** DUTCH; ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** Tlg-NL

**Subject:** Organic Foods (75%); Food Retailers (63%); Sustainable Agriculture (61%)

**Industry:** Agriculture (94%); Food + Beverage Stores (83%)

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

**End of Document**

[***Can the EU still solve this corruption?***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:6116-SR41-JC5G-14FP-00000-00&context=)

NRC Handelsblad

8 October 2020 Thursday

1st Edition

Copyright 2020 NRC Media B.V. All Rights Reserved



**Section:** OUTSIDE; Page 12

**Length:** 674 words

**Byline:** Emilie van Outeren

**Dateline:** Warsaw

**Body**

**ABSTRACT**

Bulgaria

Not only in Poland and Hungary, but also in Bulgaria, the rule of law has been eroded. Finally, the eyes of Brussels are on this edge of the ***EU***.

**FULL TEXT:**

For years, the ***European*** discussion on undermining the rule of law has focused on Poland, where the government is demolishing the independent judiciary and fuelling discrimination against lhbtis, and on Hungary, where Prime Minister Orbán is rewriting the electoral law, dismantling the free press, detaining migrants and has driven out a university. With their confrontational politics against the ***European*** Commission, these Member States attract almost all the attention.

Rarely does interest focus on Bulgaria, where the chance of a fair trial and equal treatment by the state seems even smaller, and corruption is more rampant. Until last summer, after a series of scandals, protests broke out against the government and the prosecutor general. For three months, there have been almost daily demonstrations in the capital Sofia. In addition, Bulgaria received a meagre first rule of law report, which the ***European*** Commission published last week.

Bilyana Gyaurova-Wegertseder of the Bulgarian Institute for Legal Initiatives, an NGO that campaigns for more accountability in the judiciary, says: "At last, the eyes of Brussels are on this edge of the ***EU***. "So far it has always been looked away because our government doesn't mess around in Brussels and has the right political friends."

In the ***European Parliament*** on Thursday, there is a resolution criticising Sofia for the "substantial deterioration in respect for the principles of the rule of law, democracy and fundamental rights". There are "concerns that taxpayers' money is being used to enrich the circles around the ruling party". Prime Minister Borisov is associated with "large-scale corruption".

It is a strong language, but given Borisov's position as a valued member of the ***European*** People's Party, the largest political family in Brussels, it is highly questionable whether the resolution will be adopted. In any case, it is a signal that people in Brussels care about us", says Gyaurova over the phone.

Other reformers are far less optimistic about the EU's role in Bulgaria's problems. At mass demonstrations in 2013 , including against Borisov, many blue and yellow ***EU flags*** flew. Those are gone. During the protests, the procession regularly passes the office of the ***European*** representation in Sofia to show its dissatisfaction with the ***EU***. The experiment of allowing a country without an independent judiciary to join the ***EU*** has clearly failed," says Nikolay Staykov, founder of the research bureau Anti-Corruption Fund. And after accession the ***EU*** has done nothing to strengthen the rule of law. Our OM has not been reformed in any way."

Staykov sees little point in reintroducing a ***European*** mechanism to monitor Bulgarian developments, as ***European Commissioner*** Vera Jourova suggested. That didn't help before. He and others believe that progress can only be enforced if the ***EU*** formulates a crystal-clear definition of a healthy rule of law. And attach financial consequences to its violation. On the latter, the member states are currently fiercely divided.

For Central European countries, ***EU funds*** are essential, but they also strengthen corruption. In Bulgaria, ***EU money*** often ends up with the political elite and oligarchs, through tenders or otherwise. They have a grip on the OM, which is used to indict political enemies and to scuttle other corruption cases.

In Bulgaria, EU confidence has traditionally been higher than elsewhere, and this may now change," says lawyer Gyaurova. And the acceptance of Brussels measures, should they ever come, could decrease. Historically, Bulgarians always want to be saved: by the Russians from the Turks, by the old king who returned after communism, by the ***EU***. The fact that a large majority supports the protests shows that we can bring about change ourselves."

**Graphic**

A protester against Prime Minister Borisov, last week in Sofia.

Photo VASSIL DONEV/EPA

**Classification**

**Language:** DUTCH; ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject: *European*** Union (94%); ***European*** Union Regulation + Policy (75%); Corruption (63%)

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

**End of Document**

[***EU Kremlin to be punished for poisoning Navalny; Freezing top Russian army officials' assets***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:6114-VVP1-JBNC-737N-00000-00&context=)

De Telegraaf

8 October 2020 Thursday

Netherlands

Copyright 2020 Mediahuis Nederland BV All Rights Reserved



**Section:** OUTSIDE; Page 17

**Length:** 386 words

**Body**

Freezing assets of top Russian army officials

From our editors abroad

BERLIN - ***Europe*** is about to punish the Kremlin with sanctions for the attempted murder of Russian opposition leader Aleksei Navalny. France and Germany will propose to Brussels that top Kremlin officials be hit with financial measures such as freezing their assets and banning entry.

The French and Germans have come to the conclusion that sanctions against the Kremlin are unavoidable as Moscow continues to refuse to cooperate in clearing up the poisoning. On Tuesday the OPCW, the international chemical weapons agency based in The Hague, confirmed that the poison used was novichok, a nerve agent developed in Russia that was also used in the attack on the Russian double agent Skripal in London two years ago.

The speed with which Paris and Berlin are pushing for sanctions against Moscow this time is in stark contrast to the measures after Skripal was poisoned. Then it took a year before the ***EU*** and other countries expelled Russian diplomats in retaliation.

However, the proposed sanctions against high-ranking officials within the Russian military intelligence service GRU are a far cry from the discussions some time ago. At the time, the issue was whether the Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline should be built any further. This would have hit the Kremlin hard in the wallet, but would also have affected ***Europe***.

The proposed sanctions do not come close to meeting the demands of Aleksei Navalny either. He believes that ***Europe*** should freeze all assets of Russian oligarchs - whom experts believe are keeping Putin in power - and make it impossible for them to travel.

German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas, in cooperation with his French counterpart Jean-Yves Le Drian, is now proposing "to put people on the sanctions list who we know are working on developing chemical weapons. That is a discussion we are going to have in the ***European Union*** in the coming days."

According to Navalny, Putin has even stolen money from his son. When the Russian authorities recently confiscated his father's house and accounts, his boy's piggy bank was also looted.

**Classification**

**Language:** DUTCH; ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** Tlg-NL

**Subject:** Embargoes + Sanctions (94%); International Relations (88%); Weapons + Arms (69%); ***European*** Union (65%)

**Load-Date:** October 7, 2020

**End of Document**

[***One more scoop on climate targets EU; European Parliament: -60% CO2 by 2030***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:6114-VVP1-JBNC-736J-00000-00&context=)

De Telegraaf

8 October 2020 Thursday

Netherlands

Copyright 2020 Mediahuis Nederland BV All Rights Reserved



**Section:** INDOOR; Page 4

**Length:** 538 words

**Byline:** Ruud Mikkers

**Body**

***European*** Parliament: -60% CO2 by 2030

by Ruud Mikkers

Brussels - The ***European*** Parliament is demanding that the EU's 2030 climate target be tightened even further than the ***European*** Commission proposed last month. Remarkably, D66 and CU support that ambition, which goes further than the coalition agreement prescribes.

Instead of the proposed -55 per cent, a -60 per cent reduction in CO2 emissions compared to 1990 would have to be achieved, which would require an enormous extra effort. We make our own assessment and are not bound by the coalition agreement", said a spokesman for D66. All in all, we have drawn the conclusion that there are enough reasons to vote for more ambition, see for example the recent forest fires in California."

Voting behaviour

That is also the opinion of the CU. Climate change is happening much faster than we could have imagined three or four years ago. So we need to step it up a notch", says Peter van Dalen, CU Member of Parliament. He has not agreed with The Hague. He laughs when asked whether he expects any more problems because of his dissenting vote.

By 2050, the entire ***EU*** must be climate-neutral, but while that final goal is endorsed by almost everyone (only Poland is still in doubt), the path towards it is the subject of heated debate. ***European Commissioner*** Timmermans, responsible for the climate bill, hesitated for a long time about whether he wanted to raise the current target (40 per cent) to 50 or 55 per cent. According to Timmermans, this target is very ambitious but feasible.

Intermediate target

But the ***European*** Parliament wants to go even further. On Thursday, the parliamentary position on the entire Climate Act will be established (it contains much more than just the increased interim target for 2030) and negotiations with the Commission and member states can begin. ***European*** leaders will discuss the 2030 target at an ***EU summit*** next week, but there seems to be no appetite for going beyond 55 percent.

VVD-European Parliamentarian Jan Huitema, his party's opponent, argues that his colleagues who voted in favour are only using the higher goal to be able to bet high in those negotiations. But it is not an auction. The 55 per cent is really ambitious. Not so long ago it was the same for the Greens."

Timmermans' own PvdA is 60 per cent in the ***European*** Parliament. Ambitious but realistic", says PvdA MEP Mohammed Chahim.

Efforts

Before the end of the year, the ***EU*** must tell the UN what it will do to meet the Paris climate commitments. Last year, the ***EU*** achieved a 25% reduction in CO2 emissions compared to 1990. If all current agreements are met, that percentage will have risen to 45% by 2030. Extra efforts will therefore be needed anyway.

FvD is completely against any form of ***European*** climate law. According to the party, it is "fundamentally undemocratic to put the Dutch climate policy on the Brussels shackle for thirty years", says Forum MP Rob Roos.

That 55% is

really quite

ambitious'

**Classification**

**Language:** DUTCH; ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** Tlg-NL

**Subject: *European*** Union (94%); ***European*** Union Regulation + Policy (69%); Legislation (62%)

**Load-Date:** October 7, 2020

**End of Document**

[***The Netherlands is very influential in the EU'***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:6116-SR41-JC5G-14FR-00000-00&context=)

NRC Handelsblad

8 October 2020 Thursday

1st Edition

Copyright 2020 NRC Media B.V. All Rights Reserved



**Section:** OUTSIDE; Page 12

**Length:** 1493 words

**Byline:** Caroline de Gruyter  
  
Gert Van Langendonck

**Body**

**ABSTRACT**

Interview Clément Beaune French Secretary of State

The Netherlands and France often disagree, yet Paris likes to cooperate more and more, says the new French Secretary of State for ***European*** Affairs. The Netherlands is one of the countries that is listened to the most at the moment.

**FULL TEXT:**

Gert Van Langendonck

For many years, Clément Beaune was ***Europe's envoy*** to French President Macron. In the wings, he wrote speeches for Macron and took part in all major negotiations in Brussels. But in July, Beaune (39) was promoted to Secretary of State for ***European*** Affairs and since then he has suddenly found himself in the political spotlight. This Thursday, he is in the Netherlands.

You know ***European*** politics and the back rooms like the back of your hand. Does that help, now that you are State Secretary?

I think so. I am a politician now, not a technocrat. But I have learned in recent years that, in ***European*** politics, you can't just put ideas on the table and think you'll get anywhere. No, you have to listen. Talk to everyone. Cultivate understanding. Work on compromises. Politicians are sometimes very locked into their own vertical, national vision. I want to do things differently. I want to network, all over ***Europe***.

Is that why you come to the Netherlands?

Yes, including talks with Minister Blok and the Permanent Parliamentary Committee on ***European*** Affairs. The Netherlands is an influential country in ***Europe***. It is one of the countries that is listened to the most at the moment."

According to the think tank ECFR, the Netherlands is the country that punches above its weight the most. Do you agree?

"We in France like that!"

The Netherlands and France often disagree. The Hague is quick to blame Paris when there are ***European*** decisions that are not to the liking of the Dutch, or when a Dutchman misses out on a Brussels appointment.

Everyone feels that they have been treated wrongly. That is normal. So we are all reasonably even. French-Dutch relations are excellent. Better and better, actually. President Macron and Prime Minister Rutte have met each other ten times already. Both countries are at the cradle of ***European*** integration. We agree on Brexit, the climate and the rule of law in ***Europe***. On the corona recovery fund we initially disagreed, that's true. But in July we found a compromise. Now we have to put it into practice. This means, among other things, that we must reach an agreement on ***Europe'***s own income to finance this recovery fund. That could be done with a ***European*** digital tax, or a carbon tax."

The Netherlands organised the opposition to the Corona Fund with a few 'thrifty countries'. You see these coalitions more and more often. Is such coalition building a consequence of Brexit?

The Netherlands is not the United Kingdom".

That was not the question.

No, I mean, if the UK had still been a member, that fund would not have been there. Then London would have killed it. In other words, there is a double Brexit effect. Not only did we not have a veto now. But Brexit has also made everyone realise that ***Europe*** needs to move faster and act more efficiently. During the ***euro crisis***, ***Europe*** was super slow. It took us three years to build an emergency fund. Now we are setting up a corona fund in a few months. We are doing it nubig and fast."

If ***Europe*** is made up of alliances or 'blocks', will it not get bogged down?

Maybe, but it is inevitable: with 27 you have to network. Each country has its own ideas and wishes, and always looks for allies. With each issue, they are different allies. The Four Saves, the southern countries, Visegrad - these are all ad hoc alliances. France, for instance, together with ten countries, wrote a call for 'zero emissions' in 2050. The Netherlands was one of them, Germany was not. In the case of the Corona Fund, however, France and Germany did join forces. We have a hard conflict with Poland about the rule of law. But on other issues we work well together with Warsaw.

Is the Netherlands good at this new networking?

Very good. There is a reason why President Macron went to the Netherlands first, in May, after the lockdown, to talk about the corona fund."

That was the famous dinner in Scheveningen, where you saw them sitting next to the kitchen in the photo?

"Yes."

Since Brexit, France is the only Member State with the capacity and willingness to carry out military operations. But France wants to play 'cavalier seul'. Will other countries follow France?

France is in a unique position when it comes to defence and security. We are very involved in certain conflict areas. We are a security provider in many areas. We are the only ***European*** country still a permanent member of the UN Security Council. We can intervene outside ***Europe*** and we have the political will to do so. All these things benefit ***Europe***. But they need to become ***more European***. And that has to come from both sides."

How then?

,,If we want other ***European*** countries to become more involved in these operations, we have to explain to them that the key to our collective security lies in Africa, in the Middle East, North Africa and the Mediterranean, and vis-à-vis Russia. That is where the threats come from.

,,We have to explain why it is important for ***Europe*** to be there. President Macron has just been to the Baltic States. I myself have been to Cyprus and Greece. No French president in recent history has had as many bilateral meetings, especially on defence, as Macron."

Can we no longer count on NATO?

This is not to replace NATO. But the ***EU*** needs its own security policy, if possible together with the British. We have taken a number of initiatives in that area, such as the ***European*** Intervention Initiative, of which the Netherlands is also a member. That is intended to identify threats together. With Germany we are working on industrial defence projects, such as a fighter plane and the tank of the future. We are doing projects with the Dutch Navy. This is really new. France used to do this kind of thing with the British."

So ***Europe*** must take its fate into its own hands in the area of defence?

And I think that the Netherlands shares our ambition for a ***European*** security policy.

It is sometimes said that Germany leads the economic race in ***Europe*** and France leads in defence and security. Is this true?

That was the case. But the division of tasks is changing. The fact that we are working with Germany on defence projects shows that Germany also feels responsible for ***European*** security. Commission President Von der Leyen worked hard on this when she was German Defence Minister."

Some people think that France is too enthusiastic, in Libya or towards Turkey. Can you understand that?

I find that too easy. First of all, ***Europe*** is being threatened from all sides. We cannot let this happen. We must do something about it. We take initiatives, certainly. But then we try to get others to follow. The Netherlands also wants to be strict with Turkey. So if we take the initiative here, we do it in a ***European*** context: with others. Secondly, you must not reduce France to the security provider of ***Europe***. As if we only care about foreign policy, about gloire. We have also been reforming our country for three years. Pensions, railways, the labour market. That is not always easy. But we will continue, for ourselves and because it makes us stronger in ***Europe***."

They will appreciate that in The Hague.

"Everyone has their sensitivities in ***Europe***. You have to take that into account."

How important is the Franco-German axis still?

I really believe in that. In recent years we have sometimes forgotten, but that axis remains the 'pedestal' of ***Europe***. It is not enough, but it is necessary. It is the basis of everything. If France and Germany are stuck, the whole of ***Europe*** is stuck. But if Paris and Berlin agree, a ***European*** agreement is possible."

The corona fund is proof of that.

Yes, that fund is a product of the Franco-German axis. There are, however, two preconditions. One: the ***European*** Commission must be actively involved. Two: in a ***Europe*** of 27 countries, you always have to convince others and move forward together. In the end, you have to do it together.

What are the big challenges for ***Europe*** in the years to come? "The fight for the democratic rule of law, the climate and migration. These issues will be keeping us very busy in 2022, when France will have been EU President for six months."

Everyone feels they have been wronged at times, and so we are all even

Clément Beaune (1981) worked for Prime Minister Ayrault from 2012 and for Macron from 2014. In 2017, when Macron became president, he became his ***Europe*** 'sherpa'. In Paris they call him "the most talented of the Macronies". In Brussels, he is regarded as one of the most relaxed, accessible French diplomats ever.

**Graphic**

President Macron and Prime Minister Rutt dined in a restaurant in Scheveningen in May.

Photo BART MAAT/ANP

**Classification**

**Language:** DUTCH; ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject: *European*** Union (94%); ***European*** Union Regulation + Policy (75%); International Relations (73%); Foreign Policy (62%)

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

**End of Document**

[***European Parliament commits to 60 per cent CO2 reduction***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:6116-SR41-JC5G-14HS-00000-00&context=)

NRC Handelsblad

8 October 2020 Thursday

1st Edition

Copyright 2020 NRC Media B.V. All Rights Reserved



**Section:** ECONOMICS; Page 2

**Length:** 405 words

**Byline:** Clara van de Wiel

**Dateline from** Brussels

**Body**

**ABSTRACT**

Climate target

On Wednesday, a majority of the EP voted to increase the 2030 emissions reduction target to 60%.

**FULL TEXT:**

The ***European*** Parliament (EP) is aiming high in the negotiations to scale up the ***European*** climate target. This Wednesday, a majority of the EP voted to increase the emission reduction target for 2030 to 60 percent. This ambition is higher than what the ***European*** Commission recently proposed and will undoubtedly meet with resistance from a large number of Member States.

The 2030 target is the most sensitive point in the 'climate law' that is to be adopted at rocket speed by the ***European*** member states and the ***European Parliament*** this autumn. In that law, the ***EU*** legally establishes to be carbon neutral in 2050 - a goal that member states already agreed on last year. In addition, the law must also include an 'intermediate target' to ensure there is sufficient pressure to reduce emissions.

On the basis of an extensive impact assessment, the ***European Commission*** presented its commitment in early September: a 55% reduction in emissions by 2030. But how high the bar will actually be set depends on negotiations between the member states and the ***European*** Parliament, which will take place this autumn.

The EP decided this Wednesday to aim high in those negotiations: for an emissions target of 60%. However, the chances that this will be the final outcome of the negotiations are slim.

**Member States lack enthusiasm**

Various Member States have already shown little enthusiasm for a 55% reduction target. Next week, government leaders will discuss ***Europe's*** climate ambitions at a summit in Brussels. Although an emission reduction target does not officially require consensus, the general expectation is that an attempt will be made to get everyone behind one target.

This does not mean that the EP's commitment means nothing. It mainly shows how much the parliament is on the ambitious side in the ***European*** discussion and continues to increase the pressure. At the same time, the largest group, that of the ***European*** Christian Democrats, largely turned against the higher goal, which, according to them, would harm the economy too much. German ***MEP*** Peter Liese, a member of the German CDU, called 60 per cent reduction "overambitious" in a statement and expressed the hope that member states would reduce it to 55 per cent.

**Graphic**

The 2030 target is a sensitive one.

Photo AFP

**Classification**

**Language:** DUTCH; ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject: *European*** Union (94%); Law + Legal System (73%); Legislation (73%); ***European*** Union Regulation + Policy (68%)

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

**End of Document**

[***No lowering of charges through EUConte does not want to betray confidence***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:6114-VVP1-JBNC-737H-00000-00&context=)

De Telegraaf

8 October 2020 Thursday

Netherlands

Copyright 2020 Mediahuis Nederland BV All Rights Reserved



**Section:** OUTSIDE; Page 16

**Length:** 641 words

**Byline:** Maarten

**Body**

Conte does not want to betray confidence

by Maarten

van Aalderen

ROME - Italian Prime Minister Conte says his government will not pay for any tax cuts with money from the ***European*** bailout fund. He also commented on coronary restrictions for Dutch travellers.

Dutch people who want to travel to Italy will have to take a coronation test from now on. This also applies to travellers from Great Britain, Belgium and the Czech Republic. For several other countries, this measure already applied before. This is what the Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte said in his official residence Palazzo Chigi in the centre of Rome.

Distribution

"Of course it is not about discriminating against Dutch people. It is based on official data linked to the spread of the pandemic," said Prime Minister Conte, receiving a group of six foreign journalists, including this newspaper.

In recent months, the spread in Italy has been much lower than in Spain, France, Belgium and the Netherlands. The country is taking new, strict measures. Italy was warned after the 35,000 deaths last spring. Soon, everyone in Italy will be required to wear a mouth mask. There are fines of at least four hundred ***euros*** for those who do not comply.

Rescue Fund

In Italy, too, much is being written about the ***European*** rescue fund. Italian newspapers have recently sounded the alarm because they fear that the Netherlands will become a killjoy when it comes to the implementation of the Recovery Fund. Conte hopes that the Netherlands will participate.

Last July, the 27 EU countries all made a political commitment. There is no possibility of evading this political commitment, which was made after lively and also difficult and wide-ranging consultations. But if you want to know what Italy intends to do with the Recovery Fund, I can say that Italy will use it and feels a strong responsibility. Because it is a sign of confidence in Italy and a sign of solidarity. The best way to repay that trust is to work on a programme of investments and structural reforms that serve both Italy and ***Europe***. This will make Italy more competitive and productive, to the benefit of the ***European*** market economy. Our economies are strongly interlinked. It is therefore in everyone's interest that no country is left behind."

Conte denies that the Dutch taxpayers are helping to restructure the Italian debt, "Italy has always had a primary payment surplus for twenty years, except in the crisis year of 2009. This means that, contrary to what people sometimes think, Italy spends less than it receives. We do have a historical problem with high interest rates. For the Italian economy, a common ***European*** debt is very useful, because it allows us to reduce the cost of interest when we finance ourselves on the market.

We will never think of asking for ***European*** money to lower our taxes. We are not thinking about it. Tax reform does not mean lowering taxes, although that is the ultimate goal. We are encouraging citizens to pay digitally. This will make the tax system fairer and more efficient."

Unacceptable

According to Conte, this will allow the underground economy to be tackled. It is now unacceptable. The vast majority of people pay too much tax as a result. The idea is that everyone pays tax, so that in the end they have to pay less. Tax reform can ultimately lead to benefits in terms of the tax burden, but nobody here is going to use ***EU money*** to reduce taxes."

Cap duty also applies to the Dutch

**Classification**

**Language:** DUTCH; ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** Tlg-NL

**Subject:** COVID-19 Coronavirus (94%); ***European*** Union (81%); Economic Crisis (78%); ***European*** Union Regulation + Policy (76%); Disaster + Emergency Relief (74%); Monetary Unions (74%); Economic Conditions (69%); Public Finance (67%); Epidemics (65%); Infectious Disease (65%)

**Load-Date:** October 7, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Extra green ambition***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:6114-VVP1-JBNC-7369-00000-00&context=)

De Telegraaf

8 October 2020 Thursday

Netherlands

Copyright 2020 Mediahuis Nederland BV All Rights Reserved



**Section:** INDOOR; Page 1

**Length:** 105 words

**Body**

Brussels - The climate ambitions for 2030 must be raised much higher, demands the ***European*** Parliament, which even passes 'climate pope' Frans Timmermans on the left.

Timmermans, as ***European Commissioner*** responsible for EU climate legislation, had proposed to go for a 55 per cent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions over ten years compared to the base year of 1990. But the ***European Parliament*** wants to go a step further and is going for -60 percent. In 2050, the ***EU*** must be climate-neutral, whereby the agreements for 2030 count as an important interim goal. The -60 percent is not yet definitive.

**Classification**

**Language:** DUTCH; ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** Tlg-NL

**Subject: *European*** Union (94%); Waste Reduction (78%); Air Quality (61%); Energy + Utility Law (61%)

**Industry:** Materials Recovery + Recycling (69%); Waste Management + Remediation Services (69%)

**Load-Date:** October 7, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Party seems dead, ultra-right not***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:6116-SR41-JC5G-14F8-00000-00&context=)

NRC Handelsblad

8 October 2020 Thursday

1st Edition

Copyright 2020 NRC Media B.V. All Rights Reserved



**Section:** IN THE NEWS; Page 2

**Length:** 908 words

**Byline:** Toon Beemsterboer

**Dateline:** Istanbul

**Body**

**ABSTRACT**

Greek Golden Dawn

Neo-Nazi party is a criminal organisation, according to the verdict. The breeding ground for far-right violence is actually increasing.

**FULL TEXT:**

The marathon trial in Athens that lasted more than five years ended on Wednesday with the ruling that the Greek neo-Nazi party Golden Dawn is a criminal organisation. The court ruled that seven former parliamentarians, including party leader Nikos Michaloliakos, are guilty of leading the criminal organisation. The rest of the 68 suspects were found guilty of participating in it.

In addition, party member Giorgos Roupakias, who worked in the cafeteria of the Golden Dawn party office, and nine other suspects were convicted of the 2013 murder of rapper Pavlos Fyssas. Another five suspects were convicted of the attempted murder of Abouzid Embarak and other Egyptian fishermen in the port city of Piraeus in 2012.

**Response to the financial crisis**

Golden Dawn appeared on the national political scene after the financial crisis of 2008, which hit the Greek economy hard. Greece had a huge hole in its finances that threatened not only the Greek economy but also the stability of the ***euro***. The government was forced to accept a financial rescue package from international lenders, accompanied by severe budget cuts.

On the waves of popular discontent, which had been hit hard by the crisis and was also opposed to the growing group of migrants in the country, Golden Dawn suddenly gained 7 per cent of the vote in the 2012 parliamentary elections: 18 parliamentary seats. In 2009, the party did not even get 20,000 votes. This was a turnaround, as it had been a long time since a neo-Nazi party in ***Europe had*** achieved such a large victory.

Although members of Golden Dawn pretended to be decent politicians at the time, they were staunch Nazis driven by fervent racism, anti-Semitism and conspiracy theories. A supporter of Adolf Hitler, Michaloliakos built Golden Dawn as a classic Nazi party, organising flag and torch marches, using extreme rhetoric about Jews and the corrupt political class, and having squads in poor neighbourhoods beating up migrants.

**Memories of the junta**

After Golden Dawn entered parliament, violence against migrants and political opponents actually increased. Party members like Roupakias even seemed to believe that their actions were tolerated by parts of the state. When he was waiting to be arrested after the murder of Fyssas, he said to an arriving policeman: "Don't betray me, I am one of you." To which the officer asked: "What do you mean, are you police?" "No, I am Golden Dawn."

The shock in Greece and abroad was great. The murder brought back memories of dark periods in Greece's past, such as the military junta from 1969 to 1974, which used violence to suppress the left. Massive anti-fascist demonstrations followed. The investigation into the murder grew into the biggest trial against Nazis since Nuremberg.

**Slow process**

The reason the trial took so long was that it was plagued by strikes and procedural squabbles. Many Greek media followed the proceedings sporadically, only appearing when another prominent witness appeared, such as the mother of the murdered rapper or the leader of Golden Dawn. During the trial, witnesses described a whole range of violent crimes: for example, a leader within the Pakistani-Greek community counted no fewer than nine hundred attacks on migrants by the party.

The prosecutors had built their case to a large extent on the testimony of five former members of Golden Dawn. They described the dual structure of the party: Golden Dawn not only recruited new members, but organised a select number of them in closed cells, who were sent to training camps in the countryside. All witnesses said they received instructions from the top. "In a party with such a military structure, nothing can happen without an order or permission from the top," Ilias Stavrou, a former member of the party, said during his testimony.

**New far-right party**

The verdict seems to be the deathblow for the party. With the party leadership behind bars and its funds frozen, Golden Dawn has not been able to repeat the electoral success of 2012. In the 2019 elections, the party did not even get enough votes to enter parliament. Meanwhile, the party offices in Piraeus and Athens have been closed.

Yet the breeding ground has not disappeared. After the 2019 elections, a new far-right party entered parliament: Greek Solution gained ten seats (4.2 per cent of the vote). The right-conservative party New Democracy came to power after those elections, partly adopted the xenophobic rhetoric of Golden Dawn and carries out illegal and sometimes violent deportations of migrants trying to cross the border into Greece.

Despite the demise of Golden Dawn, far-right violence has been on the rise again in Greece in recent years. In 2018, the number of xenophobic attacks and hate crimes rose by 14 percent, according to the Athens-based Racist Violence Recording Network (RVRN).

The biggest trial against Nazis since the Nuremberg trial

**Graphic**

Above: Greeks celebrated in Athens on Wednesday that the court declared the neo-Nazi Golden Dawn a criminal organisation; centre: woman in front of a flag with the image of the murdered rapper Pavlos Fyssas.

Photos Kostas Tsironis/EPA, LOUISA, GOULIAMAKI, Yorgos Karahalis/AP

**Classification**

**Language:** DUTCH; ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Economic Crisis (94%); Racism + Xenophobia (75%); Political Parties (71%); Economic Conditions (69%); Police Forces (63%)

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

**End of Document**

[***Power euro puts a brake on figures; Headaches at listed companies not just about Corona***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:614B-DKM1-JBNC-7313-00000-00&context=)

De Telegraaf

23 October 2020 Friday

Netherlands

Copyright 2020 Mediahuis Nederland BV All Rights Reserved



**Section:** FINANCIAL; page 22

**Length:** 630 words

**Body**

Concerns at listed companies not only about corona

Unilever, Philips, AkzoNobel: while companies are opening the books for the third quarter, it appears that it is not only the coronavirus that is holding back turnover. The expensive ***euro*** is also bothering companies. The more expensive the ***euro***, the harder it is to compete outside the ***eurozone***.

The ***euro*** rose particularly sharply from May to July, according to investment strategist Lukas Daalder of asset manager BlackRock. That is due to a number of factors. First, the number of coronas in the United States rose sharply at that time, while the picture in the ***eurozone*** was much better. So currency investors thought the ***European*** economy would also recover faster."

Secondly, Daalder mentions the policy response. In the United States, the initial response was fairly generous; Washington put together a large support package. In the ***eurozone***, the reaction was slower, with all kinds of measures taken at the national level. Until the ***EU*** came up with a support package worth €750 billion, and it turned out that measures in the US were not being extended for the time being." Daalder also mentions the interest rate differential between the US and the ***eurozone***. Last year, US bank accounts still bore good interest rates, as did government bonds. Until the interest rate fell there too because of the corona crisis. So investors no longer needed to be in the dollar for the return. And the more expensive the ***euro***, the harder it is to compete outside the ***eurozone***."

Meanwhile, the ***euro*** has been hovering around $1.18 since August. ING strategist Simon Wiersma points to the adverse effect on listed companies with large exposures outside the ***eurozone***. At the same time, third quarter figures are difficult to compare with the same period last year, Wiersma explains. For example, a company like Ahold Delhaize has a lot to do with the United States in its operations."

Double hit

However, the corona measures have also meant that the supermarket company has done very good business. Companies with high demand, such as in the ***European*** automotive sector and with branches largely within the ***eurozone***, may have been doubly hit by the expensive ***euro***."

According to Unilever chairman Alan Jope, it is not so much the cheap dollar that is bothering the company, but rather that Unilever is feeling the expensive ***euro*** especially in emerging countries. Brazil, Mexico, Argentina, Turkey, India, South Africa and Indonesia are all important markets, while the currencies of those countries fell hard in the third quarter. Jope said on Thursday that third-quarter sales shrank 7.7% due to currency effects. For the whole of 2020, it will cost Unilever 5% of annual sales, Jope expects.

Weakening

At AkzoNobel, which also has many operations in emerging countries, the expensive ***euro*** eroded 5.1% of sales. Philips reported 4.5% for the third quarter and expects 5% lower sales in the fourth quarter due to the ***euro***.

Wiersma believes that the strength of the ***euro*** against the dollar will weaken. The second corona wave brings a lot of uncertainty. The dollar is still considered a safe haven, which supports its value. There is also a good chance that the ***European*** Central Bank will extend its existing buying programme before the end of the year. That could weaken the ***euro*** a bit again.

Sentiment

Currency strategist Georgette Boele (ABN Amro) also sees that the sentiment around the ***euro*** is optimistic now, but it does not have to stay that way. But if the United Kingdom leaves the ***European Union*** without a trade agreement, that will affect the ***euro***. And if there is a new support package to prop up the US economy, the dollar could start to rise again."

Expensive ***euro*** harms ***non-EU*** competition'.

**Classification**

**Language:** DUTCH; ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** Tlg-NL

**Subject:** Company Revenues (94%); Stock Market Updates (90%); Central Banks (86%); Currencies (76%); Securities + Other Investments (62%); Bonds (61%)

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

**End of Document**

[***Listening less to Greenpeace***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:614B-DKM1-JBNC-7308-00000-00&context=)

De Telegraaf

23 October 2020 Friday

Netherlands

Copyright 2020 Mediahuis Nederland BV All Rights Reserved



**Section:** INDOOR; Page 11

**Length:** 859 words

**Body**

This year's Nobel Prize in Chemistry will go to two women, which in itself is news because it has never happened before. In any case, they are only the sixth and seventh women to win the prize for chemistry. It is a pity that what they have discovered is forbidden in ***Europe***.

The ban applies to the entire ***EU***. The method of Jennifer Doudna (Berkeley University) and Emmanuelle Charpentier (Max Planck Gesellschaft) makes it possible to make a very targeted and precise change in the dna of a plant or animal. Let us chauvinistically add that they were able to base their work on the discovery of the Wageningen top researcher and Spinoza Prize winner John van der Oost, who discovered the Cas machinery as a defence strategy in bacteria, and who was also named as a fellow contender for the Nobel Prize. Making targeted changes in dna can be very useful, because you can repair a gene defect. In agriculture, you can also make a crop resistant to a pest (insect or fungus) so that you do not have to spray the fields with toxic weeds and can increase the yield per hectare. In the US, Asia and South America, the use of genetically modified crops is common, giving farmers a big advantage over their colleagues in ***Europe***.

Frankenstein

The reason to ban it is the age-old discussion about 'genetic manipulation'. The ever-alert Greenpeace lobby, which is supported by the churches, believes that you cannot tamper with God's Creation and constantly (as with nuclear energy) appeals to the feeling that the world was better in the past and that we must prevent new techniques from ruining it, has also immediately put a nice label on it: Frankenstein Food. With such a successful PR stunt, the whole conversation stops: we do not want Frankenstein Food! Greenpeace's core business is performing PR stunts, and this was one of them. The ban has been in place in the ***European Union*** for decades.

I have an indirect history with this from my own scientific work. Shortly before Doudna and Charpentier did their work, I was involved in an invention that circumvented ***European*** regulations. If you google my name with the words 'target selected mutagenesis' you will find the publications. Until Doudna and Charpentier, it was the only possible method of changing a gene in many situations. The method was that you accelerated the natural process of random mutations. With large-scale rapid reading of DNA, which had just become technically possible, you could then very quickly see, for example in five hundred offspring, which genes contained mutations. If you then found a mutation in the gene you were interested in, you had to cross over a few times to get rid of all the other mutations. This meant that you induced random mutations and then sorted out the good ones. According to EU rules, this is not targeted genetic manipulation but a form of classical 'breeding', and that is why it was allowed!

As mentioned, the technique has become superfluous due to the highly refined method for which the Nobel Prize is now being awarded. Meanwhile, in ***Europe,*** Doudna and Charpentier's method may be used in the laboratory under strict conditions in the context of medically relevant research. But only within the laboratory; in ***European*** agriculture it may not be applied, and it still happens as I described. During the development of the corona vaccine earlier this year, Bart van Zijll Langhout, head of Janssen Campus Netherlands, complained about the slowness of the rules and, according to the FD, threatened to do the first tests in the US (but was rewarded with an exception!).

For the plant breeders, meanwhile, it remains a serious problem. It would be nice if ***Europe***, after Sweden awarded the Nobel Prize to these two top chemists, recognised the very elegant method whereby you precisely change a position in the dna as a wonderful, friendly, sophisticated way to improve the quality and yield of crops.

Activists

More yield, so less land taken, with less use of pesticides, so less damage to nature. Who wouldn't want that, except a few activists who have never seen a farm up close?

Perhaps it is time, anyway, to listen less to Greenpeace, which endangers the lives of fishermen by throwing giant stones at places where they get their daily food, but remains silent when those same fishing grounds are turned into industrial zones full of windmills. They are hypocritical in their selective indignation, they do a lot of harm by blocking the only form of energy that can really solve CO2 emissions, nuclear power, and they block progress in medicine and agriculture by denying Dutch science and crop breeders the wonderful CRISPR technology of Jennifer Doudna and Emmanuelle Charpentier.

Helping agriculture with invention

**Classification**

**Language:** DUTCH; ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** Tlg-NL

**Subject:** Biotechnology + Genetic Science (83%); Biology (70%); Genetically Modified Food (68%); DNA (62%)

**Industry:** Biotechnology Industry (94%); Agriculture (65%)

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

**End of Document**

[***The Polish rule of law is also our rule of law***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:614D-BM11-DYMH-R1TF-00000-00&context=)

NRC Handelsblad

23 October 2020 Friday

1st Edition

Copyright 2020 NRC Media B.V. All Rights Reserved



**Section:** OPINION; page 18

**Length:** 989 words

**Byline:** John Morijn.

**Body**

**ABSTRACT**

The Netherlands should act more assertively against violations of the ***European*** legal order by Poland. If necessary, this can be done at the highest ***EU court***, argues John Morijn.

**FULL TEXT:**

The Polish rule of law is currently under serious threat. In the last 10 days, three disciplinary proceedings against independent lower court judges have been scheduled before the Polish Supreme Court. The ***EU'***s highest ***court*** declared this illegal back in April, because the disciplinary judges are not independent themselves. Poland, together with 27 countries, including the Netherlands, is part of the ***European*** legal order. The Polish rule of law is therefore also ours.

Article 90 of the Constitution states that the Netherlands promotes the development of the international legal order. This includes enforcing agreements made. This is happening more and more often. In fact, the Netherlands has started three international legal proceedings in recent months. In July against Russia, to force that country before the ***European*** Court of Human Rights to track down and prosecute those responsible for the MH17 disaster. In September against Syria to hold the Assad regime accountable for torture. And in the same month against Myanmar to join Canada in proceedings at the International Court of Justice over the genocide against Rohingya.

The Netherlands is also committed to the rule of law elsewhere. The ***EU*** is the most important example. Here, too, there are major problems, with Poland as a particularly urgent example. Because of the close economic and political ties between ***EU member states***, and also their ever-increasing mutual dependence for defence in an increasingly unstable world, the proper protection of the rule of law in every ***EU member state has become*** even more important. Yet, for the time being, the government is showing less decisiveness in the ***EU***.

I have been following the situation in Poland closely for a year now. Last November, I was in a courtroom in Warsaw where Wojciech Sadurski, a professor, was on trial because the leader of the Polish governing party, Jaroslaw Kaczynski, had charged him with insulting behaviour after a strong tweet about his policies. Sadurski was also critical of Poland's state television, TVP, which in fact only broadcasts the government's viewpoint. That TV station started both criminal and civil proceedings against Sadurski. These three cases are still ongoing.

And Sadurski is not alone. The Polish ombudsman, Adam Bodnar, has also been accused in this way. This is the equivalent of a Dutch scientist and guardian of the rule of law, such as the College for Human Rights, who are sued (with tax money) by both the prime minister and the NOS for criticism of government policy and reporting on it. Welcome to the ***EU***, anno 2020.

The problem in Poland is broader. The Judicial Council no longer functions properly. Meanwhile, almost 570 people have been appointed to positions where independent judges should sit. I have also investigated this. I have been to Luxembourg three times in recent months to attend court cases concerning judges in Poland. There I met the Polish judge Pawel Juszczyszyn. He is the first judge in EU history who has been punished (by the non-independent disciplinary chamber of the Polish Supreme Court) for putting an interpretation question to the ***European*** Court - a duty of every national judge.

This affects the Netherlands more directly than the situation in Myanmar and Syria. Last week there was a case in Luxembourg after questions from the court in Amsterdam. They wanted to know how to deal with the annual 250 to 300 Polish suspects. Under EU law, these should in principle be handed over without further questions if judicial authorities in another Member State so request. But is this still the case now that these authorities are no longer independent? Where will these Polish suspects go if the judge in Luxembourg concludes that a fair trial is no longer possible in Poland?

Why is the ***EU*** letting this happen? The ***European*** Commission says it is doing enough. Indeed, it has taken Poland to the ***European courts*** several times for problems with judicial independence - and won. However, the Commission refuses to enforce the various rulings with penalty payments. Poland is therefore ignoring them with impunity. And it is prosecuting real judges.

The no longer independent Polish Judicial Council is not being tackled at all. More and more non-independent people are being appointed, making it impossible for real judges such as Juszczyszyn to work.

However, the Commission recently published a report on the rule of law in all Member States. Latvia can now ask critical questions of Portugal. Sometimes useful, but now it is broadcasting football that distracts from the problem. The Commission, which is supposed to defend EU law, does not respond.

Here, too, the Netherlands must proactively defend the rule of law and make it clear that it is prepared to make use of the option of taking Poland to the ***European*** Court itself for violating EU law. The problem is too urgent to wait for the Commission without conditions.

Now that the Netherlands is rightly taking recourse to the courts against countries with which we are less closely associated, why not also do so against countries where we have an even greater interest in a functioning constitutional state? It would be a logical next step: The Netherlands is also acting here on the basis of legal agreements. It would also be a signal of principle to the Commission: this is your last chance to step up a gear. Otherwise we will use our own resources, just as the Netherlands has recently shown with other countries that violate the international legal order.

Some 570 people have been appointed to positions where independent judges should sit

John Morijnis a member of the Human Rights Council and Professor of Law and Politics in International Relations in Groningen.

**Graphic**

Judges of the Polish Supreme Court take a break.

Photo WOJCIECH OLKUSNIK /EPA

**Classification**

**Language:** DUTCH; ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Rule Of Law (94%); Trial + Procedure (88%); Judges (82%); ***European*** Union (75%); International Relations (67%); Law Courts + Tribunals (67%); Sentencing (63%)

**Industry:** Public Broadcasting (68%)

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

**End of Document**

[***Poor figures, but no lockdown for Belgium yet; Corona crisis***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:614D-BM11-DYMH-R1SG-00000-00&context=)

NRC Handelsblad

23 October 2020 Friday

1st Edition

Copyright 2020 NRC Media B.V. All Rights Reserved



**Section:** IN THE NEWS; Page 2

**Length:** 630 words

**Byline:** Anouk van Kampen

**Dateline from** Brussels

**Body**

**ABSTRACT**

Corona crisis

Belgium is again at the top of the ***European*** coronagraph lists. Why are the Belgian corona figures so bad?

**FULL TEXT:**

Liège threatens to become the new Bergamo'. The headline of an article in the Flemish newspaper De Standaard leaves little doubt: all is not well in the Walloon region. The hospitals are full, the province has passed its April corona peak and has the highest corona figures in ***Europe***.

It will probably not be long before the whole of Belgium is in such a bad state. On Thursday, the Netherlands reported over 9 000 new infections, Germany over 11 000, but the Belgian counts take the prize: with a much smaller population, the country is already well over 10 000 infections a day. One per cent of Belgians have recently been found to be infected. One of them is former Prime Minister and current Minister of Foreign Affairs Sophie Wilmès, who was admitted to intensive care on Thursday. Belgium is at the top of the coronary lists, where it was in the spring, just below the Czech Republic.

**More tested**

The infection figures are not fully representative of the seriousness of the situation, explains Flanders' most renowned virologist Marc Van Ranst by telephone: ,,In Belgium there is much more testing than in some other countries. One in three Belgians has already been tested, while in the Netherlands that is one in six. The capacity is higher and testing is faster." For example, in Belgium you don't necessarily have to have a prescription from your GP, and until recently no symptoms either. Then it's logical that the number of infections counted is also higher."

Just like earlier this year, when Belgium counted relatively the most deaths in the world because it counted not only confirmed but also suspected coronas, the way of counting gives a distorted picture. Still, the situation is very worrying, Van Ranst clarifies. On the ***European*** list of deaths in the last fourteen days, Belgium is still in fifth place.

**Transit country**

The country, like the Netherlands, is "very densely populated with a small, open economy, and it is centrally located", Van Ranst explains. It makes transit Belgium vulnerable and the virus, "unlike on an island, is difficult to control".

The complex political situation also plays a role. For almost every major tightening or loosening, all governments have to agree in a Consultation Committee. Moreover, until recently Belgium did not have a fully-fledged federal government and, thanks to its many levels of government, the country has nine ministers responsible for health. That makes decision-making difficult", the virologist from the Catholic University of Leuven euphemistically summarises.

In recent months, decisions have alternated at a rapid pace, without the logic behind them always being communicated. It created, at the crucial moment when infections were already on the rise, ambiguity and open wrangling among politicians and scientists, while the motivation of many citizens to follow the rules decreased.

Although Belgium is now out of its government crisis and has appointed a corona commissioner to combat fragmentation, both developments come rather late. ,,Now we are at a point where we might even surpass the first wave", fears Van Ranst.

On Thursday, the Consultative Committee met early to discuss new measures. A total lockdown was also on the table, but the government finally decided on a number of stricter measures for sport and culture. Prime Minister Alexander De Croo does not want to change strategies all the time, but first wants to wait for the effects of the previous measures, he said on Friday at a press conference.

Advertisement

**Graphic**

Belgium in the top

**Classification**

**Language:** DUTCH; ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Epidemics (94%); COVID-19 Coronavirus (90%); Infectious Disease (82%); Viruses (77%)

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

**End of Document**

[***Windmills allowed in Veenkoloniën; Judge: no construction ban***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:614B-DKM1-JBNC-730F-00000-00&context=)

De Telegraaf

23 October 2020 Friday

Netherlands

Copyright 2020 Mediahuis Nederland BV All Rights Reserved



**Section:** INDOOR; Page 14

**Length:** 322 words

**Byline:** Edwin Timmer

**Body**

Judge: no construction stop

by Edwin Timmer

ASSEN - The judge will not put a stop to the construction of the wind farm Drentse Monden and Oostermoer in the Veenkoloniën. The judge in preliminary relief proceedings announced on Thursday that he will not declare admissible Stichting Platform Storm, which had demanded a construction stop in preliminary relief proceedings.

We are of course very happy", says spokesman Elzo Springer on behalf of the initiators of the 45-mill wind farm. It means that construction, at a steady pace of approximately one or two turbines per week, could be completed by the end of next year. The turbines will be erected in an area of fifty square kilometres between Veendam and Emmen.

However, the judicial conclusion also means that it remains unclear what a recent ruling by the ***European*** Court of Justice on wind turbines means for the Netherlands. The court in Assen will not be able to deal with the substance of the case. All our questions remain unanswered", says platform lawyer Peter de Lange.

It could follow from the Court's ruling in June that the Dutch Activities Decree, on which permits for wind and solar parks are based, fails to protect citizens. According to De Lange, the noise standards used in the Netherlands have never been properly tested and are therefore unsound. He had hoped that the judge in preliminary relief proceedings would ask the ***European*** Court for clarification.

We have the impression that the judge wanted to save face," says Jan Nieboer, spokesperson for Platform Storm. Perhaps he did not want to burn his fingers on this case because of the far-reaching consequences. Nieboer finds it remarkable that the foundation has been declared inadmissible. In previous court cases, the judges did accept the foundation as representative of the people living in the neighbourhood. There will be a sequel in any case.

Uncertainty remains about Court decision

**Classification**

**Language:** DUTCH; ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** Tlg-NL

**Subject:** Judges (94%); Law Courts + Tribunals (84%); Trial + Procedure (83%); Verdicts (70%); Justice Departments (69%); Lawyers (69%)

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

**End of Document**

[***Stopping the nuisance'; Special aldermanic approach EUmigrants***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:614B-DKM1-JBNC-733B-00000-00&context=)

De Telegraaf

23 October 2020 Friday

Haaglanden

Copyright 2020 Mediahuis Nederland BV All Rights Reserved



**Section:** REGION; Page 14

**Length:** 441 words

**Byline:** Maarten Ritman

**Body**

Special alderman dealing with ***EU migrants***

by Maarten Ritman

ROTTERDAM - The Rotterdam City Council wants to put an end to the exploitation and nuisance of ***EU migrants***. Alderman Richard Moti will be responsible and will come up with a plan of action to put an end to the problem.

Within Ahmed Aboutaleb's team, several aldermen have so far been partly responsible for ***EU migrants***. Overcrowding falls under Bas Kurvers, homelessness under Sven de Langen and I am responsible for labour exploitation", Moti summarises. We all have our own approach, but no integrated one.

The aldermen themselves had also noticed this during the council meetings of the past few months. It was suggested that one of them should be in charge, and that is what Moti has become. There will be a special staff at the city hall that will direct the various services involved under his leadership; early next year, the plan is to come up with an integral approach. Necessary, says Moti, because of the major problems linked to ***EU migrants***. At the moment, we only solve phenomena, not the source.

The eyes of the world are on The Hague. People are yearning for legislation that obliges ***EU migrants*** to register their place of residence. We can't do anything ourselves, there are no legal possibilities. By the end of this year, more clarity should be provided from The Hague.

Due to the lack of legislation, few foreigners from the ***EU are*** registered in the municipality's systems. ,,You see signs in different neighbourhoods that they do live there, you know they are there, you see them. Directly and indirectly."

The white number plates of Polish vans are easy to find in the city, Moti says. Just like the Polish supermarkets." The migrant workers are housed in cheap houses, such as in Carnisse and Oud-Mathenesse. "You don't see them in Kralingen or Hillegersberg."

Fraudulent employment agencies are the cause of many problems with ***EU migrants*** in the city. People are not told when they are recruited for work that they will end up with ten people in a small house."

As a result, some of them hang out on the street, drink beer on benches outside and create an uneasy feeling in the neighbourhood. And when they fall ill, they have to leave the house to make room for someone who can work, so they end up on the street. That is why Moti wants to work on a licence obligation for employment agencies in order to close down the malpractice cases. We can then certify the good ones.

**Classification**

**Language:** DUTCH; ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** Tlg-RD

**Subject:** Communities + Neighborhoods (63%); Economic Migration (63%)

**Industry:** Residential Property (94%)

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

**End of Document**

[***Poland***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:614D-BM11-DYMH-R1T5-00000-00&context=) [***Court makes abortion virtually impossible***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:614D-BM11-DYMH-R1T5-00000-00&context=)

NRC Handelsblad

23 October 2020 Friday

1st Edition

Copyright 2020 NRC Media B.V. All Rights Reserved



**Section:** OUTSIDE; Page 14

**Length:** 135 words

**Dateline:** Warsaw

**Body**

**ABSTRACT**

Poland

Disability should no longer be a reason for terminating a pregnancy, the Constitutional Court of the very Catholic EU country has ruled.

**FULL TEXT:**

Poland's Constitutional Court has banned abortion for women expecting a handicapped child. The Court ruled Thursday that the distinction between healthy and unhealthy foetuses is unconstitutional. Even when a child will never be viable due to severe abnormalities, women are prevented from terminating their pregnancy. Poland already has one of the strictest abortion laws in ***Europe***. The ruling is a victory for the fundamentalist Catholic movement that dominates Polish politics. Left-wing politicians and women's rights organisations have reacted to the ruling in dismay. (NRC)

**Classification**

**Language:** DUTCH; ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Abortion (94%); Pregnancy + Childbirth (71%); Verdicts (71%)

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

**End of Document**

[***Women EU finish work on Tuesday***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:617J-N4T1-JC5G-1405-00000-00&context=)

NRC Handelsblad

7 November 2020 Saturday

1st Edition

Copyright 2020 NRC Media B.V. All Rights Reserved



**Section:** ECONOMICS; Page 8

**Length:** 459 words

**Dateline:** Amsterdam

**Body**

**ABSTRACT**

Gender pay gap

Women still earn significantly less than men in the ***EU***. The ***European*** Commission is considering binding measures.

**FULL TEXT:**

Despite a slight improvement in 2018, women in the ***European Union*** still earn considerably less than men, according to figures from statistical office ***Eurostat***. Moreover, the corona crisis threatens to widen the wage gap. This was announced by the ***European*** Commission on Friday, prior to the so-called '***European*** Equal Pay Day'.

According to the latest figures from 2018, the gender pay gap in the 27 Member States of the ***European Union*** is 14.1 per cent on average. This is a very slight improvement on the previous year, when women earned 14.5 per cent less than men for the same work.

This year's ***European*** Equal Pay Day falls on Tuesday 10 November: women can then symbolically stop working until New Year, because they will still earn the same as men in the same job. Women therefore have to work 51 days more each year to earn the same as their male colleagues", said Vera Jourová, Vice-President for values and transparency of the ***European*** Commission, Nicolas Schmit, Commissioner for employment and social rights, and Helena Dalli, Commissioner for equality, in a statement.

**Structural inequality**

The pay gap is not only unfair, say the ***European Commissioners***, but it also violates the right to equal pay enshrined in the EU Treaties more than 60 years ago. At the current pace, it will take decades or even centuries to achieve equality", the three say. This is not acceptable. We need to reduce this pay gap to zero."

However, the corona crisis threatens to widen the pay gap. Women are more likely than men to have informal jobs that are not covered by the social security systems of ***European*** Member States. The pandemic has exacerbated structural inequalities between men and women', the statement said.

The three ***European Commissioners*** intend to propose binding measures on wage transparency in the coming weeks. Insight into the payment of women and men should counteract wage discrimination. They state that 64 percent of ***European*** employees support the publication of average wages by job type and gender in their organisations.

In the Netherlands the wage gap is even wider than in most other EU countries. Only eight of the other member states do worse than the Netherlands, ***Eurostat figures*** show. Dutch women earned on average 14.7 percent less per hour than men for comparable work in 2018. The smallest difference, 1.4 percent, was measured in Luxembourg.

**Graphic**

Men and women take a break in the Parisian business district of La Defense.

Photo Christophe Archambault/AFP

**Classification**

**Language:** DUTCH; ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject: *European*** Union (94%); Wages + Salaries (90%); Compensation + Benefits (70%); Discrimination (64%); Ethnic Groups (64%); ***European*** Union Regulation + Policy (64%)

**Load-Date:** November 6, 2020

**End of Document**

[***A despondent dream***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:617J-N4T1-JC5G-13XY-00000-00&context=)

NRC Handelsblad

7 November 2020 Saturday

1st Edition

Copyright 2020 NRC Media B.V. All Rights Reserved



**Section:** WEEKEND; Page 26

**Length:** 3969 words

**Byline:** Floor Boon

**Body**

**ABSTRACT**

Humanitarian aid

Doctor Aniek Crombach (34) sailed on the Sea-Watch 4, which rescues people from the sea between Libya and Italy. A report of rescue operations. About petrol wounds, political opposition and an increasingly full ship. We have to be careful not to step on anyone".

**FULL TEXT:**

The first thing that doctor Aniek Crombach did for the hundreds of drowned people that the ship Sea-Watch 4 rescued from the Mediterranean Sea in August was to shower everyone. Help the tired, often seasick and almost always disoriented people remove their clothes, some intoxicated by the smell of petrol. Soaping them up, rinsing them carefully. Behind improvised curtains to shield them from the others.

This showering is necessary, because on the weak rubber boats with which many desperate migrants and refugees sail from Libya to Italy, petrol residues frequently come into contact with seawater. If the petrol cans leak or fall over, for example. If that mixture comes into contact with human skin, a chemical reaction occurs that causes burns. Clothes aggravate the effect of that toxic mixture", says Crombach. If you don't wash it off, it continues to work. The skin gets irritated, it itches. Then second-, then third-degree burns occur. Slowly the under skin peels off. The skin breaks down completely."

Aniek Crombach (34) was trained as an emergency doctor in the Netherlands. On behalf of Médecins Sans Frontières, she sailed on the ship Sea-Watch 4, which left the port of the Spanish seaside resort Burriana, near Valencia, on 15 August. On board: 28 crew members. There is room for some three hundred drowned people - 150 with due regard for Covid measures. In practice, this proved impossible. Because: do you leave people behind because there is insufficient distance to be kept on board?

The aim: to rescue people from the sea who are trying to cross from Libya to Italy or Malta and get into trouble along the way. In 2020, 803 people disappeared in the Mediterranean Sea: they drowned or went missing according to the Missing Migrants Project of the International Organisation for Migration.

**Wounds too severe**

Crombach remembers one sailor in particular well. A boy of seventeen. He had fallen unconscious on the bottom of the dinghy, right where the mixture of petrol and water accumulated. His friends did not notice. He was later medically evacuated by an Italian ship; his wounds were too serious to treat on board. Very terrible", says Crombach. That a teenager risks his life to undertake a dangerous journey across the Mediterranean, and then just before arrival is separated from his friends."

During the voyage of the Sea-Watch 4, which lasted from 15 August to 4 September, NRC followed Crombach. We called at times when there was sufficient range, before, during and after the voyage. The doctor also recorded 53 voice messages during her stay on board. In them, she talks about the four rescues of a total of 354 people. About the medical evacuation, working under harsh conditions and in coronation time - and the political opposition that the ship encountered from the very beginning.

The fact that the report of that voyage is only now being published is due to the uncertain future that the ship faced later in September. On 18 September, the Sea-Watch 4 was detained by the Italian authorities in the port of Palermo. It is still unclear when the ship will be able to sail again.

Friday, 21 August. It is almost eleven o'clock and I am on the look-out. Last night at half past two we received a message that a wooden boat had been spotted south of Lampedusa. We changed course and started a search pattern. We did not find the boat. This morning we did see a deflated dinghy without people. After two hours of searching, we heard that 70 people arrived in Lampedusa yesterday. We hope they are the people we could not find.

Sea-Watch is a German organisation. The Sea -Watch 4, a 61 metre long general cargo ship, also sails under the German flag. It is the fourth ship with which the organisation is active on the Mediterranean Sea - earlier ships were also detained and sometimes could not sail for months. This summer, Sea-Watch and Doctors Without Borders announced a partnership - teams from both organisations work on the Sea-Watch 4. Sea-Watch is funded entirely by donations from individuals and small businesses, and works mostly with volunteers. Only the captains and technicians are paid. The most recent online annual report, for 2017 and 2018, states that Sea-Watch received nearly ***€3***.5 million in donations and spent a similar amount during that period.

**Fewer and fewer lifeboats**

Before departure, the ship's crew had gone into quarantine and then tested for Covid-19. In the meantime, the ship was made ready for sailing. It took the Sea Watch 4 five days of sailing to get from the Spanish east coast to Libyan waters. In the search and rescue zone, the SAR-zone, countries are obliged by international agreements to rescue people in distress. But in the area where most boats leave, up to 36 nautical miles off the Libyan coast, fewer and fewer ships have been sailing in recent years to be able to rescue people when needed.

Saturday, 22 August. We are getting ready to board a lifeboat to assist another ship, the Louise Michel. They have spotted a small fibreglass boat with seven people on board, two of whom are in a bad medical condition. We have a better equipped hospital on board to treat these people. Our rescue boat, the Bravo, is now being launched, and together with nurse Alex I go to help them.

It is the first rescue by Sea-Watch 4 and it goes well. Seven people is manageable and on board the Sea-Watch 4 everything is available to provide medical assistance to the migrants and refugees. The Louise Michel, a former French Navy patrol boat, is financed by the anonymous British artist Banksy. The small boat is named after the French feminist anarchist Louise Michel and left Spain in secret. Banksy painted an image on the white and pink boat: a girl in a life jacket with a heart-shaped safety buoy.

One day later, on Sunday morning 23 August, the Sea-Watch pulled 97 people from the sea, including 37 children - the youngest being a ten-month-old baby. They are taken from an overcrowded black rubber boat. Most of those on board were not wearing life jackets. There is also no navigation on board. The boat is found about thirty nautical miles from the Libyan coast and has probably been at sea for about eight hours. Many people were seasick and had dehydration symptoms", said Crombach.

In order to be able to spot boats in distress, the crew of the Sea-Watch 4 is on duty. In teams, so that we can look all around the ship", says Crombach. Boats are often only visible at dawn, and in the darkness they are barely discernible on the dark sea. I move my binoculars from left to right across the horizon to make sure I don't miss anything", says the doctor. It is difficult to find very small boats when there are higher waves, especially when the sun is reflecting on the water. It's also very tiring because you're focusing all the time and the binoculars get heavy."

Sunday, 23 August, just after the second rescue. I am so afraid that another boat was left behind, also a dinghy with about the same number of people - a hundred, including pregnant women and children. And I am afraid that they are still in danger or that the Libyan coastguard has found them and taken them back to Libya, or worse, that they have drowned. We are doing our best and I really hope we will find them.

Monday, 24 August. We have just completed a third rescue. This boat had been bobbing at sea for about two days. Many people were covered in petrol and their clothes were soaked. Some had severe hypothermia, around 34 degrees. We immediately washed them and gave them blankets. I checked on them a lot, to see if they were warming up properly. People who get hypothermia often fall into the water faster and cannot save themselves. Then they drown.

After a report on Sunday evening 23 August of a boat in distress, the Sea-Watch 4 sailed for five hours to arrive at the scene. There the ship encounters a white dinghy with 98 people, including - as it turns out - 19 unaccompanied minors. The weather worsens dramatically and the crew has great difficulty in getting the people on board the Sea-Watch 4.

Everyone is extra checked for symptoms of Covid-19. Crombach checks for fever, cough and cold symptoms. But there are no Covid-19 tests on board. The rescued people are given mouth masks and an explanation of why - most people have heard of corona, says Crombach, but don't know exactly what it means.

Monday, 24 August. It's four o'clock in the afternoon and I just had lunch after this morning's rescue, I didn't have time to catch up since we got up at 4.30. First I wanted to check on the people we rescued, so I went up to the deck. That takes extra effort, because you have to put on a different pair of clothes, a mouth mask and then disinfect everything again. Now I am tired anyway, so I am going to try and get some sleep. To be able to assess people in the clinic later.

With 202 rescued people on board, it has become quite busy on the Sea-Watch 4. Especially when handing out meals, we pay close attention", says Crombach. Whether people get up because they are too sick or dehydrated, for example. As we make our rounds, we have to be careful not to step on anyone, it's so full." Keeping enough distance in view of corona, is impossible.

In addition to the wounds people have suffered during the journey, for example because they have been on their knees on a boat for hours, Crombach also sees scars and wounds that are consistent with what people tell her about their stay in Libya, often in captivity. "Torture, bad treatment." Crombach swallows. "Many men, women, including minors, have also been sexually abused."

**Injustice as a 'slap in the face**

Aniek Crombach always wanted to help people. I thought that everyone had that. During her training as an emergency doctor, she did an internship in South African townships. What I saw there in terms of injustice felt like a slap in the face. I feel privileged with all the opportunities I got in life."

Working for aid organisations is a dream for Crombach. Last year, she already went on a mission with the Sea-Watch 3, but that ship did not make it out to sea because it was chained up in Italy. At the end of last year, she went to the Al-Hol refugee camp in north-eastern Syria, where she worked in a field hospital for a month. After that, the doctor made her first trip for Médecins Sans Frontières: she worked for three months in a hospital in Iraq.

29 August. We responded to the distress call of the Louise Michel. They went to two boats in distress in Maltese waters with about 150 people in them. Some of them are now on board; two lifeboats full of people they have tied to their boat. There are many serious medical cases among them, and pregnant women and children. The Italian and Maltese coastguards did not respond to their distress call, and the Louise Michel is too small, they now have too many people on board and are becoming unstable. We are going to help them now.

30 August. We succeeded. It was a rough rescue yesterday, the waves were high and it took us some effort to get the people first into our lifeboat and then onto the ship. Some fell off the Louise Michel or had to jump off to get into our lifeboat. We rinsed more than half of them off, because of burns. And in the evening, thirty more people were examined for petrol burns around the genitals and buttocks. There are now 353 people on board.

Like a handful of other organisations, Sea-Watch and Medecins Sans Frontieres have been trying to establish a permanent presence in the Mediterranean for years. But the organisation has run into a political storm - each time their ships are grounded, in Italy and earlier also in the Netherlands. The official reason being that the ship would not comply with the rules.

Sea-Watch and Médecins Sans Frontières suspect ***European*** governments of deliberately making it impossible for them to work. For years, the ***European Union*** had its own maritime mission in the area, Sophia. Its purpose was to combat human trafficking; as a 'by-catch', ships rescued tens of thousands of people from the sea. In the spring of 2019, the ***EU*** decided that Sophia could no longer deploy patrol ships - this spring, the mission was discontinued. A new mission, Irini, has taken its place, with the main task of enforcing the arms embargo on Libya.

**Anything but staying**

In ***Europe, the*** role of rescue ships has been the subject of fierce debate since the 2015 refugee crisis. The rescue work, however well-intentioned, plays into the hands of people smugglers. They deliberately send migrants out to sea on cheap and seaworthy boats, knowing that there is a chance they will be rescued. At the same time, research shows that boats also go down if there are no rescue ships on standby. For example, a study by the ***European*** University Institute in Florence shows that there is a stronger relationship between the number of departures and the political situation in Libya and weather conditions than between the number of departures and the number of rescue boats at sea. The situation in Libya is so inhumane and hopeless for migrants that for them anything is better than staying in Libya.

The question is how to deal with this. According to Crombach, the criticism of the role of rescue boats distracts from a larger issue. People pay smugglers and board shaky boats because there is no other way to get to ***Europe***. There are no legal routes, they cannot apply for asylum. That is the consequence of the ***European*** migration policy. Those people also leave without us and if we are not there they drown."

31 August. We assess the people from the last rescue for coronasymptoms, to isolate them if necessary. It turns out that there are so many of them that we can't find a place for them anymore, because it is so full on board now. In the end, we decided to make a separate section of the bow where all the people from the last rescue stay, in order to isolate the whole group. They had also been together on the Louise Michel for quite some time. That is all we can do now.

31 August. It has been hectic, after the last rescue. The atmosphere on the ship has changed, especially at the back, where the crew of the first three boats stay together. There are daily fights, especially between the first boat, which had mostly Libyans on it, and the other two, full of other ethnicities, who have negative associations with Libyans because of their bad experiences in the country. The fights are about blankets, or other small things. The space is very limited, people lie spooned together, hardly having any place to sleep or even sit. In bad weather, the waves sometimes crash over the bow at night and people and their blankets get soaked. They do not complain. I find that admirable: to see how quickly the drowned recover and adapt.

The overcrowded Sea-Watch 4, which has more than twice as many people on board as is permitted under the Covid measures, is looking for a safe haven. Initially, they received no response, not from Malta, not from Lampedusa, not from other Italian ports. It takes until Tuesday 1 September, ten days after the initial request, for the Italian authorities to confirm that the ship can go to Palermo. People sang and cried when they heard the news", says Crombach. That they now have a safe haven in ***Europe*** is great. In the evening, we celebrated: people drummed with spoons on plastic buckets, there was dancing. It is very nice to celebrate together like this."

Wednesday, 2 September. I am now looking at the ferry, the Allegra, which will hopefully take our 353 people off at any moment. Initially, port officials were reluctant to take a number of rescued people in urgent need of medical attention onto the ferry. They would spend two weeks in quarantine on that boat, so once they are on it, they cannot get off. Therefore, they would rather transfer some patients to a hospital. Now the authorities are saying that these people should stay on board with us, but that is not possible - and also not our responsibility.

It works. All rescued people disembark and both rescued people and crew of the Sea-Watch 4 are tested for Covid-19. The Sea-Watch is forced into quarantine at anchor outside the harbour. They also fear being detained by the Italian authorities if they enter the port of Palermo. This has already happened to five other rescue ships. Fifteen rescued people on the ferry were found to be infected with Covid-19. The crew of the Sea-Watch 4 eventually tested negative twice.

Thursday, 17 September. It is eleven o'clock in the morning. Right next to us is another rescue ship, the Open Arms, about half our size and with 270 people on board. They have issued a distress call, because tensions are rising on board, but they are not allowed to enter the port. The migrants are now afraid that they will never reach ***Europe*** and since last night people have been jumping over board, we can see it with our binoculars.

People do not have life jackets on all the time, the danger is that they will drown. The Italian authorities are not responding, now they have asked us for help, while we are not allowed to leave. We are preparing for a scenario of a large group of drowned people at the same time. Of course we help if we have to, but there is also discussion: if we do, we have to quarantine longer. While this is happening in Italian waters, it is Italy's responsibility!

The great frustration of organisations such as Sea-Watch and Médecins Sans Frontières is that they feel criminalised, while "all they do is save lives", as Crombach puts it. It feels like we're the little people fighting with ***European*** governments. "At the same time, Crombach does not want to approach it as a fight, she says. ,,That can make you exhausted and despondent. For me, it is important to remain constructive and positive. People can become cynical and jaded after working in humanitarian aid for a long time. We see so much misery. And we feel like we're the only ones doing something.

**Too many life jackets**

To be able to leave the territorial waters, a ship needs the approval of the harbour master. The Sea-Watch 4 does not get that: several requests to sail to Spain earlier are not granted.

In the weeks that the Sea Watch 4 is anchored in quarantine, it becomes clear that the Italian authorities are trying to get the ship into port. This finally happened on Friday 18 September. Crombach had seen it coming. After our quarantine, they will probably want to impound the boat,' she said on 4 September. They'll think of something. The Sea-Watch 3 was stuck near Sicily for over two months. The reason was that they had 'too many life jackets' on board. How can you have too many?"

Once in port, the Sea -Watch 4 is subjected to an inspection - that is the right of every port authority. Twenty-two 'defects' are found. These include physical repairs, but also administrative matters. For example, according to the Italian authorities, the ship is incorrectly registered in Germany. The category under which it should be registered according to Italy does not exist in the German system. The vessel has been detained to date.

Saturday, 19 September. We are stuck and have no control over the situation and it makes us, the crew, angry. We are being criminalised and now we cannot go back into the Mediterranean. While this is so desperately needed: people are drowning at sea! The atmosphere on board is, to put it mildly, not good. People are very demotivated.

Crombach decides to disembark on 5 October. It feels a bit like they have me down, that I am leaving now", says Crombach by telephone. But at the same time, it is important to me that I recharge myself now, find new energy to be able to sail again as soon as the boat is released. I want to maintain my skills as a doctor and that is not possible on board now. That is why I have decided to go back to the Netherlands to work in the hospital in the meantime."

She is receiving expressions of support from people who also believe that migrants should not be left to their fate at sea. But there are so few of them. She sounds disappointed. People do say: how good that you are doing this. But that won't change anything. I wish there was more room for compassion and solidarity in our society. That we would share more in our prosperity."

She is waiting in the Netherlands until the ship can sail again and she can come along, but in the meantime she is doing her best not to lose hope, she says. But I am sad. There is a short silence. I, too, am getting discouraged.

Doctor on the Sea-Watch 4: A despondent dream

People do not wear life jackets all the time, the danger is that they will drown

The number of people crossing the Mediterranean by boat in an attempt to reach Italy or Malta peaked around the time of the refugee crisis. In 2015 almost 154,000 people ventured across, in 2016 over 181,000. Then the number dropped from almost 120,000 in 2017 to over 23,000 in 2018.

The number of boats has been rising again over the last year. In the first half of this year, 17,350 people arrived by sea from Libya to Italy and Malta. A year earlier, in the first half of 2019, there were still 5,792. The number of people who drowned en route halved, according to the International Organization for Migration, from 662 (first half of 2019) to 303 (first half of 2020).

In recent months, more people have drowned, not only in the Mediterranean. At the end of October, the deadliest shipwreck of 2020 was recorded: 140 migrants and refugees died off the coast of Senegal.

There has been chaos and war in Libya since the fall of leader Moammar Gaddafi in 2011. Migrants who come to the country from across the continent, traditionally to work, are locked up in detention centres, inhumane prisons where torture is used. In 2017, CNN revealed that migrants were being traded as slaves. Migration routes to the south are mostly blocked, for many people the only way out is out to sea.

The ***European Union*** made agreements with Libya in 2017: it finances and trains the Libyan coastguard to stop migrant boats sailing off and send them back to Libya. These people often disappear back into the prisons without trial. Human rights organisations have been sounding the alarm for years about the poor conditions for migrants in Libya.

Earlier this year, five lifeboats were active in the Mediterranean, all of which were detained. Only the Open Arms has been able to sail again since then.

**Graphic**

Picked up boat refugees on the Sea Watch 4, late August. There are over two hundred rescued people on board at the time.

Photo Hannah Wallace Bowman/MSF

Rescue operation on 23 August about 30 nautical miles from Libya. There were 97 people in the dinghy, including 37 children, the youngest being a ten-month-old baby.

Photo Hannah Wallace Bowman/MSF

Aniek Crombach

Photo Hannah Wallace Bowman/MSF

A rescued boy of 17 has to leave Sea Watch 4 at the end of August: his burns after coming into contact with a mixture of petrol and sea water in the dinghy from which he was picked up are too severe for treatment on board.

Photo Chris Grodotzki/Sea-Watch.org

A deflated dinghy on 21 August. Aniek Crombach writes in her diary: "After two hours of searching we heard that seventy people had arrived in Lampedusa yesterday. We hope they are the people we could not find."

Photo Hannah Wallace Bowman/MSF

**Classification**

**Language:** DUTCH; ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Refugees (80%); Marine Transportation Accidents (75%); Armed Forces (71%); Disaster + Emergency Relief (61%)

**Industry:** Marine Vessels (94%); Marine Shipping (67%); Marine Transportation (63%)

**Load-Date:** November 6, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Bidenomics: business with tied hands; Bidenomics***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:617J-N4T1-JC5G-13YX-00000-00&context=)[***Let's not get too rich***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:617J-N4T1-JC5G-13YX-00000-00&context=)

NRC Handelsblad

7 November 2020 Saturday

1st Edition

Copyright 2020 NRC Media B.V. All Rights Reserved



**Section:** ECONOMICS; Page 1

**Length:** 1819 words

**Byline:** Mark Beunderman  
  
Maarten Schinkel

**Body**

**ABSTRACT**

United States

Will there be an economic revival when Joe Biden takes over in the United States? The outside world should not count itself too rich.

**FULL TEXT:**

Take out that sentence on protectionism. And delete that word climate change. In March 2017, Steven Mnuchin, the new US Treasury Secretary, joined the G20 in Baden-Baden, Germany, for the first time. He stunned the other delegations. Mnuchin insisted that the text of the G20 communiqué be adapted in the spirit of his boss, the new President Donald Trump. That meant: America First. The German G20 Presidency had to watch as the phrase 'we will oppose all forms of protectionism' and the passage on the importance of the Paris climate agreement fell.

They were not just words. A new era of American economic nationalism began. The US started a trade war with China and also hit the ***European Union*** and other trading partners with new import tariffs. Trump undermined the work of the World Trade Organisation and walked out of the Paris climate agreement. Together with his Republican party colleagues, he scrapped environmental regulations and deregulated the financial sector. Trumponomics also meant: tax cuts and permanent stimulation of the economy, completely abandoning the budgetary discipline traditionally advocated by Republicans.

Last Tuesday's presidential election seemed to end in a Joe Biden victory on Friday. Although the final results are not yet known, and the Trump era is only over when he leaves the White House, the question arises as to how much Bidenomics would differ from Trump's economic policy. Especially now that a blue wave - a major Democratic victory in the Senate - has failed to materialise.

Trump's economic legacy contrasted with Biden's ideas in four areas.

1 Stimulation policy and public debt

At first glance, the financial room for manoeuvre for the new president seems limited, because not only is the infrastructure in the US neglected, but so are public finances. This autumn, the Congressional Budget Office (CBO), a non-partisan court of auditors, made its latest long-term projections. They are not good. If policy remains unchanged, the US national debt, which is already higher than at the peak of World War II, will rise to around 200% of gross domestic product (GDP) by 2050.

The budget deficit swells to 13.5 per cent, mainly due to ever-increasing interest charges, says the CBO.

The budgetary neglect is also evident in old-age pension provision. Calpers, the giant Californian pension fund for civil servants, with a coverage ratio of 70 per cent at a discount rate of 7 per cent in the Netherlands would long ago have been declared technically bankrupt.

It is highly unlikely that the next US President will do anything about all this immediately. Clinton and Obama both cleaned up the Republicans' budgetary mess. Biden is not going to do that. A breakdown by credit rating agency Moody's shows that Biden's programme includes $4,100 billion in tax increases and $7,300 billion in additional government spending over a ten-year period. This will be spent on infrastructure (2,400 billion), education (1,900 billion), social security (1,500 billion) and healthcare (1,500 billion).

It is likely that the bulk of this will have to be spent in Biden's first term, in order to show quick results. The net boost to the economy will result in a sharply higher growth rate, cumulatively 15 per cent over four years, and an increase of almost 19 million jobs.

The corporate income tax rate will rise from 21 to 28 per cent, and although numerous deductions will continue to be made, no business will pay less than 15 per cent. The maximum income above which people no longer have to pay social security contributions is tripled to four tonnes.

That all sounds forceful, but whether it will come to pass remains to be seen. If the Republicans retain the majority in the Senate, which is likely, Biden can expect opposition at every step. Special attention should be paid to the so-called debt ceiling. From time to time, Congress must give its blessing to an increase in the total debt of the United States. If this is stopped, the federal government will not be allowed to borrow any more and even ordinary current spending could come to a halt. Until Congress, if only partially, gets its way.

Bill Clinton already faced a temporary government shutdown in the 1990s because a recalcitrant Republican Congress stood in the way. Obama had tough confrontations with Congress in 2011 and 2013 over the debt ceiling. So Biden, his vice-president at the time, knows all about it. The next time a decision on raising the debt ceiling will have to be made is as early as next July.

Investors, who have done well in recent years, were quick this week to calculate their advantage from a stalemate between the President and the Senate: less will change than expected. Regulation of the financial sector, in which the influence of Democrat Elizabeth Warren was particularly feared, may also be much less.

2 Climate policy

The US withdrawal from the Paris Agreement, which became official on election day last Tuesday, may be history as soon as Biden is president. He will immediately have the US rejoin the agreement, he has promised. Biden calls climate change the "most important threat to humanity".

It will be much more difficult to rebuild the American climate policy from the Obama era, which Trump has systematically dismantled. This will require the cooperation of Republicans in the Senate. The progressive think tank Brookings has documented Trump's deregulation agenda. Measures scrapped by Trump range from strict emission standards to restrictions on oil extraction.

Incidentally, Trump's anti-climate policy has not been able to prevent the fossil energy sector in the US from being squeezed by the very rapidly falling cost of renewable energy. For the first time, more green energy was consumed in the US this year than energy from coal. Biden wants to accelerate this transition with investments worth about 1,700 billion dollars spread over ten years, with the aim of making the US climate neutral by 2050. With this, he would follow the ***EU*** with its Green Deal - but whether he will be able to find a majority in Congress remains to be seen.

What is missing from Biden's plans is a tax on CO2 emissions - a measure favoured not only by prominent American economists and central bankers, but also, by now, by the Business Roundtable, a club of large American companies.

3 World Trade

"Trade wars are good and easy to win." In a tweet in March 2018, Trump summed up his views on free trade. In the trade war with China, he raised the average import tariff on Chinese goods from 3.1 per cent at the beginning of 2018 to 19.3 per cent this year, think tank PIIE calculated. The ***European Union*** also faced higher import tariffs, of 25 per cent on steel and on some products such as Spanish cheese and sausages and French wine. The threat of sanctions against the ***European*** car industry was constantly in the air.

Trump paid close attention to the US trade deficit, which he saw as a sign that the world was benefiting from his country's generosity. He got the trade deficit with China down somewhat (it fell from $375 billion in 2017 to $345 billion in 2019), but the overall US trade deficit continued to rise, from $792 billion to $854 billion.

Will Biden tear down Trump's tariff walls? That is uncertain. I will use import tariffs when I deem them necessary", he told a steel trade union in May. On the other hand, he criticised Trump's policy against China as ineffective.

Biden is not averse to protectionism either. He campaigned on a Buy American plan to get the US government to buy American products and services. He also promised tax breaks for companies that move back to the US.

A hard break with Trump's policies - and a return to the free-trade spirit of Presidents Clinton and Obama - is unlikely. But the transatlantic-minded Biden can be expected to ease trade tensions with ally ***Europe***. Trump's sabotage of the World Trade Organisation is also likely to become a thing of the past. Under Biden, the US may yet join the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) of Australia, Japan and Vietnam, among others, without China. This is intended to provide a counterweight to China. Trump did not believe in it and withdrew the US from TPP.

4 Big Tech

Trump likes to measure his success by the stock market. Let it be the tech companies that he criticises so much (Amazon, Apple, Facebook, Google and Microsoft) that, during his presidency, generated the stock price gains that led to market records.

Trump has often taken 'Big Tech' to task, partly because the tech companies' search engines and filters would favour the Democrats. Trump also threatened the tech giants with measures to curb their dominant market position and taunted them with immigration laws that make it harder to attract foreign talent. But in the end, he never really tackled the companies - Big Tech thrived under Trump, partly because of the big tax cuts. International negotiations within the OECD to make tech companies pay more in taxes were frustrated by Secretary Mnuchin.

It is no coincidence that tech stocks soared when it became clear on Wednesday that a blue wave had failed to materialise. Within the Democratic party, voices have been raised in recent years to break up tech companies. Senator Elizabeth Warren, Bidens rival in the primaries, wants to do that with Amazon, Google and Facebook.

Biden has never commented on this. He does want to repeal the so-called 'Section 230' of a communications law that protects tech companies from claims arising from users' online statements. Many Republicans also want to do away with Section 230. But with both parties having to come to an agreement together in a divided Congress, there is plenty of lobbying room for Big Tech to water down proposals.

It is uncertain whether Biden will open up in the OECD to higher taxes on American tech companies that hardly pay any tax abroad now. He is more focused on international cooperation, but will also want to protect American jobs.

A hard break with the Trump administration is not very likely

**Graphic**

US national debt is now higher than at the peak of World War II

Worker at the Fiat Chrysler Automobiles plant in Michigan. Joe Biden wants to invest $7,300 billion in the economy.

Photo Bill Pugliano/Getty Images

**Classification**

**Language:** DUTCH; ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Heads Of State + Government (94%); International Trade (84%); Politics (83%); Campaigns + Elections (82%); Political Candidates (82%); COVID-19 Coronavirus (64%); Taxes + Taxation (63%)

**Load-Date:** November 6, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Exhibition week***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:617J-N4T1-JC5G-1404-00000-00&context=)

NRC Handelsblad

7 November 2020 Saturday

1st Edition

Copyright 2020 NRC Media B.V. All Rights Reserved



**Section:** ECONOMICS; Page 5

**Length:** 802 words

**Byline:** Ykje Vriesinga  
  
Jorg Leijten.  
  
ANP, EPA, Getty Images/iStockphoto, Robin Utrecht

**Body**

**ABSTRACT**

The stock market week highlights the most important developments in the financial markets over the past week.

**FULL TEXT:**

We never counted on a V-shaped recovery. And now we know for sure that there will not be one.

Paolo Gentiloni, ***European Commissioner*** for the Economy, on Thursday spoke of the "deepest recession in ***EU*** history". The ***European*** Commission lowered the expected growth in 2021 to 4.1 percent. In July, the forecast was still 6.1 percent.

**AEX Index 572.90 points |+1.3 %.**

The stock exchange in Amsterdam ended Friday with a small profit. Investors followed the election campaign in the US, of which no winner was known at the end of the trading week. Strong profits at the beginning of the week were driven by the expected election of Biden. The uncertainty about this caused the gains to partially evaporate.

**Rising stars of the week**

1. ASMI + 13.2%

2. Prosus + 13.0

3. Adyen + 11.2 %

4. Wolters Kluwer + 10.3 %

5. RELX +9.7%

The AEX index saw a number of strong rises this week without any immediately apparent reason for the success. ASMI, the producer of semiconductors for computer chips, was able to benefit from a positive mood on the stock exchange and price gains in the American chip sector. Among the main funds, ASML also benefited, as did BE Semiconductors in the MidKap. Dutch publishers Wolters Kluwer and RELX also excelled this week.

**Decline of the week**

1. KPN - 2.2%

URW - 1.4 %.

3. Galapagos - 0.4

4. Ahold + 0.9

5. ABN Amro +2.9%

If you end up in this section with a plus of 0.9 percent over the past five days, then you can rightly speak of a good week on the stock exchange. Even with a positive adjustment to its profit forecast, Ahold ended up among the week's fallers. It did not even surprise investors anymore after a thunderous year of corona.

This week, the international stock exchanges were, for obvious reasons, completely captivated by the US presidential election. It is expected that a Joe Biden victory will lead to more coronas for the US economy than a new term for Trump.

The world's largest IPO of Chinese online payment company Ant Group was postponed on Tuesday after the Chinese government imposed stricter rules on online loans on Monday. Ant, the owner of Alipay and a sister company of Alibaba, a web store giant founded by tycoon Jack Ma, has earned a lot of money in recent years by providing loans. Ant expected to raise 34 billion dollars (over 29 billion ***euros***) by selling 11 percent of its shares.

The PostNL share fell sharply (- 6.2%) on Monday on the Amsterdam stock exchange after the publication of the figures for the third quarter. The mail and parcel delivery company posted a profit of 36 million ***euros*** on revenue of 742 million ***euros***. The growth was mainly due to the parcel division, which continues to benefit from the corona crisis. But according to analysts, profitability was lower than expected.

Air France-KLM shares rose on Tuesday after the pilots' union VNV also finally agreed to pay restraint in exchange for continued government support.

Several major ***European*** banks published their quarterly results this week. The impact of the corona crisis on financial institutions varies, partly depending on their exposure to risky loans. In Paris, the Société Généraled share rose 4 percent Thursday after results of the French bank were better than expected. Its German counterpart Commerzbank revealed disappointing figures the same day and warned that the number of bad loans could increase as the coronapandemic resumes. The share fell 5.4 percent.

17.8 billion

***Euro*** sales supermarket group Ahold Delhaize recorded in the third quarter (+ 6.8%). Due to the pandemic, people eat at home more often.

The Swiss temping multinational Adecco rose 5.3 percent on the Zurich stock exchange on Tuesday. In the third quarter, the temping group managed to limit the decline in turnover as a result of the corona crisis. As corona restrictions in many countries were eased in the summer, the demand for flexible staff also picked up slightly. Shares of Dutch sector peer Randstad rose 3.4 percent in Amsterdam after the news. The demand for temporary work is seen as a predictor of the movement of the labour market.

ING posted a profit of 788 million ***euros*** in the third quarter, it emerged on Thursday. That is a 41 percent drop compared to the profit of 1.3 billion ***euros*** in the same period of 2019. However, the bank performed better than in the second quarter. ING is to cut 1,000 jobs worldwide, possibly including in the Netherlands.

Compilation Ykje Vriesinga and Jorg Leijten. Photos: ANP, EPA, Getty Images/iStockphoto, Robin Utrecht

**Classification**

**Language:** DUTCH; ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Stock Market Updates (94%); Company Revenues (81%); Securities + Other Investments (73%)

**Load-Date:** November 6, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Others meddle with our history ; In Europe***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:617J-N4T1-JC5G-13XX-00000-00&context=)

NRC Handelsblad

7 November 2020 Saturday

1st Edition

Copyright 2020 NRC Media B.V. All Rights Reserved



**Section:** WEEKEND; Page 24

**Length:** 667 words

**Byline:** Caroline de Gruyter

**Body**

Transatlantic relations have often been pronounced dead, but this week you would not say so. Wherever you looked, the whole of ***Europe*** was almost maniacally occupied with the American elections. A huge battery of pundits passed by in the media - you wish they could pull out a fraction of that in ***European*** elections. Even many young people stayed up all night on Tuesday.

The key question is: what is the significance of these elections - for ***Europe***, for the West, for the future of democracy, for a world in full transformation? We all want to know now how this will end up in the history books.

But that, of course, depends on who is writing the history.

Let us for a moment shift our gaze to the Historical Museum in Nantes. There, in October, a large exhibition is scheduled to open on Genghis Khan and the Mongol Empire, which, around the thirteenth century, was the largest empire on earth. In its heyday, it stretched from Eastern Europe (the Carpathians) to the Sea of Japan. China would send some 225 pieces from a Chinese museum to France.

First, the exhibition, which was on display in Soesterberg in 2017, was cancelled due to the corona pandemic. Then, in mid-October, the museum announced that the newly planned opening, in early 2021, had also been cancelled. Why? According to the French press, because China suddenly wanted the name Dzhengis Khan out of the title and wanted to shift the focus from the Mongols to the Ming dynasty (of Han Chinese) that later took over the Mongolian capital. The Chinese also rewrote the catalogue and texts accompanying maps and pictures. Thus, Mongolia became "the steppe in the north of China". The museum refused. The director accused China of "censorship".

Interesting detail: eventually there will be a Dzhengis Khan exhibition in Nantes, not next year but in 2024. They are going to set it up all over again, with the help of ***European*** and American museums. The Metropolitan Museum of Modern Art in New York has an extensive Mongolian collection - it's amazing they hadn't thought of that before.

Incidents like this (there are many) matter. In the past, the ***European*** view of history prevailed. We looked at the rest of the world through our ***European*** glasses. But we are becoming increasingly uncertain about our own story, said French historian Pierre Grosser recently in the French magazine Le Point. "Not only are other countries now writing their own history, but they are challenging the way we look at it."

Turkish students at ***European*** universities take offence at the term 'Armenian genocide'. Chinese students put their own views on the developments in the South China Sea on the table. At the University of Prague, a department of sinology was set up with Chinese money. This led to so many academic excesses (such as lectures on the benefits of the New Silk Road) that the department has already been closed down. A conference was held at Vienna University on Chinese workers in ***Europe*** during the First World War. China financed this conference, partly determined the programme and supplied speakers. In the end, the impression was created that the few tens of thousands of Chinese who were in ***Europe*** in 1918 were decisive for the victory of the Triple Entente, Grosser said. If we are not careful, "they are still rewriting our history".

Back to the American elections. They dominated everything here. In China, it was the eleventh news item on Wednesday. One was the postponed IPO of the Ant Group, a fintech giant, and two was the American departure from the Paris Climate Accord. The Communist Party and the Chinese people care little about who wins", wrote Jiang Xueqin on CNN's website. "A new cold war is the new normal."

One empire collapses, the next one is already waiting.

Caroline de Gruyter writes weekly about politics and ***Europe***.

In China, the American elections were the eleventh news item

**Notes**

Caroline de Gruyter writes weekly about politics and ***Europe***.

**Classification**

**Language:** DUTCH; ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Nontariff Barriers (67%); Information Management + Technology (63%); History (62%)

**Industry:** Destinations + Attractions (94%); Museums + Galleries (87%); Internet + Www (67%)

**Load-Date:** November 6, 2020

**End of Document**

[***No, Islam offers help***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:617J-N4T1-JC5G-13YK-00000-00&context=)

NRC Handelsblad

7 November 2020 Saturday

1st Edition

Copyright 2020 NRC Media B.V. All Rights Reserved



**Section:** OPINION & DEBATE; page 4

**Length:** 690 words

**Byline:** Tom Black

**Body**

**ABSTRACT**

Opinion

Islam

Fight terrorism, not Islam. Tom Zwart thinks about how to do that.

**FULL TEXT:**

President Macron is currently receiving a great deal of criticism from the Muslim community at home and abroad. This community supports his condemnation of the murder of the teacher Samuel Paty and the victims in the basilica in Nice, but opposes his statement of 2 October that Islam is in crisis throughout the world. That the President of a secular country with limited knowledge of Islam should make such a sweeping statement shows neo-colonial arrogance.

In the same speech, Macron also called for the building of an 'Islam of Enlightenment', thus creating the impression that Islam and Western values are incompatible. Many Muslims feel insulted by this kind of statement, which assumes that Islam is inferior to Western culture. The Enlightenment is not superior, but indebted to Islam: the great thinkers of the Enlightenment have taken over, often without indicating their sources, principles from Islam, including tolerance and rationalism.

Macron constantly emphasises the importance of delaïcité, the strict separation of church and state. That principle restricts the wearing of religious symbols, such as the headscarf and the nikab, in the public domain. But that same laïcité apparently does not prevent him from making far-reaching statements about religion. By acting tough on Islam now, Macron may well be taking a precautionary step towards the presidential elections of 2022, which promise to be a neck-and-neck race between him and Marine Le Pen.

A second objection from the Muslim community is that the President is fiercely defending the freedom of expression of the weekly magazine Charlie Hebdo to publish cartoons ridiculing the Prophet Mohammed. He is now supported in this by his ***European colleagues***, including Prime Minister Mark Rutte. According to them it is part of the ***European*** tradition that believers have to tolerate that their religious feelings are hurt.

But the opposite is true. According to the consistent case law of the ***European*** Court of Human Rights, mocking religion is not protected by freedom of expression. The Court has also emphasised that freedom of expression is not a licence to insult the Prophet or Islam and that states have a duty to protect religious peace.

Hardened language plays into the hands of terrorist organisations, which are pushing for a civil war between Muslims and non-Muslims. It is therefore much better to look for the connection. The good news is that boards of mosque umbrellas and mosques, imams and Islamic scholars have decided to actively fight terrorism, in cooperation with the government and with the help of Islam. A detailed proposal for a pilot project has been submitted to the government.

As part of community-based research, I am actively involved in this initiative, which aims to encourage young Muslims to participate in the democratic rule of law by showing them that Islam encourages them to do so. A canon is being created that illustrates that ***European*** and Dutch history have been strongly influenced by Islam. The Ottoman sultan and the sultan of Marrakech, for example, helped make possible the independence of the Republic of the Seven United Provinces.

In the same plan, mosques are better equipped to withstand the attraction of terrorist organisations. With the help of Islam, young people are made resilient against the recruitment stories of recruiters. And those who have committed violent terrorist crimes will be guided back to the path of non-violence by intensive counselling from Islamic scholars.

If the government accepts the hand extended by the Muslim community, it will be fighting terrorism - not Islam.

Freedom of expression is not a licence to mock Islam

Tom Zwart is Professor of Cross-Cultural Law, Utrecht University.

**Classification**

**Language:** DUTCH; ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Religion + Spirituality (94%); Muslims + Islam (90%)

**Load-Date:** November 6, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Tax science has sold itself; The Rule of Law***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:617J-N4T1-JC5G-13YB-00000-00&context=) [***Tax science fails; The Rule of Law***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:617J-N4T1-JC5G-13YB-00000-00&context=)

NRC Handelsblad

7 November 2020 Saturday

1st Edition

Copyright 2020 NRC Media B.V. All Rights Reserved



**Section:** OPINION & DEBATE; Page 1

**Length:** 704 words

**Byline:** Folkert Jensma

**Body**

Tobacco giants channel billions through the Netherlands, according to NRC last Friday. Large-scale tax avoidance, facilitated by the state. It is a side of the Netherlands we would rather not see. Meanwhile, foreign countries are taking more and more offence. In April, the Italian Prime Minister found conclusive evidence of our attitude towards Southern Europe, which has always been considered anti-social. Brussels is warning too. In order to be able to draw from the ***EU Corona Recovery Fund***, 'aggressive tax planning' has to be curtailed. If, for example, the Netherlands continues to allow Benetton to establish itself here on paper in order to avoid paying taxes in Italy, our travel sector will not receive any compensation from Brussels. Under corona pressure, everything becomes liquid - and visible.

Media attention for international tax evasion is growing. Citizens no longer accept such international clientelism. See Prime Minister Rutte, who had to retract his reduction of the dividend tax in a hurry. Tax is about loyalty - paying for the services one benefits from. In other words, the difference between participating and getting involved. There are no easy answers to the reproaches from Rome and Brussels, other than the you-bag 'everyone is doing it'. Which member state will be the first to understand that it is better to stop?

The tax authorities still have to get used to this moral-political reality, as became apparent during the inaugural lecture by Leiden professor of tax law Jan Vleggeert on that same Friday. It dealt with the phenomenon that most tax professors simultaneously work for an advisory office, the tax authorities or the ministry. Are these professors still independent? Do the numerous double hats mean that subjects are ignored? International tax avoidance, for example?

Tax science has become predictable and one-sided. If case law is in favour of taxpayers, then the majority of professors show approval. If the Supreme Court restricts the room for manoeuvre of companies, then there is (some) criticism.

The tax establishment, meanwhile, blames society for a lack of knowledge: the media cannot be taken seriously and parliamentarians do not understand anything either. In short, 'the level' is worrying. You can hear the, mainly gentlemen, say it. And you immediately feel why 'Big Tobacco' c.s. always claims to abide by the law. Because technically it is fine, so they are told. But that it is also politically untenable, immoral and socially outdated, escapes them. Because who turns on the lights there? Not the tax lawyers.

Vleggeert's oration is well-founded, nuanced, quite cautious, but also disconcerting. It comes down to the fact that the tax establishment has defined the integrity issue away. Integrity "is on the inside". It can be difficult to represent different interests, but that is all. We are good and it is enough that we think so about ourselves. Tax science is encapsulated, gagged, held hostage by sectional interests. Tax experts from the ministry cannot publish anything that is not politically expedient. If tax scientists are also consultants and publication is detrimental to a client, then 'a normative discussion' follows.

Of professors who also work for an advisory office, Vleggeert "cannot escape the impression" that their views "suspiciously often" also serve a client's interest. He has "every reason" to doubt the independence of his colleagues. That some subjects are insufficiently discussed in tax literature is because it is "from a commercial perspective" not convenient to draw attention to them. That international tax avoidance is one of them is no surprise. Tax science fails. Vleggeert calls on his students to find out the exact extent of the problem. Peers to pull their heads out of the sand and acknowledge that there is a problem. The 'tax professor of the future' has more than enough in one hat, the university hat. Reform also the study programmes, which now mainly produce new tax engineers, skilled in building unwanted constructions. Funded with taxpayers' money, too.

Folkert Jensmais legal commentator. Twitter: @folkertjensma

**Notes**

Folkert Jensmais legal commentator. Twitter: @folkertjensma

**Classification**

**Language:** DUTCH; ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Tax Law (94%); Public Finance (86%); Taxes + Taxation (81%)

**Load-Date:** November 6, 2020

**End of Document**

[***No Headline In Original***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:617J-N4T1-JC5G-13YN-00000-00&context=)

NRC Handelsblad

7 November 2020 Saturday

1st Edition

Copyright 2020 NRC Media B.V. All Rights Reserved



**Section:** OPINION & DEBATE; Page 10

**Length:** 654 words

**Byline:** Liselotte Feenstra  
  
Pier Bergsma  
  
Koo van der Wal  
  
Vera van Dort  
  
DirkJan Vos

**Body**

US elections (1)

**Electors**

I propose that the word 'electors' be replaced by 'voters' or, for example, 'electors' in the reporting. Although I can imagine that it feels a bit artificial now, the word 'electors' is outdated, and I hope I do not have to explain that its use hampers women's emancipation. Nor do I see any reason in the English 'elector' to limit its Dutch translation to the male half of the population. I look forward to following the news surrounding the US elections without the feeling that we are going backwards in time.

Liselotte Feenstra

US elections (2)

**Hurdles**

In 1930, José Ortega y Gasset published La rebellion de las masas, which was translated into Dutch in 1933 as De opstand der horden and in 2015 as De opstand van de massaamens. Ortega saw Mussolini come to power in Italy in the 1920s. This inspired him to write a number of disturbing newspaper articles that later appeared as a book. Admittedly, there are major differences between Trump and Mussolini in ideological terms. Not in body language, but both are macho. And a striking similarity is their contempt for democracy. The book is therefore of great topical value. When, in the days after the American presidential elections, I saw frenziedly protesting crowds, I thought that The Revolt of the Hordes would be a better title.

Pier Bergsma

US elections (3)

**Mock Democracy**

In the commentaryAmerican elections are democratic test (3/11), NRC attributes to the US an exemplary role in the world. But America has never been a truly democratic country where every vote counts. The system of electoral votes built into the country by the founding fathers showed distrust in the judgment of the people from the very beginning. Also, the principle of 'the winner takes all', which is characteristic of the US, meant that large numbers of votes were cast in vain. In the US, racism has always flourished above or below ground. Solidarity is not in their vocabulary. American casino capitalism is a perverse economic system, society is built on competition and contestation rather than on co-operation. The idea of a common good has never taken root there. In short, as ***Europeans***, we should lower our guard against America, as we have done for the past 75 years. We should be a little more self-assured because democracy and the rule of law originated here in ***Europe***, on the basis of our own concept of humanity, and actually only flourish here, albeit by trial and error.

Koo van der Wal

US elections (4)

**Normal**

Because Trump's abnormal behaviour has become normal, the normal behaviour of his supporters has become abnormal.

Vera van Dort

Cartoon

**Dialogue**

The drawing by Joep Bertrams, which caused a commotion at a school in Rotterdam this week, shows a warrior with a beard and turban who has just beheaded a man from Charlie Hebdo; the man can still stick out his tongue. At the school, some teenagers had recognised the prophet Mohammed in the jihadist. They felt offended and wanted the drawing to be removed. On social media people shouted blue murder that freedom of expression had been violated and that the girls should be suspended, at least temporarily. The drawing was removed from the classroom. Thus, a religious war seems to be rekindled over the heads of a few teenagers, who are easy and heroic to condemn. It seems better to me to keep a cool head and engage in a dialogue.

DirkJan Vos

Corrections & additions

**Wool and linen**

In 'I am Jewish in my own way' (31/10, p. L16-17) it says that the combination of wool and silk is forbidden to orthodox Jews. This should be: wool and linen.

Letters 7/11/2020

Lower your sights on the US

**Classification**

**Language:** DUTCH; ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Ethics (93%); Rule Of Law (93%); Freedom Of Expression (92%); Immigration (78%); Human Rights (77%); Communities + Neighborhoods (75%); International Relations (75%); Trade Treaties + Agreements (73%); COVID-19 Coronavirus (71%); Abortion (63%); Consumer Confidence (63%); Civil Rights (61%)

**Load-Date:** November 6, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Macron is right, Islam is in crisis; For a long time, writes Ruud Koopmans***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:617J-N4T1-JC5G-13YC-00000-00&context=)

NRC Handelsblad

7 November 2020 Saturday

1st Edition

Copyright 2020 NRC Media B.V. All Rights Reserved



**Section:** OPINION & DEBATE; Page 1

**Length:** 1130 words

**Byline:** Ruud Koopmans  
  
Ruud Koopmans

**Body**

**ABSTRACT**

Opinion

Islam

You cannot fight Islamic fundamentalists by trusting their good intentions, writes Ruud Koopmans. The steadfastness of the French president deserves to be emulated.

**FULL TEXT:**

Emmanuel Macron's defence of the right to publish caricatures is not the only reason why the French President has incurred the wrath of large parts of the Islamic world. In a sensational speech two weeks before the murder of the French teacher Samuel Paty, he pointed to the rise of Islamic fundamentalism as the cause of the "deep crisis in which Islam finds itself today all over the world". Turkish President Erdogan reacted by return mail, calling Macron's statement "disrespectful and a downright provocation". The Sunni legal institute Al-Azhar in Cairo denounced Macron's statements as "racist, and of a nature to inflame the feelings of two billion Muslims in the world".

Macron's words may be perceived as painful by some Muslims, but they refer to an even more painful reality. Since the Islamic revolution year of 1979, when the Islamic Republic of Iran was proclaimed, civil war broke out in Afghanistan and Pakistan introduced Sharia law, Islamic fundamentalism has gained increasing influence. Saudi Arabia played an important role in this. At the end of 1979, hundreds of jihadists occupied the Great Mosque in Mecca, demanding the resignation of what they saw as the Westernised House of Saud. The uprising was crushed in a bloody fashion, but not before the Saudi clerics had stipulated that the regime would step up its efforts to spread Salafi-Wahhabism, the country's fundamentalist state religion, throughout the world.

And so they did. It is estimated that the Saudis have since spent two to three billion dollars a year spreading their version of Islam, building mosques and Koranic schools, sending fundamentalist teaching materials and imams, as well as tens of thousands of scholarships for foreigners to study theology at the Wahhabist University of Medina. Saudi money has also financed nearly 1 400 mosques, over 200 universities and 2 000 Koranic schools in non-Muslim countries.

In the struggle for hegemony in the Islamic world, the Saudis' competitors and allies have not been left behind: if you travel through the Islamic world from Senegal to South-East Asia, you will see signs on brand new mosques with the names of the generous donors on them: Kuwait, Qatar, the Emirates and, recently, Erdogan's Turkey.

The rise of fundamentalism has deep roots. After the dismantling of the Ottoman Empire after World War I and the Anglo-French partition of the Middle East, the Islamic world lost not only its only political superpower but also its religious leadership - in 1924 Mustafa Kemal Atatürk abolished the Caliphate. The psychological wounds of those events have not healed to this day.

As the initially dominant response to this humiliation (modernisation and secularisation from above, for example under Atatürk, the Persian shahs and Nasser) lost its appeal, fundamentalist opposition grew stronger, especially after the painful defeats of the Arab regimes against Israel.

The fundamentalist answer is that the former glory can be restored by a literal interpretation of the Holy Scriptures and by engaging in battle with the (supposed) enemies of Islam. As is the case for fundamentalists of all kinds, these enemies are not only to be found outside the community, but also among 'traitors' and 'apostates' in one's own circle.

This has led to an explosion in political violence. In the new millennium, the worldwide number of terrorist deaths has risen sharply - and 85% of them are attributable to Islamist groups. Wars rage between Shiites and Sunnis, between the Muslim Brotherhood and its opponents, between fundamentalists and secular regimes, or, as in Syria, between all at once. The collateral damage that we in ***Europe*** experience from that violence only concerns a small part.

The rise of fundamentalism has also meant that the advance of democracy has bypassed the Islamic world. The already small number of democracies has declined further since the 1970s. When legal rules from the sharia become the law of the land (as is more or less the case in 29 of the 47 Islamic states) and when large parts of the population in other countries also use these rules as a guideline for social life, the position of women and minorities is in a bad way. Islamic countries therefore dominate almost all wrong lists of violations of fundamental human rights.

This also has economic consequences. Where violence is the order of the day, where women are excluded from social life and where seventh-century rules are valued more than modern, secular knowledge, economic development also stagnates. With petrodollars no longer flowing so abundantly, the Islamic world is also falling further and further behind economically, not only in the West but also in the emerging economies of East Asia and Latin America.

In its ruthless suppression of dissidents and those of other faiths, its violent expansionism and its absolute belief in its own superiority, Islamic fundamentalism is the fascism of our time. The causes are also similar: lost wars, utopian dreams about the restoration of former glory and a widespread belief in conspiracy theories that attribute one's own misery to a conspiracy of internal and external enemies (including, once again, the Jews). If we want to draw a historical lesson, let it be this: totalitarian movements are not fought by trust in their good intentions and appeasement with concessions. One must see them for what they are and fight them with determination. That is what Macron, in his recent statements, was finally the first Western leader to say. Islamic fundamentalism is not a problem of France; it is the source of worldwide oppression and violence. That is why Macron's approach deserves broad support and imitation, also in the Islamic world.

Ruud Koopmans is research director at Wissenschafstzentrum WZB and professor of sociology at Humboldt University in Berlin. He wrote the book Het verval huis van de Islam: Over de crisis van de islamitische wereld.

**Graphic**

Photo

Emrah Gurel

Photo Emrah Gurel/AP

**Classification**

**Language:** DUTCH; ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Muslims + Islam (94%); Religion + Spirituality (87%); Terrorist Organizations (61%)

**Load-Date:** November 6, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Town and country are also in the EU electorally split***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:61C1-KRK1-JC5G-1121-00000-00&context=)

NRC Handelsblad

23 November 2020 Monday

1st Edition

Copyright 2020 NRC Media B.V. All Rights Reserved



**Section:** OPINION; page 18

**Length:** 1049 words

**Byline:** Coen Teulings

**Body**

**ABSTRACT**

Spatial segregation, which determined the outcome of the US elections, also threatens the ***EU***. Only the 'redistribution machine' can avert this threat, argues Coen Teulings.

**FULL TEXT:**

Voter research shows that two issues have determined the outcome of the US elections. The interpretation of riots like in Kenosha (Black Lives Matter versus better law enforcement by the police) and Covid-19 versus the economy. It is highly questionable whether Joe Biden would have won without the Covid crisis. That he succeeded where Hillary Clinton failed in 2016 is largely due to his following among new voters and his relative gains among less educated white men. Trump's near majority is still based on an unlikely coalition of those less educated (especially in rural areas) and the rich happy few.

The most remarkable thing about the election results is the increasing spatial segregation of the electorate: the countryside votes Republican, the city Democratic. In 1992, two thirds of the voters still lived in constituencies where both parties were about the same size. Now that is only 40 per cent. Today, 8% of the electorate live in constituencies where one of the two parties gets more than 80% of the vote; in 1992 this was almost non-existent.

The deep background of this spatial segregation is best illustrated by the result in the state of Colorado, a blue Democratic island in the otherwise bright red Republican plain of the Midwest. What explains this anomalous election result? Denver. Colorado's capital city, along with San Francisco, Portland and Seattle on the West Coast and Boston on the East Coast, has the best educated workforce in the country. All these cities are breeding grounds for the innovation that makes the US so prosperous.

The same political contrast between highly educated cities and a poorly educated countryside also occurs in the ***European Union***, but less extreme than in the US. The Netherlands is no exception. Prime Minister Rutte expressed this contradiction last year with his dig at "the white wine-sipping elite from Amsterdam".

We can complain endlessly about the rise of populism and the loss of democratic principles. However, it makes more sense to see populism as a cry for help from part of the electorate, an expression of their dissatisfaction with the consequences of previous choices by democratically elected politicians. The American lower-educated white man feels threatened by the loss of his job and opts for protection by a strong leader. A workable political programme will have to provide an answer to this dissatisfaction.

It is precisely this that makes the subject so explosive. The increasing segregation between city and countryside, and thus between levels of education, is in fact the inevitable by-product of the modern economy. Nowadays, the big money is no longer earned by 'making' but by 'inventing' new ways of 'making': R&D and design. We have largely outsourced 'making', to machines and to other countries, first to China, and now to Vietnam and the Philippines. Making' can no longer justify our place as one of the four or five richest countries in the world. Without 'inventing', we do not belong in that list.

In his new book The Tyranny of Merit, Michael Sandel argues for a smaller role for education in the social valuation of work. The aim is laudable, but it is doomed to fail. Pressure cookers are needed for 'inventing': places where people with knowledge and ideas are brought together to think up new ideas with steam and boiling water. Economists call this agglomeration benefits. The empirical evidence for this is overwhelming. That is precisely what the city offers.

In this spatial split between 'making' and 'inventing', the ***EU*** is both at a disadvantage and at an advantage. The ***EU*** is at a disadvantage because we are losing ground. The Netherlands is proud of its universities, but that pride cannot hide the fact that without the UK, the ***EU*** has only one university in the global top twenty (Paris-Saclay). Currently, the cards for the future world are being shuffled in IT. Of the top seven companies in this sector, five are American, two Chinese. The ***EU*** is a mere spectator. The two Chinese in the top seven, Alibaba and Tencent, show something else: China is rapidly making the transition from 'making' to 'inventing'. The ***EU*** is in danger of being left behind.

But the ***EU*** also has an advantage. No superpower has such an extensive welfare state as the ***EU***. Nowhere is health care for broad groups so well organized as here. In the Netherlands, the far left (SP) and the far right (PVV) find each other in support of healthcare. Social protection and income support are excellently regulated here, with virtually parliamentary support. This is precisely why the rise of populism in the ***EU*** has had less of a polarising effect than in the US. This machinery of redistribution offers the political mandate with which 'inventors' can work in their pressure cookers on the R&D that will soon determine our prosperity. It is precisely that mandate that is lacking in the US. That is precisely why Ian Buruma has repeatedly called for a new 'New Deal' for the US in NRC.

If the ***EU*** and the Netherlands are to be able to continue to cope with the current level of political polarisation in the US, we must both address our disadvantage and protect our advantage. Addressing our disadvantage requires more emphasis on 'inventing'. Better universities, more R&D. Make those pressure cookers for top talent. If we do not, we will lose more ground to the US and China will overtake us. But that inevitably leads to more spatial segregation.

To protect our advantage, the redistribution machinery must be used to tackle the shadow side of spatial segregation: more attention to the countryside. The money earned in Amsterdam and Eindhoven should be used in part to better protect the quality of life in rural areas.

Increasing urban-rural segregation is the inevitable by-product of the modern economy

Coen Teulings is University Professor at Utrecht University.

**Graphic**

Potato growers backed Trump in his trade war with China last year.

Photo Chip Somodevilla / Getty Images

**Classification**

**Language:** DUTCH; ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Communities + Neighborhoods (93%); ***European*** Union (88%); Trends (83%); Nontariff Barriers (80%); Developing Countries (77%); Agricultural Commodities Markets (76%); Agricultural Subsidies (73%); Population Size (73%); COVID-19 Coronavirus (70%); Epidemics (70%); Infectious Disease (70%); International Relations (70%); Food Safety (63%); Unofficial Economy (62%)

**Industry:** Agriculture (75%); Biotechnology Industry (61%); Farmers + Ranchers (61%)

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

**End of Document**

[***Apparent safety***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:61BY-P641-DY4D-Y0SX-00000-00&context=)

De Telegraaf

23 November 2020 Monday

Netherlands

Copyright 2020 Mediahuis Nederland BV All Rights Reserved



**Section:** INDOOR; Page 2

**Length:** 222 words

**Body**

Britain is increasing its defence budget by over ten per cent a year. According to Prime Minister Johnson, the world situation is now more dangerous and competitive than at any time since the end of the Cold War.

The British approach is diametrically opposed to ours. It is like this. NATO members have agreed to spend two per cent of their gross domestic product (GDP) on the armed forces by 2024. Prime Minister Rutte promised to work towards this 'as a reliable partner'. However, with 11.7 billion euros, our defence budget remains at 1.3 per cent. Thanks to the corona crisis, this percentage has now simply risen to 1.5 per cent because of a shrinking economy.

For example, a virus currently brings the Netherlands closer to the NATO standard. Election programmes that are presented show that the ambition does not extend much further. The VVD only wants to raise the defence budget to the ***European*** average, just like D66, for example.

That ***European*** average is below the NATO standard, although it has also been pushed up to 1.8% by the corona crisis, without spending a penny more. Although the Netherlands still has to make a small jump, a paper reality brings ***European*** politicians closer to fulfilling the NATO promise. That offers false security. It would be better if the British were to tighten their purse strings.

**Classification**

**Language:** DUTCH; ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** Tlg-NL

**Subject:** Gross Domestic Product (94%); Economic Growth (87%); Public Finance (70%); Armed Forces (68%); Defense Departments (63%)

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

**End of Document**

[***Gran Canaria to build more tent camps***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:61C1-KRK1-JC5G-111T-00000-00&context=)

NRC Handelsblad

23 November 2020 Monday

1st Edition

Copyright 2020 NRC Media B.V. All Rights Reserved



**Section:** OUTSIDE; Page 12

**Length:** 516 words

**Byline:** Koen Greven

**Dateline:** Madrid

**Body**

**ABSTRACT**

Migrants

The Canary Islands are taking emergency measures. The Spanish mainland is taking people over only sparingly.

**FULL TEXT:**

An increasing flow of migrants is forcing the Canary Islands to build several new refugee camps before the end of the year, with room for around seven thousand migrants from Africa. Several thousand will also be accommodated in tourist flats in the near future. The Spanish government of the Social Democrat Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez is only allowing migrants to be brought to the mainland in small numbers, because this would have a suction effect. In the meantime, the government is trying to make agreements with countries of origin such as Morocco, Mauritania and Senegal about sending migrants back.

The Spanish coalition government of the left-wing PSOE and the far-left Podemos was forced into action by the local authorities because of the incessant flow of migrants to Gran Canaria, Tenerife, Fuerteventura and Lanzarote. The reopening of 'the Canary route', which had previously caused a crisis with 32,000 migrants in 2006, is the result of the closure of other routes to ***Europe*** and the increasing poverty caused by the outbreak of Covid-19. More than 18,300 Africans have arrived in boats on the islands this year, up from 2,700 last year. The Spanish Commission for Refugee Aid estimates that between five hundred and one thousand migrants have died en route to the archipelago.

The current reception centres on the islands are not equipped to handle thousands of migrants, who, according to the protocols for combating the coronavirus, have to be quarantined for the first 72 hours. In Gran Canaria, part of the port of Arguineguín was set up for this purpose. Until recently, thousands of migrants stayed there, although there is only room for 400 people. Last week there was an uproar in Gran Canaria when two hundred migrants were thrown out of the reception centre onto the streets. The Ministry of the Interior has opened an investigation into this "police error".

The continuing arrival of migrants has led to a political crisis in which the regional government is up against the national government. According to regional president Ángel Víctor Torres - like Prime Minister Sánchez a social democrat - the Canary Islands can handle part of the reception themselves, but it should be prevented that Gran Canaria becomes a kind of Lesbos or Lampedusa.

The Spanish government learned a harsh lesson in the summer of 2018 when a huge flow into the southern European country began after welcoming the Aquarius into the port of Valencia, with 629 migrants on board. Sánchez is now refusing to allow migrants into the Iberian Peninsula in large groups, hoping that others will be discouraged from venturing the sometimes weeks-long crossing. In any case, it will be a little quieter for the Canary Islands coastguard in the coming period, because a changed wind direction will make the crossing almost impossible.

More than 18,300 Africans have already arrived on the islands this year

**Classification**

**Language:** DUTCH; ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Immigration (94%); Illegal Immigrants (88%); Refugees (82%)

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

**End of Document**

[***Tough talk and threats at the negotiating table***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:61G1-6BN1-JC5G-100J-00000-00&context=)

NRC Handelsblad

7 December 2020 Monday

1st Edition

Copyright 2020 NRC Media B.V. All Rights Reserved



**Section:** IN THE NEWS; Page 6

**Length:** 486 words

**Dateline:** Brussels/London

**Body**

**ABSTRACT**

Brexit

Tensions are running high as talks on the EU-UK trade deal are in their final stages.

**FULL TEXT:**

If you look at the Brexit negotiations as a dance, then we saw this weekend's Vogue: standing still for a moment in a pose, for the theatrical effect.

That pose lasted just over 24 hours this weekend. Talks on a trade deal between the United Kingdom and the ***European Union were*** suspended on Friday night and resumed on Sunday. In between, there was a phone call on Saturday night from British Prime Minister Boris Johnson and ***European*** Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, who agreed to make one last effort. On Monday evening, when another telephone call is scheduled, the balance will be reviewed again.

With less than a month to go until the end of the transition period, the talks have entered the absolute final phase. As expected, they are proceeding apace, with tough talk and threats on both sides. On Friday, the French Secretary of State for ***European*** Affairs Clément Beaune announced that his country would not hesitate to use its veto in case of a 'bad' deal. On Sunday, it was leaked via the British press that his cabinet would support Johnson if he decided to walk away from the negotiating table.

The latter is not an option for Brussels. But the nervousness and frustration on the ***European side*** grew quickly last week. ***EU negotiator*** Michel Barnier, diplomats say, is now 'millimetres away' from what is acceptable for member states. And so the ***EU*** too has reached its pain threshold, especially with the concessions it has to make in the area of fisheries.

In the end, however, it is Johnson who has to make the most difficult decisions. For him, the consequences of failure are greater than for the ***EU***. The Prime Minister is under too much pressure from the Brexiteers within his own group not to fear a No Deal. Sovereignty is a sacred concept to them. Too much sacrifice on fishing or too many ***European*** rules to follow and they will not hesitate to withdraw their support. David Cameron and Theresa May know how that ends.

It is clear that Johnson does not want to provoke the wrath of Brexiteers: this week, the House of Commons is revisiting the controversial bill that would see the government violate agreements made over the border on the island of Ireland. If the row with the ***EU*** over that proposal escalates again, it could ruin any progress made on a trade deal.

At the same time, Johnson will also know that a No Deal will make his political life more difficult in 2021 and beyond. The prime minister will have to answer for an even greater economic downturn, when for years he has said a trade deal with the ***EU*** was a piece of cake. And that economic damage could increase support for independence in Scotland and fuel renewed instability in Northern Ireland.

**Graphic**

President of the ***European*** Commission Ursula von der Leyen.

Photo Julien Warnand / EPA

**Classification**

**Language:** DUTCH; ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject: *European*** Union (94%); ***European*** Union Regulation + Policy (69%)

**Load-Date:** December 7, 2020

**End of Document**

[***A double whammy; Von der Leyen and Johnson resurrect Brexit***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:61FY-8N51-DY4D-Y010-00000-00&context=)

De Telegraaf

7 December 2020 Monday

Netherlands

Copyright 2020 Mediahuis Nederland BV All Rights Reserved



**Section:** OUTSIDE; Page 12

**Length:** 364 words

**Byline:** Ruud Mikkers

**Body**

Von der Leyen and Johnson pull Brexit back on track

by Ruud Mikkers

BRUSSELS - The next few days will be make or break for a Brexit deal. After the stalemate, the highest political level consultations on Saturday night between ***European*** Commission President Von der Leyen and British Prime Minister Johnson decided to let the negotiators continue their talks on Sunday.

If Frenchman Barnier and his British counterpart Frost can reach an agreement, it should happen later this week. Von der Leyen and Johnson will meet again on Monday evening and it should become clear whether a 'landing zone' is in sight. Tuesday or Wednesday, in the best case scenario, there could be a deal.

On Friday evening, Barnier and Frost threw in the towel, after which consultations between Von der Leyen and Johnson had to make headway. The disagreement still revolves around three points: level playing field, supervision of the rules and fishing.

Especially the level playing field still causes problems. The big question is to what extent British companies are allowed to deviate from the rules that apply to their ***European*** competitors and how an entrepreneur can seek justice when he feels he has been unfairly disadvantaged.

The ***EU wants the*** British to be subject to strict rules on state aid so that companies on the continent are not subjected to unfair competition. Environmental and labour standards should also be kept as similar as possible, but the British want to reserve their right to 'sovereignty' in this area.

Fish is also an obstacle, but is now no longer considered the most difficult point. If the problem of the level playing field is solved, it is expected that the wrinkles on this point can be smoothed out quickly.

At Buitenhof, the ***European*** Commission's number two, Timmermans, made it clear that the ***EU*** must also dare to let the talks collapse. "Of course we want a success, but not at any price," said the ***European Commissioner***. A few "very big issues are still far from being resolved", he stated. "It's really a double whammy at the moment, it's very exciting."

**Classification**

**Language:** DUTCH; ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** Tlg-NL

**Subject: *European*** Union (94%); ***European*** Union Regulation + Policy (68%)

**Load-Date:** December 6, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Baltic forest burns in Dutch power plants***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:61G1-6BN1-JC5G-100S-00000-00&context=)

NRC Handelsblad

7 December 2020 Monday

1st Edition

Copyright 2020 NRC Media B.V. All Rights Reserved



**Section:** INDOOR; Page 8

**Length:** 567 words

**Dateline:** Amsterdam

**Body**

**ABSTRACT**

Sustainability

To achieve climate targets, Dutch power plants burn biomass. This is at the expense of forests in the Baltic States.

**FULL TEXT:**

Despite the strict sustainability requirements that the Netherlands imposes on biomass from the Baltic states, entire trees and pieces of deforested forest disappear into Dutch power plants. They burn the Baltic wood to make Dutch energy production more sustainable.

This was revealed this weekend by research carried out by the Platform for Investigative Journalism Investico, research programme Argos and the international research collective Money to Burn. They focused on the business practices of Graanul Invest from Estonia, the world's second largest producer of wood pellets.

**Waste streams**

Last year, Graanul Invest exported over one hundred million ***euros worth*** of pellets to the Netherlands, which were provided with all the necessary sustainability certificates because the wood was said to come from 'unavoidable residual flows' from forest management. The management of Graanul and Estonian top officials tell investigative journalists that complete trees and wood from small plots of 'clear-cut' forest are also part of the 'unavoidable residual flows'. Therefore, Estonian wood meets the Dutch subsidy criteria. But according to Estonian and Latvian nature organisations, the export of wood pellets from the Baltic countries is leading to the deforestation of their forests. A report published in early December by the Estonian Fund for Nature (ELF) and the Latvian bird foundation LOB states that the pellets also include wood from ***European*** protected forests that are part of the Natura 2000 network.

According to the authors of the report, every year a forest the size of the city of Amsterdam is destroyed in order to produce the sustainable granules. On balance, "intensive forestry has a significant negative impact on the climate," according to the ELF report.

The Estonian nature organisation criticises, among other things, the way in which the Dutch government monitors its sustainability subsidies for imported wood pellets. The Netherlands relies on certificates provided by biomass producers such as Graanul, without checking forestry in Estonia, for example.

**Biomass grants**

The ***European*** market for biomass has grown strongly in recent years, spurred on by subsidies from countries such as Denmark, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. Dutch power plants alone have been granted over ***€3***.5 billion in subsidies since 2013 for burning biomass, as an environmentally friendly alternative to coal.

A fierce debate is raging in political The Hague about the heavily subsidised co-firing of biomass in power stations. Co-firing, which complies with ***European*** rules, makes an important contribution to the government's climate goals.

But according to critics - inside and outside the Chamber - the use of biomass such as the wood pellets from Estonia is actually bad for the environment. The cabinet would not include all global effects, such as deforestation in the Baltic States, in its calculations. Earlier this year, the Social and Economic Council advised the cabinet to reduce the subsidies on biomass from wood pellets and to focus on alternatives.

In Estonia and Latvia, forests with the same surface area as the municipality of Amsterdam are cut down every year

**Classification**

**Language:** DUTCH; ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Sustainable Forestry (69%); Forests + Woodlands (68%)

**Industry:** Forestry + Logging (94%); Forestry Regulation + Policy (87%); Alternative + Renewable Energy (77%); Coal Industry (69%)

**Load-Date:** December 7, 2020

**End of Document**

[***British media as divided as ever***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:61FY-8N51-DY4D-Y013-00000-00&context=)

De Telegraaf

7 December 2020 Monday

Netherlands

Copyright 2020 Mediahuis Nederland BV All Rights Reserved



**Section:** OUTSIDE; Page 13

**Length:** 408 words

**Byline:** Joost van Mierlo

**Body**

by Joost van Mierlo

LONDON - Barely a year ago, the chances of a Brexit without a trade deal were a million to one, if British Prime Minister Boris Johnson was to be believed. Meanwhile, most British media report that the odds are barely 50/50. But one thing is certain: After almost four-and-a-half years, Britons will know within days what they voted for back then.

The British media are as divided as they were four and a half years ago. The pro-Brexit newspapers mainly quote people who say that nobody should worry if no agreement is reached this week. The Sunday Telegraph calls on Johnson to stand firm.

According to The Mail on Sunday, the 'outrageous' behaviour of French President Emmanuel Macron is proof that it was right to leave the ***EU***. The editorial also makes a fine reference to the rapid British approval of the COVID-19 vaccine. According to The Mail on Sunday, this would not have been possible without Brexit.

Decent

The Observer, the Sunday newspaper of The Guardian, points precisely to the negative consequences for British science if a decent Brexit deal is not reached. The Independent thinks it would be a total failure of statesmanship on the part of Boris Johnson, and ***European*** Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, if a deal is not struck this week.

The Sunday Times has a patent on the most insider stories - at least from the British side - when it comes to the Brexit negotiations in recent years. The newspaper reported this Sunday that Johnson has the support of his entire cabinet of 14 ministers to keep his back straight in the final negotiations. That includes the eight ministers who voted 'Remain' in the referendum at the time.

The newspaper also reports that the ***European*** Research Group, the group of militant Brexiteers within the Conservatives, is ready to table a vote of no confidence in Boris Johnson if he were to make any last-minute concessions.

The most remarkable sound comes from Nigel Farage, the former party leader of UKIP and the Brexit Party. In an opinion article in The Sunday Telegraph, he does not say a word about the Brexit negotiations. Farage is now setting his sights on the green policies of the British government. He is vehemently opposed to cycle paths.

**Classification**

**Language:** DUTCH; ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** Tlg-NL

**Subject: *European*** Union (94%); ***European*** Union Regulation + Policy (67%)

**Load-Date:** December 6, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Chaos prevails among Britons; Jostling for space in supermarkets after travel ban***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:61K4-VSS1-DY4D-Y19W-00000-00&context=)

De Telegraaf

22 December 2020 Tuesday

Netherlands

Copyright 2020 Mediahuis Nederland BV All Rights Reserved



**Section:** OUTSIDE; Page 16

**Length:** 490 words

**Body**

Drinks at supermarkets after travel ban

From our correspondent

London - The closing of the borders by numerous ***European*** countries is causing chaos in the United Kingdom. Traffic jams at Dover are growing at an alarming rate and supermarkets are scrambling to stock up on fresh lettuce.

The British are still reeling from the stricter curfew imposed at the weekend due to an outbreak of an extra-contagious strain of the coronavirus. But the real chaos is caused by the travel ban imposed by countries like France and the Netherlands. At least 48 people are not allowed to travel from the United Kingdom. This is causing immediate problems, particularly for freight traffic.

Supermarkets are rushing to stock up on the last of the fresh lettuce and broccoli. After all, the British rely on foreign sources, especially the ***EU,*** for 60% of their food. According to supermarkets, the current travel ban is not yet causing immediate problems, but that will change if the ban lasts longer than the previously specified 48 hours.

In the meantime, the British government and the French, in particular, are engaged in heated discussions. The French president Emmanuel Macron thinks that the impasse can be solved with rigid tests. Boris Johnson announced in a press conference on Monday evening that he and Macron have spoken and that he hopes for a solution "within hours".

The accusations against the French are quite serious. Former Ukip leader Nigel Farage says the ***European*** travel restrictions are nothing but a means to increase pressure in the negotiations for a trade deal. The British should resist the pressure of the French 'thugs and bullies' and call off the negotiations.

That is the opposite of what Scottish Prime Minister Nicola Sturgeon is proposing. According to her, an extension of the negotiations must now be announced. The crisis caused by the new, more rapidly spreading, variant of the virus means, according to Sturgeon, that we have to tread water.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson has made it clear that there is no question of a delay. However, a meeting of COBRA, the government's committee on internal security, was held yesterday afternoon.

One of the issues being discussed is the supply of Pfizer coronavirus vaccine, which is produced in Belgium and transported through the Channel Tunnel to the UK. If the traffic blockade continues for more than 48 hours, military aircraft will be deployed to ensure that the vaccination programme can continue.

After a few weeks of tumultuous Christmas shopping, London has turned into a kind of ghost town after the introduction of the curfew. Not only are the shopping streets empty, the rest of the city looks deserted as well.

Farage: 'Resist pressure from French thugs'

**Classification**

**Language:** DUTCH; ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** Tlg-NL

**Subject: *European*** Union (94%); ***European*** Union Regulation + Policy (81%); Epidemics (69%); Viruses (65%); COVID-19 Coronavirus (64%); Infectious Disease (64%); International Relations (61%)

**Industry:** Livestock Disease (63%)

**Load-Date:** December 21, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Christmas was sacred for Boris Johnson ; Virus mutation puts Brits in a tight spot; Reconstruction***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:61K7-8WT1-DYMH-R005-00000-00&context=) [***Christmas was paramount for Johnson, not the virus mutation ; English virus mutation***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:61K7-8WT1-DYMH-R005-00000-00&context=)

NRC Handelsblad

22 December 2020 Tuesday

1st Edition

Copyright 2020 NRC Media B.V. All Rights Reserved



**Section:** CONTENTS; Page 1

**Length:** 1382 words

**Byline:** Melle Garschagen

**Dateline:** LONDON

**Body**

**ABSTRACT**

Reconstruction Lockdown UK

By promising a 'normal' Christmas to British voters, the Johnson government was not keen enough on the new corona variant.

**FULL TEXT:**

'Twas Days Before Christmas and across the UK no one was planning a normal Christmas, not even a little. The ports are jammed. On the motorways, there were tens of kilometres of lorry jams. London's train stations saw a veritable exodus of city dwellers. Ministers warn that the coronavirus is not under control. How did it go wrong? A reconstruction.

**23 November Saving Christmas**

Christmas in the UK is special. Singing carols and George Michael, eating turkey with family, drinking and shopping your lens on Boxing Day: it's all part of the deal. The average British family spends £800 more in December than in any other month. Christmas is vital for pubs, restaurants and retailers.

In order to keep the economy afloat and voters happy, Prime Minister Boris Johnson agreed with Nicola Sturgeon (Scottish Nationalists), Mark Drakeford (Labour) and Arlene Foster (Unionists), the heads of government of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland on 24 November that travel restrictions between the countries within the kingdom would be lifted from 23 to 28 December.

"I can't say that Christmas will be normal. But in a time of adversity, time with loved ones is even more precious," Johnson said in the House of Commons. "We want a form of Christmas. We need it." From then on, Saving Christmas is a political goal with the highest priority.

**2 December Back to normal**

The summer was the eye of the hurricane, British scientists warned in July and August. The number of infections had fallen. But even then, administrators knew that winter could be grim. When the number of Covid cases rose in early September, restrictions were reintroduced. Less strict measures did not seem to work. The number of infections detected each day continued to rise.

Labour called in October for a lockdown during the autumn holidays. Under pressure from his libertarian group mates, Johnson refused, even though the government's top medical adviser warned that current restrictions "are not enough" to contain the virus.

In the end, Johnson gave in and imposed a lockdown on England for November. This has an effect. The number of positive tests in England drops quickly: to 10,600 on 30 November.

In a speech on 2 December, Johnson was exuberant. The virus is under control and the British regulator has approved Pfizer and BioNtech's vaccine. Johnson: "We no longer have to merely hope that we can return to normality by spring, but we can count on succeeding."

Yet something strange is happening. In the English county of Kent, wedged between London and the east coast, the number of infections has actually increased during the lockdown, from a weekly average of 108 cases per hundred thousand residents at the end of October to 288 per hundred thousand. A worrying 167 per cent increase", notes the local news medium Kent Online. The virus is also rampant in the industrial and urban area of the Cardiff-Swansea-Port Talbot axis in Wales.

**14 December New variant**

Less than two weeks after the lockdown, Matt Hancock is in the House of Commons. The health minister knows that a difficult debate awaits him. Hancock has to announce that London, the economic heart of the country, will be placed in the strictest level of coronas measures, Tier 3. That means closed restaurants. Hancock knows that criticism of the threat level system will intensify. This spike is different, Hancock argues. In the last few days we have identified a new variant of the coronavirus', he says. Initial analyses suggest that this variant is spreading more rapidly." The World Health Organisation has already been informed. Laboratories at Porton Down, where the novichok poison used to poison double agent Sergei Skripal in 2018 was also examined, are conducting research.

The reactions to Hancock's news are more about the restrictions on London than about the new virus variant. There is no panic. Neighbouring countries in the ***EU*** are not taking any measures. Johnson's government is not announcing talks with Brussels, the Netherlands, Belgium and France to coordinate possible travel restrictions. Initially, Johnson and French President Emmanuel Macron did so in the spring - albeit with difficulty. Actually, in mid-December, that other crisis dominates: the Brexit. Johnson is wrangling with the ***EU*** and its member states over a future trade agreement before the transition period expires on 31 December. The atmosphere is bad, good neighbourly relations are hard to find.

**16 December Inhuman**

The contradiction is huge. On the one hand, the British Government warns that corona is more dangerous than ever, on the other Johnson insists on going ahead with Christmas. He is not the only one struggling with the issue. Northern Ireland and Wales have already announced that they will go into lockdown after Christmas. Welsh premier Drakeford says the decision to scrap the easing over Christmas "should not be taken lightly". People have been buying train tickets, shopping and looking forward to it. Angry Britons are unpredictable voters for politicians.

Johnson is calling on Britons to be as careful as possible. Tis the season to be jolly careful', he has been saying for days. But the Prime Minister remains convinced: mutated virus or not, the relaxation remains. It would be "inhumane" to scrap Christmas, he said on 16 December.

Medical adviser Chris Whitty, standing next to Johnson at the same press conference, adds: 'Models show that the more people come together, the more Britons will die.

**19 December Stay at home**

When Johnson addressed the country at 4 p.m. on Saturday, he had already been updated on a two-hour video conference twenty of his scientific advisers had held the day before. The experts, gathered in the New and Emerging Respiratory Virus Threats Advisory Group (NERVTAG), came with gloomy news. The scientists are "moderately confident" that the new virus mutation is more contagious and raises the reproduction rate by 0.39 to 0.93.

For a month, Johnson had been telling the British that it was safe to come together at Christmas. Now he must strongly discourage them from carrying out their plans. London and Kent are locked down. Society's shutters are rattling down. Stay at home, is the rule, just as it was during the most severe lockdown in March. At Heathrow and the major train stations, the crowds are packed. Especially people in their twenties and early thirties, who share small flats in the battered London housing market, decide to flee to their parents in faraway counties.

**20 December CLOSED**

In response to the exodus, the government is going into overdrive. Minister Hancock warns that a hard lockdown may be necessary until well into the spring. Only then will the most vulnerable be vaccinated, provided the Oxford vaccine is quickly approved. The government has failed to consult with ***EU member states***. Capital cities see the alarming newspaper reports and improvise. They are halting air, train and ferry traffic. THE PORT OF DOVER IS CLOSED, tweeted the port authority in capslock. Wales also goes into immediate lockdown.

**21 December Threatening shortage of oranges**

Supermarket Sainsbury's warns of possible fruit and vegetable shortages. The curdled trade is political. There is still no trade deal. ***Eurosceptic*** Tories think Macron's decision to halt freight traffic is proof of his unreliability. Walk away without a deal, they advise.

Scottish Prime Minister Sturgeon demands extension of negotiations. She argues: Johnson could have seen thisperfect storm of serious second peak and Brexit finale coming in the summer. If governing is foresight, Johnson has failed. With only nine days before potentially even more chaos ensues, the task for Johnson to save his political career is gargantuan.

Long after emergence of virus variant, Johnson still insists: cancelling Christmas is 'inhumane'

**Graphic**

On the left, the deserted site of the ferry terminal in Dover. On the right, a queue in front of a Tesco supermarket in London.

Photos Neil Hall / EPA; Hannah McKay / Reuters

Photo Toby Melville / Reuters

**Classification**

**Language:** DUTCH; ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** COVID-19 Coronavirus (94%); Epidemics (83%); Infectious Disease (82%); Viruses (63%)

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

**End of Document**

[***Europe does not have to stand in for the USA; Column***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:61PD-9SF1-JC5G-12F7-00000-00&context=)

NRC Handelsblad

6 January 2021 Wednesday

1st Edition

Copyright 2021 NRC Media B.V. All Rights Reserved



**Section:** OPINION; page 18

**Length:** 790 words

**Byline:** Luuk van Middelaar

**Body**

On the brink of the old year, 30 December, the ***European Union*** made two significant geopolitical moves. At half past nine in the morning, ***EU Presidents*** Michel and Von der Leyen signed a Brexit deal. A necessary compromise for a more tenuous trade relationship with the United Kingdom that avoids chaos. Without the large island state in the North Sea, the Union will become more continental.

A few hours later, both Brussels presidents were already in the next deadline meeting, this time with China's President Xi. Chancellor Merkel was also videotaping, because of the German Council presidency, as was, more surprisingly, French President Macron. On behalf of ***Europe***, the quartet ratified an investment agreement with China, which should give companies better access to each other's markets. Observers were particularly struck by the acute strategic significance: this agreement too looks like a turn from the Atlantic to the mainland.

There was bewilderment in Washington. How on earth could ***Europe have*** concluded an agreement with its great rival China when Joe Biden is to become President in three weeks' time? Couldn't we have waited a little while, acted together against the 'crooks' in Beijing? Wasn't ***Europe*** so happy about Trump's departure?

These noises were already being heard before 30 December. Biden adviser Jake Sullivan said on Twitter that the incoming administration would appreciate coordination by ***European*** allies on China. A striking continuity with the Trump era: the new White House also issues orders for service via Twitter.

The ***EU*** had valid reasons for going ahead with the deal. The investment agreement was negotiated with Beijing for seven years. The deadline of 31 December 2020 had been set at summits in 2019 and solemnly reiterated last year. In her ***European*** role, Chancellor Merkel had publicly committed herself. The time pressure could therefore not be a surprise to Washington. Moreover, China recently made some substantive commitments. Putting the brakes on now would send the wrong signal. ***Europe*** would then be telling the world: what we want does not count, we will only act after the green light from the United States. That would cripple the political and economic leverage in all international talks - with Beijing, but also with Moscow, Ankara, London or Tehran - to pursue their own interests and values.

America also concluded a trade agreement with China last year. In many ways, the ***EU deal*** means catching up: ***European*** companies are acquiring rights that have already been granted to American ones. To deny them to us is hypocritical. At points, Chinese concessions to ***Europe go*** further, from which the US can again benefit. This opens the way for subtle transatlantic cooperation, which the ***EU has*** already invited.

But this independent ***European*** move thwarts the narrative that Team Biden has wanted to propagate since the swearing-in: America as leader of the free West, "back at the head of the table". It explains the consternation in Washington about our lack of accommodation.

No coincidence: criticism is also coming from London. Financial Times-commentator Gideon Rachman stated this week that the ***EU*** gave China a "strategic victory". He sees the agreement in the light of recent autocratic outrages by Beijing: repression of Hong Kong, intimidation of Taiwan, arms rattling with India, sanctions against Australia. Thus, with this agreement, ***Europe*** is weakening the democratic forces in the world, is the contention.

In such a narrative of a new Cold War, everything becomes absolute, Good versus Evil, while it is often a matter of trade-offs and dilemmas. Do we want to buy mouth caps sewn by Uighur forced labourers? We do not. That is why the ***EU*** demanded that China ratify the International Labour Organisation's forced labour conventions; Xi promised to do his best. Is that enough? For the ***European*** Parliament, which has to approve the agreement, probably not. But then, because of forced labour, should we stop talking to China - about climate, human rights, trade, the Middle East? Is Washington doing it?

It is also in the American interest not to destroy ***European*** capacity for action, but to shape a new transatlantic relationship. Certainly, the ***European*** states cannot do without US military protection for the time being, as Merkel and Macron know. But our interests and values do not always coincide. To be strong together on core democratic issues, ***Europe*** must have a force of its own. If the US interprets 'coordination' simply as jumping to attention as soon as the whistle blows, they will miss how much the world has changed.

Luuk van Middelaar is political philosopher, historian and Professor of EU Law (Leiden).

The signal should not be: what we want does not count, we only act after the green light from the USA

**Notes**

Luuk van Middelaar is political philosopher, historian and Professor of EU Law (Leiden).

**Classification**

**Language:** DUTCH; ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject: *European*** Union (94%); Nontariff Barriers (92%); Developing Countries (78%); International Relations (78%); International Trade (78%); Trade Treaties + Agreements (71%); Trade Regulation + Policy (67%); ***European*** Union Regulation + Policy (64%); Embargoes + Sanctions (63%)

**Load-Date:** January 6, 2021

**End of Document**

[***EU Constantly struggling with China***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:61PB-DH21-DY4D-Y554-00000-00&context=)

De Telegraaf

6 January 2021 Wednesday

Netherlands

Copyright 2021 Mediahuis Nederland BV All Rights Reserved



**Section:** OUTSIDE; Page 15

**Length:** 474 words

**Byline:** Ruud Mikkers

**Body**

by Ruud Mikkers

BRUSSELS - The relationship with world power China is a permanent struggle for the ***EU***. Two years ago, the Asian giant was suddenly declared a 'system rival'. It was no obstacle to concluding an investment agreement with China between Christmas and New Year's Eve after heavy pressure from Germany, which wanted to use the last days of its EU presidency for this deal.

The disappearance of Alibaba founder Jack Ma fits into a Chinese tradition of suppressing dissident voices and further increases criticism of the country. Especially the situation of the Uighurs, a Muslim minority who are locked up in camps, is causing much indignation on the ***European*** side.

I have the feeling that things are going in the wrong direction again", says PvdA MEP Agnes Jongerius about the ***European*** course. Whereas the ***EU*** called China a rival in 2019, business relations now seem to be getting the upper hand.

German industrial interests in China (especially cars) are large. Perhaps so large that they turn a blind eye here and there when it comes to human rights. Jongerius: "You use a trade agreement to bring your own objectives closer. That has not happened here.

Restrain

With the agreement, the ***EU*** hopes to get better access for its companies to China, curb the mandatory technology transfer of ***European*** companies doing business in the country and enforce more transparency about the state aid received by Chinese companies.

In the agreement in principle, it has been agreed that China will adhere to workers' rights. But the question is how hard these agreements will be worked out on paper. Is it, for example, only an aspiration?

China, for instance, denies forcing Uighurs into forced labour in re-education camps. Jongerius: ,,From other countries with which we conclude an agreement, Vietnam and Bangladesh, we demand that they subscribe to the core conventions of the International Labour Organisation. But in the case of China, the Commission says that is impossible. How minimal do you want it to be?

Even in a traditional pro-trade party like the VVD, the hands are not tied. Liberal ***Euro MP*** Liesje Schreinemacher believes that ***Europe*** should be more than just a merchant. We have 440 million consumers. Then you can really demand something.

But the timing, just before the change of power in Washington, also raises many concerns.

We keep saying that we want to cooperate with the Americans against the unfair trade practices of the Chinese, and now we just make an agreement? That is just awkward."

Behind the scenes in Brussels, there is a lot of discontent about the deal and the relationship with China, precisely because the ***EU*** is always talking about human rights.

Beijing

gambles there

on that

merchant

wins from

Reverend

in ***Europe***

**Classification**

**Language:** DUTCH; ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** Tlg-NL

**Subject: *European*** Union (94%); Nontariff Barriers (92%); International Relations (77%); Intellectual Property (75%); International Trade (71%); Embargoes + Sanctions (69%); COVID-19 Coronavirus (63%); Clothing + Accessories (63%); Human Rights (63%)

**Industry:** Manufacturing (61%)

**Load-Date:** January 5, 2021

**End of Document**

[***Rome wrangles over aid fund money***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:61PB-DH21-DY4D-Y54Y-00000-00&context=)

De Telegraaf

6 January 2021 Wednesday

Netherlands

Copyright 2021 Mediahuis Nederland BV All Rights Reserved



**Section:** OUTSIDE; Page 14

**Length:** 268 words

**Byline:** Maarten van Aalderen

**Body**

by Maarten van Aalderen

ROME - The Italian Conte government is tottering. No one less than former Prime Minister Matteo Renzi is thinking out loud about pulling the plug. Without the support of his Social Democratic party, Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte no longer has a majority in parliament.

There are two ministers from Renzi's party Italia Viva in the government. The big question is whether the two women will stay on when the cabinet meets on Thursday. Renzi is demanding changes from Prime Minister Conte before then.

Renzi's criticism of Conte mainly has to do with the expenditure of the ***European*** aid fund. Thanks to the ***EU***, Italy has almost 209 billion ***euros*** to spend, of which 81.4 billion in grants and 127.4 billion in loans. Prime Minister Conte wants a committee of six managers and hundreds of advisers to decide on spending.

This committee would be led by himself and the ministers for economic affairs and economic development. Renzi does not agree. He wants the parliament to have a say in the large sum of money. We want those 200 billion ***euros*** to be spent on the Italians and not on consultants from Rome", said Renzi. He also thinks it is undemocratic that the six managers more or less replace the ministers.

Critics of Renzi, however, believe that he himself simply wants more say in the government, where it is mainly the Five Star Movement and the centre-left PD that call the shots. By means of a blackmail policy, Renzi - once an extremely popular prime minister - would like to get more important seats for his party.

**Classification**

**Language:** DUTCH; ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** Tlg-NL

**Subject: *European*** Union (94%); ***European*** Union Regulation + Policy (94%); Suits + Claims (90%); Trial + Procedure (88%); Economic Crisis (87%); Economic Conditions (86%); Gays + Lesbians (82%); Insurance Policies + Claims (82%); Marriage (82%); International Relations (80%); Government Departments + Authorities (68%); Monetary Unions (67%)

**Load-Date:** January 5, 2021

**End of Document**

[***Raging Chamber: 'You have failed'; Rutte and De Jonge promise improvement in fierce debate***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:61PB-DH21-DY4D-Y53W-00000-00&context=)

De Telegraaf

6 January 2021 Wednesday

Netherlands

Copyright 2021 Mediahuis Nederland BV All Rights Reserved



**Section:** INDOOR; Page 4

**Length:** 618 words

**Body**

Rutte and De Jonge promise improvement in fierce debate

From our parliamentary

editorialThe Hague - An apology and a promise of improvement. That's all the House of Representatives had to make do with when, on Tuesday, it took Prime Minister Mark Rutte and Coronation Minister Hugo de Jonge to task over vaccination policy. The House did not receive a satisfactory explanation for the slow start of the vaccination campaign.

After De Jonge, Prime Minister Rutte also put his own house in order. We were not able to get the GGD streets out of the ground quickly enough", he said. It would have been better if I had also asked the GGD earlier: prepare for such a situation.

Because while it was already clear in October that the BioNTech/Pfizer vaccine would be delivered in large packs and had to be stored at -70 degrees, the Cabinet only asked the GGDs to set up large injection sites in December. That this vaccine would not be suitable for small-scale distribution via GPs or nursing homes was already known in October. Yet it was only recently that the cabinet reversed the planned sequence of vaccinations. Not the vulnerable residents of nursing homes and institutions for the disabled, but their caregivers are first in line.

Horse

The minister bet on one horse, the wrong one", said group leader Rob Jetten of D66. He was referring to AstraZeneca's vaccine, of which the Netherlands has purchased the most (11.7 million). Instead, Pfizer's vaccine (8.4 million vaccines for 4 million people) will become available first. The cabinet was caught off guard by this, Rutte acknowledged during the debate.

Why didn't the scenario work out earlier that the Pfizer vaccine would come first, asked VVD party leader Klaas Dijkhoff to De Jonge. The minister said he had not done so because there were too many 'contingencies'. "In our view, you make scenarios when things are uncertain."

The cabinet also regarded the first vaccinations too much as a symbolic gesture, Prime Minister Rutte admitted. I don't think that's the right way to put it. A shot like that is meaningful, of course. Every shot counts." Some countries have already gone so far with vaccinating their population that it is no longer symbolic. A quarter of a million Germans have already been vaccinated, some 114,000 Italians and 41,000 Danes. The Netherlands starts on Wednesday. Already around Christmas, some 164,000 vaccines were in the freezer here.

The whole of ***Europe*** is stinging, but this minister is choosing", said SP leader Lilian Marijnissen. You have failed", said PVV leader Geert Wilders against Prime Minister Rutte. Earlier he said that he had lost confidence in minister De Jonge. This Christmas will go down in history as the total failure of the Netherlands. With this pandemic we can't afford any wavering, any failure, no Hugo de Jonge."

Problem

GL leader Klaver denounced the "hollow words". And: "There is a problem with the functioning of the Minister of Health." Because even when the new shipment of Pfizer vaccines arrives in the Netherlands, they will again remain in the freezer for three weeks before disappearing into the arms of vulnerable elderly people. Wilders: ,,Surely that is not possible, Mr. Minister?"

It showed the venom of the debate, in which De Jonge regularly showed his annoyance at the persistent criticism from the House. When Klaver snapped at him that the vaccinations for the elderly were 'not going to work out', the minister could just be heard muttering under his breath: "Unbelievable!

I think I am the right man in the right place", said the CDA minister after all the criticism. "If you take on a lot of responsibility you are susceptible to a lot of criticism."

I am the right man in the right place'.

**Classification**

**Language:** DUTCH; ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** Tlg-NL

**Subject:** Vaccines (94%); Public Health (82%); Infectious Disease (71%); Government Departments + Authorities (69%); Viruses (68%); COVID-19 Coronavirus (67%)

**Industry:** Pharmaceuticals Agents + Products (71%)

**Load-Date:** January 5, 2021

**End of Document**

[***Marshall Plan for Europe sounds good, but everyone wants something else***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5YS7-JNN1-DYMH-R0H3-00000-00&context=)

NRC Handelsblad

27 April 2020 Monday

1st Edition

Copyright 2020 NRC Media B.V. All Rights Reserved



**Section:** IN THE NEWS; Page 12

**Length:** 1257 words

**Byline:** Clara van de Wiel

**Dateline from** Brussels

**Body**

**ABSTRACT**

***European Union***

A 'Marshall Plan' should pull ***Europe*** out of the crisis. But what is it, apart from an ambitious, joint plan for economic recovery? Politicians have no idea what they are talking about.

**FULL TEXT:**

How do you get all ***European*** member states to agree on saving the economy? For Charles Michel it was clear this week: start talking about a 'Marshall Plan'. And when I say Marshall Plan, I mean a plan with great ambition", said the EU Council president.

It is the solution that excites everyone. You hear it both in Northern and Southern Europe, on the left and on the right. The social-democratic Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez (Spain) advocates it, as does the French liberal Emmanuel Macron. The German President of the ***European*** Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, as well as the Dutch Christian Union leader Gert-Jan Segers.

This week, ***European*** government leaders discussed, for the umpteenth time, a joint response to the economic blow of the coronary crisis. They again postponed the elaboration of a 'recovery fund' and the ideas on how it should be financed differ. But they do agree on one thing: such a fund must be a 'Marshall Plan'.

It is a buzzword, vague enough to bridge dividing lines. It appeals to collectivity, solidarity, something that would really help the whole of ***Europe***. A kind of stopgap measure, with which every hole in the continent can be filled.

The original Marshall Plan helped the ***European*** economy to recover after the devastation of the Second World War. On the initiative of US Secretary of State George Marshall, the United States pumped billions into the ***European*** economy between 1948 and 1952.

What politicians mean by it today often remains unclear. Is it a fund filled with joint ***European*** debts ('***eurobonds***'), as Spain and France want? Or does it mean a North European gift to the South, a gesture of goodwill, as Segers argued?

***Europe* is on its own**

The core, Benn Steil thinks, is this: "The need for massive public investment." The American economist is affiliated with the think tank Council on Foreign Relations and published a well-received book on the Marshall Plan in 2018. He follows the ***European*** debate with some wonder. Not that he does not understand the appeal of the Marshall Plan: "It was a grand, noble undertaking. Perhaps as a symbol of courage it can be a source of inspiration. But as a template, it is absolutely useless."

Above all because, in 2020, there will be no American sugar daddy to help ***Europe*** get on its feet. The Marshall Doctrine has turned into America First almost 75 years later, which is why the call for a Marshall Plan is uncomfortable: it is a confrontation with how alone ***Europe*** is.

The uncomfortable thing, says Jan Techau, ***Europe Director of*** the German Marshall Fund, "is that ***Europe*** has to defend itself against too cheap money from outside. Even before the corona crisis we saw a growing influence of China and Russia, especially in southern and south-eastern Europe. Now China will smell its chance even more strongly."

And that concerns all countries, Techau stresses: a poorer ***Europe*** is a more vulnerable ***Europe***. He fears that the geopolitical element is forgotten in the often vicious ***European*** fight for funds.

In their references to the Marshall Plan, ***European*** politicians seem to be more concerned about the result than about the actual plan: a flourishing economy once again. But even in economic terms, there is little inspiration to be drawn from it, says Steil. The problem was that [after the war] industry was in ruins. Production therefore had to be restarted as soon as possible with investments. Now we have no war damage, but a temporarily suspended economy. Now it's about keeping companies going for the time being, through liquidity and loans."

Yet it is the current economic 'devastation' that makes politicians call for a reconstruction plan with radical reforms. For a much greener, climate-friendly economy, as ***European Commissioner*** Frans Timmermans argues. Or focused on deglobalisation, for less dependence on China for the production of crucial goods like medicines. Techau also mentions this as an important element of a reconstruction plan. But: 'It is an illusion that ***Europe*** can become self-sufficient. Moreover, we also want to remain connected to China. That is precisely why we must strengthen our own position of power.

A modern Marshall Plan, according to Techau, also means uncomfortable questions about the way governments spend money. In ***Europe, we*** still have post-war budgets: a lot of social security, pensions, the welfare state. If you really want a Marshall Plan, you have to take a critical look at that and shift a lot of public money to education and research, technology and retraining people. That will be a painful discussion, but it should be had."

Albrecht Ritschl can be brief about it: Politicians have no idea what they are talking about. Because if they knew what the Marshall Plan was, they would never bring it up." Ritschl is Professor of Economic History at the London School of Economics, specialising in German reconstruction after World War II. The amounts of the original plan, he says, were "astonishingly small". The money was a distraction from the political plan behind it. The Americans wanted to build up the ***European*** market as quickly as possible, and to that end they forced the ***Europeans*** to work together. They were not just throwing money around: above all, they were cutting the ***European*** market off from global trade lines, so they could rebuild it in isolation."

**Cancellation of debts**

According to Ritschl, both the '***Eurobonds***' desired by Southern Europe and the gifts offered by the North therefore represent the exact opposite of the Marshall Plan. Charity is precisely what the Americans did not want. It was all about making ***Europe*** independent of the donor again quickly."

According to Ritschl, a modern variant would therefore be a radical solution, which he himself would be in favour of: isolating southern Europe. You would have to suspend financial integration for ten years and give the South a chance to develop itself during that period. That means: trade barriers and capital restrictions. But also: the cancellation of debts by Northern Europe. For let's not forget that Germany's success after the war was possible mainly because their debts were almost completely cancelled."

That, too, would be paradoxical: the original Marshall Plan forced ***Europe*** to work together; such a modern variant would drive the continent apart. Meanwhile, the threat of a rift within ***Europe*** is precisely why politicians now want a common plan.

The American Steil follows it with amazement. Here, too, we have heated debates about the relationship between the federal government and the states, who should pay what, but it never becomes existential." According to him, it shows how much ***Europe*** needs a 'basic mechanism' to fall back on. You don't want to be back to square one, do you? I sometimes get the impression that there was more need for ***European*** integration in the US in the 1940s than there is today in ***Europe***.

Every country means something different with the 'Marshall Plan' for ***Europe***

This time there is no American sugar daddy to help ***Europe*** out

**Graphic**

Through the Marshall Plan, Greek children were given bread made from American flour in 1949.

Photo by Getty Images

**Classification**

**Language:** DUTCH; ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject: *European*** Union (94%); Economic Conditions (88%); Monetary Unions (87%); Economic Crisis (83%); ***European*** Union Regulation + Policy (75%); Nontariff Barriers (63%); Public Finance (61%); Racism + Xenophobia (61%)

**Load-Date:** August 14, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Does the EU Haftarin Libya to power? It looks like it; Cross***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5YS7-JNN1-DYMH-R0H7-00000-00&context=)

NRC Handelsblad

27 April 2020 Monday

1st Edition

Copyright 2020 NRC Media B.V. All Rights Reserved



**Section:** IN THE NEWS; Page 16

**Length:** 628 words

**Body**

**ABSTRACT**

The last truce in Libya was violated 850 times in 3 months, read Carolien Roelants. The country is becoming a testing ground for new weapon systems.

**FULL TEXT:**

As long as warring parties feel like fighting on and especially think they will profit from it, the outside world can declare cease-fires and arms embargoes until it sees purple but it is a waste of time. I learned that during the Lebanese civil war, which ended in 1990 after 15 years of violated files, because only then did everyone fight. The same applies to Libya. The parties there, General Khalifa Haftar on the one hand, and the United Nations-recognised Government of National Accord (GNA) on the other, agreed on a ceasefire on 12 January. The UN has since counted 850 violations of it, including 70 in the previous week, said Thursday the acting UN envoy to Libya, the US Stephanie Williams.

Let me recapitulate: Haftar, friend of the late Gaddafi, first rolled up the east of Libya thanks to the help of his international friends, the United Arab Emirates, Egypt, Russia and France. A year ago, he launched an offensive to capture the rest of the country, where the GNA is based. That offensive stalled on the outskirts of Tripoli because Turkey came to the aid of the GNA with weapons, advisers and Syrian mercenaries. Haftar retaliates with relentless attacks on civilian targets.

Stephanie Williams said something else: that Libya is turning into "a testing ground for all kinds of new weapon systems". She gave a few examples: "We have something called the RPO-A flamethrower, which is a kind of thermobaric system used in the southern suburbs of Tripoli. We have new UAVs (unmanned aerial vehicles), including a UAV that is essentially a suicide UAV, which explodes on impact." I Googled that RPO-A for a moment: a Russian-made, portable rocket launcher that uses oxygen in the air as an oxidizer, which produces a stronger explosion. Williams didn't say it but I did: so this is deployed on Haftar's side, because Russian.

One week after the 12 January ceasefire, all parties involved in Libya promised in Berlin to respect the arms embargo that has been in place since February 2011. Williams called that Berlin decision "a joke" a few weeks later. The Emirates, Haftar's main advocate (the Gulf state likes strong men), delivered a few days later. Turkey (with big economic interests) sent the GNA ships full of war material. I saw President Macron condemn the Turkish deliveries, but if there has been any criticism of the Emirates, it has been whispered very softly.

The ***European Union***, which until then had been rather absent from Libya, recently decided to help enforce the arms embargo after all, with a new military mission named Irini after the Greek goddess of peace. Who comes up with such names? Note: Irini's main task is to intercept arms deliveries by sea. The rest is monitored by satellite. But only the equipment for the GNA is delivered by sea. Al Haftar's weapons come across the Egyptian land border and by air. GNA President Serraj has therefore opposed the ***EU mission*** at the UN Security Council.

Does the ***EU*** want to help Haftar come to power? Certainly not, although France would not mind, nor would Cyprus and Greece, who oppose Turkey's ambitions in the eastern Mediterranean. But at least the ***EU*** is helping to fuel the war.

Carolien Roelants is an expert on the Middle East and every week she separates the facts from the hypes.

Criticism of the Emirates only whispered

**Classification**

**Language:** DUTCH; ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** International Relations (94%); Weapons + Arms (88%); Arms Embargoes (64%)

**Load-Date:** August 14, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Criticism of China***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5YS5-N0Y1-DY4D-Y0KX-00000-00&context=)

De Telegraaf

27 April 2020 Monday

Netherlands

Copyright 2020 De Telegraaf All Rights Reserved



**Section:** INDOOR; Page 2

**Length:** 208 words

**Body**

Censorship, disinformation and destruction of evidence. The accusations against China in the corona crisis are not insignificant.

Last week, US Secretary of State Pompeo summed up how China sought to conceal the virus outbreak: whistleblowers were silenced, the world was fooled for weeks about the dangers of Covid-19 and samples of the virus were destroyed to avoid testing.

Remarkably, the ***European Union shies away*** from criticism of China. For example, a report on Chinese disinformation is said to have been toned down considerably after Beijing pointed out the negative consequences for trade.

While it was first reported that the communist regime worldwide is engaged in a disinformation campaign to cover up the blame for the outbreak, the final version of the EU report only mentions that Russia and "to a lesser extent" China are spreading fake news.

The US has shown that the Chinese did not act in accordance with international rules and raised the alarm far too late. Australia shares this criticism and is demanding an investigation into the origin of the virus and China's actions. The ***EU*** must join in and not resort to self-censorship, trembling with fear.

**Classification**

**Language:** DUTCH; ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** Tlg-NL

**Subject:** COVID-19 Coronavirus (94%); International Relations (92%); Epidemics (88%); Infectious Disease (81%); Viruses (77%); Embargoes + Sanctions (75%); Human Rights (70%); Arms Embargoes (63%); Civil Rights (63%); Developing Countries (62%); Intellectual Property (62%)

**Industry:** Internet + Www (64%)

**Load-Date:** April 26, 2020

**End of Document**

[***On the contrary, the Swedes are looking at the rest of Europe Relaxed attitude***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5YS7-JNN1-DYMH-R0GD-00000-00&context=) [***The Swedes are surprised by our approach to the corona pandemic***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5YS7-JNN1-DYMH-R0GD-00000-00&context=)

NRC Handelsblad

27 April 2020 Monday

1st Edition

Copyright 2020 NRC Media B.V. All Rights Reserved



**Section:** CONTENTS; Page 1

**Length:** 1304 words

**Byline:** Maral Noshad Sharifi  
  
Paul Luttikhuis

**Dateline:** Amsterdam

**Body**

**ABSTRACT**

Swedish 'model

Sweden takes light corona measures. Bars are still open. "We have never been cuddly. Even before Covid-19 we were doing social distancing."

**FULL TEXT:**

Is it or is it not nice to be a Swede in coronation time? Not if you ask Ulla Hedström. Her husband is infected with Covid-19 and has been on a ventilator since Easter. In the IC ward of the hospital where I work. She became infected with the virus without severe symptoms and most likely passed it on to him at home in quarantine.

Ironic, isn't it?" she says. And he is also a professor of infectious diseases. She is sitting at home in the capital, Stockholm. Her sigh can be heard on the other end of the line. My dear, dear darling....".

Hedström, 65, makes as few phone calls as possible. She wants to be able to answer when the hospital calls. But she would also like to tell you what she thinks of the relaxed Swedish Covid-19 policy. Unlike the rest of the region, the Scandinavian country has been relaxed for months: restaurants and primary schools are open.

Meanwhile, the death toll is rising. So far, 2,152 people have been killed out of a population of 10 million. More than half of those deaths were in the capital. And in bunches in the old people's homes.

I respect the government's policy, but I am not happy with it", says Hedström. Abroad, they say you have to keep 1.5 metres distance. Here: an arm's length. Well, I measured my arm and it is 70 centimetres. People are allowed to attend meetings with a maximum of 50 people. That's two classrooms full!" Hedström says that especially young people do not take the virus seriously. They don't understand the risks. They have no respect for life and death!

**With a beer on the terrace**

From Sweden, photos appeared this week of people sitting close together in the park, or with a beer on the terrace. My law firm is in that busy area," says 29-year-old Tania Rajabian, who goes to the office once a week and otherwise works from home. Last week, the restaurants were still empty, she says. Even on public transport, she can easily keep her distance; she does not see any friends. It is sensationalism to pretend that those few photos represent the whole of Sweden.

Meanwhile, concerns are growing among Swedes. On Friday, the measures were tightened up a little. Bars and restaurants, including those outside Stockholm, will be closed individually if visitors do not keep their distance. I don't want to see open-air restaurants in Stockholm or anywhere else", said Interior Minister Mikael Damberg, in a press conference.

Is the country taking the pandemic seriously? Certainly, says 29-year-old linguist Jonas David from Malmö. Sick people stay indoors, concerts are cancelled. David has not yet been invited to a secret house party. Let's face it, Swedes have devised social distancing. We are never cuddly or kissy with people, even before Covid-19 people kept a lot of distance from each other."

This sound is also heard from Umeå, further north: It's not that we have fewer measures in place per se," says 44-year-old business analyst Stig Cornéer. We comply better than in other countries, maybe we need fewer rules. Swedish society is indeed known to be based on mutual trust.

Other countries may look at Sweden with amazement, they look back just as amazed. Cornéer: ,,How are strict countries going to contain the virus if everyone is suddenly allowed out again? What if an economic crisis breaks out because of the lockdowns? What if single people with care jobs also have to look after the children? This virus will be with us for some time. Our strategy is much more sustainable in the long term."

**Giving up freedoms easily**

Some Swedes find the ease with which citizens out there accept harsh measures worrying. Martin Falck from Stockholm talks to his friends about the seriousness of the many deaths, but also about the preservation of freedom. I know Britons who are being chased on the street and stopped by the police because of the lockdown. Isn't that bizarre?"

Falck, 36, was at his best friend's birthday party in the park on Thursday. They kept their distance. After getting permission, he gave her a hug while congratulating her. He still does that with a few friends. My mother is in the risk group, I really don't see her now. We all keep our distance from old people. But I don't think they are necessarily in danger if I don't lock myself in the house.

He thinks the many deaths in old people's homes have more to do with the government's austerity policy. ,,I have a friend who works with the elderly, works in the café and has a third job to make ends meet. Let's do something about that."

Since the 1990s, there have indeed been many cutbacks in care for the elderly, says Elin Peterson, a researcher at Stockholm University. They have to live at home as long as possible. They really have to be very sick to be allowed to go to an old people's home." That corona causes many deaths in a short period of time is no big surprise. The staff is overworked, people are paid by the hour, they are not trained properly. According to Peterson, it is work that very few people want to do.

This virus will be with us for some time. Our strategy is much more sustainable in the long run

Stig Cornéer, resident of Umeå

**Epidemiologist Approach is 'a little different**

Swedish state epidemiologist Anders Tegnell finds it "exaggerated" to call Sweden's approach to the coronavirus unique. In an interview in the scientific journal Nature last week, Tegnell, the creator of Sweden's lenient corona policy, said: "As in other countries, we are trying to flatten the infection curve and thus slow down the spread of the virus - to prevent our health system and our society from collapsing."

Sweden's approach is only "a little different" from other countries. According to him, the country is only putting a little more responsibility on the population. He also does not have much choice, because the current legislation makes it almost impossible to close off cities or regions in Sweden.

But even if it were legally possible, Tegnell would not readily opt for it. He points out that the virus will be with us for a long time, that it cannot be stopped, let alone eradicated. A lockdown does not offer a long-term solution for getting the number of infections down to an acceptable level.

Tegnell admits that his policy is not scientifically based. But he says other countries are equally in the dark. We have looked at a number of EU countries to see if they have published an analysis of the possible effects of their measures in advance, but we haven't seen it. Whether the Swedish approach is successful, he does not yet dare to say. It is still far too early for that. Every country will have to achieve group immunity in one way or another, and we do that slightly differently to others," Tegnell says in Nature.

Nevertheless, there is criticism, even in our own country. A fortnight ago, 22 scientists expressed their concerns in an open letter in the daily newspaper Dagens Nyheter. They pointed out that the death rate in Sweden, with approximately 130 deaths per million inhabitants, is much higher than in neighbouring Finland (14 per million) and Denmark (55 per million). Care homes in particular have a high death rate - more than half of all Swedish deaths.

Tegnell acknowledges that the situation, particularly in the care of the elderly, may not have been fully assessed. One of the few strict rules the government introduced was precisely a ban on visiting these homes.

Paul Luttikhuis

**Graphic**

A park in Stockholm last week. Some Swedes find it worrying that citizens abroad readily accept harsh measures.

Photo Anders Wiklund / EPA

**Classification**

**Language:** DUTCH; ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Epidemics (94%); COVID-19 Coronavirus (84%); Infectious Disease (82%); Viruses (75%)

**Load-Date:** August 14, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Saakashvili back in Ukraine***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5YS5-N0Y1-DY4D-Y0N0-00000-00&context=)

De Telegraaf

27 April 2020 Monday

Netherlands

Copyright 2020 De Telegraaf All Rights Reserved



**Section:** OUTSIDE; Page 15

**Length:** 420 words

**Byline:** Pieter Waterdrinker

**Body**

by Pieter Waterdrinker

SINT-PETERSBURG - While Ukraine is also struggling with the Corona crisis, another soap opera is playing out in the country around former Georgian President Mikhail Saakashvili. It began last week after Ukrainian President Volodimir Zelensky nominated him as deputy prime minister, in which capacity he must negotiate with the IMF for additional support as quickly as possible.

The flamboyant Georgian, who was granted a temporary residence permit for the Netherlands in 2017 on the basis of his marriage to Sandra Roelofs from Zeeland after then-President Petro Poroshenko took away the Ukrainian nationality he had previously granted him, seems to be back. ,,Ukraine is the largest country in ***Europe***. If the economy collapses here, it will be a disaster not only for Ukraine but for all of ***Europe***. This is Putin's dream, but it must not happen," said 52-year-old Saakashvili. I have experience as a negotiator with the IMF.

While Ukraine is still at war with the pro-Russian separatists in the east of the country and burdened with corruption, the government simply does not have the money to pay the millions of people who are now without income because of the Corona crisis. Over two million Ukrainians, who usually work elsewhere in ***Europe*** and send money back home, are trapped by the closed borders. Saakashvili will have to raise $8 billion as soon as possible to cope with the expected 8 per cent economic contraction. The parliament last Friday did not approve Saakashvili's nomination, which will be voted on again later this week.

Georgia has already furiously recalled its ambassador from Kiev. Saakashvili, who came to power as President of Georgia after a revolution in 2003, may be internationally known as a corruption fighter and a reformer, but in his own country he will go straight to jail for breaking up demonstrations and abuse of power. At the same time, he is hated by Vladimir Putin for the brief war between Moscow and Tbilisi in the summer of 2008 over the republic of South Ossetia. With Saakashvili you are further importing the anti-Russian virus into Ukraine, which is dangerous", says an analyst.

Poroshenko appointed his old friend Saakashvili as governor of Odessa in 2015 to fight corruption. But he fired him a year later after Saakashvili started openly accusing Poroshenko of corruption.

To IMF for additional support

**Classification**

**Language:** DUTCH; ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** Tlg-NL

**Subject:** International Relations (94%); ***European*** Union (82%); Rule Of Law (68%); Embargoes + Sanctions (63%); Trade Treaties + Agreements (61%)

**Load-Date:** April 26, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Germany requires a mouth mask***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5YS5-N0Y1-DY4D-Y0MT-00000-00&context=)

De Telegraaf

27 April 2020 Monday

Netherlands

Copyright 2020 De Telegraaf All Rights Reserved



**Section:** OUTSIDE; Page 14

**Length:** 220 words

**Body**

From our editors

abroad

BERLIN - In Germany, the compulsory mouth mask will be introduced from Monday. The mouth and nose must then be covered in public transport and usually also in shops.

In most federal states, the obligation applies as early as Monday, Schleswig-Holstein being the last to do so on Wednesday. In some federal states, such as Saxony and Thuringia, residents were already required to wear a mask since last week. Incidentally, the airways do not necessarily have to be covered by a mask. A scarf or cloth is also allowed. The important thing is that no droplets are released, because these can contain the coronavirus.

The penalties for those who fail to comply with the mask requirement vary greatly from state to state. Bavaria is the strictest: someone without a mask is fined ***EUR*** 150 and shopkeepers who do not provide their staff with a mask are fined ***EUR*** 5000. In North Rhine-Westphalia, shopkeepers can refuse entry to customers without a mouth mask. In Berlin there are no sanctions.

Experts disagree on whether wearing a mouth mask is sensible. The World Health Organisation and the Red Cross, for example, say that incorrectly wearing a mask actually increases the risk of infection. They insist on washing hands often and keeping a good distance.

**Classification**

**Language:** DUTCH; ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** Tlg-NL

**Subject:** COVID-19 Coronavirus (94%); Epidemics (80%); Viruses (78%); Infectious Disease (74%)

**Load-Date:** April 26, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Finally, children can use their energy again***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5YS7-JNN1-DYMH-R0H0-00000-00&context=)

NRC Handelsblad

27 April 2020 Monday

1st Edition

Copyright 2020 NRC Media B.V. All Rights Reserved



**Section:** IN THE NEWS; Page 8

**Length:** 710 words

**Byline:** Koen Greven

**Dateline:** Madrid

**Body**

**ABSTRACT**

Reportage Lockdown Spain

Children in Spain were not allowed to step outside the door. When that measure was relaxed on Sunday morning, the squares filled up.

**FULL TEXT:**

Forty-year-old Alex Diego runs very fast on an early Sunday morning across Plaza de Salvador Dalí to keep up with his cycling children. Daughter Quentin (6) and son Sam (4) are just as elated as their parents now that they are allowed back on the streets for the first time since the delockdown of 14 March. Sí", they answer in unison, panting over their bicycles, when asked if they are happy to be back on the streets.

Father looks on with an affectionate expression, mother keeps a few metres away. It has been quite difficult these past six weeks," says the event producer on the square in front of Madrid's WiZink Centre, where concerts and sporting events normally take place. It was improvisation. We used the living room as a tennis court and put a bicycle on the balcony."

Spain, with more than 200,000 confirmed Covid-19 infections and 22,000 deaths, is one of the worst affected countries. The epicentre of the Spanish crisis is in Madrid. With schools closed, children in the capital were the first to be affected, while bars and cafes remained open for days. Madrid changed from a bustling metropolis to a macabre place where the sound of ambulances constantly echoed through empty streets. Hospitals were flooded with corona patients and ice rinks were turned into morgues.

**Exception for the dog**

The government of Social Democrat Pedro Sánchez imposed the toughest regime in ***Europe***. Only essential work, shopping, a visit to the doctor or a walk with the dog were exemptions. This meant that children were not allowed to step outside the doors of the sometimes small flats. Those who did not abide by the rules could be heavily fined. According to the Ministry of the Interior, the police have issued 740,000 of these since 14 March.

Even on the day when 5.8 million children under the age of 14 are allowed outside under the supervision of one parent, many parents in Madrid are visibly flouting the rules. Entire families stand together in the street, groups are close together or the walk goes beyond the one kilometre circle around the home.

The Dutch Janneke Dorgelo, director of the Dutch-language school in Madrid, sometimes looks at the Netherlands where her nephews can run with each other in the dunes. Movement is very important for children. It allows them to release their energy. At the same time, it is very difficult to impose all kinds of rules on them when playing outside", says Dorgelo.

,,I think the culture of a country determines how something like this is handled in a crisis like this. Spaniards are used to imposing rules from above. That creates clarity in a society where adults are looking for a way out of something."

From 9 o'clock Sunday morning, the streets and squares are filled with parents and children. Everywhere boys and girls ride around on scooters, shoot at a ball or are driven around in buggies.

In Colón Square, the Mendez family is happy that "six long weeks" have finally come to an end. Father António (43) has even brought his skateboard to keep up with his children María (6), Alejandra (11) and António (13). Otherwise I would lose them. They need to expend a lot of energy," says the Spaniard, who works in advertising.

When he pauses, his tone changes. Our whole life is turned upside down. Suddenly, you're all between four walls. Everyone has their ups and downs. It is especially difficult for our youngest daughter. But it's also frustrating as an adult. Working with video is very difficult with children around you. We have the strictest rules in ***Europe***, but on the way back there is still a long way to go."

Mendez is already looking forward to Saturday, when the adults will be able to exercise outside again for the first time, if the decline in infections continues. Laughs, "I can hardly wait for that.

Whole families stand together in the street, groups are close together

**Graphic**

Children in Madrid may go outside accompanied by one parent.

Photographs James Rajotte

**Classification**

**Language:** DUTCH; ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Parents (94%); Children (89%); COVID-19 Coronavirus (76%); Adolescents (75%); Infectious Disease (75%); Epidemics (69%)

**Load-Date:** August 14, 2020

**End of Document**

[***The world is no longer flat'; Barriers to protect your citizens; Corona will not make globalism disappear, but global trade will be different, predicts World Trade Organisation (WTO) chief Pascal Lamy.***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5YW7-5321-DYMH-R2KB-00000-00&context=)

NRC Handelsblad

11 May 2020 Monday

1st Edition

Copyright 2020 NRC Media B.V. All Rights Reserved



**Section:** ECONOMICS; Page 1

**Length:** 1679 words

**Byline:** Caroline de Gruyter

**Body**

**ABSTRACT**

Interview Pascal Lamy Former WTO Chairman

Other demands for safety, quality and the environment are more likely to lead to trade barriers. Corona will also make countries want to protect their people better, observes the French former WTO chief Pascal Lamy.

**FULL TEXT:**

The corona crisis will not lead to deglobalisation, as some say. World trade will be badly hit by the crisis, but it will pick up again. Globalisation will remain. What does change is its structure. In the past, we tried to protect companies from foreign competitors by means of protectionism: levying tariffs. Now we are more concerned with so-called precautionism: we are going to protect our citizens and consumers in advance against possible risks.

Pascal Lamy, former Director-General of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and former European Commissioner for Trade, has been stuck in the Normandy countryside for weeks. He is using that time to digitally discuss international trade - his speciality - with people around the world after Covid-19.

Protectionism remains a risk to free trade', Lamy said during a conversation via WhatsApp. He is wearing an orange hooded jumper. You can see that in the attitude of the United States. But in general, import tariffs are much lower than they were 50 years ago. Back then they were 30 per cent on average, now they are only 5 per cent. The nature of barriers today is often different: they do not serve to keep out foreign competitors but to protect citizens."

Do you have an example?

,,If you protect your companies from foreign competition, you don't do it because foreign products are not good. A bicycle is a bicycle, everywhere in the world. It has handlebars, wheels and so on. In that sense, the world is flat: everyone uses the same definition.

After the Second World War, everyone had sky-high tariffs. Then countries started negotiating. You export scrap, someone else exports wheels. You exchange them against each other. Both then lowered their tariffs. That is how it went for decades. Tariffs kept dropping. In this way, we removed the greatest obstacles to world trade.

The obstacles that we now see increasingly often come from a completely different angle: safety and quality requirements for food, toys and cars, environmental regulations, bans on certain pesticides. These are precautionary measures. If I want to export roses to your country, I have to comply with all kinds of sanitary measures.

That means the world is no longer flat. A good rose in one country is not the same as a good rose in another country. These kinds of obstacles have existed for some time. At the WTO, we kept a close eye on them: it could be protectionism in disguise."

Because then foreign competitors could no longer enter your market?

Yes. Now we are seeing more and more precaution. That makes world trade more difficult. Tariffs are easier to negotiate than health standards or the requirements you set for an architect."

Why?

Because those things have to do with risk. What is a risk for one person, is not for another. Risks are heterogeneous. What is a risk is determined by mental processes. By dreams and nightmares. It is about good versus evil. It touches on culture, philosophy, rumours and metaphysics. It also has to do with wealth and the ageing of society. The richer you are, and the older you are, the more cautious you become and the fewer risks you take. "

In short, do you not compromise on risk?

Yes, but those deals are made differently. Protectionism is fought by going down with all parties. You lower tariffs together with your trading partners. With precautionary measures, it is the other way round: all parties go up.

Why?

You cannot say to a country: lower its food safety standards and start importing cheaper food. You can't do that, because then it puts its citizens at risk. They won't accept it. You can, however, say to the other country: why don't you raise your standards too? That is how you remove barriers by harmonising your legislation.

That is how it works in the ***European*** market, isn't it?

And one of the most important moments was the ruling of the ***European*** Court in the Cassis de Dijon case in 1979. A German company wanted to import French cassis. He was allowed to do so, but he was not allowed to sell the drink because a German law prohibited the sale of fruit liqueurs with so little alcohol in them. Then the judge in Luxembourg said: what is good for the French is also good for the Germans. Limits on ***European*** beer make no sense either.

That was a very political statement, because with it the judge said in effect: we are all a bit the same and so we have the same standards and we can trust each other's legislation. Between Sweden and Bangladesh something like that is impossible. Or between Angola and Mexico. They think differently about food, about animal health, and so on."

Did the financial crisis in 2008 reinforce this precautionary approach?

I don't think so. 2008 was a classic shock for world trade. A typical U-curve: first steeply downwards, then upwards again. Other than that, little has changed.

The corona crisis is more severe and will change production lines. Countries want to protect their populations and will introduce precautionary legislation, not only for health, but also to strengthen vulnerable production lines for certain essential products."

So that they always have medicines or mouth guards?

Yes. Everything now revolves around resilience. Yesterday, economist Alan Kirman said in a video conference: 'In world trade, production lines were set up according to the principle of just in time. Now it is just in case. That is exactly it. What drives you above all is not to keep foreign competitors out of your market, but to protect your people."

You say: precautionism was already there. Do you have an example?

The ***European Union*** and the US tried to conclude a trade agreement a few years ago. It flopped. Why? Because both sides were not clear on what their goal was: to align precautionaryism.

The ***EU*** does not want hormone meat or chlorinated chickens from America. The Americans could have known in advance that Brussels would not abandon them. And the US had never opened up its procurement procedures to ***European*** companies, which is what the ***Europeans*** were hoping for."

It is therefore becoming more difficult to conclude trade agreements.

Yes. With protectionism, the one who has no protection controls the game, i.e. the one with the lowest tariffs. With precautionism it is the other way round: the one with the highest level is master of the game.

Nobody goes to the ***EU*** and says: you have to make your legislation against pesticides less strict, then we can make a deal. The ***EU*** will not bend. Such a deal will only happen if others make their legislation as strict as the ***EU***."

It only works because the ***EU*** is big, right?

Yes, nobody says to Panama: you have to relax the law on pesticides. This also has to do with the costs. The costs of precautionary measures are often much higher than those of protectionism.

Let's stay with flowers. If a company from Rwanda wants to sell flowers in America, it not only has to follow all kinds of procedures, but it also has to prove this with certificates. A certificate costs 25,000 dollars [22,800 ***euros***] a year. You have to hire lawyers, consultants who will guide you through the procedure. Companies that want to enter ***Europe*** have to do the same. Precautionism increases the cost of a product coming from outside by about 15 per cent. With protectionism, those costs are much lower: the average import tariff is only 5 percent."

So the 15% is only worth it if you want to enter a big market, like the ***EU***?

Yes. Otherwise, of course, the costs do not outweigh the benefits."

Is this the 'Brussels effect' that the American professor Bradford just wrote a book about?

***Europeans*** are, with the Americans, the masters of precaution. Because the ***EU,*** as a bloc, makes policies for the environment, consumer protection and climate, companies around the world make their products according to ***European*** rules. If ***European*** countries did it separately, this would not happen.

,,For developing countries it is of course less fun. Those flowers in Rwanda have been grown according to ***European*** rules for years. Chickens from Brazil too. This has been the case for 25 years. Rwandans and Brazilians check on the spot whether everything is done according to ***European*** rules. What producers in these countries have difficulty with is that ***Europe***, America, Japan and China apply different rules. It would help them if these giants were to harmonise their rules.

That will be difficult. The US and China both want to dictate global product standards.

,,Yes, and as a result world trade may slow down. The corona crisis does not make things any better. Not only because the virus intensifies rivalry between the US and China, but also because no country will decide to relax its sanitary and consumer rules after such a major health crisis.

The ***EU'***s trade policy is becoming more precautionary rather than less so. I just read that France and the Netherlands are jointly calling for stricter environmental requirements and a carbon border adjustment mechanism [an import levy based on the carbon footprint of a product] in trade agreements. If you had told me a few years ago that Paris and The Hague would be doing something like this together, I would have thought you were smoking something crazy. Anyway, it's a very interesting signal."

Globalisation remains. What changes as a result of the crisis is its structure

**CV Ex-EU, Ex-WTO**

Pascal Lamy (1947) was ***European Commissioner*** for Trade (1999-2004) and Director-General of the World Trade Organisation (2005-2013). Previously, Lamy was Head of Jacques Delors' Cabinet at the ***European*** Commission between 1984 and 1994. He now chairs, among others, the Paris Peace Forum, which organises annual meetings on global governance and multilateralism.

**Graphic**

A chicken slaughterhouse in Brazil. About 65% of the production goes to Russia, China and ***Europe***. Because the ***EU*** is such a large block, companies all over the world produce according to ***European*** rules.

Photos George Steinmetz/HH

Photo Rodrigo Fonseca/AFP

**Classification**

**Language:** DUTCH; ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Trade Regulation + Policy (94%); Developing Countries (86%); Nontariff Barriers (75%); International Trade (73%); ***European*** Union (71%)

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

**End of Document**

[***British confused by different approach***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5YW7-5321-DYMH-R2J9-00000-00&context=)

NRC Handelsblad

11 May 2020 Monday

1st Edition

Copyright 2020 NRC Media B.V. All Rights Reserved



**Section:** IN THE NEWS; Page 12

**Length:** 717 words

**Byline:** Melle Garschagen

**Dateline:** London

**Body**

**ABSTRACT**

Corona measures UK

Prime Minister Johnson announced first relaxations on Sunday, but the Scots and Welsh prefer to stick to the lockdown.

**FULL TEXT:**

In a pre-recorded televised speech on Sunday, the British Prime Minister, Boris Johnson, announced the first relaxations of the British lockdown. Even though the death toll in the hardest hit ***European*** country is still rising by the hundreds every day. Johnson announced a roadmap to get parts of society moving in the coming months. He did come with an important warning: "Everything depends on how well we control the number of infections," the prime minister said.

From Wednesday, residents in England will again be allowed to exercise more than once a day, and they may do so outside. So they may travel to the beach or to a tennis court again. From 1 June, some shops will be allowed to open again and primary school children will be able to go back to class - provided that the containment of the coronavirus is successful. If it is possible to keep enough distance, pubs and restaurants could reopen in early July.

The government is also establishing a new so-called 'biosecurity centre'. Researchers must continuously monitor the threat level. At 1, the lowest level, Covid-19 has been eradicated from the UK. At 5, the highest, the health service cannot cope with the number of patients. According to Johnson, the UK is now at level 4 and moving towards level 3. To determine the threat level, the Institute looks at the reproduction rate (the number of others infecting one infected person) and the total number of Covid-19 cases.

**No longer stay at home, but stay alert**

Johnson's speech sowed confusion on Sunday. Staff who cannot work at home may travel to work again, but are advised to avoid public transport. How this works in practice and to whom this message applies, Johnson did not explain. For the past seven weeks of lockdown, the government's order was: stay home. That message is now being exchanged for: stay vigilant.

Nicola Sturgeon, the Prime Minister of Scotland, expressed a very negative view of the adjustment at a press conference in Edinburgh. "Given the fragile progress we have made and the critical point we are at, it would be a catastrophe to abandon the 'stay at home' message. I am not prepared to do that," said Sturgeon, also party leader of the Scottish Nationalists seeking independence. 'Stay vigilant' is "vague and imprecise", according to Sturgeon. The Welsh government also announced that it would not go along with the change of course. In Wales and Scotland, 'stay home' remains in full force.

As a result, different Britons have to deal with different regimes. The English are allowed to take the car and drive to the beach to fish, run or swim. The Welsh are only allowed to exercise around the house. Whether a builder living in the south of Scotland can go to work in the north of England is questionable.

The criticism of Johnson's actions reinforces the image of a Prime Minister who makes decisions in very small circles, and does not sufficiently consult a variety of voices. The medical and scientific advice and calculations of the British committee of experts are not public. Johnson leaves most of his ministerial staff out of the meetings where the decisions are taken.

Johnson thanked Britons for their efforts and hardships over the past two months. He also announced that he will do everything in his power to keep them safe. For example, travellers arriving by plane from abroad - with the exception of Ireland and France - will soon be required to spend two weeks in quarantine. That measure, too, is unclear. Will passengers flying from Schiphol to Heathrow have to stay inside for a fortnight, but not those arriving by ferry from the Hook of Holland to Harwich?

Johnson's task in the coming period goes beyond virus control. While the Prime Minister is more of a rough draft, Britons crave details. His job now is to clear the fog.

Johnson reinforced the image that he makes decisions in a small circle, without a say

**Graphic**

A police officer on Brighton Beach points out the lockdown rules to people.

Photo Gareth Fuller / AP

**Classification**

**Language:** DUTCH; ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Epidemics (94%); COVID-19 Coronavirus (93%); Infectious Disease (76%)

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

**End of Document**

[***Greece and Turkey hunt for air tourists***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5YW5-7K31-JBNC-73TV-00000-00&context=)

De Telegraaf

11 May 2020 Monday

Netherlands

Copyright 2020 Mediahuis Nederland BV All Rights Reserved



**Section:** INDOOR; Page 11

**Length:** 229 words

**Body**

SCHIPHOL - Greece and Turkey seem to be leading the way in attracting foreign air tourists for the summer holidays. The only condition is that they are always 'tested and tempered' and everyone must strictly adhere to the corona protocols.

This is evident from still confidential information provided to tour operators in Western European countries of origin. The finishing touches must be made this week, after which details will be revealed. From the beginning of July, foreign tourists will again be allowed onto the Greek islands under strict conditions, provided they are in possession of a doctor's certificate which may not be more than three days old. Turkey reportedly wants to conduct a coronation test on every visitor upon entry. A test just before boarding a plane is a real possibility next summer holiday to make sure that tourists travel healthy to Turkey and Greece. That says Corendon-topman Van der Heijden. Holiday countries like to know whether foreign tourists can be safely received. This is the ultimate way to ensure that in the Netherlands. We talk with certified institutes who may take these tests. Within a week there should be clarity, according to him. Of course, travellers must be willing to submit themselves to such a compulsory test, otherwise they cannot fly."

**Classification**

**Language:** DUTCH; ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** Tlg-NL

**Subject:** International Relations (86%); State Departments + Foreign Services (75%)

**Industry:** Tourism (94%); Traveler Safety + Security (75%)

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

**End of Document**

[***Confusion about British slogan***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5YW5-7K31-JBNC-73V3-00000-00&context=)

De Telegraaf

11 May 2020 Monday

Netherlands

Copyright 2020 Mediahuis Nederland BV All Rights Reserved



**Section:** OUTSIDE; Page 14

**Length:** 362 words

**Byline:** Joost van Mierlo

**Body**

by Joost van Mierlo

LONDON - The British government has exchanged the slogan 'stay at home' for the advice 'stay alert'. However, the change is causing confusion. The governments in Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales are not even adopting the change. Prime Minister Boris Johnson made it clear that the new advice is "to stay home as much as possible."

The British are struggling with the corona crisis. The death toll is higher than elsewhere in ***Europe***, there is still a lack of protective equipment and large-scale testing remains problematic. So this is not the time to lift the restrictive measures that were introduced - later than elsewhere - at the end of March. To make it clear that the situation is improving, however, Johnson decided to change the advice given to citizens. Instead of the unambiguous 'stay home', there is now a 'stay alert' advice.

Slogans are important in the United Kingdom. Almost every one of them comes from Dominic Cummings, the Prime Minister's chief political advisor. His 'take back control' won the Brexit debate. Opposition parties had no response to the 'get Brexit done' in the recent elections.

However, 'stay alert' seems to be a miss. The Scottish Prime Minister, Nicola Sturgeon, made it clear a few hours after the slogan was released that in Scotland the motto remains 'stay at home'. The governments in Northern Ireland and Wales made it clear that this also applies to them.

It all has to do with a tough discussion on the path to be followed to get the British back to work. Johnson urged Britons who cannot work at home to get back to work. Commuting is preferably by car or bicycle, not by public transport. Furthermore, people are allowed to go outside a little longer for walking or sports.

Johnson, partly because of his own infection, is cautious. He wants to prevent the number of infections and deaths from rising again. Other ministers think that extreme caution will cause needless damage to the economy.

**Classification**

**Language:** DUTCH; ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** Tlg-NL

**Subject: *European*** Union (94%); Epidemics (88%); COVID-19 Coronavirus (81%); Infectious Disease (73%); Death + Dying (65%)

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

**End of Document**

[***Fierce German criticism of 'economical four'***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:600D-PWR1-JC5G-11SF-00000-00&context=)

NRC Handelsblad

26 May 2020 Tuesday

1st Edition

Copyright 2020 NRC Media B.V. All Rights Reserved



**Section:** IN THE NEWS; Page 2

**Length:** 947 words

**Byline:** Juurd Eijsvoogel

**Dateline:** Berlin

**Body**

**ABSTRACT**

***European*** Recovery Fund

The Netherlands and three other EU countries do not support Merkel and Macron's recovery plan, to the annoyance of German politicians.

**FULL TEXT:**

Not so long ago, Germany and the Netherlands were generally on the same page when it came to financial policy in the ***European Union***. That was before the corona crisis.

And so it was also before Chancellor Merkel and French President Macron jointly presented an ambitious and costly ***€500*** billion recovery plan last week, to help EU countries troubled by the corona crisis.

The counter-proposal put forward on Saturday by the Netherlands, Austria, Denmark and Sweden (the 'economical four') has met with a bad response in Germany. An unprecedented provocation", said the chairman of the Bundestag's foreign affairs committee, Norbert Röttgen (CDU), who is also a candidate for the leadership of Germany's largest governing party.

The proposal of the four thrifty countries would not solve the problems, said Röttgen on Monday in the Süddeutsche Zeitung, but would actually make them worse. Because if you offer countries that already have high debts to make even more debts, as the thrifty four propose, then you take those countries "hostage". The nestor of German politics, Bundestag president Wolfgang Schäuble (CDU), does not show any understanding for the Netherlands and consorts either, and fully supports the Merkel-Macron plan. You give countries that are already deeply in debt "stones instead of bread" if you offer them new loans, according to Schäuble.

**German self-interest**

As Finance Minister, he stood for years for a hard, frugal course in Brussels - together with his Dutch colleagues. But, he explained in an interview with Welt am Sonntag, "now we have a new situation. ***Europe*** is experiencing an economic downturn the likes of which we have never seen in our lives."

He points out that the world's relations are shifting. If ***Europe*** wants to have a chance in the new world order, "it must now prove its solidarity and ability to act". Schäuble said it was in Germany's best interest to get the ***EU back on*** its feet.

That is also the reason why Merkel has changed course. The usually cautious Chancellor sometimes sticks her neck out with a radical turn.

It did so in 2011 by deciding to close all nuclear power plants. And in 2015 by keeping the border open for the large numbers of refugees who came to Germany via Hungary and Austria without consulting the ***European*** partners.

The compromise she has now reached with Macron represents a 180-degree turn from her longstanding opposition to joint debt in the ***EU***. Merkel is doing this because she is convinced that the future of the ***EU*** is at stake.

She is deeply convinced that Germany can only flourish within the ***European Union***. And not just in an economic sense. After the world wars of the twentieth century, it is an article of political faith in Germany that the country cannot be dominant again, but must shape its future within the ***EU***. The importance of a united ***Europe*** is already mentioned in the first sentence of the preamble to the Constitution.

The cohesion of the ***EU***, Merkel said at the press conference with Macron, is threatened by the economic consequences of the crisis. She was referring to the economic balance between the member states.

It is already clear that a major imbalance is developing in the ***EU***. Germany, with its deep pockets, can allocate huge sums to support and rescue German companies. The poorer countries cannot do the same, or at least not to the same extent.

**Even further behind**

As a result, they are in danger of falling even further behind, while Germany can put a lot of money into its recovery. This imbalance could be to the detriment of the common ***European*** market, which is so important to Germany, and political cohesion.

Domestically, Merkel is in a situation where her position is strong again and she can spend political capital. The corona crisis has further boosted her popularity and ensured that the ongoing conflicts within the coalition have virtually come to a halt, as has the internal struggle within the Christian Democrats over her succession. No politician of note is left to suggest that she had better hand over the reins of power as soon as possible.

From that position, she organised a lot of support after the announcement of the Merkel-Macron plan. Not only from coalition partner SPD, but also immediately from prominent party members and from the leader of Bavaria's sister party CSU, Markus Söder, who in many ways has more affinity with Austrian Chancellor Kurz than with Merkel.

There is criticism of the new German course, also within the CDU. And especially the liberal FDP and the ***euro-critical*** AfD have objections, although that party is currently preoccupied with internal quarrels.

For the time being, it does not look as if Merkel has to fear insufficient support in parliament for the recovery plan. Her position is more comfortable than Rutte's in the Netherlands. It will be exciting for Merkel whether she, together with Macron, succeeds in winning over the other member states for a compromise that resembles their recovery plan. Except for the frugal four, Poland and other Visegrad countries would have reservations.

On 1 July, Germany will take over the rotating Presidency of the Union for the next six months. All the fine plans that were made before then are now being subordinated to the big rescue operation. With a leading role for Merkel.

Also Merkel has turned 180 degrees because she thinks the ***EU*** is at stake

**Classification**

**Language:** DUTCH; ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject: *European*** Union (94%); ***European*** Union Regulation + Policy (82%); Economic Crisis (73%); International Relations (67%); Heads Of State + Government (63%); Monetary Unions (63%)

**Industry:** Nuclear Energy (68%); Nuclear Power Plants (64%)

**Load-Date:** May 26, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Heels in the sand; who will do it? EUrecovery fund?***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:600B-T1N1-DY4D-Y4CG-00000-00&context=)

De Telegraaf

26 May 2020 Tuesday

Netherlands

Copyright 2020 Mediahuis Nederland BV All Rights Reserved



**Section:** OUTSIDE; Page 14

**Length:** 558 words

**Byline:** Ruud Mikkers

**Body**

Who will pay for the EU recovery fund?

by Ruud Mikkers

BRUSSELS - There will be an EU recovery fund for countries hit hard by the corona crisis. But the question of how and especially of who will get the bill is far from settled. The Netherlands and three other countries are against it and have already put their backs into it.

A week ago, it was France and Germany who came up with the idea. A recovery fund of ***EUR*** 500 billion is to be set up, money that will be raised by the ***European*** Commission from the capital market and then given to countries that need it to overcome the economic coronary blow.

Economical four

A gift, therefore, not a loan as advocated by the Netherlands, Austria, Sweden and Denmark. The 'frugal four', as they are known in Brussels, do not want to put a figure on it yet. First the Commission has to come up with a thorough economic analysis of what is needed, they think.

The 'thrifty four' - or perhaps even 'the sensible four' - are in for a treat, because on Wednesday the executive board of the ***European Union*** will present extensive plans, reportedly 22 chapters and 2 000 pages of text. Among other things, these plans state what the new multiannual budget - seven years from 2021 - is to look like and, on top of this, a Recovery Fund is to be set up.

For this, the Commission itself will lend money and the Member States will then act as guarantors. The big question is how much is to be raised. It will probably be a lot more than the 500 billion proposed by France and Germany.

The money is then lent to countries in need. But should they pay it all back? Or should some of the money count as a gift? Although the Netherlands does not want to know about the latter, the Commission will certainly propose a combination of gifts and loans, that much is clear.

For many countries, the argument applies that there is no point in just borrowing, because countries like Italy would then be saddled with an even higher national debt. Even Germany has changed its mind about this.

It then promises to be a political mud fight, but by mid-June we should have an agreement. The ***European*** leaders will then have a ***European*** summit, if all goes well, a real one in Brussels and not one by video link. The big advantage is that they can then look each other straight in the eye again and reach a compromise.

For the Netherlands, the position is shaky. The cabinet did not want ***eurobonds*** and it is being served in that, because there is no question of jointly bearing old debts. But a form of debt sharing - they call it solidarity in Southern Europe - is definitely on the agenda.

Unexpected allies may well come from the east, predicts a Brussels source. There, they see bites threatening to be taken from pots of money for agriculture and regional development, while the south is being propped up.

Doing nothing at all for the South is not an option either, as The Hague knows. The collapse of the ***EU*** and the internal market would be the final blow to the economy.

Chancellor Merkel is the focus of much attention.

She has built up a lot of credit in this crisis and she is going to use it all for ***Europe***," says one insider. "Just watch."

For the Netherlands, the position is shaky

**Classification**

**Language:** DUTCH; ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** Tlg-NL

**Subject: *European*** Union (94%); ***European*** Union Regulation + Policy (80%); Monetary Unions (75%); Economic Crisis (71%); Public Finance (71%); Economic Conditions (63%)

**Load-Date:** May 25, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Hello, Mark. Here is the first Cabinet-Hamer; Column***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:600D-PWR1-JC5G-11VG-00000-00&context=)

NRC Handelsblad

26 May 2020 Tuesday

1st Edition

Copyright 2020 NRC Media B.V. All Rights Reserved



**Section:** ECONOMICS; Page 2

**Length:** 614 words

**Byline:** Menno Tamminga

**Body**

We had just started to make good progress in the Dutch economy, with ready-made recommendations for socio-economic reforms, and then that wretched corona crisis came. I'll tell you what, we'll just throw those old reports together now that the Netherlands is coming out of its 'intelligent lockdown'. Add health care. And send the whole thing to Mark Rutte as advice for intelligent recovery policy.

This is probably not how things went at the offices of the Think Tank Coronacrisis, but that is in general the outcome. The think tank wants to advise the cabinet on its request "about the contours of the policy towards recovery of the economy and employment". Last week the think tank published its first advice. This attracted a lot of attention because it was critical of the government's 'no' to ***eurobonds***.

Think tank is a big word for seventeen handsome knobs that sometimes also represent ordinary interests for employers, employees and municipalities. A number of them were recruited from the Social and Economic Council, which also provided chairperson Mariëtte Hamer. Permanent advisors to the cabinet also advise here: CPB, SCP, DNB.

There is more to it than that. Do we want too much? The Think Tank formulates eight principles that should guide ten themes and does so in 21 pages.

When you think of the voice of King Willem-Alexander, you sometimes imagine yourself in the speech from the throne. This is where the first Hammer cabinet speaks. A feather here, some figures there, an edifying word and observations like these: Among economists, there is an absolute consensus that it is imperative to prevent the crisis spilling over to the housing market and/or (as a result) the financial sector. But you don't need economists for that. That is how the Netherlands thinks.

The shortcoming of the advisory report is that it reads like a summing up of earlier, pre-pandemic advisory reports by the SER in particular. The repetition seems to contradict its own appeal not to automatically fall back into old patterns. Take the labour market. It is easy to overlook the fact that a new organisation of the market with the threat of mass unemployment is a different task than with full employment in the peak economy of February 2020.

What the Think Tank fails to do is to ask uncomfortable questions and give conventional views a new twist.

For example, there are calls for more ***European*** financial solidarity. For 20 years, however, this has been a divisive factor rather than the desired fraternity. Why not stop the Union as a community of values and support project and concentrate on the ***European*** Economic Community?

Another conventional view: state aid does not go hand in hand with bonuses at the top. Fine, that is what almost everyone thinks. But make it a positive norm. Support? Then also a (better) profit-sharing plan for staff, permanent and flex.

One more. If the Think Tank is really afraid of a generation without a chance on the labour market, why not a bold plan? The Think Tank wants the Cabinet to maintain its precorona-promised investment fund (sustainability, research) of perhaps ***€50*** billion. Scrap that fund, but use it to finance the pre-pension of an entire generation of older workers, so that young people do get opportunities.

The claim to that 'Wopke-Wiebes Fund' is the most generous of the wishes that the Think Tank puts on the table. The club suddenly seems like a lobby group for the next cabinet formation. The Think Tank thus denies its raison d'être. Economic crisis is contraction. It does not mean growth in prosperity, but national impoverishment. No expensive wish list fits into that.

Menno Tamminga writes here every Tuesday on corporate policy and the economy.

If you add King Willem-Alexander's voice, you can imagine yourself in the speech from the throne

**Notes**

Menno Tamminga writes here every Tuesday on enterprise policy and the economy.

**Classification**

**Language:** DUTCH; ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Economic Crisis (94%); Economic Policy (88%); ***European*** Union (87%); Trends (70%); Government Departments + Authorities (69%); Social Security (69%); Population + Demographics (68%); Economic Development (62%); Recession (62%)

**Load-Date:** May 26, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Aviation***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:600D-PWR1-JC5G-11VN-00000-00&context=) [***Lufthansa saved by billions in aid from German government***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:600D-PWR1-JC5G-11VN-00000-00&context=)

NRC Handelsblad

26 May 2020 Tuesday

1st Edition

Copyright 2020 NRC Media B.V. All Rights Reserved



**Section:** ECONOMICS; Page 4

**Length:** 324 words

**Dateline:** Amsterdam

**Body**

Germany is taking a 20 percent stake in Germany's ailing Lufthansa Group. After difficult negotiations, the government is prepared to pay 5.7 billion ***euros*** to save airline Lufthansa and its subsidiaries Swiss, Austrian Airlines, ***Eurowings*** and Brussels Airlines, the company announced on Monday.

In addition, the German government intends to guarantee up to ***EUR*** 3 billion in loans to the company via the German state-owned bank KfW, with a term of three years.

The billion-dollar aid to Germany's largest airline has yet to be approved by the ***European*** Commission and must go through the company's supervisory board.

The conditions of the state aid were negotiated for weeks. The listed airline may not pay out any dividends to its shareholders for the time being. In addition, there are "restrictions on the remuneration of managers", although the details are not yet known.

The billion-dollar injection is not subject to additional sustainability requirements, as was the case with the state aid received by Air France-KLM last month. According to the German Minister of Economic Affairs Peter Altmaier, the German government has waived this because the aim is not "to let the state determine the daily strategy of the company", writes the British newspaper Financial Times. In any case, the German government will have a say in filling two seats on Lufthansa's supervisory board.

Like other airlines, Lufthansa is in deep financial trouble due to the corona crisis. Earlier this month, the company, which employs over 138,000 people, warned that without state support its coffers would be empty.

The German government's share may yet increase. Should a party make a hostile takeover bid for Lufthansa, the government is prepared to increase its stake to around 25 per cent. (NRC)

**Graphic**

Lufthansa is suffering from the crisis.

Photo Oliver Lang/EPA

**Classification**

**Language:** DUTCH; ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Government Grants + Subsidies (73%); Aircraft (69%); Stock Market Updates (69%); Labor Unions (64%); Labor + Employment (63%)

**Industry:** Air Transportation (94%); Airports (64%)

**Load-Date:** May 26, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Bonuses now 'out of the question'; Chamber: same rules for Air France-KLM***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:600B-T1N1-DY4D-Y4BJ-00000-00&context=)

De Telegraaf

26 May 2020 Tuesday

Netherlands

Copyright 2020 Mediahuis Nederland BV All Rights Reserved



**Section:** INDOOR; Page 4

**Length:** 383 words

**Byline:** Alexander Bakker and Leon Brandsema

**Body**

Chamber: same rules for Air France-KLM

by Alexander Bakker and Leon Brandsema

The Hague - It is one of the most important conditions for state support to companies that are in danger of collapsing as a result of the corona crisis: not to pay out dividends and bonuses. This should also apply to the distressed Air France-KLM.

D66 Member of Parliament Joos Sneller calls for a 'strict stance' from Finance Minister Hoekstra during the shareholders meeting of the aviation company on Tuesday. MP Eppo Bruins (ChristenUnie) finds 'every decision that would lead to higher remuneration at the top' currently 'undesirable'.

Cultural difference

CDA MP Evert-Jan Slootweg calls the payment of bonuses in these times 'ridiculous'. He points out that in this area there is a 'cultural difference' with the French. PvdA MP Henk Nijboer therefore calls on Hoekstra to block the bonus 'together with the French'. France, like the Netherlands, has a large share in the company. SP member Mahir Alkaya is also clear: bonuses are 'out of the question' as far as he is concerned.

The cabinet itself has also addressed this in the support for Air France-KLM to cope with the coronary crisis and in the new support package for businesses. Companies that apply for state support are not allowed to pay out bonuses and dividends or buy back their own shares. The conditions have been extensively stated by the cabinet in the Dutch parliament.

A month ago, the Cabinet announced that it would be setting aside 2 to 4 billion ***euros*** in guarantees and state aid to save KLM. The exact details of that package are still being negotiated with the company and the banks. Also, the ***European*** Commission still has to check whether the support is in line with the rules. The expectation is that at the end of this week, or the beginning of next week, there will be clarity about the final package.

Vote

In a reaction, the Ministry of Finance says it is 'not nice' to anticipate the shareholders' meeting and therefore does not want to say whether it is voting for or against the bonus.

Hoekstra's spokesperson still points out that the position of the Netherlands on handing out bonuses while companies receive state support is "well known and has been expressed several times recently".

Cabinet sets aside billions

**Classification**

**Language:** DUTCH; ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** Tlg-NL

**Subject:** Stock Market Updates (94%); Economic Crisis (93%); Securities + Other Investments (92%); Government Departments + Authorities (88%); Shareholders (87%); Common Stock (74%); ***European*** Union (70%); Compensation + Benefits (64%); Social Security (62%); Taxes + Taxation (62%)

**Load-Date:** May 25, 2020

**End of Document**

[***European Union Agrees to lower CO2 target for aviation***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:603M-8MB1-DYMH-R0PK-00000-00&context=)

NRC Handelsblad

10 June 2020 Wednesday

1st Edition

Copyright 2020 NRC Media B.V. All Rights Reserved



**Section:** ECONOMICS; Page 2

**Length:** 721 words

**Byline:** Mark Duursma

**Dateline:** Amsterdam

**Body**

**ABSTRACT**

Aviation and climate

The ***EU*** has agreed to a proposal from the aviation industry to water down CO2 targets because of the corona crisis.

**FULL TEXT:**

The ***European Union*** agreed on Tuesday to change global agreements on CO2 emissions from aviation. The aviation sector had requested this because of the corona crisis. According to environmental organisations, the change means that climate action by aviation will be delayed by three to five years. The Netherlands has also agreed, despite parliamentary questions from coalition parties D66 and ChristenUnie, among others.

The change is a weakening of Corsia (Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation), a programme to limit CO2 emissions from aviation. In 2016, 193 countries within the UN aviation organisation ICAO decided that there must be carbon neutral growth as of 1 January 2021. Growth is still allowed, but it must be compensated for, for example by financing forestry.

As a benchmark for the CO2 limit, ICAO chose in 2018 the average emissions of the years 2019 and 2020. Because CO2 emissions are very low this year - aviation was halted for a few months due to the corona crisis and is now starting to recover - that average would be much lower than expected. The aviation umbrella organisation IATA foresees major financial problems for airlines due to higher compensation costs and advocates 2019 as the base year, instead of 2019 and 2020.

**Countries would drop out**

The ***EU decision*** was taken by the ***European*** transport ministers, in the Council of the ***European Union***. According to the ministers, including Cora van Nieuwenhuizen (Infrastructure, VVD), the adjustment is necessary because countries might otherwise drop out. Participation in the pilot phase (2021-2023) and the first phase (2024-2026) of Corsia is voluntary, in the second phase (2027-2035) countries are obliged to participate. The US is also expected to vote to adjust the base year.

IATA estimates that in 2020, 250 million tonnes of CO2 will be emitted by aviation, comparable to the emissions of 25 years ago. The expected average emissions for 2019 and 2020 are at the 2010 level. The CO2 target from 2021 onwards would therefore be 30 percent higher than without the corona crisis.

On Tuesday, IATA also published the latest forecasts of expected revenue loss for all airlines. Collective turnover is expected to halve from ***EUR*** 838 billion in 2019 to ***EUR*** 419 billion in 2020, the "worst year in aviation history". For 2021, the industry association expects a turnover of 598 billion ***euros***.

**Parliamentary questions**

Eleven climate and CO2 NGOs have called on the members of the ICAO Council, which has to take a decision by 26 June, to leave the double base year intact.

According to analyses by the German Öko-Institut and the US Environmental Defense Fund, the financial damage to airlines is limited if 2020 is included. Due to the recovery period after the crisis, emissions will be lower for a few more years. Consequently, the compensation costs will also be lower. They argue to wait until 2022, when the impact of the crisis is clear.

On Friday, the Christian Union, D66, GreenLeft and the Party for the Animals asked Minister Van Nieuwenhuizen for clarification of the Dutch position. In earlier motions, the House asked the minister to keep the House informed and not to weaken Corsia.

The fact that the Netherlands, a member of the ICAO Council, has agreed to a change without consulting the Parliament is something that GL MP Suzanne Kröger calls "very bad". Corsia is the main instrument that the minister wants to use for CO2 reduction in aviation. There is no point in lowering this ambition.

France is supporting the national aviation industry with a package worth ***EUR*** 15 billion. This was announced by Minister of Economy Bruno Le Maire on Tuesday. According to Le Maire 100,000 jobs are at risk because of the corona crisis. The support goes to, among others, aircraft manufacturer Airbus and suppliers Safran and Thales. The previously announced 7 billion ***euros*** for Air France is part of the package. In addition, half a billion ***euros will*** go to medium-sized companies in the sector and 1.5 billion ***euros*** to research into environmentally friendly aviation technology.

**Graphic**

Condensation traces (no CO2)

Photo Patrick Laverdant/Getty Images

**Classification**

**Language:** DUTCH; ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Emissions (94%); Stock Market Updates (76%); Pollution + Environmental Impacts (65%)

**Industry:** Coal Industry (69%); Air Transportation (62%)

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

**End of Document**

[***Aviation and climate***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:603M-8MB1-DYMH-R0M8-00000-00&context=) [***European Union agreement on lowering CO2 targets in aviation***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:603M-8MB1-DYMH-R0M8-00000-00&context=)

NRC Handelsblad

10 June 2020 Wednesday

1st Edition

Copyright 2020 NRC Media B.V. All Rights Reserved



**Section:** IN THE NEWS; Page 2

**Length:** 114 words

**Dateline:** Amsterdam

**Body**

The ***European Union*** agreed on Tuesday to change global agreements on CO2 emissions from aviation. The aviation sector is asking for a relaxation because of the corona crisis. When capping CO2 emissions from aviation, the average of 2019 and 2020 will no longer be taken as a basis, as previously agreed, but only 2019. Emissions were higher last year and are low this year due to the corona crisis. The higher the limit, the less aviation has to compensate. The US is also expected to agree to the change. Environmental organisations are trying to prevent UN aviation organisation ICAO from watering down the CO2 plan.

**Classification**

**Language:** DUTCH; ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Emissions (94%); Pollution + Environmental Impacts (74%)

**Industry:** Air Transportation (69%); Aerospace Industry (61%)

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

**End of Document**

[***Battle for the presidency Eurogroup opened***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:603G-9PD1-JBNC-70PN-00000-00&context=)

De Telegraaf

10 June 2020 Wednesday

Netherlands

Copyright 2020 Mediahuis Nederland BV All Rights Reserved



**Section:** FINANCIAL; page 22

**Length:** 285 words

**Byline:** Ruud Mikkers

**Body**

by Ruud Mikkers

Brussels - Candidates for the succession of ***Eurogroup president*** Mario Centeno can start warming up. The Portuguese will hand over the chairmanship of the powerful Brussels body to another finance minister on 13 July.

Three names are circulating in the corridors. Those of the Spanish Nadia Calviño, the Luxembourger Pierre Gramegna and the Irishman Paschal Donohoe. The finance ministers will meet on Thursday and a decision is not expected until 9 July.

Minister Hoekstra let it be known that he was not a candidate. He would also have little chance given his outspoken opinion on ***European*** aid packages and the fact that before Centeno, Jeroen Dijsselbloem had a Dutchman at the wheel for five years.

Centeno will stick to just one term of 2.5 years. The economist will start working at the Portuguese central bank. Centeno was not known for his strict way of chairing meetings. To the dismay of his colleagues, meetings therefore often lasted too long. Complaints were also regularly made about his sometimes faltering preparation. The contrast with the always perfectly prepared Dijsselbloem was huge in that respect.

Under the leadership of Centeno, the ***Eurogroup*** recently agreed on a support package for the coronas crisis of up to €540 billion. It was a difficult compromise due to major differences between the Netherlands and southern European countries.

It is precisely these contradictions that make a choice for the Spanish Calviño in the north so difficult to accept. In the past, she spoke out against small countries which, in her view, should know their place. She is also a great advocate of ***Eurobonds***, a mortal sin in German and Dutch eyes.

**Classification**

**Language:** DUTCH; ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** Tlg-NL

**Subject: *European*** Union (94%); ***European*** Union Regulation + Policy (94%); Monetary Unions (94%); Economic Crisis (92%); Central Banks (83%); Disaster + Emergency Relief (80%); Economic Conditions (80%); COVID-19 Coronavirus (76%)

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

**End of Document**

[***Ethical business life of the Swiss; Referendum***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:603M-8MB1-DYMH-R0PF-00000-00&context=)  [***Holding companies accountable for violating environmental regulations elsewhere? Swiss to vote***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:603M-8MB1-DYMH-R0PF-00000-00&context=)

NRC Handelsblad

10 June 2020 Wednesday

1st Edition

Copyright 2020 NRC Media B.V. All Rights Reserved



**Section:** ECONOMICS; Page 1

**Length:** 1095 words

**Byline:** Caroline de Gruyter

**Dateline:** Oslo

**Body**

**ABSTRACT**

Referendum

Switzerland votes on a proposal that would make companies responsible for violations of human rights and environmental regulations.

**FULL TEXT:**

You see them on balconies in Emmental, garden gates in Aargau and even in churches all over Switzerland, for four years now: big orange banners with the words KonzernverantwortungsinitiativeJA!

In the coming months, Switzerland will probably be coloured even more orange: this week, it was announced that a referendum will be held on a controversial proposal to hold companies based in Switzerland responsible for violations of human rights and environmental regulations worldwide. Even if these violations are committed by foreign subsidiaries or subcontractors.

If this initiative is approved, Switzerland will become the international leader in 'corporate social responsibility' in one fell swoop. For violations of rights and regulations, the burden of proof would lie not with the victims, but with the companies themselves.

The proposal to make companies such as the food company Nestlé or the raw materials trader Glencore liable for their behaviour abroad is a typical product of Swiss direct democracy. A citizens' committee collected more than 100,000 signatures for this in 2016, thus forcing politicians to address the issue.

Since then, parliament and senate have wrestled with it. For four years, they turned it around and around. Both found the original proposal too radical. They involved companies, NGOs and specialists and composed alternative proposals. But the counter-proposal that they adopted last week is, according to the citizens' committee, so weak that the committee now refuses to withdraw its original proposal. Therefore, it will now be submitted to the people by referendum, probably in November.

**Companies are getting tight**

Many politicians and companies, including foreign holding companies in Switzerland, are anxious about this referendum. According to a recent poll, as many as 78 per cent of the population think it is fine to make large companies responsible for damage they cause elsewhere. Switzerland is voting greener and greener. The radical right SVP remains the country's largest party, but its weight is eroding in favour of the Greens and progressive youth and women. For them, corporate social responsibility is a priority.

Recent examples of what Swiss companies are doing have mobilised citizens. Children in Peru, who became disabled because heavy metals from a Glencore mine entered their drinking water. Civilians in India, who were poisoned by a pesticide from Swiss company Syngenta in their neighbourhood. Children in Burkina Faso, who pick cotton that is traded by traders in Switzerland. And the conservative newspaper Neue Zürcher Zeitung published a major report on Tuesday about systematic child labour in illegal cocoa plantations in the Ivory Coast, which allegedly supply manufacturers such as Callebaut.

Even in mountain villages, activists confront citizens with these abuses - and with the fact that little is changing, despite promises and 'agreements' with companies. No less than 350 local action committees organise demonstrations, lectures and debates in village halls.

These actions, and the endless rounds of discussions in parliament, ensured that after four years this theme is still remarkably 'fresh'. What also helps: 120 NGOs support the initiative proposal, plus churches and prominent people from various corners. Former minister and president Micheline Calmy-Rey, a social democrat, is one of the initiators. While multinationals such as Nestlé tried to torpedo or sponsor counter-proposals in parliament last week, big Swiss firms such as Weleda are in favour of the initiative. Weleda, which makes holistic health products, is active in fifty countries.

During the corona crisis, public support grew. According to the respected former senator Dick Marty, also one of the initiators, "this is a time when citizens realise that we have to be more responsible with our living environment".

**France superstrict**

The same trend can be seen in other ***European*** countries. Many are tightening ethical rules for companies, both nationally and in the ***EU***. France, for example, has had a super-strict law since 2017. In Germany, a parliamentary report is in the making. Also in the OECD, ***Europeans*** are working on corporate social responsibility (due diligence), whereby companies must prove that they are acting ethically and thus must become more transparent about their entire supply chain. The ***EU*** has regulations on conflict diamonds and illegally harvested timber. It requires respect for human rights in trade agreements with third countries.

Now Brussels is considering whether more general regulation is feasible. It is slow going as always, but "the thinking has changed incredibly over the last ten years", says Guus Houttuin, an ***EU diplomat*** who chairs the Conflict Minerals Committee at the OECD.

Large Swiss companies, such as supermarkets Migros and Coop, sense this. That is why they asked elected representatives to formulate a robust alternative to the original proposal: without a reversed burden of proof for companies, but with heavy, binding requirements to enforce ethical behaviour. Such an alternative 'with teeth' could take the original proposal off the table. It failed.

But it is not a done deal. Citizens are enthusiastic now, confirms Martina Mousson from market researcher GFS in Bern. But that could change. Her experience shows that Swiss people get emotional when problems are raised. But when it comes to solutions, especially economic ones, they often vote conservatively.

Big companies are going to campaign hard. The more citizens realise that companies are being hit", says Mousson, "the less they will support the proposal. In times of crisis, they probably don't think it's a good idea. The Swiss even voted against the introduction of six weeks' holiday and two weeks' paternity leave. When the referendum was announced, most were still in favour."

If the proposal fails, it is not the end of the story. Switzerland is active in the ***European*** internal market and must therefore adopt EU rules for companies. Last week, a Swiss parliamentarian let slip that "if ***Europe*** comes up with extra regulation, we just copy it. Why should we lead the way?"

Recent examples of what Swiss firms did, mobilised citizens

**Graphic**

Cerro de Pasco, in Peru, where a Glencore mine released heavy metals into the drinking water, leaving children disabled.

Photo Konzernverantwortungsinitiative

Swiss club's logo for responsible business

Photo SCCJ

**Classification**

**Language:** DUTCH; ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Environment + Natural Resources (94%); Commodities Trading (88%)

**Industry:** Oil + Gas Industry (75%)

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

**End of Document**

[***French aviation aid in Europe unrivalled; Dutch industry seeks rapprochement with Airbus***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:603G-9PD1-JBNC-70PM-00000-00&context=)

De Telegraaf

10 June 2020 Wednesday

Netherlands

Copyright 2020 Mediahuis Nederland BV All Rights Reserved



**Section:** FINANCIAL; page 22

**Length:** 559 words

**Byline:** Eveline Bijlsma

**Body**

Dutch industry seeks rapprochement with Airbus

by Eveline Bijlsma and Yteke de Jong

Paris - The Dutch aviation industry hopes to benefit from the billion-dollar plan to save French aviation. But its aim is above all to preserve its own jobs in France.

A total of €15 billion is being made available, €7 billion of which will go to Air France KLM. This was already known, but a further €8 billion is now being allocated for maintaining orders, modernising companies and developing clean aircraft at aircraft manufacturer Airbus, Dassault and suppliers such as Safran and Thales. French Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire proudly stated that a hydrogen-powered aircraft must be developed by 2035.

Global Data analyst Nick Jouan commented that the French package has no equal in ***Europe***. With this, France strengthens the broader ***European*** economy, because companies like Airbus and Thales also have branches in the Netherlands and Spain." Thales Netherlands states in a reaction that it will not have much impact on their order book. A spokesman for Airbus, which is officially based in the Netherlands, could not say on Tuesday evening what the consequences of the rescue package are for the future of the Dutch production site in Leiden.

Air France already has 93 aircraft on order with Airbus. These orders have become a financial millstone for the group in part due to the corona crisis, because of advance payments while there is currently no income. By supporting both Airbus and Air France, the French minister is trying to help both companies.

KLM seems to benefit less. Air France's sister company decided last year that it would continue to be a Boeing customer, although top executive Pieter Elbers did not rule out switching to Airbus in February, as reported by De Telegraaf. We note that the French government, too, sees the importance of a healthy aviation sector," a KLM spokesperson responded. However, KLM insiders fear that the Dutch airline will be squeezed out in favour of French employment, which was the objective of the support package announced on Tuesday.

The French government wants to take advantage of the crisis to help the smaller companies in the sector to become more competitive and modern. For this purpose, a fund has been created that should reach €1 billion by the end of this year.

The Dutch aviation industry is positive, but says it is a French party. I do not expect French money to cross the border", says Frank Jansen, foreman of the branch organisation NAG. France's ambitions match ours perfectly, as described in the Aviation Policy Document. So cooperation with France is obvious and we are already in talks with Airbus.

GKN Fokker from Papendrecht supplies wing parts, structural parts and cabling to Airbus. The company is pleased with the recognition of the 'strategic importance of the aviation sector', says top executive John Pritchard. ,,We see it as an encouragement to take the next step in sustainability. We are determined to play a key role in the development towards greener aviation."

No French money across borders

**Classification**

**Language:** DUTCH; ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** Tlg-NL

**Subject:** Aircraft (88%)

**Industry:** Aerospace Industry (94%)

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

**End of Document**

[***International consultations***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:603M-8MB1-DYMH-R0PM-00000-00&context=) [***Portuguese Centeno leaves the chairmanship of the Eurogroup***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:603M-8MB1-DYMH-R0PM-00000-00&context=)

NRC Handelsblad

10 June 2020 Wednesday

1st Edition

Copyright 2020 NRC Media B.V. All Rights Reserved



**Section:** ECONOMICS; Page 2

**Length:** 133 words

**Dateline from** Brussels

**Body**

The Portuguese Mário Centeno stops as president of the ***Eurogroup***. On Tuesday, Centeno announced that he would step down as Finance Minister of Portugal on 13 July and would therefore not seek a new term as ***Eurogroup President***. Centeno was elected in December 2017 as the successor to Jeroen Dijsselbloem, who served two terms as president of the informal council of finance ministers of ***eurozone*** countries from 2013.

The Spanish minister Nadia Calviño is often mentioned as a possible successor. Luxemburg's Pierre Gramegna and Irishman Paschal Donohoe are also said to be interested. The Dutch Wopke Hoekstra is not interested, reports ANP. The ***Eurogroup***, which lost influence in recent years after its heyday during the credit crisis, will vote on 9 July. (NRC)

**Classification**

**Language:** DUTCH; ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Economic Crisis (94%); ***European*** Union (82%); ***European*** Union Regulation + Policy (82%); Monetary Unions (78%); Central Banks (65%); COVID-19 Coronavirus (64%); Disaster + Emergency Relief (64%); Economic Conditions (64%)

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

**End of Document**

[***European judge may say: IS executioner or just refugee?***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:606T-VDT1-DYMH-R1ST-00000-00&context=)

NRC Handelsblad

25 June 2020 Thursday

1st Edition

Copyright 2020 NRC Media B.V. All Rights Reserved



**Section:** OUTSIDE; Page 14

**Length:** 1353 words

**Byline:** Gert Van Langendonck

**Dateline:** PARIS

**Body**

**ABSTRACT**

Terrorist trials

An Iraqi terror suspect who had been arrested in France in 2018 but quietly released during the lockdown has surfaced in Bavaria. The case shows how difficult it sometimes is to bring war crimes from the Middle East to justice.

**FULL TEXT:**

In June 2018, the news is widely reported in French newspapers: a 36-year-old Iraqi man has been arrested in Lisieux in the Calvados region on suspicion of membership of terrorist group Islamic State. The reason was an international arrest warrant issued by Iraq. Iraq accuses Ahmed Hamdane Mahmoud Ayach Al-Aswadi of participating in the Camp Speicher massacre in 2014. In one day, IS then executed some 1,700 Shiite soldiers and cadets near the northern Iraqi city of Tikrit.

At the time, the Hamdane case fuelled fears that terrorists had mixed in with the refugees in ***Europe***. Two perpetrators of the 2015 Paris attacks were Iraqis who had slipped into ***Europe*** at the height of the refugee crisis; two others had been intercepted along the way. Making matters worse, Hamdane is a recognised refugee. He came to France in 2016 and became a status holder the following year.

By contrast, there is almost no media coverage when Hamdane is released on conditions in mid-May 2020. France is in complete lockdown, the coronavirus has pushed the terrorism case into the background for a while. Last week, Hamdane turns up again - in Germany.

According to his lawyer Mohamed al-Monsef Hamdi, Hamdane panicked when he received a call from the French police: "He thought he had to go back to prison."

Hamdane leaves his phone behind in Paris and moves to Deggendorf in Bavaria, where his wife and daughter live, whom he has not seen for twenty-six months. The next day he volunteered to the German police. He is now waiting to be extradited to France in the next few days.

**IS atrocities**

The National Anti-Terrorism Prosecutor's Office does not comment on the file, or on why Hamdane was first a dangerous terrorist only to be released the next moment. For lawyer Hamdi, the answer to that question is simple.

The file against my client is empty", says Hamdi. "The only element against him is that he has been accused by one person of participating in the Camp Speicher massacre. He would have killed 103 people single-handedly. But that person has since been executed himself, and Baghdad has remained deaf to any request for additional elements either on charge or on indictment."

Camp Speicher - a US army base from 2003 to 2011 - has been largely forgotten in the West due to subsequent atrocities by IS. But in Iraq it is a landmark, especially for the Shiite population.

This is not only because of the exceptional cruelty of the event, but also because of the way in which a relatively small group of IS fighters easily managed to rout the much larger Iraqi army in terms of numbers.

When IS approaches the city of Tikrit on 12 June 2014, the thousands of soldiers and cadets at Camp Speicher receive a remarkable order from their superiors: leave the camp - unarmed and in civilian clothes. Fleeing is the only survival strategy the army commanders can think of.

The plan fails. The Iraqi soldiers are arrested at IS checkpoints. They are executed on the spot or taken away in trucks. Sunnis are separated from Shiites; the latter are executed without mercy. We know this because of survivors who hid under the bodies. But also because IS boasted about it and put photos and videos of it online.

Camp Speicher has been a tragedy for all Iraqis and for Shiites in particular", says Bader Kareem Alewy Al-Mahamadawy, MP for the Badr Organisation, a pro-Iranian Shiite militia and political party.

Ahmed Hamdane was in Tikrit prison on 14 June 2014 on charges of terrorist activity. He says he escaped after the guards ran out and fled to Erbil in Iraqi Kurdistan.

It is here that his story takes a strange turn. For Hamdane says he had been working undercover for the Iraqi intelligence services for years, even during his imprisonment.

Hamdane is an old acquaintance of the judiciary. In 2002, 18 years old, he was already in prison for theft when Saddam Hussein, in the run-up to the US invasion, opened all prisons. He was arrested again for weapons possession in 2005 and for terrorism in 2012. But it is also a fact that prison is the environment par excellence where terrorism thrives, especially in Iraq.

Hamdane's file contains a memorandum from the US FBI stating that Hamdane had indeed worked for the Iraqi intelligence services and that in that capacity he had also met "foreigners". His lawyer says that he has spoken to the Iraqi-Kurdish intelligence services who confirm Hamdane's story.

But the witness in the Iraqi file tells a completely different story. According to Ibrahim Badri Ibrahim al-Bazzi, who was in prison together with Hamdane, the prisoners did not run but were freed by IS and participated - voluntarily or involuntarily - in the execution of the Shiite soldiers. Al-Bazzi's testimony also forms the basis of a report by the Iraqi parliament on the Camp Speicher massacre.

The problem is that al-Bazzi was hanged in Iraq in August 2016 along with 35 others. This happened at a time when Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi was under intense public pressure following violent bombings in Baghdad. The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein, strongly condemned the executions at the time.

**Suicide attempt**

The Hamdane case illustrates how difficult it is to cooperate with the Iraqi justice system, where confessions are often forced through torture. Nineteen of the thirty-six people executed in 2016 said they had been tortured, and some were far from Tikrit at the time of the massacre.

France is not the only country to have faced the Camp Speicher massacre. In Finland, two Iraqi brothers were arrested in 2015 after Iraqi refugees accused them of taking part in the massacre. The two were acquitted for lack of evidence. But on appeal, the prosecution came up with a video showing one brother taking part in executions. The problem: they are identical twins, so it was not possible to say with certainty which of the two is shown in the video. At the end of February, the brothers were again acquitted.

***Europe*** is at the beginning of an explosion of court cases related to the wars in Iraq and Syria. In Germany, several cases are already pending against Syrians who have been accused by other Syrians of torture and murder in the regime's prisons.

The fact that so many victims, witnesses and possible perpetrators of war crimes are now in ***Europe***, in addition to the fact that much evidence can be found on social media, means that there are a huge number of such lawsuits to come," says Jennifer Triscone of the legal NGO Trial International in Geneva.

The question is what happens to Ahmed Hamdane now. His file is possibly too light to be able to get a conviction in France. In the meantime, he is a possible danger, if only to himself: he has attempted suicide in his French cell. France cannot respond to the Iraqi request for extradition because Iraq applies the death penalty. Paris can ask for the death penalty to be commuted to life imprisonment, but as far as we know this has not happened yet. In any case, says lawyer Hamdi, "there is no doubt that my client will be executed in Iraq".

With the cooperation of Hawras Kakil

***Europe*** is on the brink of an explosion of similar lawsuits

**Graphic**

Mourning relatives at Camp Speicher, where IS estimated to have executed 1,700 Shia soldiers in one day.

Photos AFP/ AHMAD AL-RUBAYE and Redux EPA/Alessio Mamo

**Classification**

**Language:** DUTCH; ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Terrorist Organizations (94%); Human Rights (68%); Weapons Of Mass Destruction (67%); Embargoes + Sanctions (63%); International Relations (63%)

**Industry:** Oil + Gas Industry (64%)

**Load-Date:** June 25, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Privacy law evaluation***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:606T-VDT1-DYMH-R1TG-00000-00&context=) [***Too little manpower and coordination in AVG'.***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:606T-VDT1-DYMH-R1TG-00000-00&context=)

NRC Handelsblad

25 June 2020 Thursday

1st Edition

Copyright 2020 NRC Media B.V. All Rights Reserved



**Section:** CULTURE; Page 2

**Length:** 274 words

**Byline:** Clara van de Wiel

**Dateline from** Brussels

**Body**

**ABSTRACT**

Evaluation AVG Two years after the introduction of the ***European*** privacy law, the implementation thereof still differs widely within ***Europe***, according to the ***European*** Commission.

**FULL TEXT:**

There is still insufficient ***European*** coordination in the application of the new privacy legislation. Two years after the introduction of the so-called General Data Protection Regulation (AVG), its implementation in ***Europe*** still varies widely. As an example, the Commission mentions how member states apply different minimum ages at which children may give permission for the use of their data. This was the conclusion of the ***European*** Commission in an evaluation report on the AVG this Wednesday. In addition, the fact that not all national supervisory authorities have sufficient financial resources and manpower to deal with complaints is an ongoing concern.

Nevertheless, the Commission is mainly satisfied with the application of the law. The ***European*** privacy law is seen as an important achievement in Brussels. At first there was panic that this law would mean the end of the world," said ***European Commissioner*** Vera Jourova on Wednesday. That has not happened. On the contrary, it has given our citizens control over their data."

The AVG, which came into force at the end of May 2018, obliges organisations to record much more clearly how personal data is processed and stored. If they go wrong, regulators can impose hefty fines. Between May 2018 and November 2019, a total of 785 fines were handed out in ***Europe***, which the Commission sees as proof of the law's success.

**Classification**

**Language:** DUTCH; ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject: *European*** Union (94%); Trial + Procedure (83%); Internet Social Networking (67%)

**Industry:** Information Security + Privacy (69%); Media + Telecommunications (67%)

**Load-Date:** June 25, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Port wants smart grid; CDA: Alternative for Timmermans plan***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:606S-00N1-DY4D-Y48X-00000-00&context=)

De Telegraaf

25 June 2020 Thursday

Netherlands

Copyright 2020 Mediahuis Nederland BV All Rights Reserved



**Section:** JOURNAL; Page 23

**Length:** 264 words

**Byline:** Alexander Bakker

**Body**

CDA: Alternative to Timmermans plan

by Alexander Bakker

The Hague - The introduction of a smart timetable in the port of Rotterdam should prevent cargo ships from travelling unnecessarily fast and then having to wait several days in front of the coast. The CDA wants the government to work on this in Brussels.

Port authorities now work with arrival times. Shipowners sometimes have their ships sail extra fast around the world to get to Rotterdam quickly. But there is not always a guarantee of a place at the destination. In practice, ships sometimes have to park for days off the coast.

CDA MP Agnes Mulder wants to put an end to this situation by making it possible to introduce a smart schedule. A captain will then be told by a special ICT system exactly when he can moor. Ships would then need to sail less fast. According to TNO, this could save 20% of CO2", the politician explains. Rotterdam would like to work with such a smart grid. The problem is that Frans Timmermans' ***European*** climate plans include a variant that will put the port in bureaucratic waters. Last week, the ***European Commissioner*** indicated that he is open to this idea.

There may also be a nitrogen benefit. The dunes suffer from nitrogen precipitation from ships. The Dutch Parliament has asked the Cabinet to investigate whether the grid can help reduce this precipitation. Research institute Marin is looking into this question. The Dutch coast is in a fix: many construction projects are on the rocks.

**Classification**

**Language:** DUTCH; ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** Tlg-NL

**Industry:** Harbors + Ports (94%); Marine Shipping (65%); Marine Transportation (65%)

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

**End of Document**

[***Macron licking his fingers at roebuck***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:606S-00N1-DY4D-Y46W-00000-00&context=)

De Telegraaf

25 June 2020 Thursday

Rotterdam

Copyright 2020 Mediahuis Nederland BV All Rights Reserved



**Section:** REGION; Page 13

**Length:** 357 words

**Byline:** Marieke van Essen

**Body**

by Marieke van Essen

SCHEVENINGEN - They made quite a few foreign newspapers, including the New York Times: Prime Minister Mark Rutte and French President Emmanuel Macron dining at the VleeschHouwerij Cru restaurant in Scheveningen.

Entrepreneur Alain de Vries is still a bit perplexed the day after the high visit. But secretly he is also a bit proud that the president licked his fingers at his Veluwe roe 'from our own hunt'. We got a very nice compliment and he even wanted to know where the Veluwe is.

While the two heads of state were discussing the 750 billion ***euro European*** recovery fund in Badhuisstraat on Tuesday evening, and were thus on foreign websites the same evening, life on Scheveningen went on as usual. The occupant of the house above the restaurant sat watching TV undisturbed and some passers-by wondered aloud, when they saw motorbike policemen, if there were checks again.

The fact that the high attendance was only noticed on departure is perhaps just as well, because thanks to the French president, pulse fishing was put on hold last year. And no, this is certainly not the reason why the three-course menu with accompanying wine, a 2018 Beaujolais L'Ancien, contained no fish, says Alain de Vries with a smile. They were even served delicious Scheveningen herring by Ben de Lange on arrival," he says.

The choice for Scheveningen would have come from Mark Rutte himself: He regularly eats at the French bistro Le Café in Oude Molstraat, which is temporarily housed in our building due to the coronation measures. The last time he was here, he said he would be back soon."

The gentlemen sat at the table for three hours and were visibly at ease during the dinner, which ended with a walk to the Zwarte Pad and - allegedly - a visit to De Pier.

Not much later, President Macron flew back to the Elysée Palace with a French red wine from Domaine Richeaume bought afterwards under his arm. A better compliment they could not have received at Scheveningen.

Under-

taker

is still

perplexed

**Classification**

**Language:** DUTCH; ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** Tlg-DH

**Subject:** International Relations (67%)

**Industry:** Alcoholic Beverages (94%); Restaurants + Food Service Industry (81%); Restaurants (73%)

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

**End of Document**

[***We must force social media to be transparent'***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:606T-VDT1-DYMH-R1TC-00000-00&context=)

NRC Handelsblad

25 June 2020 Thursday

1st Edition

Copyright 2020 NRC Media B.V. All Rights Reserved



**Section:** CULTURE; Page 2

**Length:** 636 words

**Byline:** Reinier Kist

**Dateline:** Amsterdam

**Body**

**ABSTRACT**

Interview Jef Ausloos Privacy expert

Social media that do not want to share their data with outsiders should not hide behind privacy law AVG, says researcher Jef Ausloos.

**FULL TEXT:**

What goes on under the bonnet of Facebook, Twitter, Uber, AirBnB and other major online platforms? This question is increasingly being asked by governments, scientists and journalists because the Silicon Valley tech companies have become such an important part of everyday life. The outsiders want to know whether Facebook's algorithms discriminate, whether Uber competes fairly, how Tinder selects potential partners. And for this they need data from these companies.

However, 'Big Tech' is reluctant to give that data away. They often defend themselves with the General Data Protection Regulation (AVG) or other privacy legislation that would make sharing of personal data more difficult.

In a new report, carried out for the German civil rights organisation AlgorithmWatch, researchers at the Institute for Information Law (UvA) argue for transparency rules that force platforms to make certain data public. The report also explores how sensitive data can be released without violating privacy rules.

Privacy expert and co-author Jef Ausloos: ,,We find strict transparency requirements the most normal thing in the world in sectors such as the car and food industry, the financial sector or the environment. But the products of internet platforms can also have harmful consequences for society: from electoral manipulation and privacy violations to exploiting employees and endangering customers. Therefore, we need to force these companies to communicate in a verifiable and accessible way about what they are doing, just as happens in all those other sectors."

That is not happening yet?

No, far too little. Currently, we have to rely on whistleblowers and investigative journalists to find out what is going on. Think of the Cambridge Analytica scandal: that would never have come to light if whistleblower Christopher Wylie had not gone public."

What data are we talking about?

It could be anything. With social media, you can think of more insight into the algortimes that determine what news people are served up, or making political campaigns public. But you can't give a simple list of files that platforms should share: technology is constantly evolving and so are the research questions."

Is the sharing of these files in line with the AVG privacy law?

The AVG is still too often used as an excuse not to share data. For example, an initiative by Facebook to release almost 1 billion gigabytes of raw data was delayed by almost two years because, according to Facebook, not all the AVG requirements could be met.

We show that there are many compromises possible whereby information is released without endangering the privacy of users. By anonymising large data files, for example. In addition, there are conceivable cases in which personal data must still be shared. That is why we are arguing for a new authority to be set up that will steer this in the right direction. In the medical sector, this has existed for some time. In Finland, for example, an authority was recently established that acts as an intermediary in the sharing of data between hospitals and researchers.

How to proceed?

The report is on the desk of a number of people in the ***European*** Commission and the ***European*** Parliament. In Brussels, the new Digital Services Act is now being drafted; a major reform of the regulations concerning online services. Data transparency is one of the hot topics. Hopefully it will be picked up."

Stringent transparency requirements are quite normal in other sectors

**Graphic**

Privacy expert Jef Ausloos

**Classification**

**Language:** DUTCH; ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Internet Social Networking (94%)

**Industry:** Data Mining (69%)

**Load-Date:** June 25, 2020

**End of Document**

[***Merkel must Europanog show once what she can do; Comment***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60B1-DCK1-DYMH-R011-00000-00&context=)

NRC Handelsblad

10 July 2020 Friday

1st Edition

Copyright 2020 NRC Media B.V. All Rights Reserved



**Section:** OPINION; page 17

**Length:** 602 words

**Body**

**ABSTRACT**

***EU President***

**FULL TEXT:**

Will it be a Meisterstück? After fifteen years as chancellor, Angela Merkel does not have to show, either in Germany or in ***Europe***, that she has surpassed the status of a companion in politics. Nevertheless, it was fate that at the end of her political career she would have one more chance to tackle exceptional problems from an influential position and to make a mark on the development of ***Europe***.

In 2021, regular Bundestag elections will bring an end to Merkel's chancellorship. She is not available for a new term. But before that happens, ***Europe is*** crying out for attention. Since July 1, Germany has held the six-month rotating presidency of the ***European Union***. In Brussels, expectations of the German six-month term were already running high. A powerful ***European*** country with a seasoned politician simply raises expectations higher than a small country.

Merkel's ***European*** semester was to be about greening and digitalisation, about migration and the relationship with China. At a summit in Leipzig in September, she wanted to receive ***European*** leaders and President Xi Jinping. Then came the pandemic.

The summit with Xi was postponed to a date yet to be determined. And the issues of future-proofing the ***EU*** are suddenly in the shadow of crisis management. The end of the Brexit negotiations, in which there is virtually no progress, falls in her term. But it starts with the economic programme with which the ***EU*** wants to tackle the corona recession and which is linked to the ***EU***'s multiannual budget.

The recovery programme is economically essential and at the same time a political divisive issue. Economic forecasts are getting gloomier by the day. This week, the ***European*** Commission predicted an economic contraction of 8.7% for the ***euro area***. In the spring, the forecast was still 7.7%. Following a lead from Germany and France, the Commission has proposed a ***EUR*** 750 billion recovery programme, a large part of which is to be provided in the form of grants to badly affected Member States and a small part in the form of loans.

The philosophy behind the proposal is simple: you can only save ***Europe*** if you save the economy first. It is a matter of solidarity to help badly affected countries quickly and generously. And it is also a matter of self-interest for less hard-hit countries to help maintain the economy in the whole union.

The Netherlands is against it. It would prefer not to provide subsidies, but loans. Prime Minister Mark Rutte (VVD) has been the leader of the opposition for weeks and knows himself supported by Austria, Denmark and Sweden.

Merkel has to find a middle ground between the recipient countries, which want to see a lot of money quickly and with as few conditions as possible, and the opponents, who have more time, prefer not to donate any money and are in favour of strict controls. Merkel, leader of coalition governments, has a lot of experience with the compromise. If she can give ***Europe*** an efficient stimulus programme in the biggest economic crisis since the Second World War and at the same time keep North and South together, she would be doing ***Europe*** a great service. The recovery programme could be a political masterpiece and a fitting farewell gift to the ***European Union***.

***Europe*** needs an efficient stimulus programme, keeping north and south together

In the Commentary, NRC gives its opinion on important news facts. The commentators write these articles in consultation with the editors-in-chief.

**Classification**

**Language:** DUTCH; ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject: *European*** Union (94%); Monetary Unions (82%); ***European*** Union Regulation + Policy (80%); Economic Crisis (70%); Public Finance (64%)

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

**End of Document**

[***Unions take action in Brussels over KLM support package***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60B1-DCK1-DYMH-R02B-00000-00&context=) [***Six unions oppose the package via Brussels: "We need to fix this now."***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60B1-DCK1-DYMH-R02B-00000-00&context=)

NRC Handelsblad

10 July 2020 Friday

1st Edition

Copyright 2020 NRC Media B.V. All Rights Reserved



**Section:** ECONOMICS; Page 1

**Length:** 1035 words

**Byline:** Mark Duursma

**Dateline:** Amsterdam

**Body**

**ABSTRACT**

Aviation

The unions believe that the government's demands for employment conditions at KLM are in conflict with various ***European*** treaties.

**FULL TEXT:**

Six KLM trade unions have lodged an objection with the ***European*** Commission against the support package of the Dutch State for KLM. According to the unions, the demands the state is making on KLM regarding employment conditions are in conflict with ***European*** treaties. The ***European*** Commission must approve the support package of ***€3***.4 billion in loans and loan guarantees. The Lower and Upper Houses of Parliament have already agreed to it.

The government has attached conditions to the aid for KLM. KLM has to cut costs by 15 per cent to improve its competitive position. How KLM is going to do this still has to be worked out, but Minister Hoekstra (Finance, CDA) has already "hit the ground running", as he calls it.

All KLM employees with an income above average must surrender salary. The higher the salary, the greater the sacrifice: up to two times the average salary, at least 10 percent; from three times the average, at least 20 percent. According to the trade unions, these requirements are "too restrictive and too specific". Therefore, they violate labour rights as laid down in the Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work of the International Labour Organisation ILO, the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the ***European Union*** and the ***European*** Social Charter.

**Government intervenes in collective labour agreement**

According to the unions, the agreements between KLM and the Ministry of Finance on wage sacrifice are at odds with the freedom of social partners to negotiate collective labour conditions. They feel that the government is wrong to intervene in the three collective labour agreements at KLM for ground staff, cabin crew and cockpit crew. The Commission should reject the support package on this point.

The unions sent their objection to ***European Commissioner*** Margrethe Vestager (Competition) and Jeppe Tranholm-Mikkelsen, Secretary-General of the Council of the ***European Union***. The letter was signed by pilots' union VNV, cabin crew union VNC and four unions for ground staff: De Unie, NVLT, VKP and CNV.

Only FNV Luchtvaart (ground staff) and FNV Cabine are missing. The FNV regards the wage sacrifice as "negotiation input" to which the unions are not bound, but does not object to it.

The objection is an initiative of pilots' union VNV. Many of their members have to surrender at least 20 per cent of their salary under the current agreements. Part of the FNV's supporters earn up to average wages and therefore do not have to surrender their salaries.

On 1 July, the House of Representatives passed a motion by the CDA and SGP asking the government to "urge KLM to spare employees with an income up to one and a half times their standard salary as much as possible".

KLM, however, is sticking to the lower limit of average wages, as was revealed in talks with the unions this week. A spokesperson for KLM said that "it is up to the government to give substance to this motion and not to KLM." And: "The government has, for the time being, left the conditions it has set for financial support for KLM unchanged."

**KLM rescue blocked**

According to VNV president Willem Schmid, the support package is not in danger. We are not against the package as such, and we understand the need for reorganisation. But the employment conditions part has to be adapted. Doesn't Schmid fear that the image is created that the unions are blocking the rescue of KLM? It is the other way around. This path leads to a mess, with only losers. If we continue in this way, the chances of failure are actually greater. We need to fix this now."

The union De Unie has two arguments for signing the letter, says its chairman Reinier Castelein. This is a matter of principle. Trade unions are responsible for collective agreements, not the government. In addition, I find it very odd that only KLM has to make cuts while the entire aviation sector is in trouble. What about the high incomes at Schiphol and Air Traffic Control? There are now 2.2 million people dependent on a corona salary paid by the state. Why is it only the thirty thousand KLM employees who have to bleed?"

**Hoekstra's 'Omission**

Experts in labour law disagree on whether the unions' objection holds water. Evert Verhulp, professor of labour law at the University of Amsterdam, said earlier in NRC that state interference in KLM wages is unusual, but that there are no "hard legal norms" forbidding it. His colleague Paul van der Heijden of Leiden University wrote this week in the Dutch Law Journal that Hoekstra's failure to consult the unions is a "clear omission". Previous rulings have shown that social dialogue must be respected even in times of crisis.

A spokesman for the ***European*** Commission was unable to say on Thursday whether employment conditions play a role in the Commission's approval of state aid. Normally, the Commission only looks at competition: the market should not be unduly distorted. It is also unclear whether the Commission can reject one aspect of an aid package and approve the rest.

Whatever the outcome of the ***European*** Commission's judgment, the relationship between KLM and Minister Hoekstra on the one hand and the trade unions on the other has been seriously damaged. On the issue itself, perspectives differ considerably. Whereas Hoekstra thinks he is only 'outlining the framework' for adjustment of the terms of employment, the unions are of the opinion that he has already filled in the adjustment.

Viewed more broadly, there is a breach of trust that has now resulted in a power struggle. Hoekstra and the KLM management have excluded the unions from the negotiations on the support package. From the end of April, when the support was announced, the unions have tried in vain to join the talks.

The unions feel sidelined and are unhappy with the conditions that are now on the table. To be credible to their supporters and be taken seriously by KLM and Hoekstra, they have to take a tough stance. This seems to be one of the reasons for the trip to Brussels.

This path leads to a mess Willem Schmid VNV Chairman

**Graphic**

Parking area, end of March. The Aalsmeerbaan is in use again since this week.

Photo by Getty Images

**Classification**

**Language:** DUTCH; ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Aircraft (94%); Labor Unions (84%); Labor + Employment (69%); Human Resources + Personnel Management (64%)

**Industry:** Air Transportation (75%)

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

**End of Document**

[***Victory for Donohoe is 'dwarfs' revenge; Irishman beats Spain's top favourite for presidency eurogroup***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:609W-F5V1-DY4D-Y13N-00000-00&context=)

De Telegraaf

10 July 2020 Friday

Netherlands

Copyright 2020 Mediahuis Nederland BV All Rights Reserved



**Section:** FINANCIAL; Page 21

**Length:** 324 words

**Body**

Irishman beats Spanish top favourite for ***Eurogroup*** presidency

It is the ultimate satisfaction for the countries that top favourite Nadia Calviño dismissed as small and rather insignificant two years ago because of their resistance to further ***eurozone integration***. Not the Spanish but the Irishman Paschal Donohoe will become the new president of the ***Euro Group*** thanks to the support of 'the small ones'.

The name of the 45-year-old Christian Democrat emerged as the winner after a two-round secret ballot on Thursday evening. He reportedly won by a wide margin. But Calviño, who had the support of France and Germany, did not make it. This is because every vote in the 19-member ***euro group*** counts equally.

Calviño was the candidate of the South, someone who was well versed in Brussels where she worked for 12 years at the ***European*** Commission before joining the left-wing cabinet of Spanish Prime Minister Sánchez.

Minister Hoekstra (Finance) praised Donohoe extensively on Thursday evening. It is someone I know well. He is very broadly right. He has our absolute support."

The Irishman is the successor to Mario Centeno, who is sticking to a 2.5-year term as President of the Portuguese central bank. His term is not seen as very successful in Brussels. Under his leadership, there were mainly complaints about unnecessarily long meetings.

In that respect, the terms of Centeno's predecessor Dijsselbloem were two of fireworks. During the ***euro crisis*** and the debt problems in Greece, the ***euro group*** was at the centre of power and interest. It is up to Donohoe, with the corona crisis now widespread, to make the body as important as ever.

He is in for a treat. Finance ministers will have a big say in the rollout of the ***European*** recovery fund, which EU leaders have yet to decide.

**Classification**

**Language:** DUTCH; ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** Tlg-NL

**Subject: *European*** Union (94%); ***European*** Union Regulation + Policy (93%); Monetary Unions (77%); Central Banks (63%); Economic Crisis (63%)

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

**End of Document**

[***Irishman Donohoe beats Spanish favourite***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60B1-DCK1-DYMH-R02C-00000-00&context=)

NRC Handelsblad

10 July 2020 Friday

1st Edition

Copyright 2020 NRC Media B.V. All Rights Reserved



**Section:** ECONOMICS; Page 1

**Length:** 723 words

**Byline:** Clara van de Wiel

**Dateline from** Brussels

**Body**

**ABSTRACT**

***Eurogroup*** Presidency

The Irishman Paschal Donohoe was elected ***Eurogroup President*** on Thursday. The Netherlands voted against the Spanish favourite.

**FULL TEXT:**

Irish Minister Paschal Donohoe will become the new President of the ***Eurogroup***. On Thursday, a majority of ***eurozone*** finance ministers appointed him to lead their monthly meeting.

The candidacy of favourite Nadia Calviño (Spain) has thus been successfully blocked by a coalition of mainly smaller countries, including the Netherlands. Next week, Donohoe will take over the chairmanship from the Portuguese minister Mário Centeno, who announced early in June that he will not seek a new term.

On Thursday, Donohoe competed alongside Calviño against Luxembourg's Minister Pierre Gramegna. Calviño was the favourite: she was a top official in Brussels for a long time and knows the ***European*** agenda well. Moreover, for the balance within the ***EU*** it would be good that the Spanish, like Centeno, represents a Southern European, social democratic government. There was also enthusiasm about the fact that, with Calviño, a woman would lead the ***Eurogroup for the*** first time. Both Germany and France openly expressed their support for her.

**Resistance of Northern Europe**

But Calviño also evoked resistance: especially in Northern Europe - not least from Dutch minister Wopke Hoekstra (CDA). It caused anger that two years ago Calviño made disparaging remarks about the so-called Hanseatic coalition - a club of ***euro countries*** that, led by the Netherlands, is resisting further integration. Moreover, Calviño is said to be too outspoken, also in the discussion about the ***European*** recovery after the Corona crisis. After the meeting, Hoekstra did not want to reveal his preference, but he did emphasise that he is happy with the election of Donohoe.

The Irishman explicitly presented himself as a bridge-builder, a candidate that both Northern and Southern Europe could live with. Because Ireland also had to be helped with a support package during the credit crisis, he would know the pain of the ***European*** budget regime well. At the same time, in the run-up to the election, he spoke out against excessively bold plans for a new ***European*** tax regime. As a Christian Democrat, Donohoe, in office since 2017 and recently reappointed to a new Irish government, could also count on the support of the large group of like-minded ministers in the ***Eurogroup***.

As President, Donohoe will have an important strategic position within the ***eurozone***. Although not an official EU body, the ***Eurogroup*** is considered an important place for forging compromises. Especially during the credit and ***euro crisis***, the ***Eurogroup*** had an influential role, when it took important decisions on support packages for countries in need. Under the leadership of Jean-Claude Juncker, later to become president of the ***European*** Commission, and then of PvdA minister Jeroen Dijsselbloem, decisive compromises were reached. But as the crisis atmosphere subsided, the ***Eurogroup'***s weight also declined. In recent years, discussions on the further integration of the ***eurozone***, for instance by strengthening the banking union or an own budget, hardly made any headway. Not everyone was equally positive about Centeno's role: he was said to give too little direction and to let discussions muddle on for too long. It is possible that it will increase again in the coming years. What is certain is that, as a result of the corona crisis, the ***eurozone will*** once again face a difficult time, in which the recession will probably be much deeper than ten years ago. This summer, government leaders are expected to decide on a recovery fund to cushion the crisis. Whether the ***Eurogroup*** will have a role in the precise details will become clear later. Moreover, when the deepest crisis is over, the discussion about the ***European*** budget rules will flare up again. In normal times, these rules prescribe a maximum government debt of 60% and a maximum budget deficit of 3%. Member states agreed in March that they will not apply for the time being because of the crisis, but when that period ends is still open. Departing president Centeno announced this week that he is of the opinion that they should not be reintroduced "blindly". The ***European*** Commission also announced a review of the standards early this year, but recently postponed it until next year.

**Graphic**

Photo Paul Faith / HH

**Classification**

**Language:** DUTCH; ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject: *European*** Union (94%); ***European*** Union Regulation + Policy (93%); Monetary Unions (82%); Economic Crisis (75%); Economic Conditions (70%)

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

**End of Document**

[***Not Biden but China pushes Europe Towards US; An agonising question for the summer, between barbecues***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60B1-DCK1-DYMH-R006-00000-00&context=) [***Luuk van Middelaar columnist***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60B1-DCK1-DYMH-R006-00000-00&context=)[***Column***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60B1-DCK1-DYMH-R006-00000-00&context=)

NRC Handelsblad

10 July 2020 Friday

1st Edition

Copyright 2020 NRC Media B.V. All Rights Reserved



**Section:** CONTENTS; Page 1

**Length:** 624 words

**Byline:** Luuk van Middelaar

**Body**

On America's Fourth of July holiday, Ambassador Pete Hoekstra enjoyed the barbecue at Volkel military airbase. He also took a look in the F-16 cockpit from which a Dutch pilot shot a Serbian MiG-29 out of the sky during the Kosovo war (1999). Those were the days. The present is less cheerful for the Trump envoy. From Volkel Hoekstra complained to Elsevier about the recent report of the Advisory Council on International Affairs (AIV) on ***European*** security.

Disappointing', he said, and it testified to 'an evil mentality'. The authors, to whom I belong, recommend that the Dutch Government does not put all its cards on NATO for security, but also supports Franco-German initiatives in ***an EU context***. After all, you never know. Because of all the geopolitical uncertainties, it is better to have two working security organisations than one. Risk spreading; very pragmatic.

This does require The Hague, after years of denial and aloofness, to do something that has never been done in Paris and which Berlin has also been working on for some years now: to prepare ourselves for the evil day when a conflict breaks out in or around ***Europe*** and no one answers the phone in Washington. What will we do then?

Pete Hoekstra does not want to think about it. He sees in the document an insult to Trump and evidence of "anti-Americanism in government circles", all the more so since the AIV is chaired by former NATO boss Jaap de Hoop Scheffer (CDA) and former Defence Minister Voorhoeve (ex-VVD) is also a member. Ominously, the envoy drops: "At some point we will leave for elsewhere, because we are no longer welcome here."

A fortnight ago, Chancellor Merkel told some ***European*** newspapers just the opposite: "We grew up with the certainty that the United States wanted to be the first world power. If the country were to give up this role of its own accord, we would have to think very carefully."

Or is it just Trump and could things get better under Joe Biden? That quiet hope is growing, especially now that the president is falling behind in the polls due to his disastrous Covid campaign. Alexander Soros, son of the billionaire and philanthropist, implores ***European*** policymakers on an opinion site that fatalism about a transatlantic rift is misplaced: Biden knows Merkel and other EU leaders well from his time as Obama's vice president and will pursue international cooperation on trade, human rights or climate. Restoring friendship.

FT columnist Janan Ganesh saw both sides of the Atlantic drifting apart. The average American, 38 years old, has few memories of the great twentieth-century conflicts that made the Atlantic democratic world a community of destiny. Moreover, that voter is far more likely to come from Asia or Latin America than when, in 1949, an overwhelmingly ***European-based*** Washington political establishment established NATO. So why should the US endlessly come to the aid of distant ***Europe***?

Of such slow historical and geographical shifts, however, one dwarfs all others: the rise of China. In Washington, Republicans and Democrats agree: enough now, Xi is the new enemy. Perhaps Biden would say kinder words about the UN and NATO than Trump, but the Democratic president and his envoys would also finally ask and pressure us in ***Europe***: from '5G' to 'Hong Kong': will you join us in this new Cold War? An agonising question for the summer, between barbecues.

Luuk van Middelaar is political philosopher and Professor of ***European*** Law (Leiden).

In Washington, Republicans and Democrats agree: Xi is the new enemy

**Notes**

Luuk van Middelaar is political philosopher and Professor of ***European*** Law (Leiden).

**Classification**

**Language:** DUTCH; ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Weapons + Arms (94%); Weapons Of Mass Destruction (74%); Armed Forces (68%); ***European*** Union (68%); International Relations (68%); Politics (65%); Defense Departments (62%)

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

**End of Document**

[***Berlusconi (83) thinks about a comeback***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:609W-F5V1-DY4D-Y135-00000-00&context=)

De Telegraaf

10 July 2020 Friday

Netherlands

Copyright 2020 Mediahuis Nederland BV All Rights Reserved



**Section:** OUTSIDE; Page 13

**Length:** 379 words

**Byline:** Maarten van Aalderen

**Body**

by Maarten van Aalderen

ROME - None other than Silvio Berlusconi could well bring about a political revolution in Italy. The 83-year-old former prime minister and media tycoon puts his party, Forza Italia, in a unique position as a moderate pro-European centre-right opposition party interested in participating in government.

It is a strategic move that comes at a clever time. Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte leads a cabinet of the populist Five Star Movement, the centre-left PD and two very small left-wing parties. There is currently internal wrangling over the ***European*** emergency fund, the ESM, which can provide cheap funding to help the health system and the economy that have run into serious problems due to the coronavirus. The Five Star Movement does not want to hear about the ESM because it fears the conditions for cuts that would be attached to it. The PD, on the other hand, wants to accept the ESM because the money is badly needed. Berlusconi agrees with the PD.

Prime Minister Conte is caught between two stools. He himself is party-less, but is usually strongly associated with the Five Star Movement, which also more or less holds him hostage, as it is the largest party in parliament. That is why Conte initially said no to the ***European*** emergency fund ESM and only wanted the so-called corona bonds. But Conte praises Berlusconi's constructive attitude.

Smallest

Berlusconi is actually in the right-wing alliance with Matteo Salvini's Lega and Giorgia Meloni's Fratelli d'Italia. These two do not like the ESM. Berlusconi's Forza Italia is the smallest of the three right-wing parties according to the polls, but may become decisive.

The centre-left PD has always been Berlusconi's historic opponent. But everything is changing now. If the PD and Forza Italia vote together for the ***European*** emergency fund, with possibly other groups, a new coalition will emerge that is EU-minded. And a new government could emerge from that.

The Italian centre-left former Prime Minister and former President of the ***European*** Commission Prodi has already given the green light. The now 80-year-old Prodi narrowly defeated Berlusconi in both 1996 and 2006.

Veteran chooses moderate pro-European straight course

**Classification**

**Language:** DUTCH; ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** Tlg-NL

**Subject:** Trial + Procedure (94%); Law Courts + Tribunals (73%); Corruption (70%); ***European*** Union (68%); Politics (65%); Tax Fraud (64%); ***European*** Union Regulation + Policy (63%)

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

**End of Document**

[***ACM creates space for 'green cartels'; Green recovery***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60B1-DCK1-DYMH-R02G-00000-00&context=)

NRC Handelsblad

10 July 2020 Friday

1st Edition

Copyright 2020 NRC Media B.V. All Rights Reserved



**Section:** ECONOMICS; Page 4

**Length:** 1044 words

**Byline:** Joris Kooiman

**Dateline:** Amsterdam

**Body**

**ABSTRACT**

Competition

Sustainability agreements between companies can clash with the cartel ban. The ACM now wants to review in a more flexible way, and in doing so it broadly agrees with the views of the Cabinet. Criticism: the door is "thrown wide open to cartels".

**FULL TEXT:**

The Dutch Consumer and Market Authority (ACM) wants to give competing companies in the Netherlands more room to make sustainability agreements among themselves that are at odds with the ban on cartels. To this end, the ACM intends to stretch the ***European*** competition rules.

This is evident from the Guide to Sustainability Agreements that the Dutch Competition Authority published this Thursday. It concerns a draft. Interested parties have until 1 October to respond to it.

With this plan, the ACM meets a frequently heard wish from the business community. Businesses that want to cooperate in order to increase sustainability and go beyond a hallmark or covenant may run into trouble with the cartel ban. Think of binding agreements to use less polluting materials, to improve animal welfare or to pay higher prices to producers in poor countries.

The story goes that this is not possible with everyone on their own. After all, the party that sets the good example runs the risk, as first mover, of being squeezed out of the market by competitors with lower prices. But together it is not allowed. Because the ban on cartels, a crucial part of the ***European*** competition rules, is quite clear: companies that compete with each other are, in principle, not allowed to make agreements about price, quantity and quality. The rules are strict and intended to protect consumers from cartels and unfair competition.

**Cool and numerical**

There are exceptions to the rule. When consumers demonstrably benefit from anti-competitive agreements between companies, these can be permitted. For example, if cooperation promotes efficiency. Or if sustainable products are created, for which consumers are prepared to pay more.

The test then is: does the benefit to consumers outweigh the price increases through cooperation? The analysis is cool and numerical. If a litre of milk becomes 10 cents more expensive because manufacturers agree to produce in a climate-neutral way, this is prohibited if consumers are willing to pay, say, 8 cents more on average for this 'green' milk.

This must and can be done differently, the ACM believes, without violating ***European*** competition rules. How? By no longer requiring companies that want to cooperate to come up with a well-founded argument in all cases. A "qualitative analysis" can suffice when the market shares of the market parties involved are limited.

More fundamental: when it comes to agreements that limit environmental damage, the ACM no longer wants to look only at the benefit for the consumer of the specific product, but also at the benefit for society as a whole. After all, milk drinkers may only be willing to pay an extra 8 cents for a litre of climate-neutral dairy, but the rest of society also benefits from a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions. If the benefits for society as a whole are included, they will more quickly outweigh the disadvantages", writes the ACM.

**Chicken of Tomorrow**

It is striking that it is precisely the competition authority that is introducing this relaxation. To the outrage of many, in 2015 the ACM still prohibited chicken farmers and supermarkets from making agreements on better treatment of chickens: the Chicken of Tomorrow. The ACM had calculated: the price for a kilo of Chicken of Tomorrow would be 1.46 ***euros*** higher than a kilo of basic chicken, while chicken eaters would only pay an average of 82 cents extra for it. Conclusion: not permitted. Two years earlier, for similar reasons, the ACM blocked an agreement on the closure of five coal-fired power stations, an important part of the energy agreement.

At the same time, with its new guidelines, the ACM is now broadly in line with the views of the government, which also believes that the application of ***European*** competition rules should be less stringent where sustainability initiatives are concerned. Last summer, State Secretary Mona Keijzer (Economic Affairs and Climate, CDA) sent a bill to the House of Representatives allowing companies with green initiatives to circumvent the cartel ban.

If it is up to the Cabinet, companies will soon be knocking on doors to have their cooperation plans examined for their effect on 'the general interest'. If the Lower House agrees, the sustainability initiative will be converted into legislation and the cartel ban will be offside. The bill has still not been approved. The Netherlands is the first EU country that wants to create a sustainability exception to the cartel ban.

**Fear of greenwashing of cartels**

Not everyone is enthusiastic about the proposed relaxations. Last summer, the Council of State already strongly criticised Keijzer's (draft) bill, which would affect "the primacy of politics". Simply put: politics must weigh interests and set rules, instead of leaving the initiative to private parties.

Competition ***Commissioner*** Margrethe Vestager, who this year assesses whether ***European*** competition rules need to be revised, also said in a speech at the end of last year that it was important not to burden competition law with matters that should be regulated by the state.

Maarten Pieter Schinkel, Professor of Economics at the University of Amsterdam, sees a bigger problem with the ACM's guidelines. According to him, the ACM is now "opening the door wide to cartels". This will lead to less competition, higher prices and less sustainability, Schinkel fears.

We know that colluding companies try to get away with as little green as possible, at the maximum price increase." Greenwashing of cartels he calls it. Schinkel: ,,The ACM will soon also count the climate benefits of people who do not buy the product themselves and therefore do not contribute to it. As a result, the ACM can be much less strict in demanding compensatory green. Moreover, this is an easy way for the business community to avoid further regulation.

The Netherlands is the first EU country to want to create a sustainability exception to the cartel ban

**Graphic**

New sustainable and animal-friendly chicken house De Kipster in Beuningen produces environmentally friendly eggs.

Photo Flip Franssen

**Classification**

**Language:** DUTCH; ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Cartels (94%); Emissions (70%); Closings (64%); Trial + Procedure (64%)

**Industry:** Coal Industry (88%); Energy + Utility Regulation + Policy (64%); Food + Beverage Stores (61%)

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

**End of Document**

[***Machinations in Kosovo trial complicate the position of the EU***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60B1-DCK1-DYMH-R012-00000-00&context=)

NRC Handelsblad

10 July 2020 Friday

1st Edition

Copyright 2020 NRC Media B.V. All Rights Reserved



**Section:** OPINION; page 18

**Length:** 900 words

**Byline:** Daan Everts.

**Body**

**ABSTRACT**

The ***EU*** is this week mediating to end the latest Balkan conflict, between Kosovo and Serbia. The outcome is uncertain, warns Daan Everts.

**FULL TEXT:**

How extraordinarily coincidental that the indictment by the Special Prosecutor at the Kosovo Tribunal in The Hague against President Thaçi and other political leaders in Kosovo (crimes against humanity, war crimes) was made public at the end of June, just before crucial consultations between the Serbs and Kosovars were to begin in Washington.

Who will benefit from the torpedoing of this Serbo-Kosovar consultation? ***Europe***, which does not want America to settle the last remaining conflict in the Balkans? Americans, who want to deny Trump a foreign success? Laughing third parties, who stand to gain from proof of Western impotence?

The suspicion about the sudden announcement was increased by the fact that the accusation of crimes had not yet been confirmed by the investigating judge of the Kosovo Tribunal (KT). This is a very abnormal state of affairs which puts the credibility of this court at risk.

The Special Prosecutor's press release gives as its reason that Thaçi and co-defendants were secretly trying to pervert the course of justice - without giving any indication, let alone proof. Indeed, it has long been argued in Kosovo that, after five fruitless years, it is time to move the Tribunal, which is formally part of the Kosovo judicial system, to Pristina. President Thaçi, too, has argued in favour of this in all openness, in letters to various government leaders.

The extraordinary course of events surrounding the indictment comes on top of other doubts about the KT. It concerns the history of the tribunal's existence. It begins with the report (late 2010) by Dick Marty, a Swiss member of the Council of ***Europe***, in which he accuses Thaçi and the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) of nothing less than trading in the organs of captured Serbs and Albanian 'collaborators'. The report was provoked by an unsubstantiated accusation in the same direction from Carla del Ponte, former chief prosecutor at the Yugoslavia Tribunal. Marty's report, as any open-minded reader can see, is totally inadequate and contains mostly innuendo, unsubstantiated assertions and emotional statements. It was dismissed by Sir Geoffrey Nice, chief prosecutor at the ICTY against Milosevic. Nevertheless, one late afternoon the Council of ***Europe adopted*** a resolution accepting Marty's report and recommending an institutional follow-up. This eventually led to the establishment of the Tribunal.

Marty's most heinous allegation, which is also reflected in the new charges of the Special Prosecutor against Thaçi cum suis, concerns organ trafficking.

Kosovo's political leaders are neither angels nor Nelson Mandelas, but direct involvement in organ trafficking seems very incongruous.

To begin with, there is considerable doubt as to how, in the harsh setting of northern Albania, a clinic could be run that removed organs (from unwilling prisoners) and then turned them into cash. Apart from the specialist knowledge and resources required, there is also the question of a motive.

In the period in question, 1998 -1999, the KLA leaders knew themselves to be totally dependent on Western support in their fight for freedom against the militarily superior Serbia. How irrational to put that support at risk by knowingly committing inhuman crimes. Financial motives could not have played a part, because the KLA was generously supported by the Kosovar diaspora and other sympathisers during that period.

There are no wars without war crimes, including Kosovo. They must be brought to justice. However, the appearance of political influence and prejudice must be avoided. The premature accusations have provoked strong reactions in Serbia and Kosovo, jubilation in Belgrade, anger in Pristina. In all this uproar, it remains important to remember that there is no moral equivalence between the crimes of the Serbian army, militia and police (state-sponsored ethnic cleansing; 1 million Albanian Kosovars expelled; 10-15,000 killed) and those of the Kosovar armed resistance (local ethnic revenge attacks; 100,000 Serbian Kosovars fled; approximately 500 killed).

The geopolitical consequences of the abrupt end of the (resumption of the) Serbo-Kosovo dialogue are uncertain. It remains to be seen whether a renewed ***European*** initiative, with a summit on Friday under the auspices of President Macron and Chancellor Merkel, and a resumption of the dialogue next Sunday under the leadership of ***EU Foreign Representative*** Josep Borrell, can repair the damage. So far, ***Europe*** has shown itself to be particularly divided and impotent in decision-making on Kosovo, its independence and pro-European aspirations. For the time being, the situation remains dangerously unstable. As a result of the Special Prosecutor's curious manoeuvre, the latest, unresolved Balkan conflict is now also part of the plateau of ***European-American*** irritations. To the advantage of both Russia and China - both unusually active in the Balkans.

Daan Everts, former diplomat, headed the OSCE mission in Albania and Kosovo, among other places.

**Classification**

**Language:** DUTCH; ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** War + Conflict (94%); International Relations (78%); Indictments (70%); International Law (61%)

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

**End of Document**

[***Working conditions***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60B1-DCK1-DYMH-R00F-00000-00&context=) [***Unions complain in Brussels about Dutch demands on KLM***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60B1-DCK1-DYMH-R00F-00000-00&context=)

NRC Handelsblad

10 July 2020 Friday

1st Edition

Copyright 2020 NRC Media B.V. All Rights Reserved



**Section:** IN THE NEWS; Page 2

**Length:** 114 words

**Dateline:** Amsterdam

**Body**

The demands that the Dutch state is imposing on KLM in exchange for a support package of 3.4 billion ***euros*** are in violation of ***European*** rules. That is the opinion of six trade unions, who on Thursday submitted an objection to the ***European*** Commission, which must approve the package. According to the unions, the demands are "too stringent and too specific". For instance, the Cabinet wants KLM to cut costs by 15 per cent to improve its competitive position. All employees with an income above average must surrender salary. According to the unions, the agreements for cabin, ground and cockpit crew are at odds with the freedom of social partners to negotiate collective terms of employment. (NRC)

**Classification**

**Language:** DUTCH; ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Labor Unions (94%); Aircraft (62%)

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

**End of Document**

[***Green recovery should directly benefit citizens'***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60B1-DCK1-DYMH-R02H-00000-00&context=)

NRC Handelsblad

10 July 2020 Friday

1st Edition

Copyright 2020 NRC Media B.V. All Rights Reserved



**Section:** ECONOMICS; Page 4

**Length:** 764 words

**Byline:** Mark Beunderman

**Dateline:** Amsterdam

**Body**

**ABSTRACT**

advisory report

The government must make green choices with its investment fund, according to the Council for the Environment and Infrastructure.

**FULL TEXT:**

By our editor Mark Beunderman

If billions of ***euros*** are going to be spent anyway to stimulate the economic recovery, then put as much of that money as possible into sustainability. And: don't forget the citizen, who needs a healthy environment as well as work. That, in a nutshell, is the message that the Council for the Environment and Infrastructure is sending to politicians in The Hague this Friday.

In the report 'Green out of the crisis', the council, an advisory body to government and parliament, makes proposals that should benefit the climate, the economy and the quality of life.

Some examples: speed up the construction of charging stations. Subsidise the switch from gas to hydrogen. Build more energy efficient houses. Bring forward investments in cleaner fuel for ships and aircraft. Make electric bicycles more attractive.

The timing of the report is "deliberate", says councillor Annemieke Nijhof. On or just before Prinsjesdag (15 September), the cabinet wants to present its investment fund, probably with tens of billions of ***euros***. Moreover, parties are now thinking about their election programmes for the Lower House elections in March next year. The next cabinet formation will probably be about investments, not about cuts", thinks Nijhof. From ministries, the council received questions about how this could be done in a green way.

The council "does not seek to prioritise sustainability agendas over economic recovery policies, and believes that they can in fact be mutually reinforcing", it says. This interaction is possible in many areas, according to the council, from the built environment to energy transition and from mobility to adaptation to climate change.

With a "bonus for quick decision-makers", the subsidy scheme for home insulation, for example, can be expanded, the advisory board says. And from a new fund to be set up for the preservation of "social property", solar panels on the roofs of schools or hospitals could be paid for. Municipalities do not have enough money for this, according to the council. Such investments not only provide "short-term" work, but also directly benefit citizens and social institutions, according to the council.

The council considers social support to be a prerequisite for green plans. For many people, the whole idea of sustainability feels a long way from home", says Nijhof. Or even worse, something of "the elite". So make the benefits tangible for citizens". Nijhof regrets that the cabinet's pot of 10 million ***euros*** in subsidies for new electric cars was empty after only eight days this week. That is not a good signal to well-intentioned citizens who want to drive cleaner. Then make sure there are sufficient resources.

**Short food chains, no roads**

The council will not discuss the costs of its proposals - that is left to the cabinet. Not all ideas have to cost billions. For example, the proposal to set up a programme for "healthy and sustainable, regional food supply in schools" with "school lunches of which 80 per cent of the nutrients are produced within a radius of eighty kilometres". This is "small scale" but can encourage "short chains" and improve children's health.

The council is of the opinion that the government should also avoid doing things for the time being. Hold your horses when building new roads, says the report. The corona crisis has changed the world, including the Netherlands, according to the council. Mobility has fallen back to lower levels in the rush hour, online working has become an accepted form of work in large parts of the population.

The council's advice ties in with a broader international discussion on 'green recovery' after the corona crisis. The ***European*** Commission proposes a ***European*** recovery fund of 750 billion ***euros***, a quarter of which must be spent on climate measures. A German recovery package of 130 billion ***euros*** also consists of a quarter of climate investments. The Netherlands is still in the phase of emergency policy to keep sectors running and to preserve jobs. The next phase, that of recovery, is approaching. And in that phase, says Nijhof, the government must offer "perspective" on "how we are going to shape a more sustainable economy in the Netherlands".

Sustainability and recovery can reinforce each other From Council Report

**Classification**

**Language:** DUTCH; ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Government Departments + Authorities (84%); Government Grants + Subsidies (78%); Energy + Utility Law (77%); ***European*** Union (65%); Public Finance (61%)

**Industry:** Alternative + Renewable Energy (94%); Energy + Utility Trade (81%); Manufacturing (77%)

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

**End of Document**

[***Handel seeks referee'; Geraldo Vidigal***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:609W-F5V1-DY4D-Y13R-00000-00&context=)

De Telegraaf

10 July 2020 Friday

Netherlands

Copyright 2020 Mediahuis Nederland BV All Rights Reserved



**Section:** FINANCIAL; page 22

**Length:** 1028 words

**Body**

Geraldo Vidigal

The coronavirus, the trade war between the US and China and increasing protectionism: world trade is having a tough time. Moreover, the referee, the World Trade Organisation (WTO), is hanging in the balance. That is harmful, says Geraldo Vidigal, lecturer in international trade law at the UvA and former lawyer at the WTO. "It can prevent reprisals, which everybody suffers from."

No, the WTO is not very sexy, Vidigal admits. But maybe that's a good thing. Because if something works well, people don't pay attention to it. Most people hear about the WTO when it is not working.

How important is the WTO any more?

It is a forum where countries can negotiate with each other on new rules and it is an arbitrator in resolving disputes. If a country disagrees with the ruling, it can then go to the Court of Appeal. That route is not there now (see box), but that doesn't mean there are no more rules."

Do we need such a referee?

,,Yes, because it offers an alternative to retaliation. They are expensive for everyone. Just look at the conflict between the US and China. American companies can no longer import some products from China, or they are more expensive. US farmers are exporting less to China because Beijing has come up with countermeasures. The tariffs that the US and China have imposed against each other are creating problems for companies that have nothing to do with the trade war."

How hard is the corona crisis hitting world trade?

Production chains came to a standstill worldwide. That was a short but intense shock. But the bigger effect is that corona can accelerate trends. Suddenly, people find out that in order to produce an aeroplane, for example, they are dependent on a component that has to come from China. The corona virus can therefore cause us to redesign our production chains.

And not only industry, but also the service sector is affected by the virus. We now see that many jobs require less physical contact than was thought. Someone with an office job finds out that he or she does not have to spend five days a week in the Randstad conurbation, but can do the same job two days a week from Friesland, for example. But that means that soon the work can also be done from Bangkok or Vietnam, where the wages are lower."

Is international trade in crisis?

The situation we are in now is actually not very different from the situation before the WTO was created. Then we had the GATT: there were fewer agreements, so there were fewer possibilities for retaliation. What you saw then was countries coming up with retaliatory measures on their own, rather than starting a case through the GATT. At the time, the US was a strong supporter of the creation of the WTO and also supported the decision that rulings were legally binding."

Is the solution then that the WTO should be able to act more firmly?

The question then arises as to the extent to which trade rules may affect domestic rules. China, for example, thinks that their economy works very well and is very efficient. It is difficult to argue with that, because the Chinese economy has grown enormously in recent years. But China operates in a global system. What they see as efficient, other countries see as a violation of rights and obligations."

That is also the case, isn't it?

The US retaliates because China hurts the US economy, for example by forcing foreign companies to enter into a joint venture with a Chinese company, or the forced transfer of technology. But those are things that are not covered by WTO rules."

But surely China, as a WTO member, must also meet certain requirements so that there is a level playing field?

,,That is the biggest difficulty in commercial law. Just look at the ***EU*** and the UK. The British want to be able to deviate from ***European*** rules on state aid, environmental requirements and the labour market after Brexit. That is their right. But in doing so you also affect the level playing field, and the ***EU*** is concerned about unfair competition."

The ***EU***, too, wants to tackle unfair practices from China. So how should it be done?

The experience of 25 years in the WTO shows that retaliatory measures are very effective if they are threatened, but not so effective if they are carried out. Because that means that the other party has already accepted that they will pay the price. Under President Obama, the US tried a different approach: make agreements with as many other countries as possible and then hope that China will eventually follow. But that is a long shot."

Why is there so much suspicion about trade agreements now?

,,The benefits of free trade are shared by a very large group of people, but the losses are concentrated. We have become used to avocados from Mexico and cheap clothes from Bangladesh. But a sector that is affected by free trade can actually be very important for a society. Ikea furniture is so cheap, you can't compete with that as a Dutch furniture maker. That is fine for consumers who can furnish their homes cheaply, but annoying if you are a furniture maker. What's more, people often point at trade when jobs are lost, but that's not always true."

Why not?

Automation and innovation have a much greater impact on the labour market than international trade. Why are there no longer any typewriters being made? Because now we have computers and laptops. Of the manufacturing jobs in the US that Trump is trying to get back, 20% have disappeared through trade and 80% through automation. Then you can have a trade war with China, but the majority of those jobs are not coming back."

The WTO is not sexy, but that is a good thing'.

CV

Geraldo Vidigal is a lecturer in International Trade Law at the University of Amsterdam. Previously, he worked as a dispute settlement lawyer at the WTO. He has studied at the University of Cambridge, the Sorbonne University and the University of São Paolo.

**Classification**

**Language:** DUTCH; ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** Tlg-NL

**Subject:** Nontariff Barriers (94%); Developing Countries (82%); Trade Regulation + Policy (82%); International Trade (77%); ***European*** Union (69%)

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

**End of Document**

[***Departure from eurozone is unaffordable'; Rabobank: Damage to those leaving and those staying behind***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:609W-F5V1-DY4D-Y13P-00000-00&context=)

De Telegraaf

10 July 2020 Friday

Netherlands

Copyright 2020 Mediahuis Nederland BV All Rights Reserved



**Section:** FINANCIAL; Page 21

**Length:** 481 words

**Byline:** Dorinde Meuzelaar

**Body**

Rabobank: Damage to departures and stay-behinds

by Dorinde Meuzelaar

Amsterdam - The outbreak of the coronavirus and the accompanying wrangling over a recovery plan are increasing the pressure on the ***eurozone***. But leaving the currency union is even worse than staying in it. Not only for the country leaving, but also for those staying behind.

Rabobank economists write this in a study that will be published on Friday. The bank has calculated what would happen if Italy would leave the ***eurozone***. It is an imaginary scenario, because we do not think that Italy will leave the ***eurozone*** on purpose, and a country cannot be expelled by others either", says Rabo economist Maartje Wijffelaars.

Firstly, a departure would increase Italy's debts. A new Italian currency would probably fall in value against the ***euro***, but Italy's creditors do not want to be repaid in this new currency. This would make the foreign debts, which are already 125% of gross domestic product, even heavier.

For Italian banks, leaving the ***eurozone*** would probably weaken their position further. As soon as people realise that leaving the ***eurozone is*** becoming a likely option, they will want to move their money to safety. In practice, this means they will withdraw their money in cash or move it abroad. A bank run, in other words.

The laggards also suffer if another Member State leaves. Firstly, because the currency area shrinks by 15% and the internal market by 13%. It is also questionable whether Italy can still meet its payment obligations after a departure.

A departure from the ***euro*** would not only be disastrous for weaker Member States, the costs would also be sky-high for the Netherlands or Germany. The new currency of a strong country would probably be more expensive than the ***euro***. That would also make exports much more expensive. Moreover, trading from outside the ***eurozone*** would become more difficult. Wijffelaars: ,,If you leave the ***eurozone***, you can agree on new trade treaties, but the barriers to import and export will always be higher than when you are part of the internal market."

Recovery fund needed

A recovery fund to help the ***eurozone*** out of the coronacrisis is therefore badly needed, thinks Wijffelaars. Some countries have been hit much harder by the corona crisis than others. Moreover, Spain and Italy are much more dependent on tourism than the Netherlands. However, conditions must be attached to the aid money. Enforcing national reforms at the ***European level*** may not have the best track record," says Wijffelaars. A lot went wrong with Greece. But Spain, Portugal and Ireland showed that aid and structural economic reforms can go together.

Trade more expensive on exit from internal market

**Classification**

**Language:** DUTCH; ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** Tlg-NL

**Subject:** Central Banks (94%); Economic Conditions (82%); Monetary Unions (76%); Public Finance (69%); Economic Crisis (67%); National Debt (65%); Economic Growth (63%); COVID-19 Coronavirus (62%); Inflation (62%); Monetary Policy (62%)

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

**End of Document**

[***Next step: abolish the veto; The European regions combine their strength; The corona crisis shows that Europe continues to revolve around Paris and Berlin. The Netherlands underestimated this. With its miserliness it made money and lost prestige.Caroline de Gruyter //; The EU came up with an extraordinary deal for the recovery of Europeanalyses Caroline de Gruyter***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60F5-J3N1-JC5G-1005-00000-00&context=)

NRC Handelsblad

25 July 2020 Saturday

1st Edition

Copyright 2020 NRC Media B.V. All Rights Reserved



**Section:** CONTENTS; Page 1

**Length:** 1619 words

**Byline:** Caroline de Gruyter

**Body**

**ABSTRACT**

Opinion

***European Union***

The member states of the ***European Union*** look to their own interests, just as once the provinces of the Republic did, writes Caroline de Gruyter.

**FULL TEXT:**

To understand why this week's ***European*** budget deal is an important one, let us first do a thought experiment. Suppose the King's Commissioners meet to decide on the Dutch long-term budget. The Frisian Commissioner demands more money for housing and wants to cut costs by abolishing two ministries in The Hague. His colleague from Drenthe says that, due to setbacks, he (again) cannot pay his contribution and needs extra cash. The one from Overijssel says that national climate targets are not a priority for his province and that therefore his contribution has to be reduced by 15 per cent. Rich Holland threatens to veto the budget if defence expenditure, to which its province contributes most, does not increase. Moreover, it wants to give Drenthe loans rather than subsidies, on condition that mercenaries are housed on Drenthe soil. Finally, net contributors Holland and Zeeland demand discounts on their contributions to the national budget.

Provincial administrators completely controlling politically and financially the national level of government above them - today this sounds illogical, inefficient. But that is how it was, in the Union of the Seven Provinces, from the sixteenth to the end of the eighteenth century. Negotiations about the union budget proceeded as described above - including, you wouldn't believe, the slipping of Drenthe (a half-baked member who was barely allowed to have a say) and a bailout with troika-like characteristics.

We deal with the ***European*** budget in exactly the same way. For seventy years. Brussels has to take the begging bowl to the Member States, time and again.

Every head of government defends the interests of his country in Brussels: paying as little as possible into the common pot, getting as much as possible out of it. The ***European*** interest is secondary to all of them. To underline this, every country has a veto - just like the regions in the past. Seen in this light, it is a great miracle that a deal was struck this week on the ***European*** multiannual budget and the Corona Recovery Fund.

And what a deal: over the next three years, the ***European*** budget will almost double, because it will include the corona fund of ***EUR*** 750 billion, which is financed through that budget. After three months of lockdowns, the ***European*** economy is expected to shrink by 9% this year. This is 'the worst crisis since World War II', German Chancellor Angela Merkel keeps saying.

750 billion is not enough to plug the hole. But if the 390 billion in subsidies and 360 billion in loans are used where the pain is, the ECB and Member States can do the rest. Debt and deficits are rising rapidly in many countries. Yet few are predicting a new ***euro crisis***. Unlike ten years ago, the financial markets are keeping their heads down.

This is not only due to the high amounts, but also to the structure of the coronal financing. Firstly, 'problem countries' in the ***eurozone*** used to receive only bilateral loans (between member states). Now the ***EU*** is going to collect money on the markets on behalf of all of them, in order to spend it as a subsidy or lend it cheaply to member states in the long term (until 2058). So this time the ***EU*** is going to be right in front of the Member States. Investors have understood this. That is why they are keeping quiet. Secondly, EU countries are going to talk about ***European*** revenues. There will be a ***European*** tax on plastic, a 'carbon tax' is being discussed. This is new. Until now, EU revenues were unmentionable.

This week, every EU country is busy with one question: what have we 'got'? Prime Minister Rutte, Italian Prime Minister Conte, Hungarian Prime Minister Orbán - they all emphasise what they have gained, just as representatives of the regions did after their irregular sessions in the States General. That is how it worked then, and how it works now: the discourse on the Union in many countries is purely national. The Irishman who recently proudly announced that his country was the fifth largest 'donor' to the Corona Recovery Fund is an exception.

Again, every country got some goodies. In ***Europe,*** nobody goes home empty-handed. Conte got subsidies, Rutte his loans plus a hefty discount. But the ***European*** story is really only told by Angela Merkel and Emmanuel Macron, the leaders of the two most powerful countries in ***Europe*** - one an economic giant, the other a military one.

Three hundred years ago, the rich Holland and Zeeland set out the great common lines. They had the most to lose if the whole thing fell apart. It is the same in today's ***Europe***. Germany and France invest more than others, also mentally. If they act together, they carry more weight than others sometimes think. The British could have killed this ***European*** budget. But they are gone. The four misers forced concessions, nothing more. The corona crisis shows that, when it comes down to it, ***Europe*** continues to revolve around Paris and Berlin. The Netherlands underestimated this. With its miserliness it made money and lost prestige.

After the ***euro crisis*** of 2010-2012, Berlin and Paris saw that the ***Euro Emergency Fund*** and half a banking union did not make the ***euro*** strong enough. More was needed to protect Italy. But France and Germany never agreed on further steps. First, they studied all kinds of ***Eurobonds***. But nobody wanted to be saddled with someone else's 'old' debt. Then they discussed a budget for the ***eurozone***. And a ***European*** unemployment benefit. In vain. This fruitless struggle put the Franco-German axis under high pressure. But French economist Thomas Philippon tweeted that these flops did teach him two things: that a solution can only come from the already existing ***European*** budget, and that "only a big external shock can generate political momentum".

That blow from outside was corona. In rich Germany, companies receive more state aid than in other countries. This gives the Germans an edge in the internal market. The Germans may also get less social misery. As a result, the internal market becomes unbalanced. That is political dynamite, because the internal market is the vector of ***European*** integration. If it shifts, everything shifts. That is why Macron immediately started talking about ***eurobonds*** again in March. Merkel refused. But a financial transfer, which she had always been against, appealed to her. Rich countries, she said, not only pay more to the ***EU***, but also earn much more from it. With the internal market losing its balance, it was time to do something in return: "If one country slips up, we all slip up."

For example, she and Macron put together the Corona Fund. This fund is for all EU countries, not just ***euro countries***. This underlines the importance of the ***euro*** for the internal market - something that critics of the ***euro*** sometimes forget. It also prevents you from having to split the ***European*** Parliament into a ***euro part*** (that gets to decide on the ***euro***) and a non-euro part one day, if it gets more say about the ***euro***. Norway, Switzerland and Iceland, not ***members of the EU*** but active in the internal market, also contribute to the Corona Fund.

The fund is a one-off. It runs for three years. But what if there is another big 'threat from outside' after that? The ***euro emergency fund*** ESM was also 'one-off'. Now it is an institution, offering cheap loans to alleviate coronal distress.

History never repeats itself. The Republic of the Seven Provinces is not the ***EU***. Both are a customs union and an incomplete currency union, but the emphasis then was on military matters and now on economic ones. Yet the regions, which always did just enough to keep the union on track, eventually decided to pool their financial power and let the union stand on its own two feet. This happened due to external pressure. The threat of war was growing stronger. The regions understood that they were too small individually and had to continue as a block. That is why they integrated further. Not out of idealism, but to survive.

Something like this may happen again. ***Europe*** is caught up in hybrid wars between China and America. There are geopolitical threats from all sides. Everyone is shouting: ***Europe*** must invest in defence, data protection and foreign policy. But it is not happening. All these posts have been cut this week in order to get the Corona Fund through to the northerners.

Some say: that is because Romania or Spain did not want to cut agricultural subsidies or social cohesion funds. That is true. But this is precisely the problem of ***Europe***: each country wants above all to cut into the priorities of the others. It is this construction that is problematic. As a result, ***Europe*** can only react under sudden, external pressure. With any luck, things will then move forward. If we are unlucky, it will not. If we want efficiency, certainty and better value for money, we must do something about this construction: abolish the veto and introduce qualified majority decision-making, including for decisions on the budget.

In some countries, this will hurt. But there is a law in it that is by no means unique. The Seven Regions faced the same problem and drew their conclusions after two centuries of ploughing. So far, as far as we know, they have had few regrets.

The four misers forced concessions, nothing more. The ***EU*** continues to revolve around Paris and Berlin

Caroline de Gruyter is ***Europe correspondent*** for NRC. This contribution replaces her Saturday column In ***Europa***.

**Graphic**

Illustration

Hajo

Illustration Hajo

**Classification**

**Language:** DUTCH; ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject: *European*** Union (94%); Monetary Unions (84%); ***European*** Union Regulation + Policy (77%); Economic Crisis (70%)

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

**End of Document**

[***Without fair European story, the Netherlands will drift away from the EU; Comment***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60F5-J3N1-JC5G-1017-00000-00&context=)

NRC Handelsblad

25 July 2020 Saturday

1st Edition

Copyright 2020 NRC Media B.V. All Rights Reserved



**Section:** OPINION & DEBATE; Page 8

**Length:** 802 words

**Body**

**ABSTRACT**

Corona Fund

**FULL TEXT:**

Is Mark Rutte the new David Cameron and will the Netherlands become the new United Kingdom, the constant naysayer frustrating ***European*** integration for domestic political reasons? The comparison with the British former prime minister whose actions led to the 'Brexit' was evident in many ***European*** capitals this week, after Rutte had long shown himself unwilling to accept the coronation fund of ***European*** subsidies worth hundreds of billions. After four days of negotiations, he agreed after all, because the package was smaller (390 billion ***euros instead*** of 500). And because Rutte wanted countries to be able to use an 'emergency brake' if they felt that member states were not 'reforming' their economies enough in exchange for the money.

Ruttes position last weekend was firm, but more constructive than Cameron was for years. Ruttes 'no' became a 'yes, but'. He appeared more convinced of the necessity of this agreement than Finance Minister Wopke Hoekstra (CDA). With a painful harshness that unmistakably harmed the Netherlands, he said at the end of March, when the coffins were still being piled up in Italy, that first of all it had to be investigated why the southern countries had so few reserves.

Moreover, Rutte has to worry much less than Cameron about domestic pressure from a strong (and growing) separatist movement. The Netherlands is pro-European, as long as integration is not too fast and too much at once - it is healthy ***euroscepticism***. The fact that right-wing nationalists like Baudet and Wilders, who cannot be convinced of any ***European*** plan, turned against this agreement, is therefore of no concern to Rutte.

But it is unwise to conclude complacently that support for ***European*** cooperation remains high. Especially since ***Europe*** took a necessary but far-reaching step this week that will have a long-lasting effect. Rutte denies it, but the measures are indeed 'historic', as French president Macron concluded. It is unique that the ***European*** Commission is going into debt and hundreds of billions extra are going to southern countries as subsidies - conditions or not.

With this agreement, ***Europe*** has created the mental space and the policy tool to be used in the next crisis. The road to ***eurobonds*** and fiscal union may be open. It will not happen by itself, but the direction of ***European*** integration is clear. Rutte telling voters that the measures are 'one-off' is an unrealistic story. It is reminiscent of his 2012 promise that 'not a penny' would go to Greece.

It would be fairer to recognise the new reality and adjust the Dutch vision of ***Europe*** accordingly. Knowing what the Netherlands wants with ***Europe*** prevents it from arriving at every ***European*** summit with a 'no' and leaving with a 'yes, but'. This would weaken both the Netherlands' negotiating position within ***Europe*** and its domestic support - after all, Rutte would always come home a loser.

Does the Netherlands dare to follow Germany's lead and support, in stages and with conditions, further fiscal integration? Does it want to defend the hybrid structure of federalism and strong Member States, despite the democratic deficit this causes? Or does it want to detach the Union financially, with all the consequences that this entails?

It is not only up to Rutte to show his colours. All parties in the Lower House will have to think about what they really want from the ***European Union***. The fact that the House of Representatives last year adopted a motion in which parties declared themselves against an 'ever closer Union' is significant for the direction of thinking, but is not in itself a ***Europe strategy***.

Making the choice yourself prevents other countries from doing it for the Netherlands. If such a choice is not prompted by inspired idealism or a deeply felt historical necessity, then at the very least it is prompted by the realisation that without the ***European Union***, the Netherlands will become what it does not want to be: more powerless, poorer and more isolated.

If Rutte wants to win over the sceptical majority, he has to tell an honest story. Yes, this week's measures are in the Dutch interest: the collapse of Southern European economies would disproportionately hit exporting country the Netherlands. And no, these far-reaching measures will probably not be a one-off.

If Rutte does not do this, the result that he wants and which is very unfavourable for the Netherlands could be that the country drifts further away from where it belongs: in the heart of the ***European Union***. And then he does threaten to become a Cameron.

The direction of ***European*** integration is clear. The Netherlands has to choose what it wants to do with ***Europe*** - and be honest about it

In the Commentary, NRC gives its opinion on important news facts. The commentators write these articles in consultation with the editors-in-chief.

**Classification**

**Language:** DUTCH; ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject: *European*** Union (94%); ***European*** Union Regulation + Policy (75%); Economic Crisis (69%); Monetary Unions (69%); Economic Conditions (65%)

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

**End of Document**

[***Rutte, become bigger than yourself for once; Column***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60F5-J3N1-JC5G-1013-00000-00&context=)

NRC Handelsblad

25 July 2020 Saturday

1st Edition

Copyright 2020 NRC Media B.V. All Rights Reserved



**Section:** OPINION & DEBATE; Page 2

**Length:** 760 words

**Byline:** Kiza Magendane

**Body**

With the news of two Dutch soldiers killed in a helicopter accident on Aruba, the most poetic TV commercial of this year went through my head. The main character in the commercial, 'That's why we work for Defence', is a handsome twenty-something who performs tough and intelligent actions: mountain climbing, giving presentations and consulting.

Because I learned to trust myself, by being able to rely on others," says the indefatigable twentysomething, while cinematic music sounds in the background. The camera is focused on the young soldier, but he is constantly in relation to his colleagues. Push-ups, running, looking down from a helicopter - he is part of a bigger story.

His phone screen shows images of his beloved and young baby via video link. I found a second home here, while also leaving one behind", says the young hero. As the soundtrack continues to reverberate, the sentence of sentences follows in the voiceover of the brilliant advert: ,,I discovered that you can convince others by first listening to them. And that being independent is something quite different from wanting to do everything yourself".

A wisdom that can serve our society on many levels. Just look at the historic marathon meeting of the ***European*** Council last week. That summit lasted no less than 90 hours, because ***European*** leaders were aware that they have to walk through the same door together, and that they therefore have to listen to all voices, including those of the obstructionists.

At the same time, the intransigent behaviour of our Prime Minister showed how vulnerable the ***European Union*** is when the interests of its members clash. Brexit is the most recent and painful example of what happens when ***European*** leaders do not listen to each other and push their national interests coute que coute.

Rutte can look back on the historic ***EU summit*** with a smile; less subsidy for the ***European*** Coronation Fund and member states can freeze payments from the fund if reform agreements are not met. In addition, the 'fearful four' will receive higher rebates on their transfers to the ***European*** multi-year budgets. In many ways, Rutte seems to be getting his way, like a true Dutch warrior on the Brussels battlefield.

Yet the behaviour of our Prime Minister did not match his own words. What annoys us are all those cases of loutishness and egotism', Rutte said during a VVD congress five years ago. With his opposition to the 'fat-me mentality', Rutte was obviously referring to people who, in their own words, expect everything from society and the government, but do not want to carry the burden themselves.

An analysis that is surprisingly applicable to the current Dutch image within the ***EU***. Because Rutte and his Finance Minister Hoekstra have done an excellent job in a few months of presenting the Netherlands as a loutish country (read: diplomatically clumsy) that places its own interests above the collective ***European*** interest. This is, of course, too sharp a word, but there is a fine line between image and reality.

Rutte emphasised that Dutch interests were 'safeguarded' in the ***EU deal***. Apart from the question whether this statement is true (after all, research and innovation has been cut), at what price has the Netherlands gained financially? Does it make sense to push your way through, even if it means that you risk the other party's favour factor towards you?

A time when everyone is looking out for themselves, calls for people who look out for others. So stated the voiceover of another genius advertisement of Defence, last year. "You don't need applause to rise above yourself." Looking back at others without applause - that's what Christine Martens and Erwin Warnies, the two military who died when the Navy helicopter crashed last Sunday during a coastal patrol near Aruba, did. They believed they were part of a greater whole, so they rose above themselves. They are physically no longer here, but may their service and that of other invisible heroes continue to remind us that we are connected. That we, here in the Netherlands as well as in the rest of the world, look beyond the fat-me mentality. Trust in ourselves, by building on others.

Kiza Magendane is a political scientist and works at The Broker, a think tank for sustainable development. He replaces Rosanne Hertzberger this week.

Do you have to force your way through, even if it means risking your own favouritism with the other person?

**Notes**

Kiza Magendane is a political scientist and works at The Broker, a think tank for sustainable development. He replaces Rosanne Hertzberger this week.

**Classification**

**Language:** DUTCH; ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Defense Departments (94%); International Relations (89%); Economic Crisis (88%); Economic Policy (84%); ***European*** Union (73%); ***European*** Union Regulation + Policy (73%)

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

**End of Document**

[***Saint Angelavan Europe***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60F5-J3N1-JC5G-1014-00000-00&context=)

NRC Handelsblad

25 July 2020 Saturday

1st Edition

Copyright 2020 NRC Media B.V. All Rights Reserved



**Section:** OPINION & DEBATE; page 4

**Length:** 777 words

**Byline:** Stephan-Götz Richter

**Body**

**ABSTRACT**

Opinion

***European Union***

Chancellor Angela Merkel was able to operate effectively at the ***EU summit*** because of Rutte's unyielding stance, says Stephan-Götz Richter.

**FULL TEXT:**

From the moment Donald Trump entered the Oval Office, the world has wanted to canonise Angela Merkel. This is understandable. Merkel, an experienced leader and great advocate of global cooperation, is the opposite of Trump - not only in his unfathomable pomposity, but also in his extreme nationalism.

But even admirers of the German Chancellor, at home and abroad, have long been worried about her often timid attitude. Moreover, when it came to the ***EU'***s financial and economic infrastructure, her commitment would leave much to be desired.

And as Merkel entered her last 15 months as chancellor, more and more suggestions for how her ***European*** legacy should be shaped emerged.

Proponents of more financial integration in ***Europe*** were therefore relieved to hear about the agreement between French President Macron and Chancellor Merkel at the end of May. In a joint video conference, the two leaders announced their commitment to setting up a ***€500*** billion EU recovery fund to deal with the economic fallout of the corona crisis.

At last, the reformers cheered: a clear commitment from Germany to do much more financially. And what a wonderful demonstration of ***European*** solidarity! And a true crown to Merkel's legacy!

At the ***European*** Marathon Summit last week, it was more or less established. Although the ***European Parliament*** will, of course - and quite rightly - try to tighten up a number of soft edges.

Not that Merkel or the German Government will ever acknowledge it, but in the discussions of recent months there has been a very effective division of labour. In the past, the German government would probably have argued along the lines of the 'economical four'. But Merkel knew she could rely on Mark Rutte's stubbornness and experience to play the tough guy.

Most members of parliament of the CDU/CSU, the majority party in the German government, endorse Rutte's views. Moreover, most German voters favour an EU recovery fund based mainly on loans and not grants. All in all, this allowed Merkel to let her country play the role of EU president. She could agree with Macron and trust Rutte to play the role the British played before the Brexit.

Moreover, as a Protestant, Merkel knew that the three "Protestant" governments (Netherlands, Sweden, Denmark) plus the Catholic maverick Austria would fight very hard to give the recovery fund a balanced structure. The German government did not have to join this camp. Instead, it was only too happy to let the Netherlands take the blame for Germany's traditional position in the ***EU***. Therefore, thanks to the 'economical four', team Merkel found itself in a position where it could not lose.

If the agreement had been adopted as planned, Merkel could have claimed all the credit. And if, as now, it was adopted under important conditions, she could claim that she had tried to be very generous, but that there was just too much determined resistance.

In political terms, that is what we call a fully hedged position.

A final comment: when the Brexit was an undeniable reality, it was assumed that the Germans would have to step out of the shadow in ***EU negotiations*** and take on the role of the UK as the main advocate of the open market and financial affairs.

It is now clear that this has not happened - and better still. It is essential that Germany, together with weakened France, forms the EU centre - not to dictate agreements, but to act as a magnet for 'connection' between the different camps.

And it is actually a very good thing that a number of other countries (read: the thrifty four and Finland) are forced to step out of the shadows and take up a clear position in the ***EU negotiations*** of the '27'. This will make the ***EU*** more balanced.

For Angela Merkel, it must be especially satisfying that these "thrifty" leaders are not only made up of Social Democrats, but that some, like herself, are women and Protestants. That way she is even more covered politically.

Thanks to the 'economical four', team Merkel could not lose

Stephan-Götz Richter is a German journalist, editor-in-chief of The Globalist.

**Graphic**

Chancellor Merkel at a dinner in France in 2018

Photo Mehdi Taamallah/Getty Images

**Classification**

**Language:** DUTCH; ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject: *European*** Union (94%); ***European*** Union Regulation + Policy (81%); Heads Of State + Government (80%); Economic Crisis (76%); Monetary Unions (71%)

**Industry:** Nuclear Energy (71%); Nuclear Power Plants (71%)

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

**End of Document**

[***Europe takes out a mortgage with no job or income; Recovery fund***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60F5-J3N1-JC5G-101H-00000-00&context=) [***The EU borrows 750 billion: beginning of European debt market?***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60F5-J3N1-JC5G-101H-00000-00&context=)

NRC Handelsblad

25 July 2020 Saturday

1st Edition

Copyright 2020 NRC Media B.V. All Rights Reserved



**Section:** ECONOMICS; Page 1

**Length:** 1557 words

**Byline:** Chris Hensen

**Dateline:** Amsterdam

**Body**

**ABSTRACT**

Recovery fund

The ***European*** Commission is going to borrow ***EUR*** 750 billion on the capital market, but has no money to pay it back. The start of a real ***European*** debt market?

**FULL TEXT:**

How do you weigh a bailout that in sheer size is beyond the imagination of many? After four long days of negotiations, government leaders in Brussels this week agreed on an immense aid package to help ***Europe*** survive the coronary crisis.

750 billion is a gigantic sum, about two and a half times the budget of the Netherlands, the seventeenth largest economy in the world. But it is also a modest sum: in the whole of the ***EU*** almost 14 000 billion are earned in good years. The economic damage caused by the corona crisis this year alone is provisionally estimated at almost 10 percent contraction. That means that ***EUR*** 750 billion is just enough to cushion half of this blow. And that amount must also be spread over several years.

Yet, certainly in economic terms, something fundamental has happened. It is not so much the total amount of aid that is important, but the way in which that money is raised. The ***European*** Commission is going to borrow all those billions on the capital market in order to pay them out - partly as a subsidy (390 billion) and partly as loans - mainly to the worst affected Member States. In principle, the Commission has no money to pay back this loan. The 27 EU countries have agreed to act as joint guarantors.

Economists argue that the ***EU is*** thus 'crossing the Rubicon'. By filling the emergency fund with billions raised through debt securities issued by the ***EU*** itself and guaranteed by all member states, the beginning of a "real market" for such securities is created. The ***EU*** now has about 54 billion ***euros*** of debt outstanding, mostly tied up in the ***European*** Central Bank (ECB) and hardly traded. It is a fraction of the ***EUR*** 8,500 billion in government bonds of individual EU countries.

In one fell swoop, there is now an additional 750 billion in which is expected to be traded internationally. Large investors such as pension funds and asset managers will, partly thanks to the joint guarantee, see the bonds as a stable investment. After all, it is hard to imagine that such a wealthy collective could not meet its payment obligations.

**Public debt market**

And so the ***EU*** "for the first time becomes a major force in the sovereign debt market", chief economist Holger Schmieding of Germany's Berenberg Bank told Reuters. The ECB is also expected to buy EU bonds on a large scale. To support the ***European*** economy, the bank has already bought up hundreds of billions of government bonds from countries. But in doing so, it is bound to buy up limits, which for some countries have almost or already been reached.

A genuine market for EU bonds may also be important for ***European*** unity. In previous crises, the fact that Member States are now each bearing their own debt has often been the start of escalating tensions within the Union. In uncertain times, investors look for safe havens, so they shifted massive investments from southern 'problem countries' to countries considered safer in the north. This exacerbated the problems of the southern countries. Without help from the richer northern countries, an economic meltdown and possibly even exit from the Union threatened.

But getting help did not usually happen by itself. If only those countries had organised their affairs better, it was often said in northern states. The Greek debt crisis that erupted in 2009 occurred along these lines and had major consequences for the rest of the ***eurozone***. A break-up was not unthinkable. If investors can also move to safer bonds guaranteed by all EU countries, that existential risk is much less. Problem countries are not cut off from financing in times of need.

The current support is already lowering the interest rates on some southern countries' own bonds, allowing them to borrow more cheaply. So they benefit twice. The first signs were already visible on the capital market this week. The interest rate on Italian ten-year government bonds fell below 1 percent for the first time since early March.

Economists expect that a truly more shock-resistant ***eurozone would*** require a much larger market than the 750 billion that is now being issued. The US government bond market is about 18,000 billion ***euro***, the equivalent - even after the issuance of 750 billion in EU bonds - still more than 20 times larger. But economists say the current move could act as a flywheel. The joint guarantee of the debts could be a game changer, they argue. It makes the bonds more attractive, because they are safer.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel and French President Emmanuel Macron, leaders of the aid programme, insist that the aid package and the way it is organised is "temporary" and "exceptional". It will stop at the end of 2023 at the latest. Others are less sure. They think that the operation has set the tone for future ***European*** (crisis) management. Once you're on the motorway, you don't want to leave, it drives so nicely. The approach could become a standard part of the ***EU'***s financial repertoire, they think. But that would require a treaty amendment - in the Brussels world synonymous with years of negotiation. So it will not happen that quickly.

**World currency**

If investors do indeed get an insatiable appetite for EU bonds, that is also good news for the ***euro***. High demand means a stronger currency, as you have to buy the bonds with ***euros***. Some economists think that if the market gets big enough, the ***euro could*** eventually compete with the dollar as an international currency reserve. That currency is still dominant in global finance and is the standard on the financial markets - with the great advantage for the Americans that their bonds are always in great demand around the world and they can thus finance their government debt at lower interest rates.

In that respect, the ***euro*** has always stood in the shadow of the dollar in recent years, precisely because of that risk of a disintegrating ***eurozone***. But that threat could be gone. A more politically and economically stable ***Europe*** - and a new generation of pan-European triple A bonds [the safest kind], would shuffle the cards again," says Swiss asset manager Pictet Asset Management. For transit countries like the Netherlands, it would certainly be beneficial if the ***European*** currency were to gain such a position. The exchange rate of the ***euro*** already made a jump this week and may even rise to 1.30 dollars per ***euro*** (now 1.16) according to Pictet.

For the time being, there are still many uncertainties. In addition to political will, ***Eurobonds*** also require income. After all, anyone who takes out loans must pay them off. The ***EU***'s multiannual budget makes it effectively impossible to pay interest and repay. At around ***EUR*** 1 074 billion for the next seven years, it is much too small. Moreover, it would make holes in the subsidies for other ***European*** priorities, agriculture and sustainability - which is bound to cause controversy in both cases.

Taxation is the motto for individual countries. But the ***EU*** is not a state, and raising taxes at ***European level*** is an explosive subject. To pay off the loans for the current emergency fund, the Commission has some taxes in mind. But whether the Member States will agree to this is still very uncertain. Hence their guarantee: because in fact the ***EU is*** now taking on a huge mortgage without a job, without a steady income.

Moreover, these taxes are not without their consequences, warns Erik Jones, Professor of ***European*** Studies at Johns Hopkins University in the USA. A tax on large tech companies is likely to lead to American repercussions. And a financial transaction tax could weaken the position of ***European*** financial institutions compared to those in the recently exited United Kingdom.

Whatever happens, until recently 750 billion ***euros*** of debt on the ***EU'***s balance sheet was unthinkable. After all, the Union's treaties state that it cannot take out loans itself. Nor do the treaties provide for debt guaranteed by all Member States together. Only direct transfers to Member States "in the spirit of solidarity" are exempt.

By invoking this exception, the ***EU*** had previously made the loans of the said 54 billion. Now an almost fifteenfold exception has been added. This means that, for the first time, it has its own mountain of debt. For some, this is a matter of concern. But for the Union it might not be a bad thing.

The ***European*** Recovery Fund: a mortgage with no job or income

If investors are very interested in EU bonds, that is also good news for the ***euro***

This week, after lengthy negotiations, ***European*** government leaders agreed on a 750 billion ***euro*** recovery fund for countries severely affected by the coronavirus.

**Classification**

**Language:** DUTCH; ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Central Banks (94%); Economic Crisis (83%); ***European*** Union (82%); Bonds (77%); ***European*** Union Regulation + Policy (73%); Monetary Unions (69%); National Debt (68%); Public Finance (68%); Economic Conditions (63%)

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

**End of Document**

[***WTO***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60F5-J3N1-JC5G-101N-00000-00&context=) [***Airbus ends subsidies because of conflict with US***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60F5-J3N1-JC5G-101N-00000-00&context=)

NRC Handelsblad

25 July 2020 Saturday

1st Edition

Copyright 2020 NRC Media B.V. All Rights Reserved



**Section:** ECONOMICS; Page 4

**Length:** 123 words

**Dateline:** Amsterdam

**Body**

Airbus said Friday it has taken the "final step" in bringing to an end the 16-year-long trade dispute between the ***European Union*** and the United States. Both the ***EU*** and the US filed cases with the World Trade Organisation (WTO) over illegal state aid to both Airbus and Boeing. The aircraft manufacturer Airbus has now agreed with France and Spain to stop the support. Airbus is going to pay higher interest rates on loans that the company has with the French and Spanish governments. The Americans were displeased with these discounts. ***European*** Trade ***Commissioner*** Phil Hogan asked the US to reduce "unwarranted" import duties on ***European*** products because ***Europe*** is now meeting its obligations. (NRC)

**Classification**

**Language:** DUTCH; ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject: *European*** Union (94%); Developing Countries (70%); Government Grants + Subsidies (63%); Nontariff Barriers (63%); Suits + Claims (63%); International Relations (62%)

**Industry:** Aerospace Industry (82%)

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

**End of Document**

[***We were staring into the abyss***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60F5-J3N1-JC5G-100F-00000-00&context=)

NRC Handelsblad

25 July 2020 Saturday

1st Edition

Copyright 2020 NRC Media B.V. All Rights Reserved



**Section:** IN THE NEWS; Page 8

**Length:** 1298 words

**Byline:** Clara van de Wiel

**Dateline from** Brussels

**Body**

**ABSTRACT**

Interview with Ursula von der Leyen, President of the ***European*** Commission

The agreement reached on Tuesday is "historic", says Ursula von der Leyen. "But we have to acknowledge that our multiannual budget has become extremely meagre."

**FULL TEXT:**

Once during the interview, Ursula von der Leyen had to ask her spokesperson for the English translation of a German expression. "In den Abgrund schauen, how do you say that?" The President of the ***European*** Commission has just summed up how painful the beginning of the corona crisis was for ***Europe***. Borders were closed. Trade chains were broken. Member States fought each other for mouth caps. We were staring into the abyss", says Von der Leyen. But it also taught member states how weak they are when they have to do it all on their own.

During the conversation with five journalists from different ***European*** countries, the Commission President chooses her words carefully. She spoke slowly, regularly leaving a long silence. Von der Leyen is, she admits, tired. It has been a gruelling few months, topped off last weekend by a 90-hour summit. On Tuesday morning, after more than four days of negotiations, government leaders agreed on the new ***European*** multiannual budget (1,074 billion) and a special corona repair fund, for which the ***European*** Commission may lend 750 billion ***euros***.

The President denied that any concessions had been made to Eastern European Member States in the area of the rule of law and stressed that the Commission was continuing to work on a new mechanism that would make respect for the rule of law a condition of ***EU funds***.

Although the plan presented by Von der Leyen in May has been somewhat watered down in the negotiations, the agreement does mean that the Commission will be given a major role in a major investment boost for the ***European*** economy. Just over six months into her presidency, Von der Leyen has already scored a major success. At the start of the crisis, it did not look like that at all: she was mainly criticised for failing to formulate a ***European*** response to the crisis.

The conversation takes place somewhere in the belly of the ***European*** Commission headquarters, a room in different shades of mustard yellow, where even on a beautiful July day no sunlight penetrates. Von der Leyen has hardly left the building in recent months. On the thirteenth floor, next to her office, she had a small flat built last December. Few politicians have sublimated working from home as much as she has.

After the agreement on Tuesday morning, Von der Leyen was able to move straight on to talks with representatives of the ***European*** Parliament, which also still has to give its consent and is, for the time being, critical. On Thursday, Von der Leyen herself spoke in parliament of the "bitter pill" that the agreement is for her, too. Her own proposal for the ***EU budget*** has been severely cut, with billions being taken away from science and health care. Von der Leyen: It was a historic agreement, but it is also important to recognise that our multiannual budget has become extremely meagre. That austere analysis will now be the starting point for negotiations between the Council and the ***European*** Parliament. The result will not be 100 per cent the same as what we have now."

Not everyone trusts the Commission to be strict with Member States that do not implement enough reforms. What guarantees can you give regarding the monitoring of ***EU citizens***' tax money?

,,The most important thing for me is that all member states agree that we need to use this new fund in a responsible way: not only to repair but also to modernise their economies. And that means: fighting climate change, digitising and improving the internal market. Everyone is behind that. In addition, we have built in a lot of control. That is also in our interest, because we have to be able to explain to ***European*** citizens how we are investing this money properly. It will be a fair and transparent process, where we will also be constantly accountable."

There is confusion in the Netherlands about the 'emergency brake' mechanism, which was introduced at the request of Prime Minister Rutte. He said Tuesday that the ***European*** Council must unanimously agree to payments from the fund, Commission officials contradict.

As it stands in the EU treaty, the ultimate decision-making power lies with the Commission. The emergency mechanism we have added gives Member States the possibility to stop the clock for three months to have a thorough discussion among the Heads of Government. In the light of that discussion, the Commission will then take a decision. But we all expect this mechanism to be used only in exceptional cases."

Does that mean that the interpretation given by Rutte in his press conference on Tuesday is incorrect?

"Because I know nothing about this press conference, I cannot comment on it. But we are in good contact with the Dutch government."

In the first budget negotiations without the UK, we saw a new bloc of so-called 'thrifty' countries emerge. How do you see this kind of group formation?

In a Union of 27 Member States there will always be different opinions and views. That is democracy, and all points of view must then be brought together. A 'compromise', I like that word, because it is usually the golden mean by which steps are taken. No deal this week would have been a disaster. As long as tough negotiations are combined with the will to find a solution, I am confident."

Germany was already a net contributor and will now have to pay even more. Some German economists say: the ***EU*** is becoming very expensive. How do you explain that to citizens?

,,If there is one country that knows exactly how much it benefits from the ***European*** internal market, it is Germany. Most exports go to the internal market. It is great that Germany is so economically strong, but that success is based on the functioning of the internal market."

Last week was about a new beginning after the corona crisis. But the crisis is not yet over, fears of a second wave are growing. Is what has been presented now enough?

Bear in mind that Member States and the ***European*** Central Bank have already put 4,000 billion euros of additional liquidity on the table. This week's package adds another 750 billion for those areas that lack public and private investment. We now need to make sure this money is well spent."

How likely is it that we will soon have to talk about a new package?

"Our experience from the previous crisis showed that those regions where there was immediate and substantial public investment came out better, faster and stronger. I am convinced that the combination of the 4,000 billion together with the 1,800 billion agreed this week is a very powerful signal."

About a year ago, you got this new job. Would you have accepted it if you had known all this?

Von der Leyen laughed. A resounding yes. I was born a ***European*** and now I am an even more passionate ***European***. Even now, this first year is very tough. I thought things would calm down after the first 100 days, when we presented our 'Green Deal' and digital strategy, but then the corona crisis started and since then we have been in crisis mode day and night. But when I look back, I also see the beauty of the ***EU*** keeping its nerve and uniting us. If I was not already a fan, I am now."

It is nice that Germany is so economically strong, but that is based on the existence and functioning of the internal market.

**Graphic**

Photo Adam Berry/Getty

**Classification**

**Language:** DUTCH; ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject: *European*** Union (94%); ***European*** Union Regulation + Policy (76%)

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

**End of Document**

[***LETTERS***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60F5-2381-DY4D-Y1F0-00000-00&context=)

De Telegraaf

25 July 2020 Saturday

Netherlands

Copyright 2020 Mediahuis Nederland BV All Rights Reserved



**Section:** WATU-SAY; Page 20

**Length:** 935 words

**Body**

Test

Since Thursday, my wife has been experiencing increasingly mild symptoms and wanted to have a coronavirus test done. We called the national 0800-1202 number on Friday morning and after 25 minutes on hold (!) we were told that she could not have a test until Sunday and would not get the result until Tuesday. That is FIVE days later! And that in a region with a low infection rate (Flevoland). I am holding my breath for my wife and for the Netherlands.

Nicolas Reid, Almere

Start

60 per cent of the participants in the Theorem of the Day (WUZ, 24/7) think that face masks should become compulsory in more places. I would say, start doing it yourself today.

Pierre Verkerk, Soest

Clarity

First, we were told that you were not Covid 19-infected if you did not have a fever, and then we were told with great certainty that children could not become ill and certainly could not transmit the virus. Now there is another fuss about mouth masks, which the whole world thinks is useful, only in the Netherlands it has not been proven (unless you are in the public transport system or at Schiphol Airport, in which case it is very useful). I need clarity and uniform guidelines, not RIVM muddling through.

Peter Soeter, Voorburg

Mouthguard obligation

The German poet Heinrich Heine already said: When the world threatens to perish, I will go to Holland, because there everything happens 50 years later.

Ger Schutter, The Hague

Fines

Now that the number of coronas infected is increasing and the mouth guards are coming out of the closet again, this whole story leaves a bad taste in my mouth. The aeroplanes carrying holidaymakers and foreigners are arriving every day again. Why are these people not checked? They can go wherever they want. We, the elderly, are paying attention and will soon have to pay for all those unguided missiles.

E. Mast

Doutzen Kroes

Doutzen Kroes asks supposedly critical questions about corona. In fact, she is insinuating that it may all be a conspiracy to extensively control people. Now, I understand that the measures are a serious infringement of individual freedom, but it is quite something to set up an alternative reality as if it were Alice in Wonderland. Perhaps Doutzen missed it, but there is a new virus sweeping through the world, and if we do not take measures, the disaster will be incalculable. Of course, opinions can differ on the measures to be taken, but let us at least be guided by scientific knowledge.

Bart Verheggen

Associate Professor, UvA

Passport

No passport needed at Schiphol? The Netherlands will become a lot safer this way, but not really! Very clever that you can recognise an illegal, terrorist or criminal only by his face, behaviour and clothes. Especially when we will all have to wear a mouth mask. We won't have to pay any more for a passport either. As long as we have a note with us that we are not infected with the coronavirus, then you can get on the plane. It is too ridiculous for words.

T. v/d Rijt, Groenekan

Museums

Art-loving Netherlands will be sceptical and perhaps angry about the support package for KLM, in relation to the 300 million that the sector is to receive. However, most of that money goes to the large museums, and there too, the small ones are at risk of falling by the wayside. So the same principle is being applied there on a small scale.

R. Sardaro, Lelystad

***EU toll vignette***

Germany, as the current holder of the ***EU*** Presidency, wants to set up a ***Europe-wide*** toll system. Fantastic plan! As long as it is one toll vignette for the whole ***EU*** and everyone pays the same. The new ***European*** tax can then be divided up proportionately among the Member States and our road tax can be scrapped. We are finally on the right track. My dream of a Nexit is slowly disappearing like snow in the sun.

E. Op 't Eijnde, Purmerend

Rutte

I am not a VVD member, but I like reading all those opinions about Rutte. That man is everything, rake, hero, etc. etc. Yes, everyone always knows better, the best mates... I grant Mark Rutte his much-needed rest. Rather look at the man! He has no one at home to put his arm around. He recently lost his mother. But he stands his ground. And always positive.

Ria Smink-Wijntjes, Tiel

Heat pump

To keep the cost of electricity down with a heat pump, you have to do it in combination with solar panels. That is how the system works best.

R. Tielrooij,

Alkmaar

Macron

A happy Macron, Conte's triumphant fist. I also got the feeling that Rutte had not achieved what he and we wanted. I think Rutte did what he could and I have a lot of respect for him! However, in view of the slow soaking up of ***European*** taxes, I believe there is another agenda at play. You start by levying a so-called sympathetic tax on plastics. Then you gradually introduce other taxes and end up with a federal state called '***Europe***'. The first president: Macron. The Hague: watch your step!

Kees Rakers, Hoofddorp

Young people

I hear many people complaining about the young people. For them, the impact on their lives in recent months has been enormous, but of course they should try to play by the rules. However, the over-65s should do the same. I am increasingly annoyed by the behaviour of this 'alone in the world' generation, for whom, after all, the measures are being taken.

René van Essen (56 years)

Press

If only the same pressure that is now being exerted on the cabinet about wearing mouth masks were used in the negotiations in Brussels!

F. Zoon, Herten

**Classification**

**Language:** DUTCH; ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** Tlg-NL

**Subject:** Epidemics (94%); COVID-19 Coronavirus (90%); Infectious Disease (88%); Viruses (73%)

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

**End of Document**

[***It is four tenners per Dutchman***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60F5-2381-DY4D-Y18N-00000-00&context=)

De Telegraaf

25 July 2020 Saturday

Netherlands

Copyright 2020 Mediahuis Nederland BV All Rights Reserved



**Section:** Inland; Page 22

**Length:** 605 words

**Body**

Rutte has made a good deal. The corona crisis will cost the ***eurozone*** between 8 and 12 percent in economic growth. To prevent our continent from being pushed into the misery of a recession for decades, ***European*** leaders agreed on a corona fund of 750 billion ***euro***. The Dutch resistance to this is at least as great as at the time of the Greek bail-out. The arguments against it are the same and largely correct; the South has failed to make sufficient cuts and reforms and is now forcing solidarity from the North, which did so.

But there is a flip side to this. Saving Greece was the litmus test for the ***euro***. The credibility of the new currency stood and fell with the extinguishing of the blazing fire in Greece that threatened to reduce neighbouring properties to ashes. The latter did not happen. In the meantime, Greece is paying back its debts and borrowing again under its own steam.

This time it is not the currency but the internal market that is at stake. The internal market is the ***EU'***s formula for success and the Netherlands' revenue model. Since the introduction of the ***euro*** in 2002, we have seen our trade surplus, especially with southern countries, increase by 55 billion ***euros***. That market is now in jeopardy if Mediterranean countries cannot shore up their economies sufficiently. Member States such as Spain, Italy and now Greece may be able to borrow money themselves, but then fall into a hopeless debt trap. Own fault? Certainly! But Dutch exports are paying the price.

We do not want to lend money directly to these countries and certainly do not want to refinance their debts with our low interest rates (so-called ***euro-*** or coronabonds). That is why the ***European*** Commission came up with loans with the contributions of the ***EU member states*** themselves as collateral. This so-called corona fund consists partly of subsidies (390 billion ***euro***) and partly of these loans (360 billion ***euro***). Rutte succeeded in shifting ***EUR*** 110 billion from subsidies to loans, which - just like the Greek loans - have to be paid back. But his most important achievement is that he put a big stick in the wheels of countries that make use of subsidies but do not want to comply with the conditions. Similar to buses or trains, anyone who suspects subsidy abuse can pull the 'emergency brake', after which payment is suspended for at least three months. This is a great improvement on the Stability Pact, where member states were dependent on a courageous bus driver, read: the ***European*** Commission, to do this.

To this one-off corona fund, which is paid off in 30 years, the Netherlands pays 500 million ***euros*** a year. That's four tenners per Dutchman. Rutte also managed to deduct half of that amount from our contribution. All in all, a very respectable deal. Rutte served a direct Dutch interest, but also increased the ***European*** ability to act to solve the next crisis. The financial crisis (2009), the refugee crisis (2013) and the corona crisis (2020) affected all countries, but some more than others. As with the German IC beds in recent months, the Netherlands may need to call on other member states in the event of a subsequent crisis. In that case, it's a good thing that the same Rutte who stopped coronabonds also ensured corona-bonding with his signature, when most of our demands were met.

Han ten Broeke is Director of Political Affairs at The Hague Centre for Strategic Studies (HCSS) and a former VVD Member of Parliament.

This time it is

the internal market at stake

**Classification**

**Language:** DUTCH; ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** Tlg-NL

**Subject:** Economic Crisis (94%); ***European*** Union (87%); ***European*** Union Regulation + Policy (82%); Central Banks (76%); Public Finance (74%); Monetary Unions (71%); National Debt (69%); Government Grants + Subsidies (64%); Economic Conditions (63%); Disaster + Emergency Relief (62%)

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

**End of Document**

[***Mopping up with the tap***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60F5-2381-DY4D-Y18M-00000-00&context=)

De Telegraaf

25 July 2020 Saturday

Netherlands

Copyright 2020 Mediahuis Nederland BV All Rights Reserved



**Section:** Inland; Page 22

**Length:** 595 words

**Body**

From time to time, the ***EU attracts*** extra attention. Especially when it concerns legislation that has an impact on the Netherlands or when there is once again a tough battle about the question how much the Netherlands is allowed to contribute to the ***EU budget***. Fortunately, the latter only takes place once every seven years, because I don't think the government wants this Brussels circus to repeat itself every year.

Whether Rutte came home with a good result I will not say. What is clear is that he fought like a lion and has gained international respect. Because even Macron and Conte now know that if you want to achieve something, you first have to come to The Hague for lunch.

What is also clear is that the Netherlands annually gives several billions more than it receives from the ***EU subsidy pot*** and that, in addition, the Netherlands has pledged a whopping €25 billion on behalf of its taxpayers to the 'recovery fund'. Whether this is a 'recovery fund' is debatable, as it does not focus on debt reduction or supporting the severely affected sectors in Southern Europe, but primarily subsidises projects that were already on the political agenda of the ***European*** Commission, such as The Green Deal and digitisation.

What is also striking is that, for the first time, the ***EU*** is itself going to lend money via the Corona Fund. Is this a first step towards guaranteeing the debts of southern Europe? Anyway, the €750 billion fund will certainly help to maintain peace and stability in ***Europe*** in the short term and that is worth something too.

What I am certainly also concerned about is that Brussels is looking to expand its policy areas. Previously, the ***EU*** was mainly there to provide a common market to make cross-border traffic easier. Both exporting and importing companies have benefited considerably from this. In addition, the ***EU*** has helped make food widely available and affordable with its agri-subsidies. In short, it has made ***EU*** citizens more prosperous.

But I also see a number of bears on the road. Once started as a ***European*** Community of six countries, the chain has grown longer and longer and now comprises 27 beads. That does not make decision-making any easier and there are also countries that do not have their financial housekeeping in order. Instead of acting firmly, the main problems are not being solved: the lack of buffers makes countries vulnerable, the ***euro*** fragile and the single currency policy causes imbalances in ***Europe***. Instead, the can is kicked further and further down the road by going for a model with wealth transfers from the northern countries to southern and eastern Europe.

With this development, the Netherlands, like Germany, is increasingly being manoeuvred into the role of ***EU sponsor***. After all, the Netherlands pays in proportion to the size of its own economy, but is often at the back of the queue when it comes to distributing subsidies. Perhaps Rutte paid too little attention to the latter.

For the Netherlands as a trading nation, the ***EU*** remains a golden cage, but at the same time it is also a trap that we have become enveloped in. We threaten to lose autonomy and the net contributions to the ***EU*** are becoming more and more significant. I see no salvation in a Nexit, but with the route that the ***EU*** is now sailing, it could become a case of mopping up the water.

Prof. Dr. Laurens Sloot is director of EFMI Business School and professor of entrepreneurship in retail at the RUG.

The Netherlands' role as ***EU sponsor*** increases

**Classification**

**Language:** DUTCH; ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** Tlg-NL

**Subject: *European*** Union (94%); ***European*** Union Regulation + Policy (84%); Public Finance (63%)

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

**End of Document**

[***Eurozone***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60F5-J3N1-JC5G-101M-00000-00&context=)[***More optimism about economy***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60F5-J3N1-JC5G-101M-00000-00&context=)

NRC Handelsblad

25 July 2020 Saturday

1st Edition

Copyright 2020 NRC Media B.V. All Rights Reserved



**Section:** ECONOMICS; Page 4

**Length:** 82 words

**Dateline:** London

**Body**

Confidence in the ***eurozone*** economy is growing. This is evident from the Purchasing Managers Index (PMI), which is based on surveys of purchasing managers. A PMI above 50 is a signal for growth. In June, the index was still at 48.5 points but in July it rose to 54.8: the highest level since mid-2018. EU countries reached an agreement on the ***European*** support package. Corona measures were also widely relaxed, even as the number of infections grows worldwide. (Reuters)

**Classification**

**Language:** DUTCH; ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Economic Conditions (94%); Economic Crisis (88%); Population + Demographics (88%); Consumer Confidence (82%); Central Banks (81%); Stock Market Updates (80%); Recession (78%); Inflation (77%); Stock Indexes (74%); Consumption (69%); Service Workers (61%)

**Industry:** Oil + Gas Industry (68%)

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

**End of Document**

[***How good is the EURutte's deal really is?***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60F5-2381-DY4D-Y18K-00000-00&context=)

De Telegraaf

25 July 2020 Saturday

Netherlands

Copyright 2020 Mediahuis Nederland BV All Rights Reserved



**Section:** Inland; Page 22

**Length:** 79 words

**Body**

How good is the deal that Prime Minister Mark Rutte negotiated earlier this week after four days of marathon negotiations with ***European*** government leaders? Han ten Broeke and professor Laurens Sloot agree that Rutte sold his skin dearly. VVD man Ten Broeke focuses on the large discounts that Rutte negotiated, but the professor is very concerned that with this result we are being rumbled into a transfer union.

**Classification**

**Language:** DUTCH; ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** Tlg-NL

**Subject:** Government Departments + Authorities (94%); Housing Market (83%); Economic Policy (73%); Taxes + Taxation (69%); International Relations (68%); Disaster + Emergency Relief (63%); Law + Legal System (61%)

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

**End of Document**

[***Old love***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60F5-2381-DY4D-Y18W-00000-00&context=)

De Telegraaf

25 July 2020 Saturday

Netherlands

Copyright 2020 Mediahuis Nederland BV All Rights Reserved



**Section:** OUTSIDE; Page 17

**Length:** 459 words

**Byline:** Frank van Vliet

**Body**

Old love does not rust, but how difficult it is to keep on loving all those countries that I once loved as a correspondent for Eastern Europe - they prefer to call it Central Europe.

For six years, I hopped around there like Tintin in a sweet shop and met wonderful people in wonderfully nostalgic cities and beautiful nature.

But love grows old and shows its ugly face more and more often. Now Bulgaria again. That the country was corrupt became clear to me during a visit in 1996. The businessman I complimented on his beautiful car sighed: Yes, but it's not mine. He had reported his car as stolen and the police returned it to him. The same type, but different. It was take it or leave it. Even then, the headline above my article was 'Bulgarian president accuses government of links to mafia'.

And what does the current president Rumen Radev say 24 years later? It is up to us to throw out the mafia. Progress is a word that apparently does not suit Bulgaria. In 2013, too, there were fierce protests, which, like today, were about corruption.

The leader of the opposition is now Hristo Ivanov. A fortnight ago, he was pushed back by police from a public beach in his boat because an influential businessman was sunbathing there. A film about this caused a lot of commotion. Many Bulgarians - already excited by images of Prime Minister Borissov being photographed sleeping with a gun next to a bedside table with gold bars - knew again that nothing had changed. According to the Prime Minister, the images were manipulated.

Bulgaria is the poorest and most corrupt member of the ***EU***, but it is not alone in the list of 'old loves' from Eastern Europe that have not become more beautiful. The idealistic former president Vaclav Havel would not recognise today's Czech Republic.

The Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán dared to accuse 'our' Mark Rutte of communist methods during the last ***European*** summit. Rutte had dared to ensure that the ***EU*** can cut back on EU funds if there is no respect for compliance with EU rules in countries. Orbán was not impressed by this. This week the independent news site Index came into the hands of the clique around the prime minister. In ten years under Orbán, his country dropped 66 places in the free press rankings. There are whispers that the ***EU*** wants to start an Article 7 procedure against Hungary. The 'nuclear option' with which a member state can be tackled also threatens Poland, where the rule of law has been equally damaged. Other former darlings on the blacklist include Slovakia and Romania.

I put on Bleeding Heart by De Dijk again.

Eastern Europe increasingly on the blacklist

**Classification**

**Language:** DUTCH; ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** Tlg-NL

**Subject: *European*** Union (94%); ***European*** Union Regulation + Policy (70%); Corruption (68%); International Relations (67%)

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

**End of Document**

[***DEAR READER***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60F5-2381-DY4D-Y1F4-00000-00&context=)

De Telegraaf

25 July 2020 Saturday

Netherlands

Copyright 2020 Mediahuis Nederland BV All Rights Reserved



**Section:** WATU-SAY; Page 20

**Length:** 173 words

**Byline:** Margo Stols

**Body**

Ronald Plasterk's column 'All of ***Europe*** will be one big Belgium' appealed to many readers. In another excellent column he makes it more than clear what the ***EU*** is really about", compliments R. Mondelaers. Whoever still lives in the assumption that we live in a democratic country and continent, has to come to the conclusion that the beginning of the end of this has started", this reader thinks. Paul Schermers also thinks that Plasterk has hit the nail on the head when he says that the ***European*** Commission - with the excuse of the corona crisis - is organising the transfer union that Guy Verhofstadt has been asking for for years. We are all swimming into a trap. Brussels will be our democratic downfall and nobody protests", Sophie van Dijk responds. G.J.P. Bijloo wonders what the point of being in the ***EU*** is. Paying for others? Throw away your own acquired rights? It's a great pity for us that the British have regained their senses in time!

Margo Stols

**Classification**

**Language:** DUTCH; ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** Tlg-NL

**Subject: *European*** Union (94%)

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

**End of Document**

[***What others say***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60F5-2381-DY4D-Y18R-00000-00&context=)

De Telegraaf

25 July 2020 Saturday

Netherlands

Copyright 2020 Mediahuis Nederland BV All Rights Reserved



**Section:** INDOOR; Page 23

**Length:** 246 words

**Body**

PVV-LEADER WILDERS ON RADIO NPO 1:

This is the worst result imaginable. Money is being thrown around. What use are reforms in Italy if we ourselves are in a crisis? I want the money to be spent in the Netherlands."

SP PARLIAMENTARIAN MAHIR ALKAYA IN THE AD:

It seems that he has assessed the force field in such a way that this was the most he could get out of it. Investing in digitalisation, for example, requires a great deal of imagination to link it to the corona crisis. These are things that the ***European*** Commission wanted even before the pandemic and are now being brought in via this underhand means."

PREMIER CONTE OF ITALY IN DE TELEGRAAF:

,,We have a great responsibility. With ***EUR*** 209 billion, we have the opportunity to restart Italy with vigour and change the nature of the country. We must run now."

SGP MP BENSCHOP IN DE TELEGRAAF:

How will this 'super emergency brake' work? The recovery fund subsidies cost us 15 billion ***euros***, with no guarantees of reform."

VVD CHAIRMAN DIJKHOFF ON FACEBOOK:

Even if the corona and economic damage is great in countries like Italy and Spain, just transferring money helps ***Europe***, does not help the Netherlands. And so we are not going to do that either."

FVD IN DE TELEGRAAF:

With this agreement, the Netherlands has become part of a debt union. Southern Europe wanted 500 billion, but it turned out to be 390 billion. So Rutte gave Southern Europe almost 80 percent of what it demanded."

**Classification**

**Language:** DUTCH; ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** Tlg-NL

**Subject:** Economic Crisis (94%); Public Finance (92%); COVID-19 Coronavirus (89%); ***European*** Union (88%); ***European*** Union Regulation + Policy (88%); Economic Conditions (82%); Disaster + Emergency Relief (78%); Monetary Unions (75%); Government Grants + Subsidies (70%); National Debt (70%)

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

**End of Document**

[***Accell benefits from green bicycle plans; Bicycle Factory sees continued demand through Green Deal***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60F5-2381-DY4D-Y19R-00000-00&context=)

De Telegraaf

25 July 2020 Saturday

Netherlands

Copyright 2020 Mediahuis Nederland BV All Rights Reserved



**Section:** FINANCIAL; page 37

**Length:** 564 words

**Byline:** Yteke de Jong

**Body**

Bicycle factory sees continued demand through Green Deal

by Yteke de Jong

Amsterdam - Bicycle manufacturer Accell is cashing in on the green ambitions of major ***European*** cities and the Green Deal of ***European Commissioner*** Frans Timmermans. The Heerenveen-based cycle factory, known for Koga, Batavus and Sparta, published surprisingly good figures on Friday.

Turnover rose by 4% to €679 million despite the corona crisis. Nevertheless, the belts are tight for a second corona wave, says topman Ton Anbeek.

How have you experienced the past time?

,,The past few months have been a roller coaster, with supply problems and closed shops. However, the easing came with pent-up demand.

Many consumers bought a bicycle because they wanted to continue exercising during the crisis and stay in the Netherlands this summer. The e-bike also proved to be an alternative to public transport."

In the Netherlands, many people bought a second-hand car.

,,But in many countries around us they do. The Italian government gives €500 subsidy on the purchase of a bike, France gives €50 as a gift if you have your bike repaired. The bicycle was already a solution to many problems, such as congestion, pollution, an alternative to public transport and the need for more exercise. That type of measure accelerates demand."

Accell benefits from city councils' green agenda?

In that sense, yes. In a number of towns, streets are now being closed off to allow bicycles free reign. This was not the case before the corona crisis.

In addition, cycling is an important part of the Green Deal of ***European Commissioner*** Frans Timmermans, who wants to set aside a lot of money for improving the cycling infrastructure in ***Europe***. In the Netherlands this is already well organised, but elsewhere it is still in its infancy. Tax incentives do the rest.

Is it realistic that Italians will continue to use bicycles as an alternative to commuting?

,,I hear from our people in Italy that many Italians use the bicycle as an alternative to commuting because they don't want to get infected. In Paris, before the corona crisis, there was a months-long public transport strike, so the bicycle was already in the picture. The corona crisis has now caused the bicycle to be promoted even more."

Do you still want to merge with your competitor Pon?

I have not seen anything about merging with Pon in the stars. Although there is consolidation in every sector, merging is not necessary. The demand for bicycles is enormous now. We are taking a second corona wave into account. With the flu season just around the corner, we are prepared for the worst case scenario."

What does this mean?

In the extreme, we will have to partially stop production again. We are now partly building up stocks and are taking disruptions in the supply chain into account. In that respect, the coming months will remain exciting and uncertain. It also depends on where the second wave will manifest itself. However, we do expect to make a profit this year."

Will people buy bicycles again after the second wave?

The corona crisis has definitely put the bicycle on the map. We are helped in this by the tax schemes and politics, such as the Green Deal from ***euro commissioner*** Frans Timmermans. For the next five to ten years, this is a very good prospect for the bicycle market."

**Classification**

**Language:** DUTCH; ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** Tlg-NL

**Subject:** Cycling (94%); Alternative Fuel Vehicles (65%)

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

**End of Document**

[***Five years in 'Brussels bubble' is long enough***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60JG-HS61-DY4D-Y152-00000-00&context=)

De Telegraaf

10 August 2020 Monday

Netherlands

Copyright 2020 Mediahuis Nederland BV All Rights Reserved



**Section:** INDOOR; Page 9

**Length:** 851 words

**Body**

Once again, kudos to Mark Rutte, who, as one of the 'frugal four', successfully defended our interests in Brussels last month, as a result of which the EU support package is now not seen as an unconditional gift by the southern countries.

In fact, we would also have liked to attach conditions to this, such as much-needed reforms, cutbacks and austerity in the pension system of the countries of the South. Unfortunately, this did not work out, which is actually logical, because why would the 'Brussels bubble' known as ***the EU*** commit itself to austerity in the pension system or cutbacks in others if they themselves lead the field in terms of employment conditions and pensions?

The 705 MEPs in Brussels have, on top of their already generous incomes, the most generous pension scheme I know of. For every year that they are in Brussels, they are guaranteed to build up 3.5% of their pension up to a maximum of 70% of their salary. Just realise the difference with a normal pension scheme for normal workers: a pension based on 70% of your last earned salary is unprecedented. A long time ago, it was sometimes offered in our country as a so-called 'final pay scheme', but that has simply become unaffordable for employers.

Retirement date

Another difference: workers here only build up a decent pension after 40 or 45 years of hard work, the ***MEPs*** get their generous and guaranteed pension after only 20 years of Brussels presence. Here the retirement date is 67, but ***MEPs*** can retire at 63. Incidentally, they do not do so. When I browse through the profiles, I estimate that a quarter of the ***MEPs*** have already reached that retirement age, but are still stuck on the Brussels plush. Would that mean that in addition to their more than generous salaries as ***MEPs***, they also receive a pension from the same ***EU*** credited to their bank account?

The parliament is teeming with 70- and 80-year-olds. Having a substantial criminal record is not an obstacle either. Especially the Eastern European countries often send people to the ***Euro-parliament*** who have not been saints in their own country. Also sitting ***Euro MPs*** who commit a criminal offence, remain seated. For Italy, for example, the 84-year-old Silvio Berlusconi sits in the ***Euro parliament***. Convicted of corruption, bribery and perjury, but that is certainly no reason to refuse him as an ***MEP***. The LGTB discussion is not for him either, because "real Italians like women" and in his case that means mainly underage girls.

Not as taxing

Apparently, the job of an ***MEP*** is not so taxing, because a third of them have a paid job on the side. They are CEOs of companies, lawyers, professors, mayors and lobbyists.

For example, 63-year-old Renato Soru earns one and a half million ***euros*** extra per year as director of Tiscali and Guy Verhofstadt supplements his income with many tonnes from Sofina every year. Dutch ***MEP*** Agnes Jongerius is modest in that respect, with her job as a commissioner at PostNL, which earned her ***EUR*** 46,000 last year. With so many side jobs, it is almost logical that in addition to your generous ***MEP salary,*** you get an extra daily allowance of 323 ***euros*** per day that you are available in Brussels: they are happy that you can make time.

Political colour does not have to be persistent either. Toine Manders, undoubtedly a fine ***Euro MP***, is now in the ***Euro MP*** for the CDA, the party to which he took his seat when the wrangling within his own party 50Plus began. And he ended up in 50Plus again after he was removed from the list as a candidate by the VVD, because they thought that three terms, or fifteen years, in the ***European Parliament*** was long enough.

Incidentally, in other countries, it is not a problem for ***MEPs*** to remain in office for three, four, say, five or six terms. The almost 80-year-old Spanish Pilar Ayuso, for example, is already in her eighth term. So she has been in the ***European Parliament*** for half her life. Half!

Unhealthy

I find it unhealthy that there is no ***European*** ceiling on the term of office of ***MEPs***. Personally, I think a maximum term of five years in the ***European Parliament*** is long enough. If you sit somewhere for too long, your thinking becomes jaded and you stop being amazed at the syrupiness, the amounts, the bureaucracy and the obviousness with which decisions are taken. How can you then still supervise properly?

If all ***MEPs*** remain in their posts for decades, there will never be enough fresh air from outside and nothing will ever change. More than five years in this Brussels bubble distorts your world view. With a fresh view you keep better supervision. Just replace one fifth of the ***MEPs*** every year. Couldn't Mark Rutte put that on the table during his next visit to Brussels?

Considerable criminal record

also no

barrier

**Classification**

**Language:** DUTCH; ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** Tlg-NL

**Subject:** Social Security (94%); Minimum Wage (78%); Cost Of Living (75%); Wage + Hour Laws (75%); Wages + Salaries (75%); Senior Citizens (63%)

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

**End of Document**

[***Chamber cannot wait for corona debate***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60JG-HS61-DY4D-Y14P-00000-00&context=)

De Telegraaf

10 August 2020 Monday

Netherlands

Copyright 2020 Mediahuis Nederland BV All Rights Reserved



**Section:** INDOOR; Page 4

**Length:** 475 words

**Byline:** Valentijn Bartels

**Body**

by Valentijn Bartels

The Hague - It did not happen without a struggle, but the corona figures have finally prompted the Lower House to meet in plenary session during the holiday period. The coalition has agreed to a major debate on the corona crisis, following pressure from PvdA party leader Lodewijk Asscher. It will take place on Wednesday in the Great Hall of the Dutch Parliament. Prime Minister Mark Rutte will be present, as well as Minister Hugo de Jonge (Public Health).

The advantage for the Chamber is that during such a debate, proposals - motions - can be submitted, allowing for immediate adjustments. Such an urgent debate does not just happen. Groups that want to organise a plenary debate during the recess need the support of at least thirty MPs.

Breaking wars, financial crises, mutiny on a naval vessel and cabinet crises. For members of the Lower House, these were more likely reasons to break off holidays. The Parliamentary Documentation Centre (PDC) keeps track of when a major debate suddenly takes place during such a break. Since the beginning of the last century, this has happened 34 times, the PDC records.

On 3 August 1914, for example, the people's representatives met in a hurry when the First World War broke out. Dear Sirs! In view of the extremely serious and unfavourable circumstances, the Lower House of the States General has been convened by me for an emergency meeting," said chairman Goeman Borgesius. Since the day of the convocation, the situation has worsened. The war between the great powers of ***Europe***, long feared but deemed impossible because of the colossal responsibility, has unfortunately now become a sad reality.

But not only an outbreak of war is a reason to stop holidays. This happened in 2015 and 2011, for example, due to problems in the ***Eurozone*** and - as a result - state aid to Greece. Financial consequences for the taxpayer could not wait until critical MPs arrived in the Netherlands again. The debate in 2011 was even held on a Saturday, as a great exception.

In 1991, the Gulf crisis and in 1933 the mutiny on board the Hr. These examples have one thing in common: in all cases it concerned events that according to MPs could not wait until the recess had ended to be discussed.

But even more recently, plenary debates have been held during the holidays. This summer, at the beginning of the holiday season, there were two debates on the agenda: on the pension agreement and on the ***European*** summit where Prime Minister Rutte negotiated about support to EU countries. Especially the latter, according to those involved, was in high demand. This way MPs could give the Prime Minister an assignment before he left for Brussels.

**Classification**

**Language:** DUTCH; ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** Tlg-NL

**Subject: *European*** Union (93%); Government Departments + Authorities (89%); Primary + Secondary Education (87%); Teaching + Teachers (87%); Taxes + Taxation (86%); Educational Institution Employees (83%); Refugees (82%); Rule Of Law (73%); Police Forces (69%); Defense Departments (68%); Education + Training (68%); Freight, Package + Postal Shipping (67%); Immigration Law (67%); Illegal Immigrants (63%)

**Industry:** Educational Services (87%); Rail Transportation Regulation + Policy (84%); Mining Regulation + Policy (68%); Natural Gas + Electric Utilities (67%)

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

**End of Document**

[***Corona***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60JM-GVR1-DYMH-R14R-00000-00&context=) [***Travel restrictions on Dutch nationals to Finland, Estonia and Lithuania***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60JM-GVR1-DYMH-R14R-00000-00&context=)

NRC Handelsblad

10 August 2020 Monday

1st Edition

Copyright 2020 NRC Media B.V. All Rights Reserved



**Section:** IN THE NEWS; Page 2

**Length:** 133 words

**Dateline:** Amsterdam

**Body**

Due to the increased number of coronas infections in the Netherlands, Finland, Estonia and Lithuania have imposed travel restrictions on Dutch citizens. The Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs has therefore changed the colour code for the three Northern European countries from yellow to orange. This means that people are advised to travel there only when absolutely necessary. As of this Monday, August 10, Lithuania refuses Dutch travelers and only allows people with a work or residence permit to enter. Also in Finland only demonstrably necessary (work) traffic is welcome. Dutch people who want to enter Estonia have to go into home quarantine for 14 days. This compulsory home quarantine also applies to people who are allowed to enter Finland or Lithuania for work or other reasons. (NRC)

**Classification**

**Language:** DUTCH; ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** International Relations (73%); State Departments + Foreign Services (61%)

**Industry:** Traveler Safety + Security (94%); Tourism (89%); Air Transportation (61%)

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

**End of Document**

[***ECB money to core eurozoneNorthern banks knock on doors to get spotty loans***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60NG-4991-DY4D-Y4G6-00000-00&context=)

De Telegraaf

24 August 2020 Monday

Netherlands

Copyright 2020 Mediahuis Nederland BV All Rights Reserved



**Section:** FINANCIAL; page 18

**Length:** 731 words

**Body**

Northern banks knock on doors to get bargain-priced loans

The generous support measures of the ***European*** Central Bank (ECB) have also reached the core of the ***eurozone***. The ***European*** financial sector has benefited from cheap loans via the ECB for a record amount. This time it is not the banks of the southern ***eurozone countries*** that benefit from the ECB support, but mainly German, French and Dutch banks.

In order to support banks in the corona crisis, the ECB announced easing of an existing loan programme at the end of April. Banks could get up to 1% interest when they borrowed money from the ECB. On top of that, an additional loan package was announced. The interest rate was slightly less favourable, but the conditions were more flexible.

In June it emerged that banks had lent a total of more than €1,300 billion. Some of this money was used to repay or renew earlier loans, so that about €550 billion net was injected into the economy.

It now appears that it was mainly banks from core ***eurozone*** countries, such as Germany, France and the Netherlands, that found their way to the ECB desk for these two loan programmes. This was calculated by the Rabobank Economics Department. German banks together borrowed €160 billion, French banks together over €100 billion and Dutch banks net €82 billion. The actual amount they borrowed from the ECB was higher, but part of it was used to repay earlier loans.

ABN Amro raised €32 billion from the ECB's latest funding programme in June. The bank deploys the money from the ECB's special lending window 'in all sectors'. And we also use it for corona loans", said a spokesperson.

In addition to credit for small and medium-sized businesses, ABN Amro also wants to use the money pot from Frankfurt to have sufficient liquidity at its disposal if large companies want to use their credit lines in full. The chances of that happening will increase if the coronavirus persists for a longer period of time", says the bank.

Rabobank applied for €20 billion at the ECB's money desk in June. The bank does not want to say for what type of customers and sectors the money will be used. That is quite diverse", responds a spokesperson. ING raised €55 billion for the whole group. The bank makes no announcements about the use of this money in countries and sectors.

The amounts borrowed by banks from countries with weaker financial sectors, such as Italy (€54 billion), Greece (€9 billion) and Portugal (€10 billion), were much lower.

According to Rabobank analyst Bas van Geffen, this is due to a combination of factors. First of all, Germany and the Netherlands have a large financial sector. If you compare these amounts to the size of the financial sector, the differences are not too bad."

Moreover, banks from the southern member states have already borrowed heavily from the previous ECB programmes. Italy was the biggest user of earlier loans. At the time, it was an amount of €200 billion, or about 30% of the total", says Van Geffen.

Money due on loan

In addition, this time the conditions were so favourable that banks in the core countries did not want to be left behind. Van Geffen: ,,In the worst case scenario, a bank cannot lend out the money and deposits it with the ECB again. That costs 0.5 percentage points, while a bank receives 1% interest on the borrowed money. That's already a margin of 50 basis points."

Moreover, it is cheaper to borrow this money from the ECB than to raise it on the market. Van Geffen: The ECB does this to ensure that banks do not charge higher rates for loans when the economy is in crisis.

The ECB has already used the unconventional measure several times in recent years. The purpose of the loans is to keep the credit supply going. This is particularly important in times of crisis. The ECB wants to prevent banks from charging higher rates to companies or households that apply for a loan, because that would damage the economy.

The condition is that they lend this money out again in the real economy, namely to companies or households. But this requirement is quite easy to meet. If the banks' loan book does not shrink between March this year and April next year, the ECB has had enough.

ECB support very generous this time'.

**Classification**

**Language:** DUTCH; ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** Tlg-NL

**Subject:** Central Banks (94%); Bonds (63%)

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

**End of Document**

[***I am Giorgia', fierce advocate of conservative Italy; They want to take away our identity, our roots from us***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60NM-3D61-DYMH-R1WJ-00000-00&context=)  [***Giorgia Meloni star of conservative Italy***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60NM-3D61-DYMH-R1WJ-00000-00&context=)

NRC Handelsblad

24 August 2020 Monday

1st Edition

Copyright 2020 NRC Media B.V. All Rights Reserved



**Section:** CONTENTS; Page 1

**Length:** 1012 words

**Byline:** Marc Leijendekker

**Dateline:** Rome

**Body**

**ABSTRACT**

Profile Giorgia Meloni

She promises to defend 'God, the fatherland and the family' with her party Fratelli d'Italia. Italy can no longer ignore this new protagonist on the right.

**FULL TEXT:**

It starts with a long-drawn-out 'iiiiiiik am'. And then, with a tight beat underneath: ,,Giorgia. I am a woman. I am a mother. I am a Christian." The phrases are repeated endlessly, like a refrain, with occasional different bits of text. They want us to be parent one and parent two. Parent one, parent two." Or, slightly less rhythmically, "They want to take away our identity, our roots, that which defines us." Besides the original video on YouTube, which has been viewed more than ten million times, you can also find versions with dance moves by Laurel and Hardy or Darth Vader.

No Italian is left wondering who this Giorgia is. Giorgia Meloni, a small woman who in recent months has become increasingly prominent in Italian politics. She is on the right. The real conservative right, she says. We will defend God, the fatherland and the family', she shouts in the speech last autumn of which the video was made.

Meloni's rise shows that there is a need among voters on the right for a different tone from the roar of Matteo Salvini and his anti-immigration Lega party. In the 2018 parliamentary elections, she came in just above four per cent. A poll early this month gave her party Fratelli d'Italia more than 14 per cent. From an extra, Meloni has become a protagonist in the right-wing bloc.

In terms of content, the similarities with Salvini are greater than the differences. Opposition to undocumented migrants ('Let's defend Italy' is the motto on the party website). Criticism of everything that in their eyes affects the traditional family. Defence of the 'Italian identity'.

But the tone is often different. Meloni is national-conservative, Salvini is national-populist", says Giovanni Orsina, political scientist in Rome. Salvini is dogmatic, Meloni pragmatic. Where he improvises, she remains coherent. Many voters appreciate this attitude of Meloni."

He gives two examples. Two years ago, Salvini surprisingly entered into a 'governmental contract' with the Five Star Movement, hoping to trigger a populist revolution, but just as surprisingly blew up that coalition again last summer. Meloni has always kept his distance from the erratic Five Stars, who in many ways have a left-wing programme. Orsina: "Meloni is less likely to change her mind, and that helps her at a time when many parties are pursuing a barely coherent strategy."

The differences with regard to ***Europe*** also stand out. Meloni can come down hard on the "left-wing lapdogs of the French and Germans". She warns that large capitalists from those countries would target Italian industry. Like Salvini, she expresses the dissatisfaction of many Italian voters with ***Europe***. But she is less rabidly anti-European. When Prime Minister Conte returned from Brussels last month with a record amount of pledges, Salvini dismissed this as a sell-out of the Italian soul to the Brussels devils. Meloni confined himself to criticising the fact that more help could well have come from Brussels.

Tellingly, the two parties, firm allies in Italy, have other friends in the ***European*** Parliament. The Lega sits with Marine Le Pen's Rassemblement National and the Alternative für Deutschland in the Identity and Democracy Group. Fratelli d'Italia has chosen the ***European*** Conservatives and Reformists (ECR), with Forum for Democracy and the Polish ruling party Law and Justice (PiS).

Other international friends also differ. Salvini often praises Hungarian leader Viktor Orbán, Meloni has better contacts in conservative American circles. She, and not Salvini, gave the opening address to the global convention of national conservatives in Rome in early February, and shortly afterwards was the only Italian at the National Prayer Breakfast, the annual gathering of conservatives in Washington.

**Rise in polls**

Meloni communicates clearly, does well on TV and can point to gains in regional elections in addition to the virtual rise in the polls. But given the fickle preferences of Italian voters, is there not a chance that she will turn out to be a one-day wonder?

Roberto D'Alimonte, a voter researcher from Florence, does not think so. He points out that Meloni has succeeded in reuniting a traditional bloc of voters who had been displaced. She grew up politically within the National Alliance, a party that also carries (renounced) neo-fascism in its past. That party was divided ten years ago when Silvio Berlusconi, then the undisputed leader on the right, tried to form a united party. The party leader at the time, Gianfranco Fini, was in favour - he already saw himself as Berlusconi's successor. But Meloni decided to quit and to start again with a small group.

"It is the voters of the past that Meloni is able to bring together," D'Alimonte says by phone. "She is regaining some of the ground lost under Fini." He adds that many right-wing voters in the south have reservations about Salvini, who hails from a party that began as an attempt to make the north independent.

The rise of Meloni, Salvini's tactical mistakes and Berlusconi's ageing (now 83) are shifting the balance of power on the right. In national elections in 2018, Salvini got 17 per cent, Berlusconi 14, Meloni 4. In the 2019 ***European*** elections, the ratio was 34 - 9 - 6. In the poll by research firm SWG on 3 August: 27 - 6 -14. How far Meloni will get with what her supporters call 'conservative patriotism', nobody dares to predict. What they do know is that she is a player nobody can ignore.

Meloni has better contacts in conservative US circles than Salvini

**Graphic**

Giorgia Meloni, leader of the Fratelli d'Italia party, waves to supporters at a rally in Rome in July.

Photo Angelo Carconi / EPA

**Classification**

**Language:** DUTCH; ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Politics (94%); International Relations (92%); COVID-19 Coronavirus (82%); Disaster + Emergency Relief (82%); Epidemics (82%); Infectious Disease (82%); Viruses (82%)

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

**End of Document**

[***Neighbours are also worried about migrant youth; What are Belgians, French and Germans doing about the problem?***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60NG-4991-DY4D-Y4FT-00000-00&context=)

De Telegraaf

24 August 2020 Monday

Netherlands

Copyright 2020 Mediahuis Nederland BV All Rights Reserved



**Section:** INDOOR; Page 11

**Length:** 854 words

**Byline:** Silvan Schoonhoven

**Body**

What do Belgians, French and Germans do about the problem?

by Silvan Schoonhoven

Amsterdam - The Netherlands is not the only country with concerns about young people with a migration background, especially those with Moroccan roots. Neighbouring countries are also struggling with their ethnic minorities. What is the situation like there?

While in the Netherlands all eyes were on the riots in Utrecht and The Hague, Belgium was under the spell of brawls on the beaches of Blankenberge. A TV reporter explained the riots by pointing to the effect of ebb and flow. When the beach became narrower, people gathered closer together and 'tempers flared'. This led to angry reactions: the Belgian media covered up the fact that it was a predominantly African group of perpetrators. Not the happiest formulation", the VRT ombudsman admitted afterwards.

In Belgium and France, there is a tendency to explain problems on the basis of 'bad neighbourhoods' rather than looking at ethnic origin. Germans are also reluctant to mention origin, afraid of creating the appearance of racism. As a result, it is not immediately clear what the situation is like there for the various immigrant groups.

According to emeritus professor of criminology Frank Bovenkerk, Germany is the best country to compare the Netherlands with in this respect.

The economic recession of the early eighties was dealt with differently than in the Netherlands. There, guest workers were told they had better go home. If they stayed, they got a lower benefit. In the course of the eighties the economy picked up and the Moroccans in Germany picked up their jobs again. They had a job again and thus retained control over their sons. In Germany, there are currently no problems with this population group. The Netherlands, however, took a different approach. Workers were dismissed on a large scale and received benefits," says Bovenkerk. As a result, at the time of family reunification, the father had just lost his livelihood and with it his prestige. He could no longer act as an authority.

According to Bovenkerk, Dutch-Moroccan fathers more often sought their social contacts in the mosque. There was less contact with Dutch people. Their sons were given free rein and, because of the home situation, were more likely to end up in petty crime, which meant they did worse at school. I think the effects of that are definitely still being felt."

More recently, researchers from the Integration & Society Knowledge Platform looked at the new generation of Moroccan origin. They analysed surveys of thousands of young people between the ages of 12 and 16 in 2016. It was about their family ties, friends and criminal behaviour. Researchers Majone Steketee, Renske van der Gaag and Annemieke Wolthuis found significant differences, but also similarities: Young people with a Moroccan background in the Netherlands, Belgium and France have a significantly more positive attitude towards violence than non-migrant youngsters. The same goes for the Turkish group in the Netherlands, Belgium, Germany and Austria."

Large Group

Western European countries and Norway and Sweden have the highest percentages of young people with a migrant background, ranging from 32 percent in Belgium to 58 percent in France. Belgium, like the Netherlands, also has a large group of young people with Moroccan or Turkish roots. Germany and Austria have particularly large numbers of Turkish young people. The researchers drew three striking conclusions. Firstly, it appears that young people with a migration background in the Netherlands commit crimes more often than children from native families, but that the differences among 12 to 16 year olds are smaller than in surrounding countries. This is because young Dutch people of that age are apparently more likely to commit crimes. The second striking point is that although young people with Moroccan, Turkish and Antillean roots do badly when it comes to misbehaviour and crime, they are not that different from migrants from Eastern European or Western countries. Crime thus seems to be a general problem of migrants and their descendants, regardless of where the newcomers come from. It is striking that there is one migrant group that behaves better: Asians. They commit as many or few crimes in ***European countries*** as the 'own' youngsters. Why this is the case is an unanswered question.

Taboo

In France, there is a great taboo on classifying people into groups," says Bovenkerk. Officials can even be condemned if they make statistics, for example about unemployment, on the basis of ethnicity. So a specific approach is not possible at all. Belgium is more like us in terms of approach. Belgian-Moroccan immigrant youths are more likely to commit serious violent crimes and serious crimes against property, such as burglaries and robberies, according to the surveys. The group with a Turkish background in Belgium is also significantly more often guilty of serious violent behaviour. Crime figures in the Netherlands have been falling for years. This effect is also clearly visible among migrants.

Afraid of giving the appearance of racism

**Classification**

**Language:** DUTCH; ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** Tlg-NL

**Subject:** Ethnic Groups (94%); Children (82%); Communities + Neighborhoods (67%); Criminal Offenses (63%); Behavior + Cognition (62%)

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

**End of Document**

[***Protest in Saxony: 'We want the Emperor back!'; Hundreds of Germans demonstrate along the B96 every Sunday***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60NG-4991-DY4D-Y4G0-00000-00&context=)

De Telegraaf

24 August 2020 Monday

Netherlands

Copyright 2020 Mediahuis Nederland BV All Rights Reserved



**Section:** OUTSIDE; Page 13

**Length:** 382 words

**Byline:** Rob Savelberg

**Body**

Hundreds of Germans demonstrate along the B96 every Sunday

by Rob Savelberg

EBERSBACH - Every Sunday morning, punctually at ten o'clock, hundreds of East Germans stand along the public road B96 with wartime flags flying. The Saxons are protesting not only against Chancellor Merkel, who they hate, and against far-reaching measures in the coronapandemic: "But we also want our Emperor back!"

I stood here with my parents during the revolution in the communist GDR, when the road was still called F96", says Bernadette, a sun-tanned brunette. Then we demonstrated for freedom of travel, and this late summer they are taking it away again", says the mother of two.

Together with her friend, she stands in leafy Ebersbach, between pine forests, fields of grain and sunflowers. Around the end of the Second World War, millions of Sudeten Germans fled in this region from the approaching Russian Red Army, 'heim ins Reich', back into Hitler's Third Reich. The Czech border is only a few kilometres away. Here, between the provincial towns of Zittau and Bautzen, is the source of the Spree, which has become a wider river in the capital, Berlin.

But the Saxons are also resisting Berlin, where Angela Merkel has ruled for 15 years. A sixty-year-old man carries a white-and-green flag with the king's emblem: "We want the Saxon king back here!" Others go a step further: "Since Kaiser Wilhelm II fled to the Netherlands in 1918, we have not had a monarch again. Let's make the Prince of Prussia, who lives in Potsdam, Emperor again!"

Many of these 'Reich citizens' believe in conspiracies, say that Germany is an occupied and non-sovereign country, swear by presidents Trump and Putin. Some wear T-shirts of the international conspiracy-thinker movement QAnon. All hate the ***EU***.

The only party visible at the B96 protest is the radical right-wing opposition party AfD. A member of the Landdag comes by, shakes hands. Because of banned flags, the police are also on the spot, and because journalists were beaten up, the secret service and the Staatsschutz are keeping an eye on things. But on this summer morning everything remains quiet, until old Trabantjes with Volkspolizei-logos roar past honking.

**Classification**

**Language:** DUTCH; ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** Tlg-NL

**Subject:** International Relations (94%); Embargoes + Sanctions (64%); Epidemics (61%); Infectious Disease (61%); Viruses (61%)

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

**End of Document**

[***Belarus mass demonstration again - no violence***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60NM-3D61-DYMH-R1WT-00000-00&context=)

NRC Handelsblad

24 August 2020 Monday

1st Edition

Copyright 2020 NRC Media B.V. All Rights Reserved



**Section:** IN THE NEWS; Page 2

**Length:** 422 words

**Dateline:** Amsterdam

**Body**

**ABSTRACT**

Against Lukashenko

The demonstrations against the re-election of President Lukashenko continue. The Belarusian army is not intervening as yet.

**FULL TEXT:**

More than a hundred thousand Belarusians took to the streets in the capital Minsk on Sunday to demonstrate against the re-election of President Aleksandr Lukashenko a fortnight ago. This was reported by AP. It is the third week of demonstrations. People also took to the streets in other cities on Sunday.

Demonstrators gathered on Independence Square and in the surrounding streets of Minsk with white-red-white flags, the symbol of resistance in the country. They shouted for freedom and marched towards Lukashenko's presidential palace in the north of the city.

There are no official figures for the number of demonstrators, but according to news agencies at least 150,000 were present. Videos show Lukashenko arriving at the palace by helicopter. He stepped out with a gun in his hand and wearing a bulletproof vest.

**22 demonstrators arrested**

The Minister of the Interior warned on Sunday that the demonstrators did not have permission to protest. In a statement, he said that 22 demonstrators had already been arrested on Saturday at smaller demonstrations around the country. The Defence Minister stated that the army was ready to act. In the case of protests near national monuments or statues, the army will intervene instead of the police.

Lukashenko claims to have won the elections with more than 80% of the votes. According to opposition leader Svetlana Tichanovskaya, now in exile in Lithuania, the results were falsified. The ***EU*** does not recognise the results either. In a video message last week Tichanovskaya said: "Lukashenko has lost all legitimacy in the eyes of our country and the world."

President Lukashenko declared this weekend that 'a serious movement of NATO troops' can be seen near the Belarusian border in Poland and Lithuania. He called on his Defence Minister to take the 'most punitive measures' to defend the territorial unity of Belarus.

NATO denied this vehemently. All allegations about NATO reinforcements on the Belarus border are unfounded. NATO poses no threat to Belarus or any other country and no military buildup is taking place in the area', was the response at NATO headquarters in Brussels.

Lukashenko stepped out with a gun in his hand and wearing a bulletproof vest

**Classification**

**Language:** DUTCH; ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Protests + Demonstrations (94%); International Relations (90%); Armed Forces (78%); Heads Of State + Government (76%); ***European*** Union (71%); Police Forces (64%); State Owned Businesses (63%); State Departments + Foreign Services (62%)

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

**End of Document**

[***The Canary route is fraught with danger***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60NM-3D61-DYMH-R1WW-00000-00&context=)

NRC Handelsblad

24 August 2020 Monday

1st Edition

Copyright 2020 NRC Media B.V. All Rights Reserved



**Section:** IN THE NEWS; Page 2

**Length:** 847 words

**Byline:** Koen Greven

**Dateline:** Madrid

**Body**

**ABSTRACT**

Refugees

In search of a better life, Africans have rediscovered an ancient route. They take the hardships and risks for granted.

**FULL TEXT:**

Twelve years ago, 29-year-old Malian Amadou Doumbia made the sea crossing from Mauritania to Tenerife. He has been working and living for years as a truck driver in the Spanish town of Lepe and cares about the fate of other migrants.

Doumbia has seen a sudden increase in the flow of migrants who end up picking fruit in Spain via the Canary Islands over the past year. The time-honoured, risky 'route of the kayaks' has been reopened. Migrants from Africa come to ***Europe*** for a better life," explains Doumbia. "They are willing to take great risks and take hardship for granted."

According to figures from the Spanish Commission for Refugee Aid (CEAR), around 3,700 migrants managed to reach the islands off Morocco in 2020. Six times as many as last year. But it does not always go well. Last week, the Spanish rescue service Salvamento Marítimo pulled nineteen bodies from the water within 48 hours. A twentieth victim died on the way to hospital. Such tragedies can hardly be called incidents any more. In August alone, on the route from Africa to the Canary Islands, CEAR counted 60 dead and 63 missing. We cannot leave this to a few islands", says Txema Santana, from CEAR. This should concern the whole of ***Europe***.

**Chased by Morocco**

There are two main reasons why 'the Canary route' was reopened last year, says Santana. Firstly, the route from the north of Morocco via the Strait of Gibraltar to the south of Spain is as good as closed off due to strict controls. Migrants are chased back by the Moroccan police, forcing them to take another route. And secondly, political unrest in Mali and the Sahel has created a new flow of migrants."

According to Santana, new and much longer routes have been added from countries such as Senegal and The Gambia. Routes that are fraught with danger because of the great distance and the currents in the Atlantic Ocean. We are talking about hundreds and sometimes even more than a thousand kilometres by sea in rickety boats", explains CEAR's 'Canary Islands specialist'. It is also new that many women and children flee without their parents. The number of fatalities is enormous. Exact numbers are not available because many people go missing, but last year an estimated 350 migrants died. And that will be many more in 2020.

The constant flow of migrants from countries such as Mali, Burkina Faso, Senegal, Guinea-Bissau and the Democratic Republic of Congo to Morocco continues to increase. The North African country is only a stopover on the way to the North. According to estimates by the non-governmental organisation Jiber, there are around 100,000 migrants living in Morocco, of whom just under half are legal. They all have just one goal: ***Europe***," says Donat Bukasa Kanda, who as the Congolese president of Jiber defends the interests of sub-Saharans in North Africa. The corona crisis has only increased that desire. Because of all the strict measures, their freedom of movement is very limited. They feel completely ignored and neglected and are increasingly willing to take great risks."

History repeats itself. Fourteen years ago, a 'migration crisis' arose when 32,000 migrants chose to reach Spain via the Canary Islands after the closure of the Spanish exclaves Ceuta and Melilla. To do so, they had to cross from Morocco, Western Sahara or Mauritania to Gran Canaria, Tenerife, Fuerteventura or Lanzarote. At the time, Spain managed to stem the flow through close cooperation with Mauritania, Senegal and Morocco. The Southern Europeans provided the African coastguards with equipment and training. This tactic worked. The number of migrants taking 'the Canary route' fell to a few hundred a year.

That changed when Spain and Morocco joined forces in 2018 to hermetically seal off Ceuta and Melilla and make the Strait of Gibraltar virtually unnavigable for migrants after a record number of around 60,000 migrants entered the country via the costas. The Social Democratic Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez, who had previously profiled himself as a compassionate politician, drastically changed his policy under pressure from the right-wing opposition.

Testing for corona

In 2019, less than 30 000 Africans managed to reach Spain by sea. The number of migrants succeeding this year will be much lower.

When migrants arrive in Gran Canaria, they are usually taken to the port of Arguineguín. There they are isolated from others for 72 hours and tested for corona. If they apply for asylum, a long journey towards a new life in ***Europe*** then begins. Santana: "The Canary Islands are the final destination for almost no one."

**Graphic**

Twelve live and five dead migrants were found on this boat off the coast of Gran Canaria last week. The photo was taken by the Spanish air force.

Photo EPA/Ejército del Aire

**Classification**

**Language:** DUTCH; ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** Immigration (94%); Illegal Immigrants (87%); Refugees (84%)

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

**End of Document**

[***Hundreds of thousands take to the streets in Minsk***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:60NG-4991-DY4D-Y4G1-00000-00&context=)

De Telegraaf

24 August 2020 Monday

Netherlands

Copyright 2020 Mediahuis Nederland BV All Rights Reserved



**Section:** OUTSIDE; Page 13

**Length:** 439 words

**Byline:** Pieter Waterdrinker

**Body**

by Pieter Waterdrinker

AMSTERDAM - While potentate Alexander Lukashenko has threatened to crack down on demonstrations in his country, an estimated 200 thousand people gathered in Independence Square in Minsk alone yesterday to demand his resignation. There were also demonstrations in other towns and villages for what was dubbed the 'March of Freedom'.

With banners bearing slogans such as: Sasha (Aleksandr, ed.) we hate you for free! the centre of the Belarusian capital was filled with demonstrators waving white and red resistance flags. Freedom!" they shouted everywhere. We will not forget and we will not forgive!

The protest came two weeks after Lukashenko allegedly stole the presidential election with 80 per cent of the vote, at the expense of opposition leader Svetlana Tichanovskaya, who is in Lithuanian exile.

Helicopter

As a flood of demonstrators descended on the presidential palace last night, a helicopter took off with the president reportedly on board. But shortly afterwards, state TV showed 65-year-old Lukashenko in bulletproof vest and holding a Kalashnikov, as if he had just landed. Slightly limping, as if on his way to the front, he was escorted by heavily armed soldiers to an emergency meeting.

Lukashenko, who has been called the last dictator of ***Europe***, is trying to regain control of the country after days of massive demonstrations and strikes with sheer intimidation and macho behaviour. On Saturday, he inspected his army on the Lithuanian border because NATO was said to be ready to invade the country. The West, he says, is planning an uprising to depose him, as it did in 2014 with the Maidan revolt in Kiev against then Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovych.

Intervention

Lukashenko is constantly banging this drum of imminent Western interference, assisted by Russian state TV, which has sent a number of staff to Minsk to replace people who have gone on strike there. It seems, however, that the Kremlin does not want to derail the uprising in Minsk, but that it is not convenient for Putin that Lukashenko's domestic position has been seriously weakened.

According to some analysts, Russia may want to get rid of Lukashenko, but not Belarus, which is of great economic and strategic importance to Moscow. More than 6 000 people have been arrested and the fate of hundreds is still unknown, while in the prisons torture is widespread.

March of Freedom

**Classification**

**Language:** DUTCH; ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Journal Code:** Tlg-NL

**Subject:** State Owned Businesses (94%); Protests + Demonstrations (87%); International Relations (84%); Heads Of State + Government (69%); Government Departments + Authorities (68%); Criminal Defenses (67%); ***European*** Union (67%); Executives (67%); State Departments + Foreign Services (64%)

**Industry:** Cosmetics + Toiletries (67%); Inorganic Chemicals (67%)

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

**End of Document**