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# THE HERALD

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Today, starting 8:30 MEPs debate the agreement to return migrants and asylum seekers from Greece to Turkey, which Turkey and EU countries agreed on in March. The debate is to focus on the deal's legal aspects, implementation and democratic control.



## TUSK REJECTS TSIPRAS'S SUMMIT REQUEST

EKATHIMERINI.COM

Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras is due to speak to European Council President Donald Tusk again today after the latter rejected his call on Wednesday for a leaders' summit to discuss Greece's bailout talks and with a potential agreement between Athens and the institutions hanging in the balance.

The negotiations over a mechanism for identifying and implementing an extra 2 percent of gross domestic product in fiscal measures, on top of the 3 percent of GDP already agreed, continued in Athens on Wednesday and European officials insist that hopes of finding a compromise so a meeting of eurozone finance ministers can be held in the coming days should not be ruled out.

Speaking on Wednesday night, Eurogroup President Jeroen Dijsselbloem said that Greece and the institutions are "getting close to a deal" on the contingency measures.

His comment came after Alternate Finance Minister Giorgos Houliarakis held talks with the creditors' representatives in Athens. There was no breakthrough during the meeting, which lasted around an hour and a half.

Dijsselbloem said there may be a meeting of eurozone finance ministers next week or the week after and that he will use the coming days to work on a solution for Greece's debt issue.

After his conversation with Tsipras on Wednesday, Tusk also indicated that the Greek bailout review could be concluded in the days to come.



## CANDIDATES PLAY BLAME GAME AS DEADLINE FOR NEW ELECTION APPROACHES

ELPAIS.COM



After his latest meetings with political leaders, King Felipe VI on Tuesday confirmed that there is no candidate with enough support to become the next prime minister of Spain. Following constitutional law, the monarch will announce the dissolution of parliament next Tuesday, and call new elections for late June.

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## AUSTRIA VOTES TO REJECT MOST MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES

THELOCAL.AT



The Austrian parliament on Wednesday adopted one of Europe's toughest asylum laws, as the country's political leaders struggle to halt the surging far-right which is leading in presidential polls. The hotly-disputed bill, which passed by 98 to 67, allows the government to declare a "state of emergency" if the migrant numbers suddenly rise and reject most asylum-seekers directly at the border, including from war-torn countries like Syria.

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## NIGERIA AND EU TO START MIGRANT RETURN TALKS

FT.COM

The EU and Nigeria will discuss a deal to send economic migrants back to Africa's most populous country as Europe seeks to replicate a recent pact with Turkey that is dramatically curbing migration flows from the Middle East. A "readmission agreement" would probably involve migrants from Nigeria being deported in exchange for EU economic aid for Abuja. It would be the bloc's first major return deal with a sub-Saharan African nation.

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## TURKEY PM PLEDGES SECULARISM IN DRAFT CONSTITUTION

DW.DE

Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu has said Turkey's draft constitution would guarantee secularism. The announcement comes a day after the speaker of parliament called for a religious constitution, prompting public uproar. In a televised speech on Wednesday, Ahmet Davutoglu said that Turkey's secular and democratic character was "not up for debate."

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## GERMANY ANNOUNCES NEW HEAD OF BND FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE SERVICE

DW.DE

The chancellor's office has named Bruno Kahl as the new head of Germany's foreign intelligence service. The current BND president Gerhard Schindler is being unexpectedly sent into early retirement.

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## ADOPTION OF A NEW INTEGRATED EU POLICY FOR THE ARCTIC

EUROPA.EU

The High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and the European Commission adopted a Joint Communication outlining an integrated European Union policy for the Arctic. The Communication outlines proposals for the EU's enhanced action and engagement in three priority areas: climate change and safeguarding the Arctic environment; sustainable development; and international cooperation.

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## COMMISSION PUBLISHES REPORT ON STATE OF PLAY OF TTIP NEGOTIATIONS

EUROPA.EU

The Commission published a report presenting a detailed break-down of progress made in the ongoing negotiation of a trade agreement between the EU and the United States, the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP). The report shows that negotiators are making good progress in many TTIP chapters, while significant strides remain to be made in some areas in order to have the main elements of a deal finished this year.

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28 APRIL, 2016

# THE AGENDA

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## EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

• 8:30 **the plenary session continues in Brussels.** On the agenda: Legal aspects, democratic control and implementation of the EU-Turkey agreement - Council and Commission statements. **Joint debate - Railway Package:** EU Agency for Railways (recommendation by **Roberts Zile**, ECR), Interoperability of the rail system within the European Union (recommendation by **Izaskun Bilbao Barandica**, ALDE), Railway safety (recommendation by **Michael Cramer**, Greens/EFA). 11:30 **VOTES followed by explanations of votes:** EU-Georgia Common Aviation Area Agreement (recommendation by **Francisco Assis**, S&D), EU-Israel Euro-Mediterranean Aviation Agreement (accession of Croatia) (recommendation by **Francisco Assis**, S&D), Convention on mutual assistance and cooperation between customs administrations (accession of Croatia) (report by **Liisa Jaakonsaari**, S&D), Request for the waiver of the immunity of Boleslaw G. Piecha (report by **Gilles Lebreton**, ENF), Motions for resolutions - Safeguarding the best interest of the child across the EU on the basis of petitions addressed to the European Parliament, Request for consultation of the European Economic and Social Committee on the setting up of a European pillar of social rights, EU Agency for Railways (recommendation for second reading by **Roberts Zile**, ECR), Interoperability of the rail system within the European Union (recommendation for second reading by **Izaskun Bilbao Barandica**, ALDE), Railway safety (recommendation for second reading by **Michael Cramer**, Greens/EFA), Indices used as benchmarks in financial instruments and financial contracts (report by **Cora van Nieuwenhuizen**, ALDE), Discharge 2014: EU general budget - European Commission and Executive Agencies (report by **Martina Dlabajová**, ALDE), Discharge 2014: Court of Auditors' special reports in the context of the 2014 Commission discharge (report by **Martina Dlabajová**, ALDE), Discharge 2014: 8th, 9th, 10th and 11th EDFs (report by **Claudia Schmidt**, EPP), Discharge 2014: EU general budget - European Parliament (report by **Markus Pieper**, EPP), Discharge 2014: EU general budget - European Council and Council (report by **Ryszard Czarnecki**, ECR), Discharge 2014: EU general budget - Court of Justice (report by **Anders Primdahl Vistisen**, ECR), Discharge 2014: EU general budget - European Court of Auditors (report by **Ryszard Czarnecki**, ECR), Discharge 2014: EU general budget - European Economic and Social Committee (report by **Anders Primdahl Vistisen**, ECR), Discharge 2014: EU general budget - Committee of the Regions (report by **Monica Macovei**, ECR), Discharge 2014: EU general budget - European External Action Service (report by **Ryszard Czarnecki**, ECR), Discharge 2014: EU general budget - European Ombudsman (report by **Ryszard Czarnecki**, ECR), Discharge 2014: EU general budget - European Data Protection Supervisor (report by **Monica Macovei**, ECR), Discharge 2014: Performance, financial management and control of EU agencies (report by **Derek Vaughan**, S&D), Discharge 2014: Agency for Cooperation of Energy Regulators (ACER) (report by **Derek Vaughan**, S&D), Discharge 2014: Office of the Body of European Regulators for Electronic Communications (BEREC Office) (report by **Derek Vaughan**, S&D), Discharge 2014: Translation Centre for the Bodies of the European Union (CdT) (report by **Derek Vaughan**, S&D), Discharge 2014: European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (Cedefop) (report by **Derek Vaughan**, S&D), Discharge 2014: European Police College (CEPOL) (report by **Derek Vaughan**, S&D), Discharge 2014: European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) (report by **Derek Vaughan**, S&D), Discharge 2014: European Asylum Support Office (EASO) (report by **Derek Vaughan**, S&D), Discharge 2014: European Banking Authority (EBA) (report by **Derek Vaughan**, S&D), Discharge 2014: European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) (report by **Derek Vaughan**, S&D), Discharge 2014: European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) (report by **Derek Vaughan**, S&D), Discharge 2014: European Environment Agency (EEA) (report by **Derek Vaughan**, S&D), Discharge 2014: European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA) (report by **Derek Vaughan**, S&D), Discharge 2014: European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) (report by **Derek Vaughan**, S&D), Discharge 2014: European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) (report by **Derek Vaughan**, S&D), Discharge 2014: European Insurance and Occupational Pensions Authority (EIOPA) (report by **Derek Vaughan**, S&D), Discharge 2014: European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) (report by **Derek Vaughan**, S&D), Discharge 2014: European Medicines Agency (EMA) (report by **Derek Vaughan**, S&D), Discharge 2014: European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) (report by **Derek Vaughan**, S&D), Discharge 2014: European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) (report by **Derek Vaughan**, S&D), Discharge 2014: European Union Agency for Network and Information Security (ENISA) (report by **Derek Vaughan**, S&D), Discharge 2014: European Railway Agency (ERA) (report by **Derek Vaughan**, S&D), Discharge 2014: European Securities and Markets Authority (ESMA) (report by **Derek Vaughan**, S&D), Discharge 2014: European Training Foundation (ETF) (report by **Derek Vaughan**, S&D), Discharge 2014: European Agency for the operational management of large-scale IT systems in the area of freedom, security and justice (EU-LISA) (report by **Derek Vaughan**, S&D), Discharge 2014: European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (EU-OSHA) (report by **Derek Vaughan**, S&D), Discharge 2014: Euratom Supply Agency (ESA) (report by **Derek Vaughan**, S&D), Discharge 2014: European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions (Eurofound) (report by **Derek Vaughan**, S&D), Discharge 2014: The European Union's Judicial Cooperation

Unit (Eurojust) (report by **Derek Vaughan**, S&D), Discharge 2014: European Police Office (Europol) (report by **Derek Vaughan**, S&D), Discharge 2014: European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) (report by **Derek Vaughan**, S&D), Discharge 2014: European Agency for the Management of Operational Cooperation at the External Borders of the Member States of the European Union (Frontex) (report by **Derek Vaughan**, S&D), Discharge 2014: European GNSS Agency (GSA) (report by **Derek Vaughan**, S&D), Discharge 2014: ARTEMIS Joint Undertaking (report by **Marian-Jean Marinescu**, EPP), Discharge 2014: Clean Sky Joint Undertaking (report by **Marian-Jean Marinescu**, EPP), Discharge 2014: ECSEL Joint Undertaking (report by **Marian-Jean Marinescu**, EPP), Discharge 2014: ENIAC Joint Undertaking (report by **Marian-Jean Marinescu**, EPP), Discharge 2014: Fuel Cells and Hydrogen Joint Undertaking (report by **Marian-Jean Marinescu**, EPP), Discharge 2014: Innovative Medicines Initiative 2 Joint Undertaking (IMI) (report by **Marian-Jean Marinescu**, EPP), Discharge 2014: Joint Undertaking for ITER and the Development of Fusion Energy (report by **Marian-Jean Marinescu**, EPP), Attacks on hospitals and schools as violations of international humanitarian law - oral question, European Investment Bank annual report 2014 (report by **Georgi Pirinski**, S&D), Attacks on hospitals and schools as violations of international humanitarian law, Public access to documents for the years 2014-2015 (report by **Laura Ferrara**, EFDD), Protecting the best interest of the child (across borders) in Europe - oral questions. Short presentations of the following reports: Women domestic workers and carers in the EU (report by **Kostadinka Kuneva**, GUE/NGL), Gender equality and empowering women in the digital age (report **Terry Reintke**, Greens/EFA).

• 14:00 Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (JAN - 4Q1).

• 15:00 Committee of Inquiry into Emission Measurements in the Automotive Sector (PHS - 3C050).

## 29. 4. CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS



**Timothy KIRKHOPE**  
ECR  
(71)



**Rikke KARLSSON**  
ECR  
(51)