Beyond the Headlines: What You Might Have Missed...

Donald Tusk takes up office as President of the European Council

Donald Tusk assumed his duties as President of the European Council at a handover ceremony on 1 December 2014, after he was unanimously elected by the EU heads of State and Governments on 30 August 2014. President Tusk will serve a term of 2,5 years. The new President recognised the outstanding contribution of outgoing President Herman Van Rompuy in steering Europe out of the economic crisis and indicated that he will keep working with the same important principles that guided the action of his predecessor: trust, common sense, moderation, and decency. Prior to taking up his duties, President Tusk was Prime Minister of Poland.

- Press release
- Remarks by President Tusk
- Remarks by outgoing President Van Rompuy
- The role of the President of the European Council
- Biography of Donald Tusk

President Donald Tusk and President Xi discuss EU-China relations

President of the European Council Donald Tusk spoke with President Xi Jinping of
the People’s Republic of China over the phone on 3 December. President Tusk said: “I was pleased to speak to President Xi Jinping of China today. It was a first opportunity to emphasize the importance I attach to developing a strong strategic relationship with China to the benefit of the European Union, China and the world. Next year’s 40th anniversary of EU-China relations will be a good moment for the next EU-China Summit to develop further our trade, economic, investment and political relations. I was pleased to accept President Xi’s invitation to visit China. We also discussed the importance of territorial integrity, which is particularly important in the context of Ukraine.”

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**Mogherini and Kerry discuss foreign policy priorities**

EU High Representative Federica Mogherini and US Secretary of State John Kerry met in Brussels on 3 December to discuss their foreign policy priorities. They also chaired the EU-US Energy Council, a key forum for boosting EU-US cooperation on energy, together with Vice President for the EU Energy Union, Maroš Šefčovič, and EU Energy Commissioner Miguel Arias Cañete. Mogherini and Kerry discussed the situation in Syria and Iraq, the fight against Daesh as well as efforts to stabilise the region. The situations in Libya and Ukraine and the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) also featured prominently in the talks.

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**Mogherini meets with Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov**

EU High Representative Federica Mogherini met with Russian Minister for Foreign Affairs, Sergei Lavrov, in the margins of the OSCE Ministerial Council in Basel on 4 December. HRVP Mogherini and Minister Lavrov discussed crises in the joint neighbourhood, beginning with Ukraine. Mogherini and Lavrov agreed that the crisis in Ukraine had seriously affected and continues to affect relations between EU and Russia. Mogherini underlined the necessity for all parties to implement the Minsk agreements in full and to take concrete steps to reduce tensions on the ground, in order to move towards a lasting ceasefire and to find a political solution to the crisis.
EURASIACAT now for applications

Funding for project EURASIACAT is now open for applications. EURASIACAT is a project that offers financing at postgraduate level and for Staff (Academic/Administrative) to pursue research and studies in the fields of Materials Science and Chemical Engineering. The aim of EURASIACAT is to offer multidisciplinary training in designing advanced functional materials and catalytic processes with a consortium of 11 partner universities (5 from Europe + 6 from Hong Kong / Taiwan / Singapore / Macau). Deadline for applications is 15 February 2015.

More information
Erasmus Mundus

Winners of EU Calendar Competition receive prizes at ceremony

Winners were revealed and prizes were presented to all the talented winners of the EU Calendar Drawing Competition at a reception on Maryknoll Convent School (Primary Section) on Wednesday 3 December. Deputy Secretary for Education, Dr. Catherine KK Chan, Head of the EU Office to Hong Kong and Macao, Vincent Piket, and Principal of Maryknoll Convent School (Primary Section), Mrs. Josephine Lo all spoke at the ceremony. Congratulations and thank you to all the participating students for their wonderful drawings!

See all the drawings on the EU Office’s Facebook page.

"Star of the West" wins the EU Short-Film Challenge 2014

Nine short-films produced by University of Macao students were screened at the first EU Short-Film Challenge on 3 December 2014. The winner of the competition was the movie "Star of the West", which tells the story of a woman, who originally comes from Macau but has been living abroad, and her meeting with a local man when she visits Macau as a tourist. One of the students of the winning team will go on a free study tour to Europe, to be funded by the European Union Academic Programme in Macao.

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