



## News

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## ANALYSES

1. Statewatch Viewpoint: [The law in times of exception](#) (pdf) by Jaume Asens and Bernat Salellas (Originally published in El Diario):

*"The rule of law means putting limits 'from below' and from outside upon the power of the state. In a strict conception of the democratic principle, the law cannot be a mechanism for covering up abuses of power, but a brake upon them or their primary antidote."*

2. Press release: [EU plans to include fingerprints in identity cards are unjustified and unnecessary](#)

**Proposals for mandatory fingerprints in national ID cards to "facilitate free movement" will affect 370 million people**

London, UK, 11 June 2018 - The European Commission has published a proposal calling for the mandatory inclusion of biometrics (two fingerprints and a facial image) in all EU Member States'

identity cards. The demands to include fingerprints are an unnecessary and unjustified infringement on the right to privacy of almost 85% of EU citizens, as explained in a new analysis published today by civil liberties organisation *Statewatch*.

## NEWS

### 1. EU: [Massive funding increases proposed for internal security, border security and migration: full documentation](#)

The European Commission has published its proposals for the EU home affairs budgets for the period 2021-2027, with the aim of increasing the internal security budget by €1.3 billion to €4.8 billion, and tripling the funding for border security and migration to €34.9 billion.

### 2. EU: [Travel surveillance: 13 Member States have implemented the PNR Directive and 10 will apply it to intra-EU flights](#)

The deadline for Member States to implement the EU Passenger Name Record (PNR) Directive, which mandates the surveillance and profiling of air passengers, was 25 May. So far 13 Member States have notified their implementing measures to the European Commission, and 10 of them will be making use of the option to monitor internal EU flights.

### 3. USA: [The Next Frontier of Police Surveillance Is Drones](#) (Slate, link):

*"A company that makes stun guns and body cameras is teaming up with a company that makes drones to sell drones to police departments, and that might not even be the most worrisome part. The line of drones from Axon and DJI is called the Axon Air, and the devices will be linked to Axon's cloud-based database for law enforcement, Evidence.com, which is used to process body-camera data too. And it could open a vast new frontier for police surveillance."*

*By working with a company that is already familiar with contracting with police departments, the Chinese-owned DJI—the world's biggest consumer drone manufacturer—could widen up a new, growing customer base: cops. Axon Air, which was announced Tuesday by Axon, is marketed as a way to help law enforcement with search-and-rescue operations, crowd monitoring, traffic-accident reconstruction, and evidence collection. It will make drone data the latest addition to Axon's suite of tools for police, which include tasers, body cameras (of which Axon is the country's biggest seller), and car cameras. Axon CEO Rick Smith recently said that his company is actively considering using facial recognition with its camera technology."*

See also: [Statewatch publications](#) *Back from the battlefield: domestic drones in the UK and Eurodrones, Inc.*

### 4. EU: European Court of Auditors: [Special report n°13/2018: Tackling radicalisation that leads to terrorism: the Commission addressed the needs of Member States, but with some shortfalls in coordination and evaluation](#) (pdf):

*"I. European Union (EU) Member States are responsible for national security, including the fight against terrorism. They are in charge of designing and implementing measures at national level that aim to tackle radicalisation, i.e. the phenomenon of people embracing extremist ideologies and behaviours which could lead them to commit acts of terrorism. As radicalisation is caused by several factors, a wide range of preventive actions are generally deployed to address the problem. The Commission's role is to support Member States in their efforts and help to ensure that good practices are exchanged. To do so, the Commission draws on an increasingly wide range of EU funds.*

*II. Our audit examined whether the Commission manages this cross-cutting support well. In particular, we assessed whether:*

- (a) the Commission provides Member States with relevant support;
- (b) the actions financed by the different EU funds are coordinated to make the most of any synergies;
- (c) the Commission has put in place a framework to assess the effectiveness and value for money of its support.

III. Overall, we found that the Commission addressed the needs of Member States, but there were some shortfalls in coordination and evaluation."

News on a study undertaken in the UK: [Vast majority of deradicalisation programmes 'ineffective'](#) (The Week, link). For more on the EU's role in counter-radicalisation, see: [New report: The Globalisation of Countering Violent Extremism Policies: Undermining human rights, instrumentalising civil society](#) (Statewatch News Online, 8 March 2018)

5. Council of Europe: [Algorithms and human rights: Study on the human rights dimensions of automated data processing techniques and possible regulatory implications](#) (pdf):

*"What information is made available to users on their Facebook newsfeeds? On what basis is a person's risk profile determined and what profiles provide best chances for obtaining health insurance, or employment, or for being regarded a potential criminal or terrorist? Automated data processing techniques, such as algorithms, do not only enable internet users to seek and access information, they are also increasingly used in decision-making processes, that were previously entirely in the remit of human beings. Algorithms may be used to prepare human decisions or to take them immediately through automated means. In fact, boundaries between human and automated decision-making are often blurred, resulting in the notion of 'quasi- or semi-automated decision-making'.*

*The use of algorithms raises considerable challenges not only for the specific policy area in which they are operated, but also for society as a whole. How to safeguard human rights and human dignity in the face of rapidly changing technologies? The right to life, the right to fair trial and the presumption of innocence, the right to privacy and freedom of expression, workers' rights, the right to free elections, even the rule of law itself are all impacted. Responding to challenges associated with 'algorithms' used by the public and private sector, in particular by internet platforms is currently one of the most hotly debated questions."*

6. UK: [Restraint and race: it's time we listened to the evidence](#) (Progress, link):

**"We are suffering from decades-old problems when it comes to the use of excessive restraint in mental health services and police custody**

*This year marks 20 years since the death of David 'Rocky' Bennett, who died following prolonged face down restraint whilst a patient in a mental health unit. His death sparked an independent inquiry, which was hailed by many as the Macpherson report of the mental health services. Concluding in 2004, the inquiry highlighted the institutional racism that had been present in mental health services, both NHS and private, for many years.*

*It was hoped that the inquiry would mark a turning point for mental health services, and go some way to addressing a pervasive view amongst many health professionals that black men with mental ill health were 'big, black and dangerous'. However, numerous deaths since Rocky's have confirmed that there is still a very long way to go."*

7. European Parliament: [EU-US Privacy Shield data exchange deal: US must comply by 1 September, say MEPs](#) (link):

- " EU-US deal on transfer of personal data does not provide enough protection
- MEPs say deal must be suspended if US fails to comply in full by 1 September 2018
- The Facebook-Cambridge Analytica data breach showed limits in the protection

*The Civil Liberties Committee calls on the Commission to suspend the EU-US Privacy Shield since it fails to provide enough data protection for EU citizens."*

See: [Draft EP report](#) (link)

8. [Spain 'will accept' disputed Aquarius migrant ship](#) (BBC News, link):

*"Spain's prime minister has said the country will take in a rescue ship stranded in the Mediterranean, to help avoid a humanitarian catastrophe.*

*Pedro Sánchez said he would give "safe harbour" to the Aquarius and the 629 people on board, after Italy and Malta both refused to let the ship dock.*

*The UN refugee agency and the EU had both called for a swift end to the stand-off between the two countries.*

*Mr Sánchez has said the ship will dock in Valencia.*

*The migrants aboard the Aquarius were picked up in six different rescue operations off Libya's coast, according to the German charity SOS Méditerranée."*

See: [Migrant rescue boat waits to dock as Italy and Malta refuse to grant entry](#) (Deutsche Welle, link)

9. EU-AFRICA: [Post-Cotonou agreement: Declaration by the Togolese civil society](#)

**Message to the Togolese Presidency of the Central Group for the Negotiations of ACP countries**

*"The lack of coherence between the policies deployed by European Union countries and their commitments in relation to development aid within the framework of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) have led to an exacerbation of inequalities within and between ACP countries. Inclusive political dialogue, egalitarian partnership, respect for human rights, for the rule of law and for democracy, presented as the fundamental values of the Cotonou Agreements, have hardly enabled a change in the relations of dependence between ACP countries and their former colonising powers."*

10. [Denmark swings right on immigration – and Muslims feel besieged](#) (The Guardian, link):

*"It's a lovely place," says Jens Kramer, as he gazes across the harbour from his seat outside the wooden shed that serves as Holbæk's boat club. "But I think people here are becoming more and more hostile to foreigners and I'm not proud of it. It's not the Holbæk I love."*

*Kramer is not alone in thinking that the tone of Denmark's immigration debate has changed. In recent years, the rise of the rightwing anti-migrant Danish People's party has led to previously radical positions becoming mainstream. And the country's Muslim population in particular feels under siege. Earlier this month Danish MPs passed a law that, in effect, bans the burqa. It imposes a penalty of 10,000 kroner (£1,200) for repeat offenders.*

*In another move greeted with dismay by Denmark's Muslims, a citizen's proposal to ban the circumcision of children got the 50,000 signatures it needed to go to a parliamentary vote.*

*In Holbæk, an attractive small town in Zealand, the latest legislation has had a mixed reception."*

11. HUNGARY: [Victory for freedom of information: police must release data on police-appointed lawyers](#) (Atlatzso, link):

"Freedom of information won in an important case in Hungary at the end of May. A private citizen, József Dankó, wanted to know details about the court-appointed lawyers working in Budapest's 19th district, but the local police said that compiling the data is a lot of work and wanted to charge 38,000 euros for the service. A Budapest court ruled that the 19th district police are obliged to give the data to the citizen for free."

12. BREXIT: [UK seeking to join interoperable "Big Brother" database](#)

Sir Tim Barrow, Head of UK Representation to the EU in Brussels has sent a letter to the Council Presidency saying that the UK wants to opt into the proposed Regulation establishing a framework for interoperability between EU information systems (police and judicial cooperation, asylum and migration): [Letter to the Council](#) (LIMITE doc no: 9238-18, pdf).

13. Lesvos, Greece: [Persecuted Kurdish People in Lesvos Release Statement to Authorities](#) (link);

*"The Kurdish individuals who are temporarily living in Pikpa Camp in Lesvos have released a statement demanding that Greek and European authorities protect their rights. These individuals fled war and persecution in Syria and Turkey and on 25 May 2018 they faced further violence in Moria Camp. The extreme violence they have fled and that they continue to face in Lesvos, Greece has left several injured and traumatized. Their trauma has not ended however, as Moria camp administration have this week threatened them with deportation to Turkey if they do not return to Moria Camp, which would subject them to collective expulsion and persecution in Turkey, in violation of human rights and refugee law.*

*Their statement and demands are here in Greek and English."*

14. [Police officer who infiltrated republican group had 'intimate relationship' with woman](#) (Irish News, link):

*"A major inquiry investigating the activities of a controversial covert British police unit that infiltrated republican groups heard one member had an "intimate relationship" with a woman while working under cover.*

*The officer, who used the cover name 'Rick Gibson' and is now dead, operated inside the Troop's Out Movement and a socialist feminist organisation known as Big Flame between 1974 and 1976."*

See also: [#spycops info](#) (Facebook, link)

15. [Danish PM proposes asylum camps outside the EU](#) (infomigrants.net, link):

*"The Danish Prime Minister has proposed camps for processing asylum seekers to be set up outside EU borders. The idea reportedly has support from several European countries - including Austria.*

*The Danish government's latest policy move to tighten immigration came during a speech this week marking Denmark's Constitution Day: **Prime Minister Rasmussen said he wanted to set up centers for the reception of migrants and camps for rejected asylum seekers in a European country outside the EU.** He said that Germany, the Netherlands and Austria had been included in discussions about the project, which could get underway within months." [emphasis added]*

16. UK: [New counter-terrorism bill makes "thoughtcrime a reality" and extends sentences, offences and powers](#)

The government has published a new Counter-Terrorism and Border Security Bill that would criminalise a number of acts concerning expressions of support for banned organisations; extend the maximum sentences for a number of existing terrorist offences to 15 years; extending "notification requirements" so that individuals convicted of terrorist offences are subject to a regime similar to

convicted sex offenders; and give local authorities - not just the police - the power to refer individuals to the counter-radicalisation Channel programme, amongst other proposals.

17. [Libya: Understanding the impact of EU migration measures on refugees and migrants](#) (REACH, link):

*"Despite the political instability which ensued the two civil wars in Libya in 2011 and 2014 persists, more than 700,000 refugees and migrants are in Libya today. **They are among the most vulnerable population groups in the country with grave protection concerns reported both in detention and in urban areas.** Some of these include arbitrary detention, systematic exploitation and kidnapping by militia groups. In this context, and in the backdrop of a rise in arrivals from Libya through the Central Mediterranean Sea route to Italy since 2016, **the European Union and its member states have put in place a number of measures** with the United Nations backed Government of National Accord in Libya in order **to stem the flow of refugees and migrants towards Italy.**"*

*As a result of these measures, the number of refugees and migrants reaching Italy from Libya has drastically decreased. Yet, it is not clear how these measures impacted refugees' and migrants' lives in Libya. REACH conducted this study, in partnership with UNHCR, **to provide an understanding of the impact of migration measures implemented in Libya since early 2017 on mixed migration routes, smuggling hubs, and the lives of refugees and migrants in the country.** It is based on 75 in-depth semi structured individual interviews with refugees and migrants in urban areas across the country and 32 key informant interviews with smugglers, law enforcement officials and civil society activists, conducted from 21st March to 2nd of April 2018.*

*The assessment finds that **migration routes to and within Libya have diversified** since early 2017. It finds an increase in arrivals from Algeria and Chad and a multiplication of smuggling hubs along the eastern coast of the country. In the face of increased coastguard controls along the Libyan coast, **the numbers of refugees and migrants held for long periods of time with limited freedom of movement in warehouses and unsafe accommodations along the coast have increased.**"*

18. UK: [Ex-wives of undercover police defend Lush 'spycops' campaign](#) (The Guardian, link):

*"Two former wives of undercover police officers who deceived other women into intimate relationships have defended the campaign by cosmetics retailer Lush to highlight the misconduct of the police spies.*

*While married with children, their husbands had sexual relationships with campaigners when they infiltrated political groups. The husbands kept these relationships secret from their wives, who say they now feel betrayed.*

*It is the first time the two wives have spoken out. Also coming to the defence of Lush is the son of an undercover police officer who abandoned him as a child. The officer kept his true identity secret from him and his mother for years."*

See: [Outrage over Lush ad campaign as cosmetics firm claims police are 'paid to lie'](#) (Sky News, link) and: [New campaign goes live at Lush](#) (Police Spies Out of Lives, link)

19. EU: [In battle for ePrivacy, Council of EU set to side with advertisers, telecoms and Big Data](#) (Corporate Europe Observatory, link):

*"Since the EU's new General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) has come into force, ePrivacy is now the new online data security frontier in the European Union. Corporate Europe Observatory's new research shows how proposed rules are being watered down by EU member state governments in the Council of the European Union, following a deluge of industry lobbying.*

*On the one side of the privacy rift there are citizens, the European Commission and Parliament, all in favour of tougher rules to protect people's online privacy by default, rather than on request. On the*

other side are the telecoms industry, advertisers, publishers, Big Data companies and many others in the digital economy - as well as EU governments who appear to be caving in to coordinated industry lobbying efforts in Brussels and national capitals."

See: [Shutting down ePrivacy: lobby bandwagon targets Council](#) (link)

20. [Libya signs borders control agreement with southern neighboring countries](#) (The Libya Observer, link):

"Libya's Foreign Ministry announced that Libya had signed an agreement with its southern neighboring countries Niger, Chad and Sudan to secure the joint borders against human trafficking and weapons smuggling.

The Foreign Minister Mohammed Sayala signed on Thursday in the capital of Chad N'Djamena the agreement which will help jointly secure the borders, according to the ministry's statement.

"Libya is working on supporting joint relations between the four countries and is keen to support all efforts to combat terrorism, transnational organized crime, smuggling of all kinds, illegal migration, mercenaries, arms smuggling, and smuggling of all kinds of subsidized commodities and petroleum derivatives." Sayala said, according to the statement."

21. [US companies also affected: EU to discuss direct access to all telecommunications](#) (Matthias Monroy, link):

"A planned EU regulation on police investigations into cloud data should now include direct access and real-time interception. This would include user, traffic and content data. All companies offering "interpersonal communication services" in the European Union would be concerned. The Austrian Presidency wants an agreement by the end of the year.

The European Union is planning to extend a planned legislation to allow direct access to data held by Internet service providers. This is stated in a [document](#) distributed by the Bulgarian Presidency to the representations of the Member States. The regulation is aimed in particular at US companies. EU Justice Ministers should give the green light as soon as possible to start negotiations with the US administration. They will also discuss whether the act could also apply to intercepted calls."

22. EU: [Love wins in the CJEU: Same Sex Marriages and EU free movement law](#) (EU Law Analysis, link):

"Today's CJEU judgment in Coman was the Court's first ruling on same-sex marriages for the purposes of EU free movement law. (For a discussion of the background, see the earlier blog post by Alina Tryfonidou). Mr Coman, a Romanian citizen, had married his husband, a US citizen, in Belgium while residing there. He tried to return to Romania with his husband, but Romania refused residence to the latter, as (like about half of the EU Member States) it does not recognise same-sex marriage. But did EU free movement law give Mr Coman the right to family reunion with his spouse nonetheless?

In the Court's view, which took a subtly different approach than the Advocate-General's opinion, the answer was yes."

See: [Judgment](#) (Case C-673/16, pdf)

23. UK: [Police use of biometric technologies 'running ahead of the law'](#) (Sky News, link):

"The police use of biometric technologies is "running ahead of the law", according to an independent commissioner.



*Biometrics are any measurable biological feature which can be used to identify individuals, including the shape of people's fingerprints and the code of their DNA.*

*Scientific advancements mean that computers can now also differentiate the unique qualities in people's voices, their irises, their faces and even their gait.*

*There is a "worrying vacuum" of regulation covering how police are using new technologies to identify members of the public, biometrics commissioner Professor Paul Wiles has warned."*

See: Commissioner for the Retention and Use of Biometric Material: [Annual Report 2017](#) (pdf) and: [Government response](#) (pdf)

24. HUNGARY: [Stand Against the Destruction of the Georg Lukács Archives](#) (Verso, link):

*"On 24 May 2018 the last research associate of the Georg Lukács Archives of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences was banned from the Archives after twenty-eight years of employment. Despite local and international protest, the Academy, with the assistance of its own library, closed the archives of the only world-renowned Hungarian philosopher, which has existed since 1972. The Archives ceased to exist as a resource for international researchers, by replacing the locks on its doors.*

*The Lukács Archives International Foundation (LANA) is working to preserve the philosopher's legacy. We who have had the opportunity to work at the Archive, and/or who have enjoyed the support and help of the Archive in our research, and for whom access to the Archive's holdings is essential to our future work, stand with them.*

*We therefore call on the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, and its library to reverse this decision, which will have a destructive impact on our work, and on the work of countless other researchers in many academic disciplines."*

25. [New report by ECRE and AIDA: Access to asylum and detention at France's borders](#) (link to pdf):

*"The confinement of asylum seekers arriving at the borders in France in order to decide on their right to enter the territory for the purpose of examining their asylum application has been an integral and controversial part of France's asylum system. The European Court of Human Rights held already in the 1996 landmark judgment of *Amuur v. France* that the placement of individuals in hotel accommodation near Orly airport constituted deprivation of liberty and therefore needed to comply with the safeguards set out in Article 5 of the European Convention of Human Rights (ECHR).*

*At the same time, the creation of waiting zones is not limited to the country's airports or ports. More recently, informal zones have emerged as spaces allowing the de facto detention without any formal decision of migrants and asylum seekers arriving from Italy. Parallel to counter-terrorism measures, culminating in the permanent anti-terrorism legislation adopted in October 2017,<sup>1</sup> the French government has stepped up controls at its internal Schengen borders, as well as the use of asylum and immigration detention, thereby suggesting a policy link between migration and counter-terrorism, without such a connection being substantiated by evidence on the ground."*

26. EU: [Europe and nationalism: A country-by-country guide](#) (BBC News, link):

*"Across Europe, nationalist and far-right parties have made significant electoral gains.*

*Some have taken office, others have become the main opposition voice, and even those yet to gain a political foothold have forced centrist leaders to adapt.*

*In part, this can be seen as a backlash against the political establishment in the wake of the financial and migrant crises, but the wave of discontent also taps into long-standing fears about globalisation and a dilution of national identity.*

Although the parties involved span a broad political spectrum, there are some common themes, such as hostility to immigration, anti-Islamic rhetoric and Euroscepticism.

So where does this leave Europe's political landscape?"

27. EU: [Security Union: Strengthening Europol's cooperation with third countries to fight terrorism and serious organised crime](#) (link):

"Today the Council approved the Commission's proposal to strengthen Europol's cooperation with third countries and fight terrorism and other serious transnational crime more effectively – an important deliverable under the anti-terrorism package presented by the Commission in October 2017.

The negotiating mandates approved by the Council will allow the Commission to start talks with eight countries on behalf of the EU – Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia and Turkey – on the exchange of information, including personal data, with Europol.(...)

The agreements will establish adequate safeguards with respect to the protection of privacy and fundamental rights and freedoms of individuals. The Commission recommended the Council authorise the opening of negotiations for these eight agreements on 20 December 2017."

See: [Warnings over proposed new Europol partners in Middle East and North Africa](#) (14 May 2018)

28. [Czech PM rejects Merkel's European border guard proposal](#) (New Europe, link):

"The Czech Republic rejected on Monday a proposal by Angela Merkel for a pan-European border police force.

Prime Minister Andrej Babis has opposed the policy for the distribution of asylum seekers, in line with the common position of the Visegrad group: Poland, Slovakia, Hungary and the Czech Republic. In this context, the German proposal of pooling EU-wide resources undermines the fundamental position of the group that migration policy is the preserve of the nation-state."

29. UK: Home Office: [CONTEST: The United Kingdom's Strategy for Countering Terrorism](#) (90 pages, pdf)

See also: [Terror strategy: MI5 to share information on UK suspects](#) (Guardian, link): "Home Secretary Sajid Javid has revealed plans for MI5 to declassify and share information on UK citizens suspected of having terrorist sympathies. "Key" biographical data will be given to neighbourhood police, councils and the charity commission in London, Midlands and Manchester trial schemes."

30. [Italy cannot be 'Europe's refugee camp', Salvini says](#) (euractiv, link):

"Italy's new hardline interior minister Matteo Salvini said Sunday that "common sense" was needed to stop the country from being "Europe's refugee camp" as he visited a migrant centre in the south.

The newly minted deputy prime minister in Italy's populist coalition government travelled to Sicily, one of the country's main refugee landing points, to push the anti-immigration platform that propelled him to power.

"Italy and Sicily cannot be Europe's refugee camp," he told a crowd of supporters under the blazing sun in the southern Sicilian town of Pozzallo, a migration hotspot."

And see: [Italy Sends a Jolt Through Europe](#) (Der Spiegel, link): "Euro-skeptic Italian populists are posing a serious threat to the European Union. Following the drama over Greece and Brexit, the political situation in Rome could throw Europe into its next major existential crisis."

31. [Anti-immigration opposition SDS party leads Slovenia election](#) (DW, link):

*"Conservative Janez Jansa and his anti-immigration SDS party came out on top in Slovenia's election, winning nearly 25 percent — but not enough to rule alone. Second-placed is comedian-turned-politician Marjan Sarec."*

32. Council of Europe Committee for the Prevention of Torture: [Report on Greece reveals truly shameful situation](#)

***"The delegation received several consistent and credible allegations of informal forcible removals (push-backs) of foreign nationals by boat from Greece to Turkey at the Evros River border by masked Greek police and border guards or (para-)military commandos."***

33. ECHR: [Court: Lithuania and Romania complicity in CIA secret rendition led to multiple human rights violations](#)

*"Multiple human rights violations by authorities in Lithuania and Romania resulted from the countries' involvement with the United States Central Intelligence Agency's secret rendition of suspected terrorists."*

See: [Statewatch Observatory on CIA Rendition](#)

34. Amnesty International: [France: Pensioner facing jail term for showing compassion to children](#) (link):

*"Ahead of the resumption of the trial of Martine Landry, a 73-year-old woman who faces up to five years in prison and a fine of €30,000 for helping two 15-year-old asylum seekers in France, Amnesty International's Senior Campaigner on Migration, Maria Serrano, said:*

*"Dragging a compassionate pensioner before the court on these surreal charges makes a mockery of justice. Acts of solidarity should be promoted, not punished."*

35. EU: European External Action Service: [Local EU Statement on the release of Mr Andargachew Tsege](#) (pdf):

*"The European Union Delegation issues the following statement in agreement with the EU Heads of Mission in Ethiopia:*

*"The EU welcomes the pardon and release of UK citizen Andargachew Tsege, as well as the dropping of charges against ESAT, OMN, Berhanu Nega and Jawar Mohammed on May 29th. Taken together with the release of other activists, journalists and leaders of the opposition in the past weeks, and the initiation of a dialogue with Oromo Democratic Front (ODF), this signals the willingness of the new Government to address the grievances expressed by the population including demands to open up political space in Ethiopia."*

And see: [Free Andy Tsege](#) (link)

36. [Community Leader Targeted in Chios Trial Acquitted on all Charges - Moria10 Defendants Acquited on All Charges!](#) (Lesbos Legal Centre, link):

*"In a case that never should have gone to trial, the #Moria10 trial ended with a verdict of not guilty! The verdict was unanimously reached by the Mixed Jury Court in Chios after even the prosecution's witnesses testified that one defendant was a community leader who tried to peacefully solve problems in Moria Camp. The prosecutor also recommended acquittal after none of the State's witnesses could credibly identify the three defendants who were on trial. Only three of the ten accused were tried today, as the other seven were never arrested. Two were present for the trial, the third was tried in absentia."*

37. [From 7 to 77: There's been an explosion in building border walls since World War II](#) (USA Today, link):

"BUDAPEST, Hungary — At the end of World War II, there were seven border walls or fences in the world. By the time the Berlin Wall fell in 1989, there were 15, according to Elisabeth Vallet, a geography professor at the University of Quebec-Montreal.

Today, as President Trump pushes his campaign promise to build a wall on the border with Mexico, there are at least 77 walls or fences around the world — many erected after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks in New York City and at the Pentagon.

"Walls are public relations exercises where governments demonstrate that they are actually doing something," Vallet said. "They usually create more problems."

38. [Privacy International launches campaign to investigate range of data companies that facilitate mass data exploitation](#) (PI, link):

"On the day that GDPR comes into force, PI has launched a campaign investigating a range of data companies that make up a largely hidden data ecosystem. This hidden data ecosystem is comprised of thousands of non-consumer facing data companies - such as Acxiom, Criteo, Quantcast - that amass and exploit large amounts of personal data. Using the rights and obligations provided for within the new data privacy law, PI's campaign involves investigating a selection of these companies whose business models raise questions under GDPR."

39. GERMANY: [From DNA Tracing to DNA Phenotyping – Open Legal Issues and Risks in the new Bavarian Police Task Act \(PAG\) and beyond](#) (Verfassungsblog, link):

"Is Germany facing a tidal shift in police powers? Does the border between the prosecution of criminal offences and the prevention of looming dangers, which has so far been regarded as self-evident and constitutionally necessary, fall? Will people who are suspected of maybe committing crimes in the future only on the basis of statistical data or non-individualized investigative approaches be preventively restricted in their fundamental rights and even imprisoned in the long term? Is Germany on the way to comprehensive predictive policing, for which considerable risks of discrimination will be accepted? These questions arise from the critics of the draft act on police tasks, which the Bavarian state government intends to pass this week. Beside drones and online seizure one of the crucial investigative issues is the so called "DNA phenotyping".

40. EU-TURKEY DEAL: [When Greek judges decide whether Turkey is a Safe Third Country without caring too much for EU law](#) (EU Immigration and Asylum Law and Policy, link):

"A few days after the two-year anniversary of the EU-Turkey statement, almost 1,500 people have been returned to Turkey on this basis. Although most returnees originate from countries other than Syria, the legal precedent for returns of Syrians from Greece to Turkey has been established. On 22 September, the Supreme Administrative Court of Greece decided (dec n° 2347/2017 and 2348/2017, available only in Greek) that Turkey qualifies as a safe third country for two Syrians. This conclusion comforts the EU-Turkey statement concluded in March 2016 on the presumption that Turkey qualifies as a safe third country to which asylum seekers can be returned and enjoy adequate protection in accordance with the Refugee Convention of 1951 and its 1967 Protocol. Numerous controversial discussions regarding the statement arose, on the one hand, over its nature, and on the other, on the question whether Turkey qualifies as a safe third country. So far, policy-makers are satisfied as the arriving migratory flows have significantly decreased, whereas the CJEU deems itself to lack jurisdiction to rule on the legality of the agreement by risking to contradict its historical case law on the external competences of the EU. The present analysis will focus on the safe third country notion, as interpreted through the Greek judges' lens."

41. [New research shows rise in number of states deploying armed drones](#) (Drone Wars UK, link):

"A new report published by Drone Wars UK reveals that over the last five years the number of countries actively using armed drones has quadrupled. Drone Wars: The Next Generation demonstrates that from just three states (US, UK and Israel) in 2013, there are now a further nine who have deployed armed drones in a variety of roles including for armed conflict and counter-terror operations. The report also shows that a further nine states are very close to having armed drone capabilities, almost doubling the number of existing users. To this number, we have added five non-state actors who have used armed drones, which will take the number of active operators of armed drones to over 25 in the next few years.

A number of studies by think tanks and NGOs over the last few years have shown that military drone technology has spread to over 90 countries, however, the ability to use armed drones has until recently remained in the hands of only a relatively few states. Some media reports, perhaps egged on by special interest groups, can give the impression that the skies are already filled with armed drones from many countries, ready to strike at any moment and so there is little to be done. However, while the numbers of countries operating armed drones is increasing, we are not yet at the point of being unable to control the proliferation and use of these systems."

42. EU-AFRICA: [Niger: Europe's Migration Laboratory](#) (Refugees Deeply, link):

"The [European Union] has pushed for the mainstay of northern Niger's economy to be criminalized but it remains wary of compensating the individuals and groups it has helped to brand as criminals. There is no precedent for demolishing an informal economy in one of the world's poorest countries and replacing it with a formal model. Some 60 percent of Niger's GDP comes from the informal sector, according to the World Bank.

As a senior government adviser put it, "When you slap a child you cannot ask it not to cry."

According to an E.U. official who followed the program, "the law was imposed in a brutal way, without any prior consultation, in a process where the government of Niger was heavily pressured by the E.U., France and Germany, with a minimal consideration of the fact Nigerien security forces are involved in this traffic [of migrants]."

43. EU: [Frontex condemned by its own fundamental rights body for failing to live up to obligations](#)

Frontex, the EU's border agency, has been heavily criticised for failing to provide adequate staff and resources to its own Fundamental Rights Office, a problem that "seriously hinders the Agency's ability to deliver on its fundamental rights obligations."

44. [PRESS RELEASE Last Rights Project announces the agreement and signing of the Mytilini Declaration](#) (Lesvos, Greece, link) and:

["The Mytilini Declaration for the Dignified Treatment of all Missing and Deceased Persons and their Families as a Consequence of Migrant Journeys"](#) (pdf):

"On the 11 May 2018, following two days of discussions between experts from across the world, the Mytilini Declaration was agreed. We believe this is a landmark in establishing the rights of and duties toward all those who experience suffering because of the death or disappearance of their loved ones as a result of migrant journeys and we now call upon all countries and international bodies to ensure that these rights are respected and that the standards contained in the Declaration are implemented as a matter of urgency."

The [Greek language version can be found here](#).

around, affecting their access to housing, education or work."

45. EU-AFRICA: [The new European border between Niger and Libya](#) (Open Migration, link):

*"The game for controlling what Marco Minniti defined "the southern border of Europe" to "be sealed" is still open. However, last year's experience shows that focusing solely on control, while leaving aside the safety and well-being of communities living in northern Niger, especially in Fezzan, might prove counter-productive. For the people living in Fezzan, beaten by the conflict, for migrants, facing increasing risks, and – perhaps – for Europe itself in its attempt to contain migrations.*

*"We rebelled against Gaddafi but we have obtained nothing," Joseph Moussa concludes, tens of cigarettes later, in an Agadez falling more silent by the minute. "Migrants are our sole currency: only when we find a new one we will stop transporting them."*

46. [British spymaster pleads for EU intelligence cooperation](#) (euractiv, link):

*"Britain and the European Union must build a close security partnership after Brexit to foil Islamic State militant attacks and counter Russia's malign attempts to subvert Western democracies, the head of Britain's domestic spy agency said.*

*Britain, as Europe's preeminent intelligence power, is seeking a new security pact with the bloc to ensure it gets continued access to secrets from major EU countries as it seeks to clinch a broader Brexit deal."*

See: MI5: [Director General Andrew Parker Speech to BfV Symposium](#) (pdf)

47. EU: [Expanding the fortress: The policies, the profiteers and the people shaped by EU's border externalisation programme](#) (TNI, link):

*"The EU has made migration control a central goal of its foreign relations, rapidly expanding border externalisation measures that require neighbouring countries to act as Europe's border guards. This report examines 35 countries, prioritised by the EU, and finds authoritarian regimes emboldened to repress civil society, vulnerable refugees forced to turn to more dangerous and deadly routes, and European arms and security firms booming off the surge in funding for border security systems and technologies."*

See: [Europe's solution to migration is to outsource it to Africa](#) (EUobserver, link)

## DOCUMENTATION

1. Council of the European Union: [Asylum Procedures and Visas](#)

• ASYLUM: [Proposal for a Regulation establishing a common procedure for international protection in the Union and repealing Directive 2013/32/EU \(First reading\)](#) (LIMITE doc no: 9560-18, pdf): Council working on it negotiating position: 43 detailed Footnotes with Member State positions:

*"This document contains compromise proposals suggested by the Presidency in relation to Articles 43a-50."*

• VISAS: [Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation \(EC\) No 810/2009 establishing a Community Code on Visas \(Visa Code\) - Presidency revised text](#) (LIMITE doc no: 9540-18, pdf):

*"With a view to the meeting of the JHA Counsellors (Visa) of 8 June 2018, delegations will find in the Annex a Presidency compromise suggestion on the abovementioned proposal*

2. EU: Interoperability: Blg Brother database: [Latest documents from the European Parliament and the Council](#)

• European Parliament: Draft report: [Draft report on the proposal for a regulation on establishing a framework for interoperability between EU information systems \(borders and visa\) and amending...](#) (29 May 2018, pdf)

• Council: [Proposal for a Regulation on establishing a framework for interoperability between EU information systems \(police and judicial cooperation, asylum and migration\) - Presidency revised text of provisions specific to this Regulation](#) (LIMITE doc no: 9505-18, 1 June 2018, pdf):

*"Changes to the Commission proposal are marked in bold italics and strikethrough.  
- New changes to the Commission proposal compared to ST 7652/18 are marked in bold italics underline and strikethrough underline.*

*Delegations are invited to note that only provisions highlighted in yellow have been amended in this document. The provisions which are common to both interoperability Regulations and which have already been amended in the Regulation relating to borders and visa will be reproduced in this Regulation at a later stage."*

• Council: [Proposal for a Regulation on establishing a framework for interoperability between EU information systems \(borders and visa\)](#) (LIMITE doc no: 9504-18, 86 pages, 1 June 2018, pdf):

*"Delegations will find hereafter the text of the proposal for the aforementioned Regulation, as revised by the Presidency, based on the outcome of discussions at the JHA Counsellors meeting on interoperability of EU information systems on 28 May 2018, as well as on delegations' written comments."*

3. BREXIT: UK government: [Technical Note: Exchange and Protection of Classified Information](#) (pdf)

*The UK wants to build a new, deep and special partnership with the EU. Both the UK and the EU agree that arrangements allowing the exchange of classified information will be key to building this partnership.(...)*

*When the EU needs to exchange classified information with Third Countries on a regular basis they negotiate and conclude arrangements for exchanging and protecting classified information with the EU through a Security of Information Agreement (SoIA). SoIAs are legally binding agreements between the EU and the Third Country."*

And see: [UK-EU SECURITY Partnership](#) (39 pages, pdf)

4. EU: Council of the European Union: Schengen: [Schengen information system: agreement between the Council Presidency and the European Parliament](#) (Press release, pdf):

*"On 12 June 2018, the Bulgarian Presidency of the Council and the European Parliament reached an informal agreement on three regulations on the use of the Schengen Information System:*

- in the field of police and judicial cooperation in criminal matters*
- in the field of border checks*
- for the return of illegally staying third-country nationals" (...)*

*The Schengen Information System is the most widely used and efficient IT system of the EU in the area of freedom, security and justice. The system contains more than 76 million alerts. In 2017 it was accessed more than 5.1 billion times by member states, triggering more than 240 000 hits on foreign alerts (alerts issued by another country)."*

And see: [SIS II - 2017 Statistics](#) (pdf)

5. European Parliament Study: [Cross-Border Exchange and Comparison of Forensic DNA Data in the Context of the Prüm Decision](#) (pdf):

*"It first considers the background of the Prüm Convention and Prüm Decision. The subsequent two chapters summarize the Prüm regime in relation mainly to DNA data looking at value and shortcomings; and ethical, legal and social implications of forensic DNA typing and databasing in relation to the Prüm regime. Finally, based on the analysis, it provides the policy recommendations."*

The Study finds that in DNA database sizes of England and Wales, the USA and China: China has 2.85% of its population, the USA has 4.97% and the UK has 9.14%.

6. European Parliament briefing: [European Defence Industrial Development Programme \(EDIDP\)](#) (pdf):

*"The European Union is facing new security threats amid growing uncertainty about the reliability of some of its allies. As a consequence, it has embarked on a general scaling-up of its defence capabilities. A European defence action plan has been agreed and a European Defence Fund created to provide financial support, ranging from the research phase to the acquisition phase of military equipment and technologies. The present legislative proposal for EDIDP, which would be part of that fund, is destined to provide the European defence industry with financial support during the development phase of new products and technologies in areas selected at European level. Parliament's Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE) decided to open trilogue negotiations; these have been ongoing since 15 March 2018."*

The Council and EP reached agreement on the EDIDP on 23 May. See: [EU offers up cash infusion to European defense industry](#) (Defense News, link)

7. EU: [Justice and Home Affairs Council, 4-5 June 2018: documentation and coverage, including LIMITE documents on e-evidence and migration](#)

On the link between visa policy and readmission, "most delegations expressed a preference for the negative incentives approach" - just the stick, as opposed to a combination of the carrot and the stick - while the Council also adopted conclusions on the development of European Integrated Border Management (EUIBM) and the use of the Schengen Information System for tracking suspected foreign fighters.

8. EU: Council of the European Union: [Proposal for a Regulation establishing a Union Resettlement Framework and amending Regulation \(EU\) No 516/2014 of the European Parliament and the Council \(First reading\)](#) (LIMITE doc no: 9596-18, 4 June 2018, pdf):

Comment: This doc shows European Parliament backtracking on resettlement of refugees from non-EU countries in light of Council red lines

9. "Big Brother" interoperability: Council of the European Union: [Proposal for a Regulation on establishing a framework for interoperability between EU information systems \(borders and visa\)](#) (LIMITE doc no: 9074-18, 24 May 2018, 69 pages, pdf): The Council discussing its negotiation position: 31 Footnotes including Member States positions:

*"Delegations will find hereafter the text of the proposal for the aforementioned Regulation, as revised by the Presidency, based on the outcome of discussions at the JHA Counsellors meeting on interoperability of EU information systems on 18 May 2018, as well as on delegations' written comments."*

10. EU: Council of the European Union: [Proposal for a Directive on the interoperability of electronic road toll systems and facilitating crossborder exchange of information on the failure to pay road fees in the Union \(recast\) \(Text with EEA relevance\) - General approach](#) (doc no 8856-REV-1-18, 88 pages, pdf):



*"The main objective of the proposal is to facilitate **electronic systems for the collection of road tolls that would be widely interoperable in the Union.**(...)"*

*The Commission identifies administrative barriers, including local technical specifications, wide compulsory geographic coverage and **compulsory satellite-based services for light-duty vehicles** as the main sources for issues in the current legislative situation;*

*Furthermore, the **Commission proposes to establish a system for the exchange of information between Member States to identify drivers that do not pay their road tolls.**" [emphasis added]*

11. EU: [European Parliament studies: counter-terrorism and border management in Italy; the cost of "non-Europe" in counter-terrorism](#)

Two new European Parliament studies examine "Italy's external border management, through the lens of counter-terrorism" and the "cost of non-Europe" in counter-terrorism, which argues that "further EU action in the area is imperative".

12. Council of the European Union: ["Safe countries" concept](#)

The Council is discussing its "safe countries concept" which includes: safe third country, the first country of asylum and safe country of origin.

*"As regards Turkey, the Commission proposal for an Asylum Procedure Regulation sets out that the **legal basis for protection against persecution and mistreatment is adequately provided by substantive and procedural human rights and anti-discrimination legislation, including ratification of all major international human rights treaties.** Turkey has been designated as a candidate country by the European Council and negotiations have been opened."*

See: [Reform of the Common European Asylum System - The safe countries concept = Policy debate](#) (LIMITE doc no: 8735-18, pdf)

13. Council of the European Union: [Asylum Procedures Regulation: Documentation](#)

Six documents including [Reform of the Common European Asylum System - Building blocks within different legislative files of the CEAS Reform](#) (LIMITE doc no: 8816-18, 14 May 2018, pdf) which sets out new grounds for rejecting asylum applications:

*"One of the purposes of the asylum reform is to **discourage abuses and prevent secondary movements of applicants within the EU**, in particular by including clear **obligations for applicants to apply in the Member State of first entry and remain in the Member State determined as responsible** for the examination of their application. This also requires **proportionate procedural and material consequences in case of non-compliance** with their obligations." [emphasis added]*

14. Council of the European Union: [European Criminal Records System \(ECRIS\) - Third Country Nationals](#)

• [Proposal for a Regulation establishing a centralised system for the identification of Member States holding conviction information on third country nationals and stateless persons \(TCN\) to supplement and support the European Criminal Records Information System \(ECRIS-TCN system\) and amending Regulation \(EU\) No 1077/2011 - Note with questions](#) (LIMITE doc 8984-18, 18 May 2018, pdf):

*"Delegations will find an updated four column table in **8983/18**. All texts in blue have provisionally been agreed upon in the technical meeting, following 'green light' in the Working Party. It is assumed that Member States are still happy with these texts, so that they can be turned green at the next trilogue, which is foreseen for 6 June.*

See: [8983-18](#) (LIMITE doc, 127 pages, 18 May 2018, pdf): Multicolumn document: State of play.

- [Selected issues](#) (LIMITE do no 8767-18, 14 May 2018, pdf):

*"While substantial progress has been made in order to reach an agreement, one issue – regarding dual nationals – continues to pose a problem in the negotiations. (...) The European Parliament is strongly opposed to including in the central system identity information of EU-nationals who also have the nationality of a third country ("dual nationals")."*

- [8767-ADD 1](#) (LIMITE doc, 16 May 2018, pdf):

*"Further to informal contacts with the European Parliament, and in relation with question 3 in 8767/18, the Presidency invites Member States to reflect on the following compromise solution for the issue of "dual nationals": (...) While dual nationals will, for the time being, not be included in the ECRIS-TCN system, the Commission will be asked to carry out a study on the advisability of inclusion of dual nationals in the ECRIS-TCN system in the future."*

- [8670-18: Note with questions](#) (LIMITE doc, 8 May 2018, pdf)

- [8669-18](#) (LIMITE doc, 8 May 2018, pdf): Previous 4-column document

15. Council of the European Union: **Common European Asylum System: [DUBLIN IV](#)**

- [Proposal for a Regulation establishing the criteria and mechanisms for determining the Member State responsible for examining an application for international protection lodged in one of the Member States by a third-country national or a stateless person \(recast\)](#) (LIMITE doc no: 9047-18, pdf). Council Presidency seeking to deal with divisions in the Council:

*"Following concerns raised by some delegations in Coreper, the Presidency proposed to replace the reversed qualified majority by **reinforced qualified majority**."*

*This option was presented to the JHA Counsellors held on 18th of May 2018. While many delegations supported this, others continued raising concerns and suggested as an alternative that this second layer of **decision making be entrusted to the European Council**. Moving the issue to the European Council risks, however, delaying delivering the support foreseen for the second sub-phase of the challenging circumstances."*

Note: "Reinforced qualified majority": *"When the Council acts without a Commission proposal or one from the High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy (i.e. in the fields of police and judicial cooperation in criminal matters), the qualified majority must include at least two-thirds of EU countries."*

- [Proposal for a Regulation establishing the criteria and mechanisms for determining the Member State responsible for examining an application for international protection by a third-country national or a stateless person registered in one of the Member States by a third-country national or a stateless person \(recast\)](#) (8895-18, 108 pages 17 May 2018, pdf): *"the Presidency compromise suggestions on the above proposal."*

And see: [8591-REV-1](#) (LIMITE, 97 pages, 14 May 2018, pdf)

16. EU: European Data Protection Supervisor: [EDPS calls for workable technology which serves the interests of society](#) (Press release, pdf):

*"Giovanni Buttarelli, EDPS, said: "With the GDPR now fully applicable, our preliminary Opinion looks to build upon and encourage the discussion between policy makers, regulators, industry, academia and civil society on how new technologies can be designed to benefit the individual and society. Technology should serve the interests of those who use it. We should therefore develop and*

encourage a common approach to technological development aimed at ensuring that technology cannot be exploited to serve the interests of only a select few companies, nor used to create a surveillance state."

And see [Opinion](#) (pdf)

17. BREXIT: UK position papers: [Technical Note: Security, Law Enforcement, and Criminal Justice](#) (pdf): See slide show at Footnote 3:

*"The UK therefore considers that while existing precedents for EU cooperation with third countries in relation to individual measures in this field provide context, they are not the right starting point for our future partnership.(....)*

*The UK has proposed a new UK-EU Internal Security Treaty to provide a legal basis for future cooperation relating to police and judicial cooperation in criminal matters on the basis of existing EU police and criminal justice measures."*

And: [Technical Note: Consultation and Cooperation on External Security](#) (pdf)

18. EU: INTEROPERABILITY: "Big Brother" database: [Proposal for a Regulation on establishing a framework for interoperability between EU information systems \(borders and visa\) and amending Council Decision 2004/512/EC, Regulation \(EC\) No 767/2008, Council Decision 2008/633/JHA, Regulation \(EU\) 2016/399 and Regulation \(EU\) 2017/2226](#) (LIMITE doc no: 8621-18, 8 May 2018, 69 pages, pdf): Council working on its negotiation position. 32 Footnotes with Member State positions:

*"Delegations will find hereafter the text of the proposal for the aforementioned Regulation, as revised by the Presidency, based on the outcome of discussions at DAPIX: interoperability of EU information systems on 17-18 April and 2 May 2018, as well as on delegations' written comments. Changes to the Commission proposal are marked in bold italics and strikethrough."*

New changes to the Commission proposal compared to ST 7651/18 are marked in bold italics underline and strikethrough underline.

See: [7651-18](#) (LIMITE doc 13 April 2018, pdf)

19. Council of the EU: [Joint EU-U.S. statement following the EU-U.S. Justice and Home Affairs Ministerial Meeting](#) (23 May 2018, pdf):

*"The European Union and the United States discussed their shared efforts to combat terrorism, focusing on effective information sharing, preventing radicalization, use of the internet for terrorist purposes, and vigilance with respect to aviation security, and chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear threats, and explosives, especially in relation to the evolving chemical threats to aviation and in public spaces. With regard to EU-U.S. information sharing on Passenger Name Records (PNR), participants of the meeting emphasized the importance of such sharing, and noted impending developments in the separate EU-Canada PNR discussions. The participants agreed to continue the discussion of PNR, at the next EU-U.S. Ministerial, which will take place in Washington, D.C., in the second half of 2018.*

*Participants also discussed security and law enforcement cooperation in cyber-space, affirming the importance of allowing swift access to electronic evidence by law enforcement and judicial authorities, while also protecting privacy and civil liberties. Similarly, they stressed the need to maintain a safe, open, and secure cyberspace for the promotion of economic and social development, and exchanged views on how to best address this growing challenge.*

*The European Union and the United States also exchanged information on developments in the area of migration, border management, and their respective visa policies."*

*"Complaints have been filed against Facebook, Google, Instagram and WhatsApp within hours of the new GDPR data protection law taking effect.*

*The companies are accused of forcing users to consent to targeted advertising to use the services.*

*Privacy group noyb.eu led by activist Max Schrems said people were not being given a "free choice".*

*If the complaints are upheld, the websites may be forced to change how they operate, and they could be fined."*

20. EU: [Ombudsman sends Special Report to Parliament on lack of Council legislative accountability](#) (link):

*"European Ombudsman Emily O'Reilly has for only the second time during her mandate sent a Special Report to the European Parliament, on her inquiry to improve the accountability of the Council's legislative work.*

*The Ombudsman issued a number of Recommendations to the Council of the EU in February, following a year long inquiry, including that it systematically record Member State positions both in its preparatory meetings and in COREPER (ambassador) meetings; and that it draw up clear and appropriate criteria for the classification of Council documents as the current practice severely limits their timely accessibility.*

*The Council however failed to respond to the Recommendations by the legal three-month deadline on 9 May, and so given its importance for the democratic legitimacy of the EU, the Ombudsman decided to call now on Parliament's support.*

*"Europeans need to know what their national governments are doing in Brussels, especially when making new EU laws which affect their daily lives. Making more information public would also help discourage national ministers from 'blaming Brussels' for EU laws they themselves helped to shape and adopt.(...)*

*The Ombudsman found that the Council's current practices constitute maladministration. In particular, she criticised the Council's failure to record systematically the identity of Member States taking positions in preparatory bodies, and the widespread practice of restricting access to legislative documents while the decision-making process is ongoing (the so-called 'LIMITE' marking)."*

See: [Report](#) (pdf)

21. EU: [Visa Information System: proposal will "enhance internal security and improve border management" through interoperability and extended data collection](#)

The Commission is today proposing to upgrade the Visa Information System (VIS), the database containing information on persons applying for Schengen visas, in order to better respond to evolving security and migratory challenges and improve the EU's external border management.

(15 May 2018, pdf).

22. EU: UK Select Committee on the European Union: [Brexit: Common Security and Defence Policy missions and operations](#) (pdf):

*"The UK's departure from the EU places a question mark over its future participation in Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) missions and operations. As an EU Member State, the UK has influenced the development and planning of all missions and operations, and has led the EU's flagship antipiracy operation, EU NAVFOR Somalia (Operation Atalanta). After Brexit, the framework for the UK to participate in these missions and operations is unclear, and subject to negotiation.(...)*

*The Government has set out high-level aspirations for co-operation with the EU on CSDP missions and operations, including involvement in “mandate development and detailed operational planning”. The level of influence the Government seeks goes well beyond the scope of the existing model for third country participation. Prospects for changes to this model are uncertain.”*

23. European Parliament Studies: [The vulnerability to exploitation of women migrant workers in agriculture in the EU: the need for a Human Rights and Gender based approach](#) (pdf):

*“explores the working conditions of migrant women in agriculture in the EU, focusing on some case studies in Italy and Spain. In particular, it aims to examine the factors that render women vulnerable to exploitation, paying attention to gendered dynamics and power relations”*

And: [Implementation of the Directive 2011/77/EU: copyright term of protection](#) (pdf):

*“to examine the current status quo of implementation of the Directive, and to carry out an in-depth review of the practices in selected Member States. The study provides a brief overview of the international framework concerning the term of protection for performers and phonogram producers, and analyses the main objectives and provisions of the Term Extension Directive.”*