



## Weekly Media Report

16 - 19 September 2013

### International Affairs

#### **France welcomes Syria deal but force 'still an option' - BBC (UK), 16 September 2013**

French President Francois Hollande has described the US-Russia deal (to place Syria's chemical weapons under international control and have them destroyed) on Syria's chemical weapons as an "important step" towards the much bigger goal of a political solution to the civil war. But in a TV address President Hollande said: "The military option must remain; otherwise there will be no pressure." Mr Hollande said a vote on a new UN Security Council resolution on Syria could be agreed by the end of the week. On Monday (16 September 2013) he will meet US Secretary of State John Kerry to discuss the issue. The President said sanctions will be enforced to coerce Syria into dismantling or handing over its chemical weapons if Damascus fails to comply.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-24104733>

#### **Japan hit by a typhoon – Libération (FR), 16 September 2013**

On Monday morning, 16 September 2013, the typhoon Man-yi hit the southern and eastern coast of Japan and is heading north, towards the Fukushima prefecture and its nuclear plant. The Meteorological Agency has placed several regions "under special alert", while Fukushima is adopting particular measures to face the violent storm, which has already led to disappearances, injuries and damage. Tokyo Electric Power (Tepco) assures to have strengthened the fixing of the crucial equipment of the nuclear plant such as the water pipes for cooling the reactors or pumps. Furthermore, the cranes were secured and the surveillance patrols reinforced. However, it is feared that the intensification of the rain will increase the already large quantity of radioactive water which has seeped into the basement of the nuclear complex.

[http://www.liberation.fr/monde/2013/09/16/le-japon-frappe-par-un-violent-typhon\\_932217](http://www.liberation.fr/monde/2013/09/16/le-japon-frappe-par-un-violent-typhon_932217)

#### **Salvage of the wrecked cruise ship "Costa Concordia" is delayed – Tageblatt (LU), Wort (LU), 16 September 2013**

Stormy weather has delayed the start of operations to raise the wrecked Costa Concordia cruise ship, which went down last year with the loss of 32 lives, officials said on Monday 16 September 2013. According to the Italian news agency Ansa, the operation has been put back by two hours. In the most complex phase of the salvage operation, experts are expected to pull the ship in an upright position with the help of steel cables and exceptional technology. Salvage coordinators say there will inevitably be some spillage of its waste contents into Mediterranean waters. The bigger concern for the salvage workers is the resistance of the hull of the ship to the enormous pressures it will have to withstand as it is winched up.

<http://www.tageblatt.lu/nachrichten/europa/story/Verzoegerung-12357117>

<http://www.wort.lu/en/view/storms-delay-bid-to-salvage-costa-concordia-wreck-52369496e4b08f5d738efe34>

**Rumsfeld Interview: 'A Leader Should Be Careful about Drawing Red Lines' - SPIEGEL (DE), 17 September 2013**

Donald Rumsfeld is no stranger to intervening abroad. In an interview with SPIEGEL, the former US secretary of defense explains that Obama was right to delay military action in Syria and asking the Congress for permission. In reference to his latest publication "Rumsfeld's Rules" he recommends to be wary of Russian President Putin.

<http://www.spiegel.de/international/world/spiegel-interview-with-donald-rumsfeld-on-obama-and-syria-a-922445.html>

**Syria: "overwhelming evidence" of the use of chemical gas – Le Monde (FR), 17 September 2013**

The UN experts, who examined the massacre in Syria on 21<sup>st</sup> August 2013, affirm in the report submitted on 15<sup>th</sup> September 2013 to the Secretary General of the United Nations Ban Ki-moon, that they have "obvious and convincing evidence" of the use of sarin. "Chemical weapons have been used on a relatively large scale" in the Syrian conflict "against civilians, including children," says the text. The attack in August, which according to Washington killed more than 1,400 deaths, was committed using "surface-to-surface rockets containing sarin gas." "From the abundance of technical detail (...), it is clear that the Syrian regime is the only one who could be responsible," said William Hague, current British Foreign Secretary and First Secretary of State. However, it seems that this attack is not an isolated case: in Geneva, the UN Investigation Commission on violations of human rights in Syria plans investigations of fourteen other alleged chemical attack since September 2011.

[http://www.lemonde.fr/proche-orient/article/2013/09/16/syrie-paris-londres-et-washington-veulent-une-resolution-forte-a-l-onu\\_3478211\\_3218.html](http://www.lemonde.fr/proche-orient/article/2013/09/16/syrie-paris-londres-et-washington-veulent-une-resolution-forte-a-l-onu_3478211_3218.html)

**Bangladesh: Abdul Kader Mullah gets death penalty for war crimes - BBC (UK), 17 September 2013**

Bangladesh's Supreme Court has rejected the appeal of an Islamist leader against his jail term for war crimes and sentenced him to death. In February Abdul Kader Mullah, of the Jamaat-e-Islami party, was convicted by a special tribunal of crimes during the 1971 war of independence with Pakistan.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-24108640>

**Syria tells Russia it has proof rebels used chemicals - BBC (UK), 18 September 2013**

According to a Russian minister [not specified in the article], Syria has given Russia 'material evidence' that opposition fighters in the Syrian conflicts have used chemical weapons. Moreover, Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov affirmed that the UN inspectors' report on the alleged use of chemical weapons was "politicised, biased and one-sided". This statement follows the initial Western states' condemnation of the government forces; such reference, however, was not present in the UN report.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-24140475>

**Egypt court orders freezing of Islamist leaders' assets – Wort (LU), 18 September 2013**

An Egyptian court ordered on Tuesday, 17<sup>th</sup> September the freezing of assets of senior leaders of the Muslim Brotherhood as part of a crackdown on Islamists by the army-backed authorities, a judicial source said. Among those facing sanctions are Brotherhood general guide Mohammed Badie, his two deputies Khairat al-Shater and Rashad Bayoumi, as well as Salafist leader Hazem Abu Ismail and preacher Safwat

Higazi. The five are currently detained, accused of inciting the murder of protesters opposed to ousted Islamist president Mohamed Morsi. Around 15 Islamist politicians have already had their assets frozen as part of the crackdown that has fractured the organisational structure of the Brotherhood. The new army-installed authorities have laid out a political roadmap which provides for parliamentary and presidential elections in 2014.

<http://www.wort.lu/en/view/egypt-court-orders-freezing-of-islamist-leaders-assets-52387fafe4b04c22d3f7ec55>

**Chinese executioners taken in their own trap** – *Libération (FR)*, 18 September 2013

The exceptional trial of six interrogators opened on 16<sup>th</sup> September 2013 in Quzhou, a small town on the Chinese coast. It lifts the veil on the widely practiced torture by the Communist party's internal police. The six officials are accused of having killed Yu Qiyi, a 42-year-old chief engineer of a government corporation, on whom they imposed the torture of waterboarding. He choked while they maintained his head in a basin of ice cold water in a secret detention center of the Chinese PC. Physical torture and psychological pressure are common practice in these extrajudicial sites dubbed "Shuanggui" (literally "double submission"). According to experts, there would be about several hundred sites like these, whose sole purpose is to force the party's members, suspected of embezzlements, to make confessions. "In the 90s, the interrogations took place in hotel rooms, but now the party has built specialized sites," says law professor He Jiahong.

[http://www.liberation.fr/monde/2013/09/18/en-chine-des-bourreaux-pris-a-leur-propre-piege\\_932778](http://www.liberation.fr/monde/2013/09/18/en-chine-des-bourreaux-pris-a-leur-propre-piege_932778)

**Syria's al-Assad says he welcomes return of U.N. inspectors** – *CNN (US)*, 19 September 2013

Syria's president says he'll welcome the return of U.N. investigators to follow up on more allegations of chemical weapons use in his country. Al-Assad said he hadn't had time yet to analyze the U.N. investigators' findings so far, but stressed they have more work to do. Ake Sellstrom, the head of the inspection team that visited after an August 21 attack outside Damascus, told CNN that the next visit could take place as early as next week. In the meantime, Al-Assad vowed that his government would comply with the deal to hand over and destroy its chemical weapons, but noted that the timeframe is uncertain and the costs will be great.

[http://edition.cnn.com/2013/09/18/world/meast/syria-civil-war/index.html?hpt=hp\\_t1](http://edition.cnn.com/2013/09/18/world/meast/syria-civil-war/index.html?hpt=hp_t1)

**Putin does not believe in you, claims Senator McCain** – *Le Nouvel Observateur (FR)*, 19 September 2013

President Vladimir Putin "does not believe in you," said U.S. Senator John McCain, addressing the Russians in a scathing article published on Thursday, 19<sup>th</sup> September 2013 on the pravda.ru site. He criticized Putin and his entourage of rigging elections, imprisoning and murdering opponents, favoring corruption and destroying the Russia's reputation on the world stage. "I'm not anti-Russian," wrote McCain in his paper, entitled "The Russians deserve better than Putin." "I am pro-Russian, more pro-Russian than the regime that governs you badly today."

<http://tempsreel.nouvelobs.com/monde/20130919.OBS7676/poutine-ne-croit-pas-en-vous-lance-mccain-aux-russes.html>

**The army attacks Islamists in Cairo suburb** – *Le Nouvel Observateur (FR)*, 19 September 2013

On Thursday, 19<sup>th</sup> September 2013, the Egyptian army and police attacked, the village Kerdassa, near Cairo to chase Islamic militants. According to the official MENA news agency, a high ranking police officer was killed in the operation. Meanwhile, several lines of the Cairo metro were disrupted after the discovery of two bombs on the rails of a station south of the capital. Both homemade devices did not explode and experts were immediately deployed to inspect the entire rail network, reported a security officer. Since the dismissal and arrest of Islamist president Mohamed Morsi and the violent repression of his supporters, the amount of attacks increased in Cairo, one of the attacks even targeting the Minister of the Interior on 5<sup>th</sup> September 2013.

<http://tempsreel.nouvelobs.com/monde/20130919.OBS7665/egypte-l-armee-attaque-les-islamistes-en-banlieue-du-caire.html>

**Clashes between police and anti-fascist activists in Greece**– *Libération (FR)*, 19 September 2013

On Wednesday night, 18<sup>th</sup> September, clashes occurred between the police and anti-fascist demonstrators throughout Greece. The day began with a strike of the entire public sector and of non-violence marches, counting about 20 000 civil servants, who protested against a reform administration. In Athens, Thessaloniki (north) and Patras (West), left-wing activists demonstrating against the murder of anti-fascist rapper Pavlos Fyssas by a suspected neo-Nazi activist, threw stones at the anti-riot police, who fired tear gas, according to the Greek press agency ANA.

[http://www.liberation.fr/monde/2013/09/19/heurts-entre-policiers-et-militants-antifascistes-en-grece\\_933050](http://www.liberation.fr/monde/2013/09/19/heurts-entre-policiers-et-militants-antifascistes-en-grece_933050)

## **National Affairs**

**Resumption of the Bommeleeër trial** – *Wort (LU)*, 16 September 2013

On Monday, the lawyers of Marc Scheer and Joshua Wilmes will submit seven “corps de conclusion” at the resumption of the Bommeleeër trial. These will involve documents which the Secret Service released a few weeks ago, dealing primarily with the correspondence between the SREL and other services in connection to the Stay-Behind network. According to Me Vogel these documents are of great importance and convince him that the Stay-Behind network was responsible for the attacks. The press office of the Justice has notified that a number of experts will have their say in the coming days.

<http://www.wort.lu/de/view/bommeleer-prozess-geht-weiter-immer-wieder-stay-behind-5233d4e0e4b0ece2ee9e3360>

**The Christian Social Union (CSU), allied with Merkel’s Christian Democratic Union (CDU), dominated in the elections Bavaria, at the expenses of the Social Democratic Party (SPD)** - *Corriere della Sera (IT)*, 16 September 2013

The first exit-poll (from Zdf and Ard) indicates that Horst Seehofer gained the consistent majority of the preferences in the Bavaria elections, 49%, compared to SPD 20.5%. The outgoing governor obtained a consensus even broader than in 2008, when the CSU gained 43.4% of the preferences.

[http://www.corriere.it/esteri/13\\_settembre\\_15/germania-baviera-elezioni-travolgente-successo-csu-gemellata-cdu-merkel\\_fea35bd8-1e21-11e3-a7f1-b3455c27218c.shtml](http://www.corriere.it/esteri/13_settembre_15/germania-baviera-elezioni-travolgente-successo-csu-gemellata-cdu-merkel_fea35bd8-1e21-11e3-a7f1-b3455c27218c.shtml)

**Life support for free Democratic Party (FDP): Merkel's coalition partner needs help**  
- *Spiegel.de (DE)*, 16 September 2013

Chancellor Angela Merkel's coalition partners, the Free Democrats, stumbled badly in Sunday's (15 September 2013) state election in Bavaria. The party hopes to convince conservatives to lend their votes in the general election next week. But Merkel is in no mood to be generous.

<http://www.spiegel.de/international/germany/merkel-coalition-partner-fdp-stumbles-badly-in-bavaria-state-election-a-922440.html>

**Put foreign vote on election agenda – Wort (LU), 17 September 2013**

The right for foreigners to vote in national elections should be a key issue for the forthcoming elections, a foreign workers' association has said. ASTI (Association de Soutien aux Travailleurs Immigrés) would like to see foreign nationals living in and working in Luxembourg given access to vote in national elections. While, it is too soon to change anything for October's legislative elections, the group at least wants parties to make a stand on the issue. The association would like foreign residents to be automatically included in the electoral lists in the same way as Luxembourgers and to be able to stand as candidates. Currently, foreign nationals can only participate in national elections if they acquire dual nationality.

<http://www.wort.lu/en/view/put-foreign-vote-on-election-agenda-52382532e4b06ca64e78256a>

**A combative and united LSAP (Luxembourg Socialist Workers' Party) – Le Quotidien (LU), 17 September 2013**

On the 16<sup>th</sup> September, the social activists unanimously adopted the electoral programme of the LSAP in Mamer. The Socialist Party has decided to give a new impetus to the country without neglecting its core values. While assuming their choices during the last nine years alongside the CSV (Christian Social People's Party) government, the LSAP now claims to be ready to take responsibility for the future of the country. The not only Socialists bet on new ideas, they continue as well to defend the indexation of wages and pensions. LSAP is also decided to finally carry out the separation of state and church. "We need to remove our blinders and work for a better cohabitation in society," affirms Etienne Schneider, top candidate of the LSAP and current Minister of Economy and Foreign Trade.

<http://www.lequotidien.lu/politique-et-societe/48674.html>

**Bavaria result poses dilemma for Merkel - Deutsche Welle (DE), 17 September 2013**

The Bavarian regional elections have provided the ruling Christian Social Union (CSU) with an absolute majority. But the defeat of the Free Democratic Party (FDP) could be more detrimental to Chancellor Merkel's election success. If the FDP as her only possible coalition-partner fails to make it past the five percent threshold on a national scale on September 22, that failure could signal the end of Merkel's rule.

<http://www.dw.de/bavaria-result-poses-dilemma-for-merkel/a-17090344>

**Today, the Tg1 (Italian national TV newspaper) will broadcast Berlusconi's speech**  
- *Corriere della Sera, (IT)*, 17 September 2013

Today, 17 September 2013, a video message will be broadcasted by the national television in which Berlusconi will announce his political intentions for the near future. He will certainly launch his 'new' political party, Forza Italia (Forza Italia was the name of the first Berlusconi's party in 1994). He will also take a stand in relation to his conviction,

which will have political repercussions since Berlusconi could withdraw his support to the current government.

[http://www.corriere.it/politica/13\\_settembre\\_17/berlusconi-oggi-video-ipotesi-dimissioni-dicaro\\_00468dda-1f5c-11e3-9636-b0708204026a.shtml](http://www.corriere.it/politica/13_settembre_17/berlusconi-oggi-video-ipotesi-dimissioni-dicaro_00468dda-1f5c-11e3-9636-b0708204026a.shtml)

**Gunman and 12 Victims Killed in Shooting at D.C. Navy Yard - *The New York Times (US)*, 17 September 2013**

WASHINGTON — A former Navy reservist killed at least 12 people on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2013 in a mass shooting at a secure military facility that led the authorities to lock down part of the nation's capital — even after the gunman was killed — in a hunt for two other armed men spotted by video cameras, officials said.

[http://www.nytimes.com/2013/09/17/us/shooting-reported-at-washington-navy-yard.html?hp&\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2013/09/17/us/shooting-reported-at-washington-navy-yard.html?hp&_r=0)

**Authorities confident one shooter only in US tragedy – *Wort (LU)*, 17 September 2013**

US authorities probing the shooting spree at Washington's Navy Yard, which left 13 people dead and eight injured, said Monday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2013 that a lone gunman carried out the killings. "We don't have any evidence or indication at this stage that there was another shooter, even though we haven't completely ruled that out," said Washington mayor Vincent Gray. Police have identified the alleged lone gunman as Aaron Alexis of Forth Worth, Texas, who served in the Navy from 2007 to 2011 before becoming a defense subcontractor for computer giant Hewlett-Packard. He was killed in an exchange of gunfire with police. Separately, a US defence official stated the suspect had gained access (to Navy Yard) through legitimate means.

<http://www.wort.lu/en/view/authorities-confident-one-shooter-only-in-us-tragedy-5237e736e4b0043a31a252b8>

**Today, 18<sup>th</sup> September, an Italian Senate committee (*Giunta per le elezioni*) will express its opinion in relation to the expulsion of Berlusconi from the Italian Senate - *Corriere della Sera (IT)*, 18 September 2013**

Andrea Augello, the People of Freedom Party's Senator, is going to present to the Senate committee a report suggesting the confirmation of Silvio Berlusconi as Italian senator despite his recent condemnation for fraud. The *Giunta* will then vote in favour or against the proposal. This vote will not represent the final decision, which will be taken only in October this year.

[http://www.corriere.it/politica/13\\_settembre\\_18/videomessaggio-decadenza-voto-giunta\\_d274744a-202c-11e3-8197-f40f962f8de4.shtml](http://www.corriere.it/politica/13_settembre_18/videomessaggio-decadenza-voto-giunta_d274744a-202c-11e3-8197-f40f962f8de4.shtml)

**Little scope left for police and politics - *Tageblatt (LU)*, 18 September 2013**

The Luxembourgish politicians and the police have only a very few possibilities of acting. In an information brochure, the social welfare office and the police have now recorded some rules for dealing with beggars. "Do not give any money to beggars. If you want to help, give them food, or addresses of organization which can take care of them", declares the politically responsible. Another problem is the organized begging: people who are brought to Luxembourg on a daily basis. Viviane Loschetter, Alderwoman of Luxembourg city, calls this "Human trafficking." "We have very little room to maneuver against this form of crime," said Kristin Schmit, Assistant Police Director of the City of Luxembourg. As long as no one is bothered, begging is not prohibited.

<http://www.tageblatt.lu/nachrichten/luxemburg/story/Wenig-Spielraum-fuer-Polizei-und-Politik-31547153>

**Jean-Marie Le Pen, the unsinkable, will run for the European elections – *Le Figaro (FR)*, 18 September 2013**

At the age of 85 year, the founder of the Front National, Jean-Marie Le Pen, will run again in the European elections of 2014, as head of the list in the constituency South-East, announced his daughter Marine Le Pen, on Tuesday, 17<sup>th</sup> September 2013. "He will be the candidate for Paca (Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur)", said the president of the FN, who added that she would run as well for her region, the North-West constituency.

<http://www.lefigaro.fr/politique/2013/09/18/01002-20130918ARTFIG00330-jean-marie-le-pen-l-insubmersible-repart-au-combat-des-europeennes.php>

**The European Commission cools down the Catalan separatists' enthusiasm – *Le Monde (FR)*, 18 September 2013**

The European Commissioner responsible for competition, Joaquin Almunia, and the spokeswoman of the European Commission, Pia Ahrenkilde, have left no room for doubt. On Monday, 16<sup>th</sup> September 2013, they told the press that if Catalonia became independent from the rest of Spain, it would leave the euro zone and the European Union, to become "a separate state isolated from the rest of the Union where the treaties are not applicable." Over the past year, the Catalan government, led by nationalist Artur Mas, held a fierce campaign to defend their independence. His speeches on Catalonia's wealth, his controversial calculations, according to which Madrid would appropriate 8 % of the Catalan GDP every year, that is to say € 16 billion, and his polemical even populist slogans, such as the one recently used by his coalition CiU (*Convergence and Union*, the Catalan nationalist electoral alliance), stating that "Subsidized Spain lives at the cost of the productive Catalonia", contributed to the rise of the independence movement.

<http://espagne.blog.lemonde.fr/2013/09/17/la-commission-europeenne-refroidit-les-ardeurs-des-independantistes-catalans/>

**EU says Greece making progress, must stick to bailout – *Wort (LU)*, 18 September 2013**

As Greece was hit on Tuesday, 16<sup>th</sup> September 2013, by yet more public sector strikes against government austerity, the EU insisted the unpopular policy is showing results and must be pursued to the end. European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso said that after huge sacrifices, there is "light at the end of the tunnel," with twice-bailed out Greece set to return to growth next year. Greek doctors joined the latest wave of strikes on 16<sup>th</sup> September, with thousands of public sector workers protesting against government plans for job cuts and redeployments. Teachers from schools and universities, civil servants and lawyers are also on strike in protest at reforms Samaras has pushed through as part of the country's bailout programme. All of Greece's other public sector unions will embark on a two-day strike Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, 19<sup>th</sup> September.

<http://www.wort.lu/en/view/eu-says-greece-making-progress-must-stick-to-bailout-52387ed1e4b04c22d3f7ec4b>

**SWIFT Suspension? EU Parliament Furious about NSA Bank Spying - *Spiegel International (GE)*, 18 September 2013**

Revelations the US is spying on international bank transfers has angered European parliamentarians. Some are calling for the suspension of the SWIFT deal between the

EU and US, which governs the transfer of some bank data from the EU to anti-terror authorities in the United States. "Now that we know that which we had long been suspected, we have to protest loudly and clearly," Jan Philipp Albrecht, a legal expert for the Green Party in the European Parliament

<http://www.spiegel.de/international/europe/nsa-spying-european-parliamentarians-call-for-swift-suspension-a-922920.html>

**Employment and pensions top election priorities for voters –Wort (LU), 19 September 2013**

Employment in Luxembourg was listed as the top priority for more than a third of voters who participated in the third part of the autumn PolitMonitor survey. This priority was closely followed by retirement and pensions and Luxembourg identity, which were at the heart of matters for 33 percent of people polled. Meanwhile, education came a close third with 29 percent of respondents wanting change. The least important priorities among voters appeared to be the Church-State split (14 percent), childcare (9 percent) and transport and European and international politics (10 percent).

<http://www.wort.lu/en/view/employment-and-pensions-top-election-priorities-for-voters-5239cbb4e4b05e7d99eeae5b>

**Luxembourg's secret service archives to be made public – Wort (LU), 19 September 2013**

Documents from the archives of Luxembourg's secret service (SREL) are to be made public when they are handed over to the country's national archives, it emerged on Wednesday. During the latest meeting of the SREL inquiry, it was decided to lift the lid on the archives making them accessible to the public with some exceptions. Until the documents are made public, some legal issues remain to be clarified such as protection of privacy. Inquiry committee chairman Alex Body said that the rights of individuals had to be protected. According to the politician, 500 people have requested information about dossiers relating to them. The SREL fact-finding committee will continue its work until October 7 when parliament is dissolved. It is not considered likely that the new Parliament will set up a successor to the inquiry commission.

<http://www.wort.lu/en/view/luxembourg-s-secret-service-archives-to-be-made-public-5239d88be4b04c22d3f7eec6>

**Sarkozy evokes a return "maybe before" 2015 – Le Monde (FR), 19 September 2013**

On Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> September 2013, Nicolas Sarkozy spoke of his future during a trip to the Haute-Savoie, where he awarded former MP Claude Birraux. The former told a dozen journalists: "I'm done with insignificant politics. France is a different thing." His last public appearance goes back to 8<sup>th</sup> July, following the rejection of his campaign accounts. The former president had then officially declared his decision to "break" with his resolution to "withdraw from political life." This time, Mr. Sarkozy claimed to have a return date. "One day, I will have to say something. "In 2015? "Maybe before", he answered. On Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> September 2013, he remained true to his return strategy. He wondered aloud: "Sometimes when people think, do they not ask themselves if they need someone above the fray?"

<http://ump.blog.lemonde.fr/2013/09/18/sarkozy-evoque-un-retour-peut-etre-avant-2015/>

**The Italian Guardia di Finanza is carrying out an investigation on Equitalia (the company collecting the taxes on behalf of the Italian government). Five members are currently under investigation for corruption – Repubblica (IT), 19 September 2013**



The searches have been carried in many Italian cities, among which Rome, Latina, Genova and Naples. The Guardia di Finanza found out that five Equitalia's officials granted financial advantages, loans, and cancelled debts to individuals who were not supposed to receive these advantages. These five individuals are now suspected of corruption.

[http://www.repubblica.it/economia/2013/09/19/news/inchiesta\\_su\\_corruzione\\_di\\_equitali\\_a\\_perquisizioni\\_a\\_genova\\_roma\\_e\\_tivoli-66859390/?ref=HREA-1](http://www.repubblica.it/economia/2013/09/19/news/inchiesta_su_corruzione_di_equitali_a_perquisizioni_a_genova_roma_e_tivoli-66859390/?ref=HREA-1)

### **New Poll Sees Euroskeptics in Parliament – Spiegel (GE), 19 September 2013**

Could the euroskeptical party Alternative for Germany (AfD) make it into parliament after all? A new poll released by tabloid Bild on Thursday seems to indicate just that. According to the survey, conducted by Erfurt-based polling institute INSA, 5 percent of those asked said they plan to vote for AfD on Sunday, which would be just enough to clear the threshold for sending representatives to the Bundestag.

<http://www.spiegel.de/international/germany/new-poll-sees-euroskeptic-alternative-for-germany-in-parliament-a-923213.html>

## **Economy**

### **Larry Summers, Obama's candidate, renounces to head the Federal Reserve (Fed)**

– *Le Monde (FR)*, 16 September 2013

On Sunday 16 September 2013, Lawrence Summers announced the withdrawal of his application for the US Federal Reserve presidency. In a letter addressed to U.S. President Obama, he said he made the decision reluctantly, but hoped in this way to prevent the appointment process from becoming "acrimonious". The liberal wing of the Democratic Party accused him of being responsible for the dismantling of the Glass-Steagall Act of 1933 which forced banks to separate their investment activities from those of the commercial bank. He was also criticized for his close ties with Wall Street and for the comments he made in 2005, when he was president of Harvard University, questioning the ability of women in science. His withdrawal opens up the way for the appointment of Janet Yellen, current vice-president of the Fed, whose only competitor now is Donald Kohn, former vice chairman of the Fed. However, Kohn's chances of succeeding M. Bernanke are considered to be very low.

[http://www.lemonde.fr/ameriques/article/2013/09/16/larry-summers-renonce-a-diriger-la-fed-americaine\\_3477971\\_3222.html](http://www.lemonde.fr/ameriques/article/2013/09/16/larry-summers-renonce-a-diriger-la-fed-americaine_3477971_3222.html)

### **Mario Draghi on European Central Bank's priorities: 'Competitiveness, employment and credit' - Repubblica (IT), 16 September 2013**

Mario Draghi intervened during the conference 'Europe and the Euro, a family business', Berlin. He emphasized the positive achievements that have been achieved so far within the Eurozone, but he also called for improvements in regards to specific aspects. On the one hand, the OMT (Outright Monetary Transaction) plan put in place by the ECB has reassured the market and stabilized the spread. This 'EU' tool must go together with the recovery of the national public accounts, and the national governments need to do everything in their power to continue on this line. On the other hand, the financial recovery has not impacted yet on the real economy. Thus, in order to strengthen the Eurozone, Draghi individuated three priorities: sustainable policies, common institutions and an increased competitiveness. In particular, unemployment and the access to credit

are the two major problems that the member states, the EU and the ECB have to deal with.

[http://www.repubblica.it/economia/2013/09/16/news/draghi\\_tassi\\_interesse\\_crescita\\_occupazione-66620612/?ref=HRER1-1](http://www.repubblica.it/economia/2013/09/16/news/draghi_tassi_interesse_crescita_occupazione-66620612/?ref=HRER1-1)

**Greece wants to overcome the crisis within the next six years** - *Süddeutsche.de (DE)*, 17 September 2013

According to most of the experts it would 't take Greece several decades or generations, but only six years to return to its pre-crisis level of economic strength and living standard, Greek Prime Minister Samaras said.

<http://www.faz.net/aktuell/wirtschaft/europas-schuldenkrise/griechenland/schuldenkrise-griechenland-will-krise-in-sechs-jahren-hinter-sich-lassen-12577675.html>

**Lawyers concerned for legal aid to the poor** – *Libération (FR)*, 17 September 2013

The government plans to reduce the remuneration of lawyers working in conformance with the legal aid, a system reserved for the most deprived citizens."An incomprehensible reform, especially on behalf of a left-wing government." Florian Borg, General Secretary of the lawyers' labor union of France (SAF) is worried about the future of legal aid, which requires the government to cover the fees and court costs of the poorest. He even dreads a complete "discouragement" of the lawyers whose fees could be reduced to 12%, and thus would turn away from the system.

[http://www.liberation.fr/societe/2013/09/17/les-avocats-inquiets-pour-l-aide-juridique-aux-plus-pauvres\\_932496](http://www.liberation.fr/societe/2013/09/17/les-avocats-inquiets-pour-l-aide-juridique-aux-plus-pauvres_932496)

**Spread, Italy and Spain are now at the same level. The EU exchanges are now waiting for the reaction of the Federal Reserve** - *Repubblica (IT)*, 18 September 2013

The Btp (Italian bonds) and the Bonos (Spanish bonds) now have the same value on the stock-market, 240 points over benchmark German bunds. This rate is under the last five-year average, a positive remark for Italy. Investors now attend for the response of the Fed, which could decide to withdraw the financial support that has provided until now in order to stimulate the economy.

[http://www.repubblica.it/economia/2013/09/18/news/borsa\\_18\\_settembre-66774729/](http://www.repubblica.it/economia/2013/09/18/news/borsa_18_settembre-66774729/)

**Netherlands unveils austerity-driven budget** – *Wort (LU)*, 18 September 2013

Dutch Finance Minister Jeroen Dijsselbloem unveiled his 2014 austerity-driven budget on Tuesday, 16<sup>th</sup> September 2013, as the fifth-largest Eurozone economy struggles to return to growth. "Balance has not yet returned to our economy, and that can be seen from the figures," Dijsselbloem, who also heads the Eurogroup of Eurozone finance ministers, told parliament. The Dutch trade-dependent economy is in the fourth quarter of a recession and is struggling even as other European countries return to growth. "A quick and painless solution does not exist," Dijsselbloem said, referring to six billion euros in additional budget cuts for 2014.

<http://www.wort.lu/en/view/netherlands-unveils-austerity-driven-budget-52387e1de4b0568dd202d0f9>

**Cyprus to lift capital controls in January** - *Deutsche Welle (GE)*, 18 September 2013

The Cypriot government is seeking to scrap laws banning the outflow of capital from its ailing banks. The move, due in January, follows positive assessments by the country's foreign creditors about its bailout program.

<http://www.dw.de/cyprus-to-lift-capital-controls-in-january/a-17097933>

**300 million for recovery – Tageblatt (LU), 19 September 2013**

With a 16 point programme and start-up funds of 300 million, Paris and Lorraine want to contribute to the recovery of the region. The projects to be funded should generate a total investment of 1.5 billion euros, says French Prime Minister Ayrault. According to the Regional Council President Jean-Pierre Masseret, the three-year project, called "Lorraine Pact", aims to transform Lorraine into a knowledge society and a region of innovation. The Pact consists of three major parts: First of all, Lorraine should become the European valley of materials processing and energy. Furthermore, in the energy sector Lorraine should become a model for the energy transition in France. Moreover, research institutions should settle in Metz, focusing on renewable industries, on the forestry and timber industry and on the ecological construction.

<http://www.tageblatt.lu/nachrichten/story/300-Millionen-fuer-den-Aufschwung-29278321>

**Global markets rise on surprise Fed decision – BBC (UK), 19 September 2013**

European stock markets have followed Asia's by rising after the US central bank unexpectedly said it would not begin scaling back its massive economic stimulus programme. London's FTSE 100 index rose 1.4%, Paris's Cac gained 1.1%, and Frankfurt's Dax was up 1.2%. The Federal Reserve said it would not scale back its bond-buying programme until the US economy had improved further. The bank also cut its growth forecast. The Fed now estimates that the US economy will grow by between 2.0% and 2.3% this year. That compares to a previous estimate made in June of between 2.3% and 2.6%.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-24157300>

**No trace of green jobs miracle – Süddeutsche (GE), 19 September 2013**

The promotion of environmental protection and renewable energies in Germany were associated with great expectations for the labor market right from the start. However, renewable energies do not even account for one percent of Germany's total employment so far.

<http://www.faz.net/aktuell/wirtschaft/wirtschaftspolitik/energiewende-keine-spur-vom-gruenen-beschaefigungswunder-12580106.html>