



# Weekly Media Report

18-21 November

## International Affairs

**Economic crisis: the European Union promises to be more flexible – *Repubblica (IT)*, 21 November 2013**

Olli Rehn, EU commissioner for Economic Affairs, affirmed that the EU and its member states should focus on adopting effective measures for economic recovery. Besides warning Italy and Finland to respect the macro-economic conditions set-up for the Euro zone, Rehn called for Germany to increase its internal demand.

[http://www.repubblica.it/economia/2013/11/21/news/crisi\\_1\\_ue\\_promette\\_pi\\_flessibilit\\_rehn\\_rallentare\\_consolidamento-71514033/?ref=HREC1-4](http://www.repubblica.it/economia/2013/11/21/news/crisi_1_ue_promette_pi_flessibilit_rehn_rallentare_consolidamento-71514033/?ref=HREC1-4)

**Merkel takes a stand against Putin – *Deutsche Welle (GE)*, 18 November 2013**

In an official statement, Chancellor Angela Merkel has indicated that Germany is taking a new line towards Russia. DW's Ingo Mannteufel says Germany will stop accepting Russian pressure on its neighbours.

<http://www.dw.de/opinion-merkel-takes-a-stand-against-putin/a-17241371>

## National Affairs

**Sardinia hit by deadly Cyclone Cleopatra – *BBC (UK)*, 19 November 2013**

At least 18 people have been killed after a powerful cyclone hit the Italian island of Sardinia. A number of people are reported missing after rivers burst their banks, sweeping cars away and causing bridges to collapse. The Italian Prime Minister Enrico Letta has called it a national tragedy.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-25004188>

**Bostinaru report adopted by EP plenary sitting as part of EU Cohesion Policy – *Agerpres (Romania)*, 21 November 2013**

A report by Romanian MEP Victor Bostinaru (the Social Democrat Party PSD) was adopted by the European Parliament in a plenary sitting in Strasbourg aimed at the key regulations for the implementation of the European Union's Cohesion Policy over 2014-20. Bostinaru stressed that the Cohesion Fund, for which he was a rapporteur, has been significantly transformed by the very good cooperation with the shadow rapporteurs, the Commission and the Council. The cohesion fund will make 66 billion euros available to the EU members with a gross national income below 90 percent of the EU average starting next year; Romania will get 7.25 billion euros of it.

<http://www1.agerpres.ro/news-of-the-day/2013/11/21/bostinaru-report-adopted-by-ep-plenary-sitting-as-part-of-eu-cohesion-policy-13-33-05>

**Putin, Netanyahu Hope for Solution on Iran Nuclear Program – RIA Novosti (Moscow), 21 November 2013**

Russian President Vladimir Putin said Wednesday, 20 November, that he hoped talks in Geneva about Iran's nuclear program would soon bring a mutually acceptable solution. "We discussed in detail the situation around the Iranian nuclear program with ... the [Israeli] prime minister," Putin said after talks with Benjamin Netanyahu in the Kremlin. "We hope mutually acceptable solutions will be found soon, Russia has an optimistic view."

<http://en.ria.ru/world/20131120/184835981/Putin-Netanyahu-Hope-for-Solution-on-Iran-Nuclear-Program.html>

**Ukraine Ditches Plans for EU Deal, Turns to Russia - RIA Novosti (Kiev), 21 November 2013**

Ukraine's government decided Thursday, 21 November, to call off the planned signing of a landmark association agreement with the EU that could have weakened the former Soviet nation's bonds with Russia. The Cabinet said in a decree that the decision was motivated by the need to consolidate economic ties with Russia and member states of the Moscow-led Commonwealth of Independence States alliance.

<http://en.ria.ru/russia/20131121/184845623/Ukraine-Rejects-Laws-to-Free-Tymoshenko-Jeopardises-EU-Deal.html>

**Oil CEO Sechin Tops Forbes Russian Executives Pay List – RIA Novosti (Moscow), 21 November 2013.**

The president of Russian oil giant Rosneft, Igor Sechin, is the highest-paid executive in the country, according to a rating of top managers' salaries published Thursday, 21 November, by the local edition of Forbes magazine.

<http://en.ria.ru/russia/20131121/184843784/Oil-CEO-Sechin-Tops-Forbes-Russian-Executives-Pay-List.html>

**Albania declines to host destruction of Syria's chemical weapons – Albanian News Agency (Albania), 18 November 2013**

Albanian government has turned down a request for it to host the destruction of Syria's arsenal of chemical weapons. Syria agreed to their destruction as part of a UN Security Council deal to avoid US military strikes. Albanian Prime Minister Edi Rama announced the decision in a nationally televised address broadcast on Friday evening. "It is impossible for Albania to take part in such an operation," Prime Minister Rama said. He added that while Tirana had previously agreed "in principle" to a US request to "contribute to the destruction of chemical weapons," the Albanian authorities had determined that they simply did "not have the capacity" to do so. Rama's announcement was met with a cheer from a few thousand demonstrators opposed to Albania taking on the task of destroying the Syrian weapons, who were camped outside of the prime minister's office. The US embassy in Tirana responded to the decision with a statement issued shortly afterwards. "The United States will continue to work with Allies and partners as well as the OPCW (Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons) and the United Nations to ensure the elimination of Syria's chemical weapons program," the statement said. "We remain confident that we will complete elimination of the program within the timeline agreed upon," it added. The "timeline" refers to a deadline of June 30, 2014 agreed by the United Nations Security Council under a resolution passed back in September, which allowed Syria to avoid threatened US military strikes in return for allowing its chemical weapons to be destroyed. The government of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad has said it wants the weapons destroyed outside of the country and the

OPCW had agreed that this is the "most viable" option. Last month, Norway also announced that it would not be able to host the destruction activities, which are to be overseen by OPCW inspectors.

<http://noa.al/en-post/en/379117.html>

**Government's refusal of Syrian arsenal no impact on EU candidate status –** *Gazeta Shqip (Albania), 19 November 2013*

The Head of the Delegation of the European Union (EU) in Albania, Ambassador Ettore Sequi, said on Monday, 18 November, that there is no relation between the possible granting of EU candidate status to Albania in December and the Government's refusal to host the destruction of the Syrian regime's chemical arsenal.

<http://gazeta-shqip.com/journal/gazeta.pdf>

**Albanian and French Interior Ministers sign agreements against human trafficking, asylum-seeking abuses –** *Panorama (Albania), 20 November 2013*

French Interior Minister Manuel Valls, in a meeting with the Albanian counterpart Saimir Tahiri in Paris, said that France supports the reforms launched by the Albanian government in the framework of EU integration process. He expressed the support of France to boost up cooperation, especially on domains of mutual interest, such as the fight against drug trafficking, human trafficking or to stop asylum seekers from Albania to France. They signed a bilateral agreement in the joint fight against trafficking in human beings and abuses with the asylum-seeking regime.

<http://www.panorama.com.al/>

**Less people voted in Mitrovica –** Albanian News Agency (Kosovo), 18 November 2013

On 17<sup>th</sup> November 2013, at 19.00 hrs, three polling stations closed in Northern Mitrovica. The voting was held under strict security measures by Kosovo Police and EULEX as well as KFOR. The chairperson of Central Election Commission has reported during a TV interview that turnout was lower than two weeks ago where 16.39% went voting till 12.00 hrs. No incidents were reported at the end. The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe has recommended that counting to be held in Prishtina.

<http://noa.al/artikull/zgjedhjet-ne-mitrovice-osbe-votat-te-numerohen-ne-prishtine/379427.html>

**Listening Sector: Berlin Makes Easy Target for Spies –** *Spiegel International, (Germany), 21 November 2013*

The center of Berlin has become a playground for spies. Phone calls in the dense German government district can be monitored with basic equipment and even by allies. German counter-espionage agents are alarmed.

<http://www.spiegel.de/international/germany/spying-believed-to-rampant-in-the-german-capital-a-934759.html>

## **Economy**

**Latvian farmers win in the game of European budget for 2014-2020 –** *Dienas Bizness (LV), 21 November 2013*

Latvia has managed to achieve good conditions in the European budget for 2014-2020. The money received in this period will be 707 million euro more than the previous period

of 2007-2013. If compared, farmers will receive 2.3 times bigger direct payments. Latvian farmers will receive 109 euro/ha from the EU direct payment budget, starting from year 2014. But the number will increase yearly, reaching 196 euro/ha in 2019. And only by then, Latvia will reach the level of other Baltic States and Romania.

<http://www.db.lv/razosana/lauksaimnieciba/miljaru-vertajas-speles-eiropa-uzvar-lauksaimnieki-405405>

**Romania to resume pork exports to EU countries from all accredited commercial holdings – Agerpres (Romania), 18 November 2013**

Romania will resume the exports of pork in the EU countries from 1 January 2014, from all commercial holdings in the country accredited for export to the Community market. Romania has been in recent years a market for imports of pork even for covering the national consumption, while exports were several times smaller and made more in countries outside the EU space. Domestic exports of pork meat and live pigs were affected by restrictions imposed on Romania by the European Union since 2003 because of the classical swine fever evolution. The last outbreak of swine fever in Romania was registered in 2007.

<http://www1.agerpres.ro/english/2013/11/18/romania-to-resume-pork-exports-to-eu-countries-from-all-accredited-commercial-holdings-09-10-36>

**Near Zero: ECB Interest Rate Cuts Hit Savings Hard – Spiegel International (Germany), 20 November 2013**

As the European Central Bank pushes interest rates to a new low, Germans are growing increasingly concerned about their savings. The money in their accounts is losing value and life insurance policies are yielding lower returns. Investors and central bankers feel trapped.

<http://www.spiegel.de/international/business/germans-worried-as-low-ecb-interest-rates-hit-savings-a-934240.html>

**Albanian Prime Minister Mr.Rama meets Cameron, attends EBRD event in London – Balkan Web (Albania), 21 November 2013**

Prime Minister Edi Rama, who is currently on a visit to London, was received on Wednesday by his British counterpart David Cameron at the latter's 10 Downing Street residence. A press release issued by Rama's office reports that the discussions between the two focused on Albania's European future, with Rama dwelling on the reforms implemented by his government, especially on those aimed at boosting the fight against organized crime and corruption. Other issued discuss in the meeting include the bilateral economic Cooperation and trade exchanges. While in London, Rama attended an event organized by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) to launch its *Transition Report 2013: Stuck in Transition?* Rama was part of the panel of personalities asked to speak in this event, along with Former President of Kyrgyz Republic Roza Otunbayeva, global investor and philanthropist George Soros, and the member of the Central Bank of Libya Board of Directors Tarik Yousef. Rama said that for the first time in the history of Balkans, in 2014, everybody will stay home and not at their windows with guns pointed at their neighbours. According to him, this is the first New Year that finds Balkans without any conflicts. <http://www.balkanweb.com/indexi.php>