



# BLACK SEA NEWS UPDATE

EU – BLACK SEA OBSERVATORY

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## **I. ARMENIA**

### **1.**

Armenian President urges rapprochement with Turkey

10.02.2010, Hurriyet Daily News

READ MORE: <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/n.php?n=armenian-president-urges-rapprochement-with-turkey-2010-02-10>

Armenian President Serge Sarkisian said Tuesday that it was time for progress in the Turkey-Armenia rapprochement and the establishment of a stable region for future generations, in a plea to his Turkish counterpart Abdullah Gül. As his plane made its way through the Turkish air space en route to England, Sarkisian told Russian news agency Itar-Tass that foreign mediation in efforts to normalize relations between the two countries was useful, noting however that it should not be overplayed.

2.

Opposition bloc slams Armenia's policy on Turkey

03.02.2010, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty

[READ MORE:](#)

[http://www.rferl.org/content/Opposition\\_Bloc\\_Slams\\_Armenias\\_Policy\\_On\\_Turkey/1947841.html](http://www.rferl.org/content/Opposition_Bloc_Slams_Armenias_Policy_On_Turkey/1947841.html)

The opposition Armenian National Congress (HAK) has denounced President Serzh Sarkisian's policy on Turkey, claiming it gives Ankara a say in the Nagorno-Karabakh peace process and puts "unprecedented" international pressure on Yerevan to make further concessions to Azerbaijan, RFE/RL's Armenian Service reports. Levon Zurabian, a leading member of the HAK alliance headed by former President Levon Ter-Petrosian, said that "what was supposed to be a Turkish-Armenian reconciliation process has effectively turned into a Turkish-Armenian conflict."

## II. AZERBAIJAN

1.

MP: Azerbaijan can demonstrate its problems at Munich Conference on Security

09.02.2010, Trend News

[READ MORE: http://en.trend.az/news/politics/movements/1635199.html](#)

During the Munich Conference on Security Azerbaijan was able to show its problems in a number of challenges of global security, MP said. "Azerbaijan plays an important role in ensuring Europe's energy security. Participation of Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev in the Munich Conference on Security, of course, shows the contribution that could include Azerbaijan in a world system of security," a member of political council of the ruling New Azerbaijan Party, MP Aydin Mirzazade said in an interview with the website of the party.

2.

Azerbaijan planning to de-Russify family names

07.02.2010, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty

[READ MORE: http://en.trend.az/news/politics/foreign/1617336.html](#)

An Azerbaijani parliamentary committee is preparing a draft law on the de-Russification of Azerbaijani last names, RFE/RL's Azerbaijani Service reports. Culture Committee Chairman Nizami Jafarov told journalists in Baku on February 5 that a commission from the Azerbaijani Academy of Sciences spent six months developing the concept behind the draft legislation.

## III. GEORGIA

1.

Saakashvili: Ukraine is Georgia's strategic partner

08.02.2010, Civil Georgia

[READ MORE: http://www.civil.ge/eng/article.php?id=21960](#)

President Saakashvili said after polling stations in Ukrainian presidential runoff were closed, that "the Ukrainian democracy has won." "Many European countries may envy the way how elections in Ukraine were held," Saakashvili said while speaking in Shuster Live talk show on Ukraina TV late on February 7. He also reiterated that Tbilisi and Ukraine would remain strategic partners no matter who becomes the new president in Ukraine.

2.

#### Georgia unveils "strategy on occupied territories"

28.01.2010, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty

[READ MORE:](#)

[http://www.rferl.org/content/Georgia\\_Unveils\\_Strategy\\_On\\_Occupied\\_Territories/1942534.html](http://www.rferl.org/content/Georgia_Unveils_Strategy_On_Occupied_Territories/1942534.html)

The Georgian government made public on January 28 its strategy with regard to regaining control over the breakaway republics of Abkhazia and South Ossetia. Like successive draft peace proposals that Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili presented since his election in 2004, it is phrased in such a way as to impress the international community, rather than to address the existential fears, and win the trust of, the population of the regions in question.

### IV. GEORGIA-RUSSIA

1.

#### Georgian-Russian TV bridge disputes on Abkhazia and South Ossetia

01.02.2010, Caucasian Knot

[READ MORE:](#) <http://abkhazia.eng.kavkaz-uzel.ru/articles/12369/>

Today, a video conference was held between Moscow and Tbilisi on the topic "Situation in Abkhazia and South Ossetia after Round 9 of Geneva Consultations." The parties rejected opponent's arguments. The Georgian party was represented by state minister of Georgia Temur Yakobashvili, the Russian party - by Alexei Vlasov, director general of the Information Analytical Centre for Studying Political Processes in Post-Soviet Space, and Felix Stanevskiy, former ambassador of Russia to Georgia.

### V. GREECE

1.

#### EU leaders withhold details of Greece rescue plan

11.02.2010, Euractiv

[READ MORE:](#) <http://www.euractiv.com/en/euro/eu-leaders-reach-deal-rescue-greece>

European leaders sought to prop up Greece with words of support at a summit on Thursday (11 February) but failed to offer concrete proposals to help the country tackle its debt crisis, citing "strategic" reasons. EU President Herman Van Rompuy told a news conference after the summit that Europe was sending Greece a "clear message of solidarity", a line echoed by Germany and France.

2.

#### New migrant law tough but respects rights

09.02.2010, IPS News

[READ MORE:](#) <http://www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=50257>

The newly elected Pan-Hellenic Socialist Movement (PASOK) government's plans to move legislation, that will greatly affect migrants and refugees, have been both welcomed and criticised by rights organisations and activists. The interior ministry is ready with legislation that will allow migrants to apply for citizenship as long as they have maintained legal status for more than five years.

### VI. MOLDOVA

1.

#### New publication shows huge increase in EU spending in Moldova

03.02.2010, ENPI Info

[READ MORE:](#) [http://www.enpi-info.eu/maineast.php?id=20638&id\\_type=1](http://www.enpi-info.eu/maineast.php?id=20638&id_type=1)

From 1991 to 2007, the European Commission provided assistance to Moldova worth more than €400 million, according to a new publication by the EU Delegation to Moldova, 'EU and Moldova: Assistance and Cooperation'. The publication consists of two parts, giving an overview of relations between the two parties, in English and Moldavian. It refers to bilateral, thematic and regional projects funded.

2.

Moldova gets big IMF loan

02.02.2010, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty

READ MORE: [http://www.rferl.org/content/Moldova\\_Gets\\_Big\\_IMF\\_Loan/1946455.html](http://www.rferl.org/content/Moldova_Gets_Big_IMF_Loan/1946455.html)

Moldovan and International Monetary Fund (IMF) officials have signed an agreement for a \$574 million loan that Chisinau says will help it bridge its ballooning budget deficit, RFE/RL's Moldovan Service reports. Moldovan Prime Minister Vlad Filat said after the signing ceremony today that the IMF money is the only way for his country to avoid "a total collapse." Already Europe's poorest country, Moldova's economy contracted by an estimated 7 percent last year, with the budget deficit reaching 16 percent of gross domestic product (GDP).

## VII. ROMANIA

1.

EU gives Romania an extra year to rein in deficit

08.02.2010, EU Business News

READ MORE: <http://www.eubusiness.com/news-eu/romania-economy.2kz>

The European Commission on Monday gave Romania an extra year, till 2012, to bring its swollen public deficit back to the EU's limit of three percent of GDP, due to the gravity of the economic crisis. "Romania has made a serious effort to limit the deterioration of its budget deficit and to preserve macro-economic stability during the past year," said the EU's Economic and Monetary Affairs Commissioner Joaquín Almunia. "The worsening of the economic situation since the initial recommendations were made justifies extending the deadline by one year," he added in a statement.

2.

Romania accepts US "invitation" to host anti-missile shield

05.02.2010, EurActiv

READ MORE: <http://www.euractiv.com/en/foreign-affairs/romania-accepts-us-invitation-host-anti-missile-shield>

President Traian Basescu announced on Thursday (4 February) that Romania's Supreme Defence Council had accepted an invitation from US President Obama to host an anti-missile shield. EurActiv Romania reports. Basescu insisted that the project is in his country's interest and is not directed against Russia. "The new system is not directed against Russia. I repeat: Romania is not hosting a system directed against Russia, but against other threats," Basescu stated.

3.

Where does "Greater Romania" end?

03.02.2010, Euro Dialogue

READ MORE: <http://eurodialogue.org/eastern-partnership/Where-Does-Greater-Romania-End>

Moldova and Ukraine pose problems for each other on the way to Europe, but in fact the main task for both of them is to overcome the common Soviet past. Regardless of who wins the presidential election in Ukraine, the desire of this country – at least, of most of its political elites – for integration with EU won't disappear. Speaking to the reporters about her program prior to the election, one of the main contenders for victory – the current Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko – said that in the case of her victory the country will become an associate member of EU already this year. And she also promised that Ukraine will become a full member of the European Union by 2015.

## VIII. RUSSIA

1.

In A NATO First, France agrees to sell warship to Russia

08.02.2010, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty

READ MORE: [http://www.rferl.org/content/In\\_A\\_NATO\\_First\\_France\\_Agrees\\_To\\_Sell\\_Warship\\_To\\_Russia\\_/1952396.html](http://www.rferl.org/content/In_A_NATO_First_France_Agrees_To_Sell_Warship_To_Russia_/1952396.html)

French defense officials say France has agreed to sell Russia a technologically advanced battleship and is considering a request to sell Moscow three more. If the sale is completed, it would be the first such arms sale between Russia and a member of NATO. News of the sale has raised concern among other NATO members and some of Russia's neighbors, especially Georgia, which fought a war with Russia in 2008.

2.

Russia should consider joining the EU and NATO, says Medvedev's institute

07.02.2010, New Europe

READ MORE: <http://www.neurope.eu/articles/98948.php>

According to a paper released on 3 February by the Institute of Contemporary Development (INSOR), a think tank headed by Russian President Dmitry Medvedev, Russia will join NATO and the EU, reduce its military, reintroduce gubernatorial elections and four-year presidential terms and disband its Interior Ministry and Federal Security Service, news agencies reported. The essay, 21st-Century Russia: Reflections on an Attractive Tomorrow, published by the institute says the country should consider joining both the European Union and NATO.

3.

Russia urges U.S., Europe for joint assessment of missile threats

06.02.2010, RIA NOVOSTI

READ MORE: <http://en.rian.ru/russia/20100206/157793285.html>

Moscow highlighted the need to carry out an assessment of missile threats jointly with both Washington and Europe in response to U.S. plans to deploy missile defense elements in Romania. Romanian President Traian Basescu said on Thursday his country welcomes talks with the United States on a plan to deploy interceptor missiles as part of the U.S. missile shield to protect European allies.

4.

The new, 2010 Russian Military Doctrine: the nuclear angle

05.02.2010, CNS Stories

READ MORE: [http://cns.miis.edu/stories/100205\\_russian\\_nuclear\\_doctrine.htm](http://cns.miis.edu/stories/100205_russian_nuclear_doctrine.htm)

On February 5, 2010, after multiple delays, Russia finally published its new Military Doctrine, which replaces an earlier document adopted in 2000. At the same time as he signed the Military Doctrine, President Dmitri Medvedev also signed "The Foundations of State Policy in the Area of Nuclear Deterrence until 2020," which has not yet been made public.

5.

In Moscow, Azeri student beaten for forum statements on Nagorno-Karabakh

04.02.2010, Caucasian Knot

READ MORE: <http://rf.eng.kavkaz-uzel.ru/articles/12416/>

On January 23, Ali Aslanly (Aslanov), a 1st year student of the Russian State Medical University (RSMU), was hospitalized to the in neurosurgery ward of Pirogov Hospital No. 33 in Moscow after he was beaten by his classmates. The "Caucasian Knot" correspondent has found out that the conflict burst out because of the debate in the Internet of the status of Nagorno-Karabakh.

6.

#### Kaliningrad rising

03.02.2010, Russia Profile

READ MORE: <http://www.russiaprofile.org/page.php?pageid=Politics&articleid=a1265227442>

A Rare Show of Unity Amongst the Opposition Parties, the Largest Anti-Government Protest in Years, and a Governor in Trouble – Is There Something Different About Kaliningrad? The horror of Kaliningrad is its Baltic temperatures. But that didn't stop some 10,000 people from showing up for a rally to protest a hike in transportation tax and import duties.

### IX. SERBIA

1.

#### Rumours of a Russian base in Serbia reflect Balkan hysteria, not reality

04.02.2010, The Economist

READ MORE: [http://www.economist.com/world/europe/displaystory.cfm?story\\_id=15464941](http://www.economist.com/world/europe/displaystory.cfm?story_id=15464941)

EVERYONE in the Balkans loves a good conspiracy theory, especially one that involves energy pipelines and military bases. According to some people with a bent against Serbia and Russia, the Russians are plotting to create a thinly-disguised military base in Serbia. That would be the Kremlin's first new European base since the end of the Warsaw Pact, and could seem a response to NATO's expansion in the region. Every country around Serbia is either in NATO or wants to be.

### X. TURKEY

1.

#### Turkey slams U.S. over Armenian Genocide Bill

08.02.2010, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty

READ MORE:

[http://www.rferl.org/content/Turkey\\_Slams\\_US\\_Over\\_Armenian\\_Genocide\\_Bill/1952409.html](http://www.rferl.org/content/Turkey_Slams_US_Over_Armenian_Genocide_Bill/1952409.html)

Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu has denounced a U.S. Congressional committee for scheduling a vote on a resolution about the Armenian genocide, RFE/RL's Armenian Service reports. Davutoglu said over the weekend that passage of the resolution would seriously harm Turkey's relations with both the United States and Armenia.

2.

#### Greek crisis may be chance to improve relations

08.02.2010, Hurriyet Daily News

READ MORE: <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/n.php?n=greek-crisis-may-be-chance-to-improve-relations-2010-02-08>

The debt crisis on the other side of the Aegean could well be turned into an opportunity to enhance Turkey-Greece relations, according to Selim Egeli, the chief of a Turkish-Greek business council. "The two countries should complement, not compete with each other," he says.

3.

#### Davutoğlu calls for "Eurasian union"

05.02.2010, Today's Zaman

READ MORE: <http://www.todayszaman.com/tz-web/detaylar.do?load=detay&link=200653>

Given the European Union's peaceful environment, which is based on a joint economic basin, Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoğlu has called for the establishment of a similar union encompassing the Eurasia region.

4.

Istanbul 2010 “great opportunity” for EU to understand Turkey

03.02.2010, Euractiv

READ MORE: <http://www.euractiv.com/en/enlargement/istanbul-2010-great-opportunity-eu-understand-turkey>

Awarding Istanbul the title of 'European Capital of Culture' is a great opportunity for Europe to understand Turkey and for Turkey to better understand the EU, Egemen Bağış, Turkey's EU chief negotiator, told the European Parliament on 2 February.

## **XI. TURKEY-ARMENIA**

1.

CNN Turk: CE Secretary General says normalization of Armenian-Turkish ties may last 5-10 years

09.02.2010, Panorama AM

READ MORE: <http://www.panorama.am/en/region/2010/02/09/yagland/>

Council of Europe Secretary General Thorbjorn Jagland held out hope for the normalization of Armenian-Turkish ties, CNN Turk reported as CE SG told the media. “The process may need time but the very first step is done,” Jagland said at his visit to Ankara. It’s worth reminding that Turkey is going to assume the presidency of CE in November.

2.

Turkey will lose credibility if Armenia talks fail

08.02.2010, Today’s Zaman

READ MORE: <http://www.todayszaman.com/tz-web/detaylar.do?load=detay&link=200929>

If efforts by Ankara and Yerevan to restore relations fail due to Turkey’s uneasiness over a recent ruling by an Armenian court that Ankara says threatens agreements between the two, it will be Turkey that will lose credibility, Armenian analysts have warned. After months of Swiss mediation and US encouragement, Turkey and Armenia signed two protocols in October 2009 to establish diplomatic ties and reopen their shared border.

## **XII. UKRAINE**

1.

What Yanukovich presidency would mean for Ukraine

09.02.2010, Kyiv Post

READ MORE: <http://www.kyivpost.com/news/politics/detail/59044/>

Yanukovich has called to scrap a 2009 agreement obliging Ukraine to start paying full European prices for Russian gas. Instead, he says the country should receive a discount. He has promised to create a consortium that would allow Russia to jointly operate Ukraine's vast gas transportation network, advancing Russia's goal of controlling the gas supply chain to Europe.

2.

Ukraine foreign minister: No reasons to recognize Abkhazia, South Ossetia

02.02.2010, Kyiv Post

READ MORE: <http://www.kyivpost.com/news/nation/detail/58436/>

Ukrainian Foreign Minister Petro Poroshenko has said there are no plans for his country to officially recognize South Ossetia and Abkhazia's independence. "I don't think this problem is on our agenda and I don't entertain the thought that South Ossetia or Abkhazia could be recognized because this would go against the basic principles of international law," Poroshenko said in an interview published on Tuesday with the newspaper Kommersant-Ukraina.

### XIII. CAUCASUS

1.

#### Enter Turkey

09.02.2010, Russia Profile

READ MORE: <http://russiaprofile.org/page.php?pageid=International&articleid=a1265738038>

At first glance there have been no significant changes this year in the process of settling the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. The framework of this discussion is well-known: arguments over the timeframe in which the five districts surrounding Nagorno-Karabakh are to be demilitarized; repatriating the refugees; the status of the disputed territory and various possible mechanisms that would ensure the non-use of force.

2.

#### OSCE chairman-in-office: New breath provided to Nagorno-Karabakh process

06.02.2010, Trend News

READ MORE: <http://en.trend.az/news/politics/foreign/1634117.html>

The last meeting between the presidents of Azerbaijan, Armenia and Russia in Sochi provided new breath to the negotiation process on Nagorno-Karabakh conflict settlement, said OSCE Chairman-in-Office Kanat Saudabayev. "As a country in the region, we have more opportunities to get closer to the final stage of the Nagorno-Karabakh process, Saudabayev, State Secretary and Foreign Minister of Kazakhstan told Trend News.

3.

#### South Ossetians petition against rearming of Georgia

06.02.2010, RT

READ MORE: [http://rt.com/Top\\_News/2010-02-06/south-ossetia-georgia-weapons.html](http://rt.com/Top_News/2010-02-06/south-ossetia-georgia-weapons.html)

Residents of South Ossetia have petitioned US Senator Richard Lugar against resuming the supply of weapons to Georgia. The petitioners fear rearmament could increase the chance of another conflict. "President of Georgia Mikhail Saakashvili has previously used weapons and military training provided by the US and other countries to attack the civilians of South Ossetia, including the attacks in August 2008," the petition reads.

4.

#### Gun battles kill at least 11 in Chechnya

05.02.2010, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty

READ MORE:

[http://www.rferl.org/content/Gun\\_Battles\\_Kill\\_At\\_Least\\_11\\_In\\_Chechnya/1949437.html](http://www.rferl.org/content/Gun_Battles_Kill_At_Least_11_In_Chechnya/1949437.html)

At least six insurgents and five Russian troops have been killed in gun battles in Chechnya, authorities in the war-scarred Russian province have said.

Five or six federal servicemen were killed in fighting that began on February 4 and persisted today in forested mountains southwest of the capital, Grozny, a law enforcement official told Reuters on condition of anonymity. Moscow-backed Chechen President Ramzan Kadyrov's office said six insurgents were killed on February 4 in separate fighting.

5.

#### Dagestan's political uncertainty joined by turmoil, technological and social failures

01.02.2010, Eurasia Daily

READ MORE:

[http://www.jamestown.org/programs/ncw/single/?tx\\_ttnews%5Btt\\_news%5D=35989&tx\\_ttnews%5BbackPid%5D=24&cHash=a4bf9c5364](http://www.jamestown.org/programs/ncw/single/?tx_ttnews%5Btt_news%5D=35989&tx_ttnews%5BbackPid%5D=24&cHash=a4bf9c5364)

As of January 29, an estimated 50,000 inhabitants of Dagestan's capital Makhachkala remained without central heating, water and stable electricity supply for several days. Officials said that cold weather was causing the disruption and they would attend to the problem. Over 100 protestors

blocked railways in Makhachkala that connect Russia and Azerbaijan for an hour on January 29, demanding a restoration of the utilities supplies. The police managed to restore the order after negotiations with the protestors.

6.

OSCE Chairmanship says Geneva Discussions are crucial to sustain stability in the South Caucasus region

28.02.2010, OSCE Press Release

READ MORE: <http://www.osce.org/item/42504.html>

The Kazakh OSCE Chairmanship described today's ninth round of Geneva Discussions as an important step in sustaining stability in the South Caucasus region. "It is crucial for us to help restore people's hope and confidence in their own future," said Ambassador Bolat Nurgaliyev, the Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office. "We need to be creative and agree on interim steps as a permanent security arrangement may take some time to elaborate." Nurgaliyev emphasized the need to have a step-by-step approach.

#### XIV. ENERGY

1.

Gazprom delays start of Shtokman gas field

05.02.2010, UPI

READ MORE: <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704533204575047171265580664.html>

A consortium led by Russian gas producer OAO Gazprom said Friday it has decided to delay the start-up of the huge Arctic gas condensate development Shtokman until 2016 amid uncertainty about global demand for gas. The decision comes as industry observers forecast a gas glut hitting global markets in the next few years, due to weakened demand in Europe and new supplies of liquefied natural gas, or LNG, and shale gas.

2.

Baku and Ankara agree on some gas terms

02.02.2010, UPI

READ MORE: [http://www.upi.com/Science\\_News/Resource-Wars/2010/02/02/Baku-and-Ankara-agree-on-some-gas-terms/UPI-55301265127600/](http://www.upi.com/Science_News/Resource-Wars/2010/02/02/Baku-and-Ankara-agree-on-some-gas-terms/UPI-55301265127600/)

Baku and Ankara have agreed on the price of gas from the first phase of the Shah Deniz gas field, though further talks are needed, energy officials said. Ankara has sought to allay concerns from the Azeri government regarding the disputed territory of Nagorno-Karabakh. Meanwhile, both sides have sat idle on the transit terms and revenues for natural gas heading to Europe across Turkey.

3.

Azerbaijan and Romania sign memorandum on cooperation in energy sphere

02.02.2010, Trend News

READ MORE: <http://en.trend.az/capital/pengineering/1631231.html>

Azerbaijan and Romania have signed a memorandum on cooperation in the energy sector. One of the paragraphs of the memorandum envisages cooperation in the project on delivery of compressed gas from Azerbaijan to Romania through Georgia.

4.

Gazprom creates Hungarian South Stream arm

01.02.2010, UPI

READ MORE: [http://www.upi.com/Science\\_News/Resource-Wars/2010/02/01/Gazprom-creates-Hungarian-South-Stream-arm/UPI-45891265044206/](http://www.upi.com/Science_News/Resource-Wars/2010/02/01/Gazprom-creates-Hungarian-South-Stream-arm/UPI-45891265044206/)

Russian gas giant Gazprom created a joint venture for the Hungarian leg of the South Stream gas

pipeline during a ceremony in Budapest, the company said. Viktor Zubkov, the Russian deputy prime minister, met Hungarian Prime Minister Gordon Bajnai at a ceremony in Budapest to sign incorporation documents for Hungary Zrt, a joint venture for the South Stream natural gas pipeline in Hungary.

5.

U.S. envoy for Eurasian energy explains goals, strategy for region

29.01.2010, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty

READ MORE: [http://www.rferl.org/content/US\\_Envoy\\_For\\_Eurasian\\_Energy\\_Explains\\_Goals\\_Strategy\\_For\\_Region/1943405.html](http://www.rferl.org/content/US_Envoy_For_Eurasian_Energy_Explains_Goals_Strategy_For_Region/1943405.html)

The U.S. government's special envoy for Eurasian energy has laid out the White House's approach to Eurasian energy policy in a speech in Washington. Ambassador Richard Morningstar told a group at the Center for American Progress on January 28 that President Barack Obama's government is pursuing three fundamental goals.

## XV. EU

1.

The Munich Security Conference: Europe's absence

09.02.2010, ECFR

READ MORE: [http://ecfr.eu/content/entry/commentary\\_ulrikemunichconference/#When:15:54:39Z](http://ecfr.eu/content/entry/commentary_ulrikemunichconference/#When:15:54:39Z)

The Munich Security Conference is a key date in the diaries of those involved in foreign policy in Europe and beyond, and much has already been written about this year's conference, which took place last weekend in the Bavarian capital.

2.

EU ready to work with new Ukraine president

08.02.2010, EU Business

READ MORE: <http://www.eubusiness.com/news-eu/ukraine-vote.212>

Europe is ready to work with Ukraine's new pro-Russian president Viktor Yanukovich, EU foreign affairs chief Catherine Ashton said on Monday, praising the "calm atmosphere" of the vote. "The European Union remains committed to deepening the relationship with Ukraine and supporting it in implementing its reform agenda. It looks forward to working with the new president to this end," Ashton said in a statement.

3.

EU calls Belarusian internet decree "a step in wrong direction"

04.02.2010, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty

READ MORE: [http://www.rferl.org/content/EU\\_Calls\\_Belarusian\\_Internet\\_Decree\\_A\\_Step\\_In\\_Wrong\\_Direction/1948755.html](http://www.rferl.org/content/EU_Calls_Belarusian_Internet_Decree_A_Step_In_Wrong_Direction/1948755.html)

The European Union says a new Internet decree in Belarus is a "step in the wrong direction" at a time when Brussels is scrutinizing Minsk's record on issues like free speech and freedom of the press. The EU says President Alyaksandr Lukashenka's decree of February 1 appears to contravene standards set out in the so-called Eastern Partnership -- an initiative aimed at improving ties between the EU and its eastern neighbors.

4.

Ashton pressed to react to "plot" to rig Ukraine's election

04.02.2010, Euractiv

READ MORE: <http://www.euractiv.com/en/foreign-affairs/ashton-pressed-react-plot-rig-ukraine-s-election-0>

MEPs pressed today (4 February) for the EU to react to last-minute changes to election rules in

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Ukraine, suggesting that massive fraud was in the pipeline. The Spanish EU Presidency "took note" of their concerns, but passed the buck to EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs Catherine Ashton.

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## **XVI. SECURITY**

### **1.**

Rethinking the resetting

10.02.2010, RIA NOVOSTI

READ MORE: [http://en.rian.ru/valdai\\_op/20100210/157830346.html](http://en.rian.ru/valdai_op/20100210/157830346.html)

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov and Russian President Dmitry Medvedev have declared that the new Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) is ready and is expected to be signed in the near future. In recent years, U.S.-Russian relations have progressed from the strategic arms talks to the present cooperation on new strategic arms limitation agreements.

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### **2.**

Lavrov presents Russia's European security concept in Munich

06.02.2010, RIA NOVOSTI

READ MORE: <http://en.rian.ru/russia/20100206/157792680.html>

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov presented on Saturday the country's concept of a European security treaty at an international conference in Munich. Russian President Dmitry Medvedev proposed drawing up a new pan-European security pact in June 2008, and Russia published a draft of the treaty in late November 2009, sending copies to heads of state and international organizations, including NATO.

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### **3.**

OSCE Chairmanship discusses prospects of Transdniestrian settlement process

03.02.2010, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty

READ MORE: <http://www.rferl.org/content/article/1947997.html>

The Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office for protracted conflicts, Ambassador Bolat Nurgaliyev, concluded a three-day visit to Moldova today. During his visit Nurgaliyev discussed next steps in settlement of the Transdniestrian conflict with the acting president of the Republic of Moldova Mihai Ghimpu; Prime Minister Vlad Filat; Deputy Prime Minister Victor Osipov, the Moldovan chief negotiator for Transdniestrian conflict resolution; and with the leaders of the parliamentary groups, including the opposition.

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### **4.**

Clinton: Romania, R. of Moldova disputes are reason of concern for European security

01.02.2010, Nine O'clock

READ MORE: <http://www.nineoclock.ro/index.php?issue=4608&page=detalii&categorie=politics&id=20100201-511665>

The border disputes between Romania and the Republic of Moldova and the continued Russian presence in Moldovan territories are reasons of concern as regards European security, US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said in an interview to Voice of America. "Moldova is struggling to consolidate democracy to improve its economy, it is eligible for Millennium Challenge compact because it is still a poor country in need of a lot of help. Certainly the border disputes with Romania, the continuance of Russian troops on Moldovan territory are matters of concern.

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### **5.**

No progress reported in Geneva Talks

28.01.2010, Civil Georgia

READ MORE: <http://www.civil.ge/eng/article.php?id=21928>

Negotiators failed to make a progress on potential agreement on non-use of force and international

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security arrangements during the ninth round of Geneva talks on January 28. The participants agreed to hold the next round of discussions on March 30, co-mediators said. The ninth round of talks, mediated by EU, OSCE and UN, was held as usually in two working groups – one dealing with security and another with humanitarian issues.

## XVII. TRADE

### 1.

Customs Union for Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan

31.01.2010, New Europe

READ MORE: <http://www.neurope.eu/articles/98904.php>

On 25 January at the World Customs Organisation in Brussels, the Eurasian Economic Community (EurAsEC) held a conference on their joint plans to establish a Customs Union for Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan. The Customs Union foresees a single trade procedure in relation to third countries and a harmonised economic policy between the participating member countries. The objective is to create a common economic space by 2012 with freedom of movement of services, goods, labour and capital.

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The contents of the BSNU are exclusive responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the ICBSS.

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