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Brennpunkt: Die griechische Tragödie - vor dem Schlussakt

Am Sonntag entscheiden die Griechen in einem Referendum über ihre Euro-Zukunft. Vor drei Tagen wurden Bankgeschäfte eingeschränkt. Die Griechen tätigen "Hamsterkäufe", Rentner stehen Schlange vor Bankfilialen. An Tankstellen wird das Benzin knapp. Dramatischer geht es kaum, meint unser Direktor Hans H. Stein in seinem Kommentar zur aktuellen Lage in Griechenland.

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Erfolg in der zweiten Runde: Barack Obama unterzeichnet 'Trade Promotion Authority'

Nach intensiver Lobbyarbeit im U.S. Kongress hat Präsident Barack Obama es doch geschafft. Der Senat hat ein Gesetz bewilligt, das dem Präsidenten eine Verhandlungsvollmacht - die so genannte "Trade Promotion Authority" (TPA) - für internationale Handelsabkommen erteilt. Mit diesem Handelsmandat, so die Hoffnung, kann er die Verhandlungen zu TPP und TTIP nun vorantreiben.

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Development going universal

This September, the UN General Assembly will adopt the post-2015 development agenda. In the center of this agenda are the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), a set of 17 objectives such as, for example, combatting hunger and climate change, promoting education and sustainable economic growth. At an event organized by FNF Europe in Brussels experts from the development community agreed that achieving the SDGs will heavily depend on communication, a strong sense of ownership and effective implementation.

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Brussels' perceived over-regulation: the concept of gold-plating helps finding the culprit

"Brussels" has become a buzzword closely associated with over-regulation and the EU Commission is often perceived as the main culprit. However, contrary to popular belief, significant over-regulation happens when European law is transposed into national law. The practice whereby national governments pass extra regulation exceeding the requirements of the laws adopted in Brussels and Strasbourg has recently been nicknamed "gold-plating." Our FNF Prague office takes a closer look at the issue.

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Sustainability should be key in trade negotiations

The Brazilian organisation Instituto Ethos promotes sustainability through trade and joined forces with FNF in the framework of a five-year project on adaptation to climate change and energy transition. They came to Brussels and Geneva for the second time to discuss the progress of their work with EU and WTO officials. An important topic in all exchanges was the role of trade and sustainability in the upcoming climate conference in Paris.

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Ralf Dahrendorf Taskforce Publication Series

Faced with the security crisis in Ukraine, the EU and its member states responded with a double-track approach combining diplomacy and sanctions. Economic sanctions were the hardest form of power that the EU could apply, alongside softer diplomatic measures. Were sanctions only useful to quiet down public outrage in Europe? In fact, EU sanctions against Russia highlighted a lack of leadership in EU foreign policy as well as the dominant role of the biggest member states, like Germany, comments Tanja Porcnik in our latest Dahrendorf Paper.

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Keeping democracy support at the heart of the EU agenda

The European Network of Political Foundations (ENoP) hosted its 9th Annual General Assembly in Brussels last Wednesday and selected its new Coordinator, Martin Ångeby, Secretary-General of SILC, the Swedish International Liberal Centre. For the first time since its founding in 2006, ENoP has also instituted a Political Advisory Board with representatives from European party families.

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Ab in den Süden...

...oder wohin auch immer es Sie in den kommenden Wochen zieht, wir wünschen Ihnen eine schöne und erholsame Sommerzeit! Ab 27. August melden wir uns wieder mit den neuesten Einblicken aus Brüssel und Europa.

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Wichtige Termine

The next edition of the Brussels Brief will be published on August 27.

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