

MEPs slam EU Council's Schengen reforms

Senior MEPs meeting in Strasbourg have heavily criticised a deal in the EU Council to reform Europe's passport free travel Schengen treaty

Deploring the decision and with some irony, centre-right leader Joseph Daul called on the parliament to stop working with Denmark's EU presidency. "Last night I spoke on the phone to the Danish Prime Minister and told her as far as my Parliamentary Group was concerned the Danish EU presidency was over. This morning I wondered why the various ministers hadn't put in place all visa controls between countries so that border checks would be even better," Mr. Daul said.

Many in Strasbourg are furious over the decision to exclude the parliament from any future say on the bloc's borderless zone. So angry, MEPs reserved the right to bring legal action against the Council. Daniel Cohn-Bendit, co-leader of



French gendarme and French custom officer keep watch on cars near the Franco-Italian border

the parliament's green group, said, "This is war between the Council and Europe's other institutions. I'll say here it's going to be violent. On the one hand the Commission is told to monitor budgets, it's told it

must do this and that, and that we need European Sovereignty. Then suddenly with Schengen, they say, 'Oh no, this is for countries to decide'"

The recent decision in Luxem-

bourg by Europe's interior ministers gives national governments more freedom to re-impose border controls inside the Schengen area. At the same time it removes the EU parliament's co-legislative role.

Nokia cuts another 10,000 jobs as losses deepen

Nokia is cutting another 10,000 jobs globally and has warned that second-quarter losses from its mobile phone business will be larger than expected

The cuts bring total planned job cuts at the Finnish group since Stephen Elop took over as chief executive in September 2010 to more than 40,000. Nokia will also book additional restructuring charges of about 1bn Euros (£811m; \$1.3bn). Nokia's shares have slumped more than 70 percent since February 2011. "These planned reductions are a difficult consequence of the intended actions we believe we must take to ensure Nokia's long-term competitive strength," Mr. Elop said in a statement.

Last year, Nokia dropped its own Symbian smartphone operating software and switched to Microsoft's Windows Phone system. Nokia will close its last remaining plant in Finland, at Salo, although it will continue to do research there. Research and development sites at Ulm in Germany and Burnaby in Canada will also close. The company hopes to complete the closures and redundancies by the end of 2013. It expects the process to cost 650m Euros (\$817m) this year and 600m Euros (\$754m) next year.

Art experts trained to spot work looted during WWII

Art experts are taking part in a conference in Germany aimed at recovering works looted by the Nazis

More than 60 years after the end of WWII, there are still millions of lost or stolen items that have yet to be returned to their rightful heirs.

The conference will provide advanced training in cultural plundering. The Nazis stole an estimated 650,000 religious items and works of art from European Jews during WWII.

"This is an attempt to deal worldwide with the fact that there



is no training in this," said Wesley Fisher — director of research for the Conference on Jewish Claims Against Germany. "There are people who have some expertise... but they have not been formally trained."

Australia to create world's largest marine reserve

Australia says it will create the world's largest network of marine parks. The reserves will cover 3.1 million sq.km of ocean, including the Coral Sea.



A turtle in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park

Restrictions will be placed on fishing and oil and gas exploration in the protected zone covering more than a third of Australia's waters. The plans, which have been

years in the making, will proceed after a final consultation process.

Last year, the Australian government announced plans to protect the marine life in the Coral

Sea — an area of nearly 1 million sq.km. The sea — off the Queensland coast in northeastern Australia — is home to sharks and tuna, isolated tropical reefs and deep sea canyons. It is also the resting place of three US navy ships sunk in the Battle of the Coral Sea in 1942. The network of marine reserve will also include the Great Barrier Reef, a Unesco World Heritage site.

The plan will see the numbers of marine reserves off the Australian coast increased from 27 to 60. However, activists and environmental protection groups are likely to be less than satisfied with the plans, having called for a complete ban on commercial fishing in the Coral Sea.

Greek election fears spark bank raid

It is arguably one of the largest bank raids in the history of Greece. Analysts say up to 800m Euros are being taken from the country's banks on a daily basis.

From cash machines accounts have been slowly drained as people react to fears the economy could leave the Eurozone and the drachma restored as the country's currency following the recent election. It is not just cash it includes wire transfers and investments into other money markets.

The drop in deposits has been dramatic. In two years up until May this year 50bn Euros have left accounts in Greek banks. It has been reported recently that the pace of withdrawing money has risen sharply. Some of the money, claim retailers is being used by people to stock up on non perishable food while sales in almost all other goods have seen a huge drop.

The head of the retail federation condemned the panic buying saying people are terrified at the prospect of returning to the drachma and believe filling their cupboards will help. It is over the top he said and does not mean Greece will escape the crisis

ATMs to operate without a card

New technology to enable people to withdraw money from cash machines using their smartphone has been unveiled

Customers who use the Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS) or NatWest mobile banking app can now request cash, up to £100, via their smartphone. They are given a six-digit code to enter into an ATM to release the cash. A similar system has been developed by cash machine operator NCR. This requires users to scan a barcode to withdraw the money. The services are the latest developments in a long-predicted move towards the smartphone becoming a digital wallet.

RBS said that its new system would help customers who had forgotten their bank cards, or who wished to send cash to family members in a hurry. It would also allow the people to leave their wallets at home in favour of taking a mobile phone, it suggested. "It is a really simple and secure way to help our customers get cash whenever and wherever they need it," said Ben Green, head of mobile at RBS and NatWest. The service is available to customers who have downloaded the bank's free app and use the 8,000 RBS, NatWest or Tesco branded ATMs in the UK. Some 2.6 million people have installed it on their smartphone so far, the bank said. At present, customers using a card can withdraw up to £300. Initially the limit on the cardless withdrawal will be £100.