



Weekly Media Report

23 - 26 September 2013

International Affairs

Syria and the fight against poverty on UN's menu – *Nouvel Observateur (FR)*, 23 September 2013

The year's most intense week will begin on Monday, 23rd September 2013, at the UN headquarters where nearly 200 leaders will review the globe's most important challenges, primarily Syria and evaluate the progress of disarmament and the fight against poverty. U.S. President Barack Obama, his French counterpart Francois Hollande and many other heads of state and ministers will be present from Tuesday, 24th September, onwards at the 68th General Assembly. Iran's new moderate president, Hassan Rohani, is eagerly awaited. In the last days, he has multiplied his rather conciliatory statements, praising in particular the "positive and constructive" tone of Barack Obama. The United States and its allies have taken note but remain cautious to this day. For Washington, these recent statements are "not sufficient" to address the concerns of the international community on the Iranian nuclear program.

<http://tempsreel.nouvelobs.com/monde/20130923.OBS8016/syrie-et-lutte-contre-la-pauvrete-au-menu-de-l-onu.html>

Merkel's Triumph, close to an absolute majority in the Bundestag – *Le Monde (FR)*, 23 September 2013

Angela Merkel has won a historic victory on Sunday, 22nd September 2013, at the German elections, and will be reappointed to a third term as Chancellor for four years. But her liberal allies (FDP) were ousted from the Bundestag for the first time in the history of the Federal Republic as they did not overcome the 5% hurdle of votes (4.8%). Angela Merkel will logically discuss a "grand coalition" with the Social Democratic party SPD, which won 25.7% of votes.

http://www.lemonde.fr/europe/article/2013/09/22/legislatives-allemandes-victoire-de-merkel-qui-devrait-gouverner-avec-l-opposition_3482471_3214.html

Kenya: Islamists threaten to kill hostages - *Libération (FR)*, 23 September 2013

Somali Islamist Shebab insurgents, who claimed responsibility for the attack in the Westgate shopping mall in Nairobi killing 68 people, threatened on Monday, 23rd September 2013, to murder those still held hostage by the aggressors. "We allow the mujahideen inside the building to act against the prisoners," said the spokesman of Al-Shabaab, Sheikh Ali Mohamud Rage in a statement posted on an Islamist website. An Islamist commando is dug in the mall since Saturday, 21st September, and holds an unknown number of hostages. In their message, the Shebab Islamists claim to be in contact with the aggressors and denounce the intimidation of "Israel and other Christian governments" against the commando. "We say to those Christians who argue against the mujahideen to have mercy on their prisoners," said the spokesman, saying that the hostages "will reap the fruits of the pressure exerted against the mujahideen."

http://www.liberation.fr/monde/2013/09/23/kenya-nouvel-assaut-des-forces-de-l-ordre-kenyanes-a-nairobi_933924

Taliban suicide attack on Pakistani church leaves dozens dead – *The Guardian (UK)*, 23 September 2013

Pakistan's embattled Christian community suffered the most deadly attack in its history on Sunday, 22nd September 2013, when a pair of Taliban suicide bombers blew themselves up inside a church in the troubled city of Peshawar, killing 81 and wounding about 140. Explosions ripped through the congregation of 500 people, including many women and children, as the service at All Saints church was coming to an end and worshippers were about to receive a free meal of rice in the courtyard outside.

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2013/sep/22/suicide-attack-pakistani-church-peshawar>

Egyptian court bans Muslim Brotherhood – *Die Zeit (GE)*, 23 September 2013

An Egyptian court has banned the Islamist Muslim Brotherhood of the ousted president Mohamed Morsi. The court also ordered to confiscate the assets and property of the organization. This development represents a further escalation in the confrontation between the military-backed interim government and the supporters of ex-president Mursi.

<http://www.zeit.de/politik/ausland/2013-09/muslimbruderschaft-verbot-gericht-aegypten>

UN panel opens Stockholm meet on global warming – *Wort (LU)*, 24 September 2013

The UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) opened a meeting Monday in Stockholm that is scheduled to see the release of the most recent projections of the pace of global warming. The organisation, which won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2007, brings together thousands of scientists and is expected to cap five days of talks Friday with the release of the first volume of a comprehensive report on climate change, its consequences and ways to cope with the challenges. The volume to be issued on Friday is expected to paint a bleak picture of climate change in the coming decades, with the worst-case scenario predicting warming of more than triple the target set by vulnerable small-island states. The trilogy that the volume is part of is only the fifth overview issued by the UN panel in the past quarter century.

<http://www.wort.lu/en/view/un-panel-opens-stockholm-meet-on-global-warming-5240230ae4b04c22d3f7f5f1>

The crew of the "Arctic Sunrise" held in provisional detention in Russia – *Le Monde (FR)*, 25 September 2013

The crew of the "Arctic Sunrise", the Greenpeace ship arrested last week by the Russian coast guard, was held in provisional detention on Wednesday, 25th September 2013. Thirty members were accused of "piracy." "They were transferred to detention centers" after being driven ashore in Murmansk for questioning, said a Greenpeace activist on site. On 24th August, the NGO had sent the icebreaker in the Arctic, through the Northern Sea Route, to protest against the drilling projects of the Russian group Rosneft and its U.S. partner ExxonMobil, considered harmful to the environment.

http://www.lemonde.fr/europe/article/2013/09/25/en-russie-l-equipage-de-l-arctic-sunrise-place-en-detention-provisoire_3484013_3214.html

Pakistan earthquake kills more than 200 people and creates a new island – *Wort (LU)*, 25 September 2013

On Wednesday, 24th September 2013, Pakistan's military rushed to reach the scene of a huge earthquake that killed at least 208 people and toppled many mud-built homes when it hit the country's south with enough force to create a new island off the coast. The 7.7-magnitude quake struck on Tuesday afternoon, 23th September, in Baluchistan province's Awaran district. The scale of the territory involved is daunting. Awaran district has an estimated population of around 300,000, scattered over an area of more than 21,000 square kilometres. More than 60,000 people live within 50 kilometres of the epicentre, according to the UN disaster agency, mostly in easily collapsed mud homes. A new island appeared after Tuesday's quake close to the Pakistani coastline of Gwadar, officials said. Similar island had appeared at the same place in the sea about 60 years ago but disappeared after some time.

<http://www.wort.lu/en/view/pakistan-earthquake-kills-more-than-200-creates-new-island-52427342e4b0c159be9ac3df>

Rohani, the Iranian President, assures at the UN that Iran "is not a threat to the world" – *Le Monde (FR)*, 25 September 2013

In an eagerly awaited speech at the UN conference, Iranian President Hassan Rohani assured on Tuesday, 24th September 2013, that his country did "absolutely not pose a threat to the world or its region." He called on Barack Obama to ignore the warmongering and to focus on negotiations. Despite their apparent willingness to give diplomacy a chance, the expected meeting between the U.S. and the Iranian president has not taken place. However, Rohani stressed that the ice began "to break" between Washington and Tehran "as the environment changes due to the will of the Iranian people to establish new relationships." On the nuclear issue, Rohani said Iran did not need nuclear weapons for its security. He also declared his readiness to immediately begin discussions based on a precise timetable with the major powers to settle the Iranian nuclear issue. In parallel to the openness to American power, Rohani criticized the U.S. anti-terrorism strategy. If Rohani condemned terrorism as a "violent curse," he added that "the use of drones against innocents in the name of anti-terrorism should also be condemned."

http://www.lemonde.fr/proche-orient/article/2013/09/24/a-l-onu-rohani-assure-que-l-iran-n-est-pas-une-menace-pour-le-monde_3483967_3218.html

Key Syrian Rebel Groups Abandon Exile Leaders – *The New York Times (USA)*, 26 September 2013

BEIRUT, Lebanon — As diplomats at the United Nations push for a peace conference to end Syria's civil war, a collection of some of the country's most powerful rebel groups publicly abandoned the opposition's political leaders, casting their lot with an affiliate of Al Qaeda.

http://www.nytimes.com/2013/09/26/world/middleeast/syria-crisis.html?hp&_r=0

Iran wants nuclear deal in months, says President Rouhani – *BBC (UK)*, 26 September 2013

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani says he wants to reach a deal with world powers on Tehran's nuclear programme in three to six months. He told the Washington Post he saw a resolution of the issue as a "beginning point" in easing US-Iran relations. Mr Rouhani

said he was fully empowered by Iran's Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Khamenei, to negotiate on the issue.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-24278152>

Qatar's World Cup 'slaves': Abuse and exploitation of migrant workers preparing emirate for 2022 – *The Guardian (UK)*, 26 September 2013

Dozens of Nepalese migrant labourers have died in Qatar in recent weeks and thousands more are enduring appalling labour abuses, a Guardian investigation has found, raising serious questions about Qatar's preparations to host the 2022 World Cup. This summer, Nepalese workers died at a rate of almost one a day in Qatar, many of them young men who had sudden heart attacks. The investigation found evidence to suggest that thousands of Nepalese, who make up the single largest group of labourers in Qatar, face exploitation and abuses that amount to modern-day slavery, as defined by the International Labour Organisation, during a building binge paving the way for 2022.

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2013/sep/25/revealed-qatars-world-cup-slaves>

National Affairs

Luxembourg gives 7.6 m for Syria crisis projects – *Wort (LU)*, 23 September 2013

Luxembourg is donating a whopping 7.6 million euros to help people affected by the Syrian crisis. With humanitarian needs reaching desperate levels both in Syria and neighbouring countries, the Luxembourg government said it decided to allocate a further one million euros to humanitarian projects. In addition to other donations, this latest pledge brings its total donations over two years up to 7.6 million euros, the Ministry for Cooperation and Development revealed on Friday. The ministry explained that the humanitarian community lacked funding, “especially since it must prepare for winter conditions and the risk of a deterioration of the situation.”

<http://www.wort.lu/en/view/luxembourg-gives-7-6-m-for-syria-crisis-projects-523c6e9fe4b0c159be9abcda>

Schrassig prisoner freed by mistake – *Wort (LU)*, 23 September 2013

It has emerged that a somewhat embarrassing incident took place earlier this week when the wrong prisoner was released from Luxembourg's Schrassig prison just south of Sandweiler. The situation appears to have occurred due to two inmates with similar sounding names, confirmed prosecutor spokesman Henri Eippers when questioned by Luxemburger Wort. On Tuesday, 17th September 2013, a prisoner should have been released and placed under "judicial review". When he was called, another inmate with a similar name, was presented to the authorities. Subsequent control measures appear not to have picked up on the error and the incorrect prisoner was released from prison on Tuesday without incident. The mistake was only discovered the following day when the other prisoner was due to be up before the parole board. Meanwhile the first prisoner, now free, has disappeared without trace and is now wanted by police.

<http://www.wort.lu/en/view/schrassig-prisoner-freed-by-mistake-523ed2dce4b0c159be9abeb2>

World From Berlin: Triumph Confirms 'Era of Merkelism' – Spiegel (GE), 23 September 2013

Angela Merkel is at the zenith of her power. Her historic election won on Sunday, 22nd September 2013, reflects how deeply Germans appreciate her no-nonsense, frugal Hausfrau style of governing, say editorials. Many German media commentators from the right and left expressed admiration for the unassuming leader who has evidently won the hearts of a majority of Germans with her cool handling of the euro debt crisis. But she now needs to address domestic reforms to secure her legacy.

<http://www.spiegel.de/international/germany/german-press-comment-on-election-victory-of-angela-merkel-a-923886.html>

Cattenom stays till 20145 – Tageblatt (LU), 24 September 2013

With an investment of 3.5 billion euros, the nuclear power plant Cattenom is expected to provide power for 20 years beyond its normal duration – that is to say 2045. To mitigate the public debate about breakdowns in Cattenom and the lack of transparency, there will be a future press conference after each meeting of the local Advisory Commission, assured the President of the Commission. In the Commission are representatives of Saarland, Luxembourg and Rhineland-Palatinate member.

<http://www.tageblatt.lu/nachrichten/story/AKW-Cattenom-bleibt-bis-2045-25350560>

Bettencourt procedure validated – Sarkozy soon on trial? – Libération (FR), 25 September 2013

The investigating chamber of Bordeaux has validated the procedure in which Nicolas Sarkozy and eleven others were placed under investigation. The prospect of a trial for abuse of weakness is rapidly approaching the former president. He is suspected of having received money from the billionaire Liliane Bettencourt for his campaign in 2007. The nullities raised by the lawyers of the 12 people placed under investigation have almost all been rejected. They challenged in particular the expertise conducted by doctors who concluded that Liliane Bettencourt was in a weak position since September 2006. If Nicolas Sarkozy has to appear before the criminal court for abuse of weakness, the trial schedule would be catastrophic for the former president if he wants to stand for the next elections: a first trial in 2014, and possibly on appeal in 2016.

http://www.liberation.fr/societe/2013/09/24/la-procedure-bettencourt-validee-sarkozy-bientot-juge_934250

Remarks on the Roma - Valls causes trouble in the Socialist Party (PS) – Le Nouvel Observateur (FR), 25 September 2013

French Minister of the Interior, Manuel Valls, has caused confusion in his own camp on Tuesday, 24th September 2013, denying the Roma's will to integrate themselves. Arnaud Montebourg judged his words "excessive", deserving to be "corrected." "It is unrealistic to think that we will solve the problem of the Roma populations only through integration," said the Minister of the Interior on the radio. For him, "integration solutions" can only "involve a few families" and he sees "no alternative" to the dismantling of camps and deportations. This attitude is consistent with the policy advocated for months by Valls. However, this time he went further. To the question of whether only a minority of the Roma wanted to integrate themselves in France, he replied: "Yes, we must tell the truth to the French: these people's lifestyles are extremely different from ours, so that they are obviously in confrontation with the local population."

<http://tempsreel.nouvelobs.com/politique/20130925.OBS8275/propos-sur-les-roms-valls-seme-le-trouble-au-ps.html>

Top candidate of the German green party says a coalition with the conservatives (CDU) would be instable – *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung (FAZ), 25 September 2013*

The Union is looking for a coalition partner - but the Social Democrats (SPD) and the Greens still hesitate. The Greens' top candidate Göring-Eckardt refers to programmatic differences between her party and the conservatives. Leading CDU politicians already indicate cooperation regarding taxes and the minimum wage.

<http://www.faz.net/aktuell/politik/bundestagswahl/nach-der-bundestagswahl-schwarz-gruen-waere-un glaubwuerdig-und-nicht-stabil-12590668.html>

Ed Miliband urges energy firms to co-operate with Labour price freeze – *The Guardian (UK), 25 September 2013*

[Ed Miliband](#) (UK Labour Party) has written to the big six energy firms urging them to co-operate with his plan to impose a 20-month price freeze and reset the energy market, or instead be seen as part of the problem in the energy market. The companies have reacted with fury to his plans, saying he is risking power blackouts and sending a message that Britain is not open for business. They said he was threatening much-needed investment in green energy as rightwing newspapers accused him of swerving to the left.

<http://www.theguardian.com/politics/2013/sep/25/ed-miliband-energy-firms-price-freeze>

Telecom Italia (Italian telecommunication company) is now Spanish – *Repubblica (IT), 25 September 2013*

On Monday, 23rd September, an agreement was achieved for the passage of Telecom Italia to the Spanish Telefonica, which now owns 70% of its shares. Problems rose concerning the future of the company (i.e. its future assets and the recruitment process), which many think it should be dismantled. Franco Bernabè, the President of Telecom Italia, affirmed that he was informed about this possibility only through the media. Meanwhile, the Italian labour association are ready to fight for the rights of the company's workers.

http://www.corriere.it/economia/13_settembre_25/bernabe-audizione-senato-saputo-modifiche-accordi-telco-dai-comunicati_6cc6af88-25b2-11e3-baac-128ffcce9856.shtml

China court jails general's son Li Tianyi for rape – *BBC (UK), 26 September 2013*

A court in China has convicted the son of a high-profile army general and sentenced him to 10 years in jail for rape, state media say. The court said Li Tianyi, 17, and four others raped the woman at a Beijing hotel in February after having drinks. The case of Li Tianyi inflamed public anger at the children of the political elite, who are often seen as spoilt and above the law, correspondents say.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-china-24237463>

DSK - banker in Luxembourg – *Wort (LU), 26 September 2013*

Dominique Strauss-Kahn, former director of the International Monetary Fund will be banker for business clients in Luxembourg. On 18th October 2013 Strauss-Kahn will take over the Chair of the Directors' Board of the Luxembourgish finance company Anatevka, whose shares are traded on the Paris stock exchange. The company, which was founded in 1994 by Thierry Leyne, should in future be called "Leyne, Strauss-Kahn and

Partners, Compagnie Financière" or just LSK. Leyne will remain managing director and hold the presidency of the branches.

<http://www.wort.lu/de/view/dsk-wird-bankier-in-luxemburg-5242bf5be4b03bafb5bdea5f>

Economy

France welcomes ArcelorMittal – Tageblatt (LU), 23 September 2013

In the center of France, in Saint Chely d'Apcher, the world's largest steel and mining company ArcelorMittal has opened a new production line with a total investment of 90 million euros. The group has invested 90 million euros in St. Chely d'Apcher, situated in the Lozere department, and secures 200 jobs. In the center of France, ArcelorMittal will produce steels for electrical products. These include both electric cars and wind turbines as well as electric motors for industrial products. ArcelorMittal plans to produce annually 120,000 tons of this special steel here. The factory is unique in Europe, as it allows to win back heat from the steel mill and feeds it into a thermal power plant in the city.

<http://www.tageblatt.lu/wirtschaft/story/---ArcelorMittal-ist-in-Frankreich-willkommen---19612267>

Dexia Asset Management is being sold – Tageblatt (LU), 25 September 2013

Since Wednesday, 19th September 2013, negotiations on the sale of Dexia Asset Management are running between the leaders of Dexia and of New York Life Investments (Nyli). It was agreed that all shares of Dexia Asset Management should go for the fixed price of 380 million euro into the hands of the Americans. However, the sale must still be approved by the supervisory bodies.

<http://www.tageblatt.lu/nachrichten/luxemburg/story/Dexia-Asset-Management-wird-verkauft-19335058>

Credit Suisse will close the accounts of customers in 50 countries – Le Quotidien (LU), 25 September 2013

Credit Suisse, the number two of the Swiss banking sector, intends to close the accounts of customers from almost 50 countries by the end of the year, told the Tages-Anzeiger in its Tuesday edition, on 24th September 2013. The bank aims to ask customers in these countries to settle their accounts either because their assets are insufficient, the limit is typically located below one million Swiss francs (800,000 euros) or because Credit Suisse no longer wishes to do business in those countries. The initiative affects particularly African countries such as Congo and Angola. Further countries include Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Belarus, as the reputational risks associated with these countries are considered too important, pointed out to the newspaper.

<http://www.lequotidien.lu/l-economie/48895.html>

Euro Bailout Fund: Germans Pay Less Than Their Neighbors – Spiegel (GE), 25 September 2013

A new study shows that Germany contributes less per person to the permanent euro bailout fund than residents of several other countries in the European Union. Luxembourg, Holland and Ireland are among the nations paying more per capita.

<http://www.spiegel.de/international/business/germans-pay-less-for-euro-bailout-than-other-eu-countries-a-923500.html>

Atomic Goal: 800 Years of Power from Waste – *The New York Times (US)*, 25 September 2013

Dozens of engineers, physicists and nuclear experts are chasing a radical dream of Bill Gates. The quest is for a new kind of nuclear reactor that would be fueled by today's nuclear waste, supply all the electricity in the United States for the next 800 years and, possibly, cut the risk of nuclear weapons proliferation around the world. The people developing the reactor work for a start-up, TerraPower, led by Mr. Gates and a fellow Microsoft billionaire, Nathan Myhrvold.

http://www.nytimes.com/2013/09/25/business/energy-environment/atomic-goal-800-years-of-power-from-waste.html?_r=0&hp=&adxnnl=1&adxnnlx=1380103444-H9ISPFrLJCgLc8s0ZfnW+Q

A survey from ISTAT (Italian statistic agency) reveals that the hand-to-hand sales in Italy are at the minimum level since 2001 – *Corriere della Sera (IT)*, 26 September 2013

A survey conducted in July 2013 by ISTAT registered a hand-to-hand sales drop of 0,3% compared to June 2013 and of 0,9% compared to July 2012. Comparing this trend with the data regularly collected by ISTAT, one can observe that such a drop has not been registered during the last 12 years.

http://www.corriere.it/economia/13_settembre_26/istat-commercio-vendite-dettaglio-minimi_7ac4b206-2684-11e3-a1ee-487182bf93b6.shtml