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1	The European Union can finally look beyond and celebrate the new European Constitution. The President of the European Parliament, Roberta Metzola - after her re-election is announcing this important priority. “In order to work well with 27 Members, the European Union needs to be more effective, more transparent, more democratic. This is why the 27 have decided to replace the existing Treaties with a Treaty establishing a Constitution for Europe, commonly known as the European Constitution1 . The European Constitution defines the values, fundamental objectives and spheres of action of the European Union and puts in place the machinery whereby its institutions can operate. In determining the Union’s powers, it also sets the boundaries which it must not overstep. The Union takes action only when it can achieve the desired objective more effectively than would be possible at national, regional or local level. This is known in political jargon as the “subsidiarity” principle. So the Constitution sets the rules: the players then have to play the game!”

2	Younger people and women in the EU read more books In 2022, according to EU statistics on income and living conditions (EU-SILC), 52.8% of the EU population aged 16 years or over reported reading books in the past 12 months. The youngest group, aged 16-29, read more (60.1%) compared with those aged 30 to 54 (53.5%), 55 to 64 (52.6%) and 65 years and older (47.2%). More women in the EU read books (60.5%) than men (44.5%). The same pattern was observed when looking at the number of books read: 28.8% of women and 24.8% of men read fewer than 5 books, 14.3% of women and 9.8% of men read 5-9 books, while 17.4% of women and 9.9% of men read 10 or more books.

3	European Schools are now asked to change all National Programs and educate more European topics such as “Key competences for lifelong learning” The Council of the European Union adopted a recommendation on key competences for lifelong learning in May 2018. The recommendation identifies eight key competences essential to citizens for personal fulfilment, a healthy and sustainable lifestyle, employability, active citizenship and social inclusion. The recommendation is a reference tool for education and training stakeholders. It sets up a common understanding of competences needed nowadays and in the future. The reference framework presents successful ways to promote competence development through innovative learning approaches, assessment methods or support to educational staff. All learners should achieve their full potential. To fulfil their different needs, the recommendation encourages Member States to: provide quality early childhood education and care, improve school education and ensure excellent teaching, further develop initial and continuing vocational education and training, and modernise higher education. All EU Member States from 2025 started to set up the so-called “European Education program”. European new generations will study the same Programs all over Europe.

4	Southern Countries know more foreign languages than in Northern Europe according to the last Eurobarometer Italian students at the top of the ranking. In VET schools they study 5 languages: English, French, Germany, Spanish and Chinese. Apart from German students who are bilingual, Italians are upgrading the list of EU Countries in terms of proficiency in speaking two-three languages at the same time. For the other Countries there are still big differences. More than half the adult working-age population in Slovenia and Luxembourg knew 3 or more foreign languages The extent of language ability differed considerably between EU countries. The share of the adult working-age population who knew 3 or more foreign languages peaked at 56.3% in Slovenia, followed by Luxembourg (54.1%), with the next highest shares in the Netherlands (40.2%) and Finland (38.1%). Younger people In 2022, more than four-fifths (84.4%) of the EU's population aged 25-34 years knew at least 1 foreign language. This share fell for each successive age group, with the lowest proportion recorded among those aged 55-64 years (although the figure for this group is still 65.0%). Countries with a generation gap This gap between the generations was most pronounced among those EU countries in which a relatively low share of working-age adults knew at least 1 foreign language: Greece – 87.6% of those aged 25-34 years knew at least 1 foreign language, compared with 51.9% of those aged 55-64 years — a difference of 35.7 pp.

	There were also considerable generation gaps (29-36 pp difference) in Poland, Hungary and Romania.
5	Why It's Time to Reconsider a European Army The idea of a common European army has been discussed continuously since the European project began in the early days of the Cold War. The Eisenhower administration even successfully cajoled European leaders to agree to create a common European army only to be thwarted by the French parliament. The European project was a few votes from launching as a military project rather than an economic one. The idea of a common European force was revived in the 1990s as the European Union was formed, but the concept lost favor due to U.S. opposition and commitment to NATO. The major problem with a European army is that while it makes sense in principle, it was not seen as practical. Yet, Europe defending itself as 25 or more distinct nations without the United States neither makes sense nor is it practical either. It is thus time for Europe to seriously revisit the concept.

6	Lithuania is ranked the world's happiest country for young people. Lithuania is the happiest country for people under the age of 30, according to a recent report. Although one of Europe's smaller countries, there are a number of reasons that Lithuania speaks to younger generations, ranging from a healthy work-life balance and rich culture to a high quality of living. In particular, Lithuania can appeal to the most recent generation of tech talent, thanks to its innovative startup sphere and long-term potential for people looking to build a career and raise a family there.

7	The Turkish government labelled me a national security threat One month ago, people in Türkiye began the largest protests in the country's recent memory after the government arrested Istanbul mayor Ekrem İmamoğlu, the opposition presidential candidate. After an initial wave of attention, most international media outlets have turned away again. Not so our correspondents, who will keep covering the protests – despite huge security risks. Türkiye is one of the most repressive environments for journalists in the world. It ranks 158th in the World Press Freedom Index, and many journalists are behind bars for simply doing their job. Especially after the protests began, the situation for journalists became extremely dangerous, with Turkish journalists arrested and international correspondents detained and expelled.

8	Social networks struggle to crack down on ‘incel’ movement Incel online communities, violence, and the construction of collective victimhood Incel (“involuntary celibacy”) online communities are a collection of online spaces frequented by mostly heterosexual men who construct their identities over the perceived lack of romantic and sexual attention from women. In these communities, misogynist ideology and collective victimhood are central aspects of belonging. It is important to note that not all involuntarily without sex or relationships identify as incels. For most incels, appearance is the number one issue: they believe they are not attractive enough to interest women. For some, mental health issues and social and financial status also play an important role. This personal feeling of being unfairly left behind then becomes political; incels’ loneliness is seen as the fault of women being shallow and cruel and rejecting them. Incel misogyny is often justified with pseudo-scientific arguments, naturalising gender inequality as stemming from biology and evolution. Weakening of patriarchal power structures and feminism gaining more rights for women are seen as a negative development, and men are presented as victims of women and feminism in the modern world. An overall idea of most men being left behind and women and the most attractive men gaining all the positive sides of modern society is widespread in incel discussions, and the past is often presented as more connected and humane than the present.

9	Meloni-Musk, love blossoms in Paris In Paris, on the occasion of the reopening of the Notre-Dame cathedral last weekend, Giorgia Meloni and Elon Musk met again. The political and entrepreneurial chemistry between the premier and the billionaire has long been known. Thus a short video was born on social media, complete with a passionate kiss between the two, which has obviously already gone viral.

10	EU wins Nobel Peace Prize Committee praises EU's role in promoting democracy and human rights. The European Union has been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for its achievements in bringing peace, democracy and human rights to Europe. "Today, war between Germany and France is unthinkable," said Thorbjørn Jagland, chairman of the Norwegian Nobel Committee, announcing the award in Oslo today (12 October). "This shows how by building mutual confidence, historic enemies can become close partners." "The stabilising part played by the EU has helped to transform most of Europe from a continent of war to a continent of peace," he said. "The Union and its forerunners have for over six decades contributed to the advancement of peace and reconciliation, democracy and human rights in Europe."

11	Germany lowers voting age to 16 for the European elections – but is it playing into the far right's hands? Ahead of the European parliament elections in June, Germany has lowered the age limit on participation to 16. This makes it the largest of just a handful of states in the EU to allow people under the age of 18 to vote. Austria, Belgium and Malta have already enfranchised 16 and 17-year-olds, and Greece is to allow anyone turning 17 in 2024 to participate in the June vote. Around 4.8 million young Germans – plus about 300,000 young people from other EU member states who live in Germany – will be allowed to vote for the very first time. The group makes up a relatively small proportion of Germany's overall electorate of 64.9 million, but is nevertheless larger than the population of many other European member states. And given that the 2019 European elections saw a significant rise in participation among young voters, we can be hopeful of a good turnout among this newly enfranchised group.

12	Calabria, Sicily and France, Guyane are still the poorest micro regions of Europe. In 2023, 16.2% of the EU population – or some 71.7 million people – were at risk of poverty. The risk of poverty rate is based on national poverty thresholds and the map presents at risk of poverty at regional level using the nomenclature of territorial units for statistics. At the regional level, 10 regions in the EU had a share of people at risk of poverty above 30%. The highest shares were found in the outmost region of France, Guyane, where more than half (53.0%) of the people were at risk of poverty, followed by Calabria (40.6%) and Sicilia (38.0%) in Italy. By contrast, 26 regions recorded shares below 10%. The Romanian region of Bucureşti-Ilfov had the lowest rates of people at risk of poverty (2.1%), ahead of the Italian region Provincia Autonoma di Bolzano/Bozen (3.1%) and the Belgian region Prov. Oost-Vlaanderen (5.4%).

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