



Newsflashes
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Europe for
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Brussels Flash # 44, July 2018

This edition:

- The European Council has adopted a decision that will reduce the size of the European Parliament from 751 to 705 MEPs. 27 seats will be re-allocated after Brexit to France (+5), Spain (+5), Italy (+3), Netherlands (+3), Ireland (+2), Sweden (+1), Austria (+1), Denmark (+1), Finland (+1), Slovakia (+1), Croatia (+1), Estonia (+1), Poland (+1) and Romania (+1).
<http://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2018/06/29/the-european-council-establishes-the-composition-of-the-european-parliament/>
- On July 1 Austria took over the Presidency of the Council of the EU for six months. Its priorities are security, maintaining competitiveness through digitalization and stability in Austria's neighboring countries. After Austria, the next trio presidency will take over: Romania (first half of 2019), Finland (second half of 2019) and Croatia (first half of 2020).
<https://www.eu2018.at/>
- The EU's Customs Union turned 50 on 1 July. The Customs Union is the world's largest trading block and allows goods to circulate freely without border duties within the EU.
http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEMO-18-4288_en.htm
- On 29 June the Council of the EU confirmed its agreement on the Energy Union Governance Regulation, a key part of the Clean Energy Package. It defines how Member States will collaborate with each other and the Commission to reach the EU's clean energy goals. The European Parliament is expected to confirm its approval by a vote in plenary in October.
<http://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2018/06/29/governance-of-the-energy-union-council-confirms-deal-reached-with-the-european-parliament/>