

# Brussels blog round up for 24-30 March 2012: Strikes in Spain, a new €800 billion bailout fund, and divine intervention for the Euro

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**Chris Gilson** and [Julian Kirchherr](#) take a look at the week in Brussels blogging.

## The EU Centre

Should there be [only one seat \(home\) for the European Parliament](#)? It costs European taxpayers approximately 200 million euros a year to move the European Parliament between Brussels (Belgium) and Strasbourg (France) every two weeks. Now Martin Schulz, the President of the European Parliament, has confirmed his commitment to [a single seat](#) of the European Parliament. *Jon Worth* hopes this will finally solve the 'seat question'. Meanwhile *Eva En Europa* marks [55 years](#) since the Treaty of Rome.

Does the EU's fisheries policy do more harm than good? *Debating Europe* recently spoke with **Isabella Lövin**, a Member of the European Parliament (MEP) for the Swedish Green Party about the topic. Lövin is the team leader on the Fisheries Committee for the Green Group of MEPs, and has published a book on the subject. She argues that the EU is "[not taking responsibility for our common resource, which is the fish.](#)"



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Tomislav Karamarko is *the* Croatian [politician with the potential](#) to bring the country closer to the EU.

*Martinned* hates the idea of [reciprocity](#) in European trade, while *The NewFederalist* calls for a stronger EU line against [Belarus](#), and reminds readers of Russia's support for the regime of Alexander Lukashenko.

## The Euro Crisis

The Euro crisis is an evergreen in our weekly round-up. Konstandinos Diamandouros argues on *BlogActiv.eu* that Germany's [insistence on fiscal austerity](#) will prove invaluable in the future. Supposedly, only austerity can lead the Euro out of its crisis. Later, *Protesilaos Stavrou* argues that the EU's protectionist policies against the rest of the world is part of a [race to the bottom](#). *Open Europe Blog* looks at whether the Euro will be [pegged to gold](#) eventually, while Eurosearch reports that Iceland considers [adopting the Canadian dollar](#).

The *Centre for European Reform* looks at [youth unemployment in Europe](#), saying that as many as 20 per cent of young people are not in employment, education or training, and advises countries to ease up on austerity measures to get growth, and therefore employment, going again.

On Friday, as European leaders met in Copenhagen to agree on the size of the [new Eurozone bailout fund](#), the FT's *Brussels Blog* reports that the fund may be as large as €700 billion Euro, or even €940 billion. It actually turns out to be around [€800 billion](#), *Open Europe* reports.

## Across Europe

Should Scotland become independent? Many 'unionists' argue that Scotland could not remain a member of the EU then. However, *Jon Worth* believes that this claim is [erroneous](#).

This week sees a general strike in Spain over austerity measures – *Open Europe blog* calls the strike '[two big days](#)'. *Nadas es Gratis* chart how [Spanish banks](#) got into their very poor current state – mostly by disastrous leadership.

*Beyond the Transition* critically examines the recent reforms passed in Poland. It reports that only 7% of Polish citizens are in favour of [raising the country's retirement age](#) to 67. At week's end, the *FRIDE blog* predicts the fall of the Dutch government over an additional [10 Billion Euro worth of cuts](#) that it has agreed to, but is now unable to make.

Will Nicolas Sarkozy be able to win the next French presidential elections? *NPThinking* observes that Angela Merkel [increasingly sympathizes with his main competitor](#) François Hollande. *Open Europe Blog* looks at the [resurgence of Angela Merkel's CDU party](#) in elections this week in the Saarland region, and Croatia, the war and the future looks at the [candidates](#) for the leadership of Croatia's leading (but somewhat embattled) party, the Croatian Democratic Union.

## And finally...

Herman van Rompuy, President of the European Council, attended the [2012 Seoul Nuclear Security Summit](#).

*Open Europe Blog* argues that [Belgium was the naughtiest EU Member State](#) of 2011.

Ron at *bloggingportal.eu* says that this week, Europe's bloggers have [been on the attack](#).

The FT's *Brussels Blog* [reports](#) on a humorous press release from Brussels stating that the Pope will

attend a Eurozone summit on the rather significant date of 1 April, and urges people to “to pray for divine intervention to save the euro”.

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