

## - Politics -

### - **International Court of Justice (ICJ) denies allegations of genocide in Serbia/Croatia**

The court declared no genocide took place during the independence war of Croatia that lasted between 1990 and 1995, despite the many massacres. A way towards reconciliation or

**- Merkel, Putin and Hollande held trilateral discussions in Moscow.** The objectives was to put an end to the conflict in eastern Ukraine which already caused the death of more than 5 000 people in less than 10 months. Talks are due to resume on

### - **UK PM David Cameron to hold referendum on EU's membership sooner ?**

According to the Sunday Times M. Cameron could hold the referendum on British membership in the EU in 2016 if he gets reelected in the

national elections taking place in 3 months from now. A possible change from his initial position of letting one year to negotiations with other EU members before holding referendum.

### **Remember – 20 years ago: the Maastricht Treaty**

On February 7, 1992 the Treaty of Maastricht was signed which marked the initial creation of the European Community which became the European Union. 12 countries joined the newly created EU : Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Belgium, Denmark,

France, Germany, Ireland, the United Kingdom, Spain, Portugal, Italy and Greece

## - Economics -

**-Germany records highest trade surplus ever.** With 214 billions of surplus (excess in exports compared to imports) the first European economy displays an 11% growth compared to 2013.

**-Discussion on Greece's debt still in a stalemate** Negotiations with the newly elected greek government have been taking place all week long with Europe's top officials. Tough positions held notably by France, Germany and the EU on refusing any debt removal has been strengthened by the ECB decision to stop

financing greek banks in exchange of State's bond.



## - Foreign Affairs -

**- Finance G20 expresses shared despondency about EU's economic policies.** Finance ministers of the G20 met in Turkey, with USA showing discontent with the growth-negative effects of European austerity policies.

**-EU's foreign policy representative Federica Mogherini called the Quarter for Middle-East talks resuming.** At the Munich Security conference the EU's diplomatic chief asked the Quartet (UN, EU, USA, Russia) to resume talks on the arab-israeli conflict, asking for a "rethinking of the approach"

**Did you know ? The European flag :** made up of 12 stars in reference to the number of initial members, it has remained unchanged despite enlargements, 12 representing perfection and unity