

How are the EU and Turkish border fences and walls going?

Last year I drew attention to the big work programme highlighted on the EU website to strengthen Turkey's borders as part of its Visa Liberalisation programme with the EU. The officials wrote that they needed "ditch excavation, lighting, wire entanglement, trellis fence, road maintenance and construction and modular wall construction" along the extended Turkish border with Syria and Iraq. It would be good to have an update on how far they have got with their 900 km Syria/Turkey wall.

I raise it again because many in the EU are hostile to Mrs Trump's proposal to extend the already substantial USA/Mexico wall. I wonder why they apply different standards to this wall than to the ones the EU is helping finance and design closer to home. I invite proponents of the EU to tell us why they think these two walls are different, and why they support the Turkish one which is part of the EU/Turkey Agreement.

The EU approved border controls including ones along EU borders can incorporate watch towers, constant camera surveillance and plenty of "guards" to deal with any problems at crossing points. The 10th action point in the 72 point "Visa Liberalisation Roadmap" is to ensure sufficient well trained guards and surveillance equipment at crossing points. The 33rd point in the 72 point "Visa Liberalisation roadmap" agreed with Turkey by the EU is to "ensure effective expulsion of illegally residing 3rd country nationals."

If it is moral to oppose border walls and barriers in Mexico, surely it is similarly necessary to oppose them in Europe and Middle East?

New ship to serve in Sansha



A new ship is seen at a dock in Sansha of south China's Hainan province, Jan. 30, 2017. The ship completed its maiden voyage on Monday from east China's Shanghai to Sansha where it will serve. The 32-meter vessel weighs 498 tonnes. It has endurance of 45 days and is able to resist gales with speed of more than 60 kilometers per hour, according to its captain Yin Minzeng. It was designed to help extinguish fires on the sea, tow vessels that lose power and assist law-enforcement vessels. In addition, it will provide supplies for islands of Sansha. (Xinhua/Dai Chao)

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Sansha City was established in 2012 to administer islets and reefs in the Xisha, Zhongsha and Nansha islet groups as well as waters in this area.

German inflation outstrips UK

In confirmation that the rise in western inflation is mainly to do with rising commodity prices, especially oil, German CPI inflation today hit 1.9% compared to the UK's 1.6%. It confirms that inflation in the UK is not special to UK and has not been caused by sterling weakness and Brexit.

Jeremy Corbyn letter to Theresa May calling for her to withdraw offer of State Visit to Donald Trump

Jeremy

Corbyn MP, Leader of the Labour Party, calling on Theresa May to withdraw her offer to Donald Trump of a State Visit, said:

“Let

no one be in doubt that I will oppose, and the Labour Party will oppose, all those who fan the flames of fear at home and abroad.

“I

support the demand of millions of British people: Donald Trump should not be welcomed on a state visit to this country while he continues to propagate his anti-women, anti-Muslim and anti-Mexican policies.

“This

world defeated segregation, we defeated Apartheid and we will defeat this nasty policy created to sow division and hatred.

“His

invite should be withdrawn until the executive orders are gone and every element of them repealed.

“History

judges us by the actions we take in opposing oppression.

“I

am proud that during the 1980s and 1990s I stood with Labour party members, trade unionists and faith leaders opposing the racist regime of South Africa.

“I

was there on the day Margret Thatcher opened her door to P.W. Botha while Nelson Mandela languished in a prison cell.

“Margaret

Thatcher and the Conservative Party were on the wrong side of history then just as Theresa May and her Conservative Party are on the wrong side of history today.

“The

Labour party stands unequivocally with those demonstrating today and will do so until we are victorious.

“I

have written to Theresa May to demand that she withdraws her offer to Donald Trump of a State Visit.”

[Green Party responds to news Trump could pull out of Paris Agreement](#)



30 January 2017

Jonathan Bartley, co-leader of the Green Party, has responded to the news today that Donald Trump could pull the US out of the Paris Climate Change Agreement within a matter of days. [1]

Bartley said:

“The news that Donald Trump could pull the US out of the Paris Agreement is a shame on our own Government. The Prime Minister’s failure to prioritise climate change with the President is a complete dereliction of duty.

“But although a US withdrawal would be a bitter blow to the fight to save our planet, the momentum we have gathered is unstoppable, and the Paris Agreement will continue in strength with or without Donald Trump.”

Notes:

1. <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/donald-trump-paris-climate-change-deal-myron-ebell-us-president-america-pull-out-agreement-a7553676.html>

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