

## MARINE SAFETY NEWS

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## QUOTE OF THE DAY

*Formal education will make you a living.  
Self-education will make you a fortune. - Jim Rohn*

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## EU Delays Debt Crisis Summit To October 23

The EU is delaying a summit by almost a week to October 23 to give leaders more time to polish their response to the Eurozone debt crisis, the EU's president said on Monday.

The summit was originally scheduled to take place over two days in Brussels on October 17-18, but the Eurozone has yet to implement a Greek rescue package agreed in July and officials are now working on plans to shore up banks.

EU President Herman Van Rompuy said he decided to push back the much-awaited talks after consultations over the past week with European Commission President Jose Manuel

Barroso and the head of the group of Eurozone finance ministers, Luxembourg Prime Minister Jean-Claude Juncker.

"This timing will allow to finalise our comprehensive strategy on the euro area sovereign debt crisis covering a number of interrelated issues," Van Rompuy said in a statement.

"Further elements are needed to address the situation in Greece, the bank recapitalisation and the enhanced efficiency of stabilisation tools," he said. EU and Eurozone finance ministers will schedule a preparatory meeting ahead of the summit, Van Rompuy added. (AFP)

## EU Holds Hand Out To Syria Opposition, Pressuring Assad

The EU held out a hand to Syria's opposition grouping on Monday, welcoming its formation and urging the world to do the same, as it readies new sanctions against Bashar al-Assad's regime.

Ramping up the pressure on Damascus, the EU "welcomes the efforts of the political opposition to establish a united platform" and notes the creation of the Syrian National Council (SNC) "as a positive step forward", EU foreign ministers said.

"It calls on the international community also to welcome these efforts", added a statement approved by the bloc's 27 ministers at talks in Luxembourg.

While short of outright recognition, the statement comes a day after Syria threatened retaliation should nations recognise the newly-formed SNC.

Asked why the ministers had failed to go the extra step of recognising the SNC, EU Foreign Policy Chief Catherine Ashton said: "I think as in any situation we need to examine carefully what relationship we have."

"It's a big step to recognise and we will take it only when ministers think it's the right thing to do," she added.

Spain's Foreign Minister Trinidad Jimenez recalled that the EU had agreed to recognise Libya's CNT only several months into the rebellion and after it received support from Arab states. "There is still a long way to go," she said. (AFP)

## Pressure Eases On Britain's Under-Fire Defence Minister

British Prime Minister David Cameron backed his under-fire defence minister on Monday, insisting he would not rush to judgment on claims Liam Fox let a close friend work as his unofficial advisor.

Fox is under intense pressure following allegations that his former flatmate Adam Werritty posed as his advisor, brokered meetings with businessmen and accompanied him on ministerial trips including to Sri Lanka and Dubai.

The opposition Labour party has questioned whether Fox, 50, put national security at risk with his relationship with the 34-year-old Werritty, who has also made numerous visits to the Defence Ministry in the past year.

Fox rejects this accusation, although he apologised on Sunday for giving "the impression of wrongdoing", and admitted he allowed "distinctions to be blurred between my professional responsibilities and my personal loyalties".

After a visit to Libya at the weekend which was overshadowed by the row, Fox was due to answer questions on the scandal in the House of Commons later on Monday, and was also set to make a statement to lawmakers. But just hours before, the pressure eased when Cameron's office made clear he would not be rushing to judgement on his defence secretary's behaviour, and the prime minister himself issued a strong declaration of support. (AFP)

## Sarkozy, Abbas To Meet In Paris: Palestinian Envoy

French President Nicolas Sarkozy and Palestinian President Mahmud Abbas will meet in Paris in the coming days to discuss the Palestinian bid for UN recognition, Abbas's envoy said.

Palestinian Foreign Minister Ryad al-Maliki said Abbas would depart for France after meeting on Tuesday with Colombia's President Juan Manuel Santos on the request for UN Security Council recognition of a Palestinian state.

Both Colombia and France are on the 15-member council. "We are going to have a meeting with the French president Sarkozy on the same subject, because France is also a permanent member of the Security Council," Maliki told AFP on Monday. (AFP)

## EU, Ukraine Anxiously Await Tymoshenko Verdict

Ukraine is expected on Tuesday to give the verdict in the trial of opposition leader Yulia Tymoshenko, a decision which will have drastic implications for Kiev's future relations with the EU.

Judge Rodion Kireyev retired to consider the verdict in late September after a three month abuse of power trial that EU officials have warned could jeopardise President Viktor Yanukovich's dreams of EU integration.

Prosecutors, who have demanded a jail sentence of seven years, have charged Tymoshenko with losing the budget almost USD 200 million by signing gas deals with Russia in January 2009 that were overly soft on Moscow. But the EU has expressed repeated alarm over the trial, with its envoy to Kiev bluntly stating that the charges would never have been brought to court in Europe as no corruption is implied. (AFP)

## European Stocks Close Sharply Higher

European stock markets closed higher on Monday, with London's **FTSE-100** index of leading shares up 1.80% at 5,399 points. In Frankfurt, the **DAX** rallied 3.02% to 5,847.29 points and in Paris, the **CAC-40** jumped 2.135 to 3,161.47 points. (AFP)

## Slovak PM Links EU Debt Plan To Confidence Vote

Slovak Prime Minister Iveta Radicova said on Tuesday she would link a key parliamentary vote on the Eurozone's debt rescue fund to a vote of confidence in her coalition government later the same day.

### MARINE NEWS SUMMARY

#### CONTAINER VESSELS: NEXT-GENERATION WILL BE LARGEST EVER

If the need is for greater efficiency for road and rail freight during an economic slowdown, standard operating procedures might be to downgrade to smaller and lighter means of overland transport. Shipping lines, however, have a different approach: they build bigger ships. The reason, they say, is better economies of scale, costing them less to send a string of three or four huge new ships across the oceans instead of a larger fleet of smaller vessels. These bigger and newer ships will also have more efficient engines and lower emissions, which also means lower fuel costs, as the company hopes an everlasting impression on its customers. One shipping giant is reportedly spending USD 1.9 billion on 10 new ships, each of which will carry 18,000 TEUs. The new Ultra Large Container Ships (ULCS) will be more than 1,312 feet long and more than 193 feet wide, and will outdo cargo capacity of the world's largest container vessel currently afloat, by 16%. The company's chief executive said that building ULCSs was not only a top priority for the firm but also for its customers, who are heavily dependent upon this in their supply chain. Five years ago, the world's largest container ship had a TEU capacity of 9,500. According to a Paris-based maritime research firm, the container carriers' answer to challenges of sustainable shipping and reduction of emissions is to build ever-larger ships, whose sizes have doubled over a decade.

"I announced to my coalition partners that I will tie today's vote on our future in Europe with a confidence vote," Radicova said in a decision that follows deadlocked talks in her four-party coalition on expanding the fund.

"It's unacceptable for a prime minister to allow the isolation of Slovakia," she told reporters after the liberal coalition Freedom and Solidarity party insisted it would torpedo the vote.

Parliament was to convene at 1300 local time (1100 GMT) for a session including the crucial vote.

"I'm sorry our coalition partner did not accept an offer of a possible compromise," Radicova said, adding she hoped the changes to strengthen the European Financial Stability Facility could be salvaged with opposition support in a repeat vote.

"It's my great wish to have a successful vote today, but if it's not successful, we'll have to hold a repeat vote," said Radicova. (AFP)

## Polish Centrists Moves To Craft New Cabinet

Poland's centrists moved on Monday to craft a new cabinet after winning a landmark second term in a vote that also saw a fiercely anti-clerical party storm into the deeply Catholic nation's Parliament.

The victory of Prime Minister Donald Tusk - whose Civic Platform (PO) pushed a message of solid economic stewardship in a nation that has avoided recession - is a political watershed.

No incumbent had survived a general election since Poland's communist regime fell in 1989.

President Bronislaw Komorowski, a former PO kingpin, said the result "opened a new era in Polish democracy". Markets also gave the thumbs up, with the Polish Zloty climbing against the Euro and the dollar. Near-final results showed PO won some 39% of the vote and 206 seats, down from 208 in the outgoing parliament. (AFP)

## Western Balkans Hope To Move Slowly Towards EU

When the European Commission announces its progress report on Wednesday, Western Balkans countries hope for small steps forward as the realisation is dawning EU enlargement will be a very slow process.

As the economic crisis continues in Europe, support for EU integration has fallen in most Western Balkans countries, although the majority generally agrees there is no alternative.

Montenegro and Serbia should both get some good news with the commission expected to recommend candidacy status for Belgrade.

For Podgorica, a candidate member since December 2010, it would be a date for the start of accession talks.

Serbia will reap the reward for arresting the last two remaining fugitives of the UN war crimes court, earlier this year. But Belgrade's hopes that it could also set a start date for accession talks have largely evaporated after the recent unrest in northern Kosovo and the decision to ban a gay pride parade. (AFP)

## More Europeans Go Swiss

The number of foreigners living in Switzerland rose 2.9% in August compared to a year ago, with the rise driven by arrivals from European countries. As at August 31, 2011, 1.751 million foreigners were living in Switzerland, making up 22.3% of the country's seven million population.

The population of Europeans grew fastest, rising 4% from a year ago.

As a result, some 1.29 million inhabitants now living in Switzerland originate from the 27 member states of the EU, as well as Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway.

The population of non-Europeans also grew, but by just 0.8% to 621,663.

The fastest growing nationalities were German with numbers rising 14,395, Portuguese up 9,816, and French increasing by 4,388.

The number of Kosovo citizens also grew by 17,864, although the sharp rise was due to former Serbians who have changed their nationalities. The jump in the registered Kosovo citizens was coupled with a decrease of 19,100 Serbians in Switzerland. (AFP)

## US Duo Wins Economics Nobel, Could Shed Light On Crisis

Two US researchers won the 2011 Nobel Economics Prize on Monday for research on how different events affect economies and which could help find answers to the current crisis, the Nobel jury said.

Thomas Sargent and Christopher Sims, both 68, have developed methods that untangle "the causal relationship between economic policy and different macroeconomic variables, such as GDP, inflation, employment and investments," the Nobel jury said.

"Their combined work constitutes a solid foundation for modern macroeconomic analysis. It is hard to envisage today's research without this foundation," it added. (AFP)

## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### Libya Forces Drive To Centre Of Gaddafi Hometown

SIRTE: Libya's new regime forces were battling block by block towards the centre of Sirte, eyeing the symbolic prize of finally capturing Muammar Gaddafi's hometown after a month-long siege.

On the diplomatic front, Libya's ruling National Transitional Council (NTC) said it recognises the Syrian National Council grouping opponents of President Bashar al-Assad, becoming the first government, albeit an interim one, to do so. But Gaddafi diehards were putting up fierce resistance and in their other remaining bastion, Bani Walid, they mounted a fightback, killing 17 NTC fighters.

The interim ruling NTC has been waiting for Sirte's full capture to declare the liberation of the whole of Libya, clearing the way to draw up a timetable for elections.

A column of NTC troops thrust towards central Sirte from positions east along the Mediterranean coast, coming under heavy rocket and small arms fire as they inched forward house by house. (AFP)

### Washington Protesters Given Permit To Continue

WASHINGTON: Protesters in Washington condemning corporate greed and corrupt politics leaped at the chance to extend their occupation of a square near the White House by another four months.

The Stop the Machine occupation of Freedom Plaza is one of two ongoing protests in the capital, alongside the like-minded but more youthful Occupy DC sit-in, now in its 10th day.

Its original four-day permit from the National Park Service - which polices the square - called for them to leave on Monday, but late in the day the federal agency proposed a permit that would run until February 2012.

"The GA (general assembly) at Freedom Plaza just reached consensus - we accept the four-month extension of our permit!" organizers said on the StopTheMach2011 Twitter feed.

Occupy DC remains at McPherson Square, without a permit, where it staged a late-day general assembly Monday watched by a solitary police cruiser.

Both protests comprise several dozen participants each. Stop the Machine had declared earlier Monday it would stay in Freedom Plaza - across from Washington's city hall and the Ronald Reagan international trade center - indefinitely, with or without permission. (AFP)

### Egypt Probes Deadly Sectarian Clashes

CAIRO: Egypt's military rulers ordered a speedy probe into clashes which killed 25 people, mostly Coptic Christians, as the cabinet held crisis talks and thousands attended the funerals of 17 victims.

The Supreme Council of the Armed Forces (SCAF) "tasked the government with quickly forming a fact finding committee to determine what happened," in a statement read on state television Monday as world leaders urged restraint.

It called for "all measures against all those proven to have been involved, either directly or by incitement".

Both the ruling military council and the cabinet held crisis talks, a day after the clashes in Cairo left 25 dead, most of them Copts, and more than 300 people injured, according to health ministry figures.

The SCAF, which took power when President Hosni Mubarak was ousted in February, stressed it "continues to bear national responsibility to protect the people" until it hands over to an elected civilian authority. Thousands of people attended a service at the Copt cathedral for the funerals of 17 demonstrators. (AFP)

### Myanmar To Free Thousands Of Prisoners

YANGON: Myanmar announced a mass prisoner amnesty on Tuesday, raising hope for the imminent release of hundreds of political detainees in what would be a major sign of change in the authoritarian state.

More than 6,300 prisoners will be pardoned from Wednesday "on humanitarian grounds", state television announced, without saying whether political prisoners would be among them.

## FINANCIAL NEWS

### FOREIGN EXCHANGE

1 EUR = 1.3593 USD

1 EUR = 0.8689 GBP

1 EUR = 1.2326 CHF

European Central Bank

The fate of the country's estimated 2,000 political detainees, who include pro-democracy campaigners, journalists, monks and lawyers, has long been a top demand of Western nations that have imposed sanctions on Myanmar.

The announcement came just hours after a government-appointed human rights panel called for a pardon for the country's "prisoners of conscience".

The National Human Rights Commission said freeing detainees "who do not pose a threat to the stability of state" would allow them to participate in "nation-building", according to an official English-language newspaper.

It noted that UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon and foreign governments were calling for "the release of what is referred to as 'prisoners of conscience,'" in a rare official acknowledgement of their existence. (AFP)

### Putin Arrives In China After USD 7bln Deals

BEIJING: Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin arrived in Beijing on Tuesday for talks with Chinese leaders, a day after his gas-rich nation signed deals worth over USD 7 billion with the world's top energy consumer.

Putin is due to meet his Chinese counterpart Wen Jiabao and President Hu Jintao on his two-day visit - his first abroad since he announced plans last month to reclaim the Russian presidency.

China's foreign ministry said on Tuesday the two countries had already signed 16 economic and trade agreements worth more than USD 7 billion "in the fields of technology transfer, research and development and mineral development".

It gave no further details of the deals, which were signed at a summit Monday, held ahead of Putin's visit.

Observers say the Russian prime minister may lay out his foreign policy priorities for years to come during the trip. Putin has paid frequent visits to China - where he is very well known - in his capacities as president and then prime minister since he took power in 1999. (AFP)

 WEATHER

Paris: 13 to 19 Cloudy  
 Rome: 13 to 27 Sunny  
 Copenhagen: 9 to 14 Partly Cloudy  
 Oslo: 1 to 9 Sunny  
 Stockholm: 2 to 10 Sunny  
 Berlin: 8 to 15 Rain  
 Madrid: 10 to 29 Sunny.

 SPORTS NEWS

## Football: Pint-Sized Giovinco Set For Full Italy Debut

Italy Coach Cesare Prandelli confirmed on Monday that diminutive Parma striker Sebastian Giovinco will start for the Azzurri for the first time in Tuesday's Euro 2012 qualifier against Northern Ireland. Giovinco - who stands just 1m64 (5ft 5in) tall - is preferred to Giuseppe Rossi as partner to AC Milan's Antonio Cassano for the game in Pescara.

"For me his size has never represented a problem," said Prandelli.

"I have always been convinced that if a player is good enough to make it to Serie A then it shows that he is prepared to climb any mountain. I never thought that a little guy like Giovinco could not break through," Prandelli went on, adding that he considers the ex-Juventus player to be an out-and-out striker rather than a trequartista (a creative player positioned behind the strikers). (AFP)

## Football: Scots Plot Shock Downfall Of Mighty Spain

Scotland Manager Craig Levein sees no reason why a famous victory can't be achieved against world champions Spain on Tuesday that would guarantee his team a place in the Euro 2012 play-offs.

Currently sitting in second place, one point ahead of the Czech Republic in Group I, Scotland need a result that equals or betters their rivals who play away in Lithuania.

"We are in a position where it is ours to lose," said Levein.

He added: "A position that I would have taken at the start of the group. If we win on Tuesday, we are second, that's a fact. There is nothing for us to fear."

Levein underlined his confidence in his team to get a result in Alicante. "We are playing the world champions, of course, but I believe wholeheartedly in the players and their ability to rise to the challenge," Levin said. (AFP)

## Tennis: Roddick Survives Scare In Shanghai

A frustrated Andy Roddick dug deep to beat Taiwan's Lu Yen-hsun 6-2, 3-6, 6-2 at the Shanghai Masters on Monday and avoid a second ignominious first-round exit in a week in China.

The American 10th seed, who lost to Lu at Wimbledon last year in their most recent meeting, started the match in blistering form, breaking twice and racing into a 4-0 lead, taking the first set 6-2. But the Taiwanese world number 74 hit back strongly in the second set, striking a stunning two-handed backhand down the line to force a break for a 3-1 lead, which proved enough to level the match against an erratic Roddick.

Clearly unsettled, the American voiced his frustration at noise and movement in the sparse crowd and at a ball-boy, but he refocused and crucially broke in the fourth game of the decider.

Roddick, ousted from the first round of the Beijing Open by South Africa's Kevin Anderson last week, kept his grip as the Lu challenge faded, breaking again to seal the match in a little under two hours. (AFP)

## Tennis: Nadal Tight-Lipped Over Player Action

Rafael Nadal refused to be drawn on Tuesday over any potential meeting between players in Shanghai this week to discuss the punishing demands of the tennis schedule. America's Andy Roddick said Monday that Shanghai Masters no-shows from Novak Djokovic and Roger Federer were stark evidence of the toll put on players by heavy playing commitments.

It followed comments from Britain's Andy Murray last month that he had held several talks with other players at the US Open and they would be discussing the issue in Shanghai.

"There is something there, but is not the right moment to talk about it, especially when nothing clear is done," Nadal said.

"Always is better to talk about the things when you know exactly what's going to happen and when you know exactly what we are going to do," he added. But the Spanish world number two said there was broad agreement among players over the issue. (AFP)

## Rugby Union: France Can Be Consistent, Warns Edwards

France should not be written off as a one-trick pony unable to string together two good World Cup games on the trot, Wales Assistant Coach Shaun Edwards warned on Tuesday. The French, who play Wales in a World Cup semi-final on Saturday, have been labelled as a team incapable of capitalising on an impressive result the following week.

France suffered two pool losses, to New Zealand and Tonga, before surprising England 19-12 in the quarter-final, turning the formbook on its head to be 16-0 up at half-time. But France have rarely produced two good knockout World Cup wins in succession. (AFP)

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## F1: Vettel Can Be Best Ever: Ex-Champions

Sebastian Vettel could become one of the greatest champions in Formula One history and go on to win more titles than Michael Schumacher, two of the sport's most garlanded drivers said on Monday.

Jackie Stewart and Niki Lauda, both triple world champions, believe the 24-year-old German can go on and emulate his compatriot's achievements providing Red Bull can maintain their levels of car design.

And if he does, it will cement an era of German supremacy in Formula One.

"He is unquestionably the most mature 24-year-old racing driver I have seen," Stewart, champion in 1969, 1971 and 1973.

"He has made slight errors, such as losing in Canada to Jenson Button, who was supreme that day, but his second world title is an incredible achievement for one so young. God gives you your natural talent, but it is what you do with that talent. So many people have let it slip away or abused it. Vettel hasn't," he added. (AFP)

## F1: Ferrari Boss Ready To Welcome Vettel

Ferrari team principal Stefano Domenicali said on Tuesday the Italian Formula One stable could welcome newly-crowned two-time world champion Sebastian Vettel from 2014.

Domenicali said that Vettel, whose contract with Red Bull runs until 2014, could easily work alongside current number one driver Fernando Alonso, 30, the world champion in 2005 and 2006.

"Would Alonso accept Vettel? I think yes, I think it could work," Domenicali told the Gazzetta dello sport.

"Fernando's strength is that he's afraid of no-one, a strength that comes from maturity."

Vettel, 24, has said that he would like to race one day for Ferrari. But Red Bull Sporting Director Helmut Marko said on Saturday that Vettel would not "drive for Ferrari just for the glory," even if competing with the Italian team was "the dream of most drivers". (AFP)