

## Turkey issues biometric passports as part of visa deal with EU

Hurriyet Daily News, 31.10.2016



Turkey will begin issuing new biometric passports in November in a bid to fulfill one of the remaining criteria required by the European Union to grant a visa waiver to Turkish citizens as part of March 18 deal between Ankara and Brussels, state-run Anadolu Agency reported on Oct. 31.

The new passports will contain microchips including biometric data and the fingerprint information of the holder, as well as personal information such as the holder's name, birthplace and passport number, the agency said, citing Interior Ministry officials. The preparations for the new passports were finalized in June 1 by the Police Department.

However, the release of the new passports was postponed until Nov. 1 in order to allow some existing passports to expire, officials from the Interior Ministry told the agency. The new passports will be issued starting Nov. 1.

Turkey and the EU earlier this year implemented a deal to stem the record flow of migrants to Europe in exchange for billions of euros in aid to Turkey and the lifting of short-term visa requirements against Turkish citizens.

But the EU has failed to change its visa rules, accusing Turkey of refusing to alter its draconian counter-terrorism laws to meet EU political criteria. The passport renewal was another prerequisite of the granting of visa liberalization since existing Turkish passports are not compatible with EU standards because they do not contain fingerprint information.

# Military: Turkey hits 80 ISIL targets in Syria

Hurriyet Daily News, 02.11.2016



Turkey hit 80 Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) targets in northern Syria as part of the ongoing Euphrates Shield operation, the Turkish army has stated. Three members of the Ankara-backed Free Syrian Army (FSA) were killed and four others were injured in clashes with ISIL, the Turkish General Staff said in a written statement.

Turkish General Staff's statement said the Free Syrian Army (FSA) -controlled towns of Aq Burhan, Vash, al-Baruzah, Al-Gharz, Tlatinah in northern Aleppo, and Jabal Khirbat al-Kanisah in southern Akhtar, were recaptured by Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant ISIL.

Turkey launched the Euphrates Shield operation with the FSA in late August to clear Syria's northern border area of ISIL and the Syrian Kurdish Democratic Union Party (PYD), which Ankara regards as a terrorist organization due to its links with the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK).

However, the Turkish Air Forces were forced to halt airstrikes in support of the operation after the Syrian regime warned that it would shoot down any Turkish warplanes entering Syrian air space. The Turkish Air Forces have been unable to carry out operations in Syrian airspace since Oct. 22, when the country's air defense systems were activated.

# Turkey warns Greece over Gülenist activities in Western Thrace

Hurriyet Daily News, 03.11.2016



The Fethullahist Terror Organization (FETÖ) might attempt to cause unrest among Western Thrace Turks, EU Minister Ömer Çelik has warned Greek officials during a visit to Athens.

“We know that they are carrying out an activity to divide the Turkish community in Western Thrace. Some of their [FETÖ] members carried out activities there in different manners. I was informed by friends, and we will insist on our sensitivity on this issue,” Çelik told reporters in a press meeting in Athens. “They might attempt to carry out more activities in Western Thrace to cause unrest among our compatriots and our community,” he added.

The EU minister said he conducted meetings with Greek officials to inform them about the activities of FETÖ in the Balkan region. Çelik said members of the Gülenist organization can go to the Balkan region via Turkey and Bulgaria, and that this was causing concern for Turkish authorities.

“We have a feeling they are carrying out activities in Athens, Greece or elsewhere, especially in Western Thrace region by passing through not just Turkey but also Bulgaria,” he said. Çelik was also asked about the occupation of a construction site for the capital’s first mosque in the central Votanikos district by a group of neo-Nazi Golden Dawn party and other extreme-right groups’ members, in what appears to be a concerted effort to block the mosque’s construction.

“[The construction of the mosque] became an agenda after a group of racists occupied the site of the construction,” he said. “To construct pluralism in a European capital will serve the country’s inner peace and social peace. We will never accept activities except the ones which will contribute to the society of that country within the boundaries of the law of that country.” Elaborating on the ongoing Cyprus talks, Çelik said a negotiation on the issue of guarantees is out of question for Turkey.

# Time to extend loan terms as interest rates slashed in Turkey, leading banker signals

Hurriyet Daily News, 03.11.2016



Turks will likely witness an extension of loan terms after a series of interest rate cuts by almost all banks, according to a leading banker, who noted that lenders would continue to support the economy.

“As long as there is stability, we will make more money. As representatives from Ziraat Bank, we have also been working to push interest rates down,” said the CEO of Ziraat Bank, Hüseyin Aydın. Aydın, who is also the head of the Banking Association of Turkey (TBB), also signaled it is now time to extend loan terms as almost all lenders recently slashed their interest rates.

“The interest rate is a price. Loan term extensions may be the case in the near future. We will keep supporting the economy,” he added. Turkey’s leading lenders announced rate cuts in loans one-by-one, with the government calling on banks to “boost economic activity,” ahead of a key meeting between Prime Minister Binali Yıldırım and top bank representatives.

The meeting, which lasted 4.5 hours, focused on rate cuts and accompanying issues, according to sources close to the matter. Asked whether banks faced any pressure from the government regarding rates and banks’ profits, Aydın said there was always an exchange of views between authorities and companies for the sake of the healthy functioning of the economy.

“For instance, we said loan rates could not be cut as long as deposit rates remain high ... We are always in dialogue with the authorities. There may be some points on which they have persuaded us and vice versa,” he said. Noting that Ziraat Bank had begun a partnership in Turkmenistan, Aydın said they had made an offer to their counterparts to acquire the whole company.

“In Azerbaijan, we have a lender, 100 percent of which is owned by us, and another, some 50 percent of which is owned by us. We plan to end our partnership and sell our share in the latter to Azerbaijan’s Finance Ministry. The transaction will likely be completed in the near future,” he added. Aydın also said their aim was to participate in the financing of a number of giant projects in Turkey, including the planned Canal Istanbul project and the Gallipoli Bridge. “Even we want to lead these processes. The Turkish banking sector has the power to finance such projects,” he added.

# Shiite militia says to have taken Mosul-Raqqa road

Reuters, 02.11.2016



A spokesman of a Shiite militia said Nov. 2 that its fighters have gained control of a highway linking the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL)-held city of Mosul to the Syrian city of Raqqa, the de facto capital of the militants' self-proclaimed caliphate. The spokesman for the Hezbollah Brigades, Jaafar al-Husseini, said Nov. 2 that his troops are now cutting the main supply line to the militants, The Associated Press reported.

Earlier this week, Shiite militias, known as the Popular Mobilization Units, joined the operation to retake Mosul from ISIL.

They said they would not enter the city of Mosul and would instead focus on retaking Tal Afar, a town to the west. Turkey opposes their participation in the offensive to take Tal Afar, saying that it would reinforce its troop deployments in the border town of Silopi amid a possible Shiite offensive to liberate Tal Afar, which has a sizeable ethnic Turkmen population and is considered a sensitive target for Ankara.

Meanwhile, Iraqi special forces paused their advance in an eastern district of Mosul to clear a neighborhood of any remaining ISIL militants, as forces further to the south of the city took four small villages near Hamam al-Alil, military officials said.

In Mosul's easternmost Gogjali district, special forces could be seen going house to house while sappers searched the road for explosives and booby traps left behind by the jihadist driven out a day earlier.

Gen. Abdul-Ghani al-Asadi, the top counterterrorism forces commander, told reporters a curfew had been imposed in the neighborhood while gains there were being consolidated. Lt. Col. Muhanad al-Timimi of the Iraqi special forces tells The Associated Press that they killed eight ISIL fighters while carrying out house-to-house clearances in the newly-recaptured neighborhood of Gogjali and six of the militants were killed inside a tunnel. He said the other two militants attempted to approach the troops and were shot dead.

Further to the south, where progress has been much slower, Federal Police forces captured four small villages outside the Hamam al-Alil area, over 30 kilometers (19 miles) from Mosul, the army said. The largest of the four is Min Gar, some 10 km (6 miles) west of Hamam al-Alil, spokesman Brig. Gen. Yahya Rasool said of the Nov.2 morning operation.

# Putin offers new pause, exits for Syrian's besieged Aleppo

Hurriyet Daily News, 02.11.2016



Russian President Vladimir Putin offered a new unilateral humanitarian pause for Syria's war-ravaged Aleppo, urging rebels to use it to leave the city's eastern, besieged districts. The Syrian rebels quickly dismissed Vladimir Putin's initiative.

Putin has ordered that the aid corridors - which Russia had opened earlier - also be open on Nov. 4, for longer hours, from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., along with two new exit routes for the rebels to leave eastern Aleppo "in order to prevent a senseless loss of life," the Defense Ministry said.

One exit leads to the Turkish border, the other to the city of Idlib, according to the ministry. Chief of the Russian General Staff Gen. Valery Gerasimov said he was "calling on all leaders of armed groups directly to cease hostilities and leave Aleppo with their weapons."

Gerasimov also said the rebel offensive on the Syrian government-held districts in western Aleppo, which was launched last week, has failed to break through the siege. "They have no chance to break out of the city," he added. Rebel groups in Aleppo dismissed Russia's latest offer, with one of the groups describing it as a media stunt for "public consumption."

Yasser al-Youssef, a spokesman for the Nour el-Din el-Zinki rebel group, said Russia "is not serious" and its latest initiatives "don't concern us." He added that the Russian leader's comments do not reflect the reality on the ground. "We need an international commission to check the Russian lies," al-Youssef said.

Meanwhile, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said Russia sought "honest cooperation" for a political solution in Syria. "We hope our partners will draw the necessary conclusions [so that] we will all aim for honest cooperation... for a political process involving both the government and opposition forces," Lavrov said at the start of an official visit to Greece.

However, he insisted that Washington help enforce a United Nations Security Council resolution condemning support for extremist groups in Syria. "When we adopted this resolution, I remember U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry's words.

He said: 'Whoever wants to be part of [the political] process must sever links to terrorists'," Lavrov said through a translator. "Almost a year has passed and we await these words to be carried out," he added. The United States reiterated its stance toward Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, saying he should not stay in power over the long-term.

“We don’t want to see al-Assad be part of the long-term future of Syria,” said U.S. State Department spokesperson John Kirby during a daily briefing on Nov. 1 after being asked his thoughts on al-Assad’s comments that he planned to remain president at least until his third seven-year term ends in 2021.

“I saw the comments and all I can tell you is that we’re committed, the ISSG [International Syrian Support Group] is committed, the U.N. is committed to trying to get political talks back on track so that we can get a transitional process in place. And from our view in the United States, nothing’s changed about our view that he cannot be part of the long-term future of Syria,” Kirby said.

In an interview published on the New York Times on Nov. 1, al-Assad said he was just a “headline — the bad president, the bad guy, who is killing the good guys.” “You know this narrative. The real reason is toppling the government. This government doesn’t fit the criteria of the United States,” he added.

## Only parliament, not prime minister, can begin Brexit, high court says

Foreign Policy, 03.11.2016



**Prime Minister Theresa May cannot hit the Brexit button. That, at least, was Thursday’s ruling from Britain’s High Court. It said only Parliament, and not the prime minister, can trigger Article 50 of the Lisbon Treaty, the lever that needs to be pulled for negotiations to leave the European Union — that is, to put the “exit” in “Brexit.”**

**May had argued that the referendum, which the “Leave” campaign narrowly won when a vote was put to the public back in June, meant that members of Parliament did not need to be consulted. May herself was against leaving the EU, but has said that she intends to respect popular will.**

May’s government has already said it intends to appeal the decision. The pound, however, was quite happy with the judgment. It surged .8 percent right after the ruling and again later in the day after, per the Wall Street Journal, “the Bank of England’s monetary policy committee announced a unanimous vote to leave interest rates and quantitative easing unchanged” for the duration of this month.

The European Commission has announced it will not comment on the decision “because there are certain things that may still happen in the U.K.” Those certain things likely include a different decision on an appeal and/or Parliament’s rejection of the Brexit vote entirely. (German Chancellor Angela Merkel, meanwhile, is being told to do anything to stop Brexit by her country’s leading academic advisors.) And if it does turn to Parliament? Will the MPs reject Brexit? Perhaps: Some believe lawmakers would reject it by a margin of six to one.

Or perhaps those who were in favor of “Remain” could draw out the process of triggering Article 50 until they are pleased with the terms of departure, a reality not likely to be achieved in the near future given that their ideal deal does not involve leaving the EU at all.

Perhaps the only person more offended by the decision than May’s government was U.K. Independence Party leader (and Leaver in Chief) Nigel Farage, who took a break from championing Donald Trump to tweet, “I now fear every attempt will be made to block or delay triggering Article 50. They have no idea level of public anger they will provoke.” But then, “they” might be thinking of the 1.2 million Leave voters who said they wanted to change their vote.

## Icelanders vote for stability as Pirates fall short of expectations

Reuters, 30.10.2016



Icelanders opted for stability in a general election, results showed on Oct. 30, with the anti-establishment Pirate Party falling short of expectations and the junior partner in the outgoing government emerging on top.

With voters still angered by the 2008 financial crisis and the naming of several government figures in an offshore tax haven scandal this year, Icelanders looked to oust the center-right coalition in its current form. The biggest group, the Progressive Party, lost more than half its share of the vote in the election after PM Gunnlaugsson resigned following revelations in the “Panama Papers” scandal.

The senior coalition partner in the outgoing government, the Progressive Party, saw its support dive to 11.5 percent. But the Pirate Party, founded by a group of internet activists, failed to perform as well as opinion polls had indicated. While its share of the vote tripled from the last election in 2013, it came in only third with 15 percent.

Instead, voters appeared to have recognized efforts to stabilize the economy after its 2008 collapse. The center-right Independence Party, which shared power in the outgoing government, won the largest share of the vote with 29 percent.

No party has won an outright majority and President Gudni Johannesson has yet to hand the mandate to the party that will be tasked with forming the next government. Poet Birgitta Jonsdottir, who leads the Pirate Party, told Reuters she was happy with the result. “Our internal predictions showed 10 to 15 percent, so this is at the top of the range. We knew that we would never get 30 percent,” she said. Both the Independence Party and the Pirate Party, whose founders call themselves “hacktivists”, have so far ruled out working together, though this could change during negotiations in the days to come. The Left-Greens came second with 16 percent. Independence Party leader Bjarni Benediktsson, current finance minister, said:



“It would be natural that we are a leading party in the next government.” His party has promised to lower taxes and keep the economic recovery on track. Fuelled by a tourism boom, economic growth has recovered since the banking crisis and is expected to hit 4.3 percent this year. In a tight race, the newly-established Vidreisn, or Reform Party, could become kingmaker. The pro-European, liberal party which won around 10 percent of votes in its first election has not yet taken sides.

## US reiterates unwillingness to see Syria’s al-Assad in power ‘over long-term’

Reuters, 02.11.2016



The United States reiterated its stance toward Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, saying he should not stay in power over the long-term.

“We don’t want to see al-Assad be part of the long-term future of Syria,” said U.S. State Department spokesperson John Kirby after being asked his thoughts on al-Assad’s comments that he planned to remain president at least until his third seven-year term ends in 2021. “I saw the comments and all I can tell you is that we’re committed, the ISSG is committed, the U.N. is committed to trying to get political talks back so that we can get a transitional process in place.

And from our view in the United States, nothing’s changed about our view that he cannot be part of the long-term future of Syria,” Kirby said. The United States-led coalition, Gulf countries and Turkey support the Syrian rebels trying to oust al-Assad, while Russia is along with Iran one of the Syrian president’s main allies.

In an interview published on the New York Times, al-Assad said he was just a “headline — the bad president, the bad guy, who is killing the good guys.” “You know this narrative. The real reason is toppling the government. This government doesn’t fit the criteria of the United States,” he added.

Top U.S. officials, including President Barack Obama, previously said al-Assad must be removed from office, adding that they did not believe the civil war in Syria would end while he remained in power. Meanwhile, Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu stated on Nov. 1 that a “Western failure to rein in violent Islamists” in Syria had indefinitely delayed the resumption of peace talks.

Shoigu said rebels backed by Western governments had been attacking civilians in the Syrian city of Aleppo, despite a pause in Russian and Syrian air attacks. “As a result, the prospects for the start of a negotiation process and the return to peaceful life in Syria are postponed for an indefinite period,” he added. Commenting on Shoigu’s remarks, Kirby said Washington “does not share the same view that there’s an indefinite postponement.”

# China chides Trump for vow to abandon Paris Climate Agreement

Foreign Policy, 02.11.2016



Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump has promised to pull out of the Paris climate accord, an agreement that comes into effect this Friday among almost 200 nations that is meant to help combat climate change.

In a rare foray into American presidential politics, China's top climate change negotiator Xie Zhenhua said a wise president would fall into line with international norms. He made this comment in response to a question about how China would work with Trump to improve the environment. "If they resist this trend, I don't think they'll win the support of their people, and economic and social progress will be affected," Xie said.

"I believe a wise political leader should take policy stances that conform with global trends." The irony is rich. China, after decades of breakneck economic growth that led to a spike in greenhouse gas emissions, is now working to rein in pollution and carbon emissions.

For years, U.S. lawmakers, especially Republicans, have argued against implementing potentially onerous climate policies in the United States, given China's huge and dirty economy. Now, Beijing is the one urging Washington to clean up its act.

Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton has pledged to work to meet President Barack Obama's goal of reducing U.S. carbon emissions by at least 26 percent by 2025. Trump has pledged to pull out of the agreement while increasing the amount of coal the United States burns in order to bring back mining jobs.

If the United States were to leave the accord, it would remove a major incentive for China to stick with it. Beijing plans to launch its own nationwide carbon-trading program next year, something that the U.S. Senate shot down in 2010. Under a pilot program, 120 million carbon allowances have already been traded, with a market value of \$472 million.

Trump's threat has some teeth. His energy advisor, Rep. Kevin Cramer (R-N.D.), said if he becomes president, the GOP nominee plans to submit the agreement to the Senate for ratification, where it would likely fail; it would need two-thirds of the Senate to approve it. This would allow Trump to shift the onus for killing the deal onto lawmakers.

In September, 376 scientists penned a letter blasting Trump's plan and warning it would have "severe and long-lasting consequences ... for the international credibility of the United States." (The same can be said — and has— about the Trans-Pacific Partnership, another international deal Trump wants to scrap.)

The next round of U.N. climate talks will kick off, the day before the U.S. election. If Trump wins, those talks are going to end up being less about the nuts and bolts of implementing the first global climate pact, and more about how to simply salvage the thing.

## Nervous World Markets Signal a Real Possibility of a Trump Win

Foreign Policy, 03.11.2016



Six days ahead of the U.S. presidential election, and with Republican nominee Donald Trump surging in the polls, world markets are getting a bout of the jitters.

Stocks in Asia and Europe continued a months-long slump Wednesday following an ABC News/Washington Post tracking poll showing Trump with a one-point advantage over his Democratic opponent, Hillary Clinton. That was his first lead since May. Clinton still has an advantage over Trump in most national polls, but the possibility of a Trump victory — something traders fear because of the uncertainty it would bring — spooked investors.

“Trump’s victory could lead to volatility, flight to safety, and sell-offs in stocks,” Soeren Moerch, the head of fixed-income trading at Danske Bank in Copenhagen, told Bloomberg on Wednesday. “We still think Clinton will win, and it will be business as usual, but it has become a very tight race.”

His comments follow a letter signed by 370 economists who warned Americans that electing Trump would be a catastrophic mistake. The number crunchers, who included a handful of Nobel laureates, said the Republican nominee is a “dangerous, destructive choice” as he “promotes magical thinking and conspiracy theories.”

Other indicators Wednesday also revealed concerns over a Trump comeback: Global stocks fell to their lowest level since July. The costs of Treasury notes and gold — generally safe investments — surged. The value of the Mexican peso dropped again; it has steadily decreased as the chances of a Trump victory have gone up.

Oil prices, already low, also fell. That came on top of a new crude increase of 14.4 million barrels in the week ending on Oct. 28. Announced Wednesday by the U.S. Energy Information Administration, the glut marks the largest weekly increase in the 34 years of data collected.

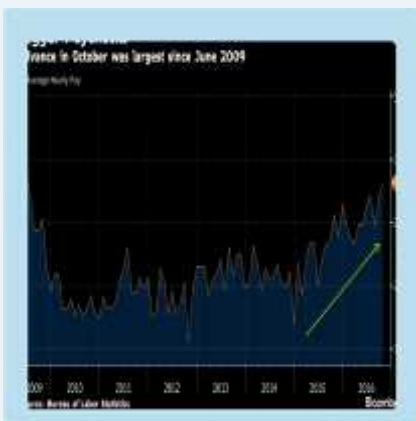
Finally, the VIX index — a volatility measure known more commonly as the “fear index” — is now at its highest level since Britain decided to leave the European Union in June. U.S. stocks, in the midst of their longest slide since 2011, were down slightly Wednesday. But that’s likely more to do with the Federal Reserve than the prospect of a Trump victory.

In a statement concluding a two-day meeting that ended Wednesday, the U.S. Central Bank held firm on current interest rates of between 0.25 and 0.5 percent. But it did hint that a rate hike could come in December, which would make it more expensive for consumers, financial service firms, and businesses to borrow.

In other words, six days ahead of the U.S. presidential vote, world markets are finally pricing the possibility of a Trump victory on Nov. 8. If Wednesday is any indication, his election would be followed by a global financial rout on Nov. 9.

## Payrolls in US rise by 161,000 in October as wages accelerate

Bloomberg, 03.11.2016



U.S. jobs continued to rise at a steady pace in October and wage gains accelerated, signs that the labor market and economy made steady progress at the start of the fourth quarter. Payrolls climbed by 161,000 last month following a 191,000 gain in September that was larger than previously estimated, a Labor Department report showed Friday.

The median forecast in a Bloomberg survey called for 173,000. The jobless rate fell to 4.9 percent, while wages rose from a year earlier by the most since June 2009. The figures are likely to keep the Federal Reserve on track to raise borrowing costs next month for the first time in 2016.

Underlying the steady gains in employment is a balance between hiring managers' need to keep up with stable domestic demand and the struggle to match more limited labor to skilled-job vacancies. "The pace of job growth remains pretty steady," said Russell Price, a senior economist at Ameriprise Financial Inc. in Detroit, who had projected payrolls at 165,000. "We're starting to see wages pick up a little. The report supports the idea that the opportunity is there for the Fed to raise rates, and it's certainly appropriate for them do so" in December.

Workers have been in short supply for 13 straight months, according to the Institute for Supply Management survey of service-industry companies, which make up almost 90 percent of the economy.

The median forecast in a Bloomberg survey called for a 173,000 advance in payrolls. Estimates in the Bloomberg survey ranged from gains of 105,000 to 208,000 after a previously reported 156,000 September increase.

Revisions added a total of 44,000 jobs to payrolls in the previous two months. The unemployment rate, which is derived from a separate Labor Department survey of households, dropped from 5 percent the prior month, returning to its level from August.



While economists and policy makers largely agree that the U.S. economy is close to full employment, blemishes remain, with the ranks of part-time workers and long-term jobless still higher than before the last recession.

The labor force participation rate, which indicates the share of working-age people who are employed or looking for work, slipped to 62.8 percent from 62.9 percent, as the number of people in the labor force declined. The government's underemployment rate dropped to 9.5 percent in October from 9.7 percent, while the number of people working part-time for economic reasons was little changed, according to Friday's report. Some 5.89 million American employees were in part-time jobs but wanted full-time work.

Wage gains picked up, with average hourly earnings rising 0.4 percent from a month earlier to \$25.92. The year-over-year increase was 2.8 percent, compared with 2.7 percent in the year ended in September. The average work week for all workers was unchanged at 34.4 hours in October.

Among service providers, education and health services led with an increase of 52,000 jobs, followed by professional and business services at 43,000. Retailers pared payrolls by 1,100 on declines at electronics and appliance stores and clothing shops.

Factories reduced payrolls by 9,000 after an 8,000 decline the month before, in line with a report earlier this week that showed manufacturing barely expanded in October while orders moderated. Employment at construction companies rose by 11,000. Governments added 19,000 workers.

Friday's figures showed 238,000 Americans weren't at work because of weather during the survey week, even though they were counted as employed in the household survey, the agency said. Bad weather can affect the payroll count if employees didn't receive compensation for the entire pay period that included the 12th of the month.

Hurricane Matthew's assault on the East Coast was just fading at the start of the week with the 12th. The storm moved up the Florida coastline on Oct. 7 before making landfall in South Carolina the following day and continuing on to North Carolina, causing flooding and power outages along the way.

The labor-market figures offer a last big hint at the direction of the economy before Americans flock to the polls Nov. 8. Figures released last week on the third-quarter pace of growth offered a mixed picture. While gross domestic product increased at a 2.9 percent annualized rate for the strongest pace in two years, inventory rebuilding and a soybean-related jump in exports largely fueled the rebound. Consumer spending slowed more than expected.

Fed policy makers who concluded a two-day meeting Wednesday in Washington offered an assessment of the economy that was broadly similar to their September statement, reinforcing the consensus view that they will raise the benchmark interest rate in December for the first time this year.

The central bankers reiterated that the "labor market has continued to strengthen and growth of economic activity has picked up" since the first half of 2016. Even so, they opted to wait for "some further evidence" of progress before increasing borrowing costs.

# Top economists spar over Trump as tighter race sinks US stocks

Hurriyet Daily News, 26.10.2016



A group of 370 economists released a letter explaining why electing Donald Trump would be a mistake, a statement that was quickly denounced by a top adviser as out of touch with the reality of job losses caused by “bad trade deals.”

The letter said the candidate “has misled the electorate” and “promotes magical thinking and conspiracy theories over sober assessments of feasible economic policy options.” Trump economic adviser and economist Peter Navarro said the letter was “an embarrassment to the corporate offshoring wing of the economist profession” and added that Trump’s economic plan would boost growth.

The back-and-forth came on a day when stocks fell and gold rose after a poll showed Trump pulling ahead of Democrat Hillary Clinton a week before the Nov. 8 election. The economists’ exchange showed that while a significant group of the profession would view a Trump victory as a loss for America’s growth outlook, that view isn’t unanimous.

“Donald Trump is a dangerous, destructive choice for the country,” wrote the economists opposing the candidate, who include several Nobel Prize winners. “If elected, he poses a unique danger to the functioning of democratic and economic institutions, and to the prosperity of the country.”

Trump has pledged to cut taxes and scrap the North American Free Trade Agreement as he seeks to boost U.S. growth. Clinton’s plan would strengthen trade enforcement, reward companies that let workers share in profits and seek to make wealthy Americans pay more in taxes.

In Navarro’s rebuttal, he said Trump’s plans “will significantly increase growth, boost wages, and generate trillions in new tax revenues.” The economists who are warning against a Trump presidency seem to be in agreement with traders. Research from the Brookings Institution has shown that markets view his election as a risk, and Tuesday’s asset price moves support that theory.



# Announcements & Reports

## *Providing Efficient Network Access to Green Power Generators: A Long-Term Property Rights Perspective*

**Source** : Bruegel

**Weblink** : <http://bruegel.org/2016/11/providing-efficient-network-access-to-green-power-generators-a-long-term-property-rights-perspective/>

## *A glass half full: The rebalance, reassurance, and resolve in the U.S.-China strategic relationship*

**Source** : RAND

**Weblink** : <https://www.brookings.edu/research/a-glass-half-full-the-rebalance-reassurance-and-resolve-in-the-u-s-china-strategic-relationship/>

## *Income convergence during the crisis: did EU funds provide a buffer?*

**Source** : Bruegel

**Weblink** : <http://bruegel.org/2016/10/income-convergence-did-eu-funds-provide-a-buffer/>

# Upcoming Events

## *Competitive Gains in the Economic and Monetary Union*

**Date** : 13 November 2016

**Place** : Brussels - Belgium

**Website** : <http://www.bruegel.org/nc/events/event-detail/event/534-competitive-gains-in-the-economic-and-monetary-union/>

## *The Future of Capitalist Democracy: UK-Japan Perspectives*

**Date** : 15 November 2016

**Place** : London - UK

**Website** : <http://www.chathamhouse.org/event/future-capitalist-democracy-uk-japan-perspectives>

## *13th Asia Europe Economic Forum (AEEF)*

**Date** : 16 November 2016

**Place** : Beijing - China

**Website** : <http://bruegel.org/events/13th-asia-europe-economic-forum/>



## *Emerging Markets and Europe: Time for Different Relationships?*

**Date** : 17 November 2016  
**Place** : Brussels - Belgium  
**Website** : <http://www.bruegel.org/nc/events/event-detail/event/524-emerging-markets-and-europe-time-for-different-relationships/>

## *What future for Europe's Social Models?*

**Date** : 19 November 2016  
**Place** : Brussels - Belgium  
**Website** : <http://www.bruegel.org/nc/events/event-detail/event/526-what-future-for-europes-social-models/>

## *Challenges for Growth in Europe*

**Date** : 23 November 2016  
**Place** : Brussels - Belgium  
**Website** : <http://www.bruegel.org/nc/events/event-detail/event/521-challenges-for-growth-in-europe/>

## *Global Governance of Public Goods: Asian and European Perspectives*

**Date** : 23 November 2016  
**Place** : Paris - France  
**Website** : <http://www.bruegel.org/nc/events/event-detail/event/529-global-governance-of-public-goods-asian-and-european-perspectives/>

## *The Future of the Welfare State*

**Date** : 24 November 2016  
**Place** : Berlin - Germany  
**Website** : <http://www.bruegel.org/nc/events/event-detail/event/541-the-future-of-the-welfare-state/>

## *Vision Europe Summit 2016*

**Date** : 25 November 2016  
**Place** : Lisbon - Portugal  
**Website** : <http://bruegel.org/events/vision-europe-summit-2016/>