

Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung e.V.

Overview of the German printed press reports on the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland

GREAT BRITAIN

HANS-HARTWIG BLOMEIER

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Handelsblatt: Merkel will 'place more emphasis on the survival of the EURO than on a continuous membership of the UK in the EU'. Merkel's possible help for Cameron should not overstated, despite overlaps in regard to free trade and structural reforms to increase competitiveness. The best way to keep the EU interesting for Britain, the article concludes, would be a rapid conclusion of the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP). This would show Britons the benefits of being part of a European bloc which can conclude such agreements on eye-level with giants such as the US.

The *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung (FAZ)* ran a report on Boris Johnson's visit to **China** and the increasing desire of the UK to become a more important trade partner for Beijing.

The coverage on the **domestic situation** in the UK focused on the revelations of the Snowden affair and the governments' reaction to the leaks. The *FAZ* reported the increasingly negative coverage of **Snowden** himself, *The Guardian* as the platform for the information and the security threat these leaks pose to the UK.

Another issue was the likely introduction of a new voluntary and independent **media regulation** intended by all political parties against the fierce opposition of the united media. The *Neue Zürcher Zeitung* described the deadlock despite the nearing decision at the end of October.

The *FAZ* described the envisaged **immigration laws** as an attempt to create a hostile environment for illegal immigrants, following a line no-tolerance and fast removal if immigrants commit crimes. The *Süddeutsche Zeitung* remarked that foremost Labour and civil rights groups have criticized stricter stances on migration. A report of the *Tageszeitung* described the continued British position on negating electoral rights to prisoners, which repeatedly led to contentions with the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg.

New developments in the '**Plebgate**' affair were discussed in the *Süddeutsche Zeitung*, as several police men allegedly lied in their testimonies about being insulted by Andrew Mitchell.

The *Süddeutsche Zeitung* reported on the assassination of two citizens in **Northern Ireland** by radical catholic Republicans and that despite the progress made, Ulster remains a region in transition to a more peaceful and prosperous future.

The economic recovery in the **Republic of Ireland** and the decision to leave the financial credit mechanisms were closely followed. The *Süddeutsche Zeitung* remarked that despite a relative positive outlook, the crisis in Ireland cannot be deemed as over and many risks remain.