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ISP print

GLOBAL NEWS FOR GLOBAL VIEWS

CZECH ELECTIONS

What was the outcome of this year's senate elections and how was the process?

POLAND EXITS EU FEAR

Is Poland considering leaving the EU?

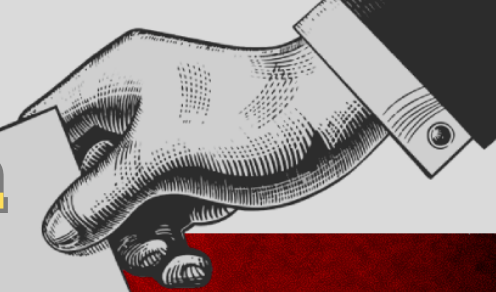
BANKSY SELLS FOR \$25.4M

A street artist's piece, known for brandalism, is sold for more than 15 million more dollars than the guide price

... AND MORE INSIDE

EMAIL US AND TELL US WHAT
YOU THINK!

The Czech Elections



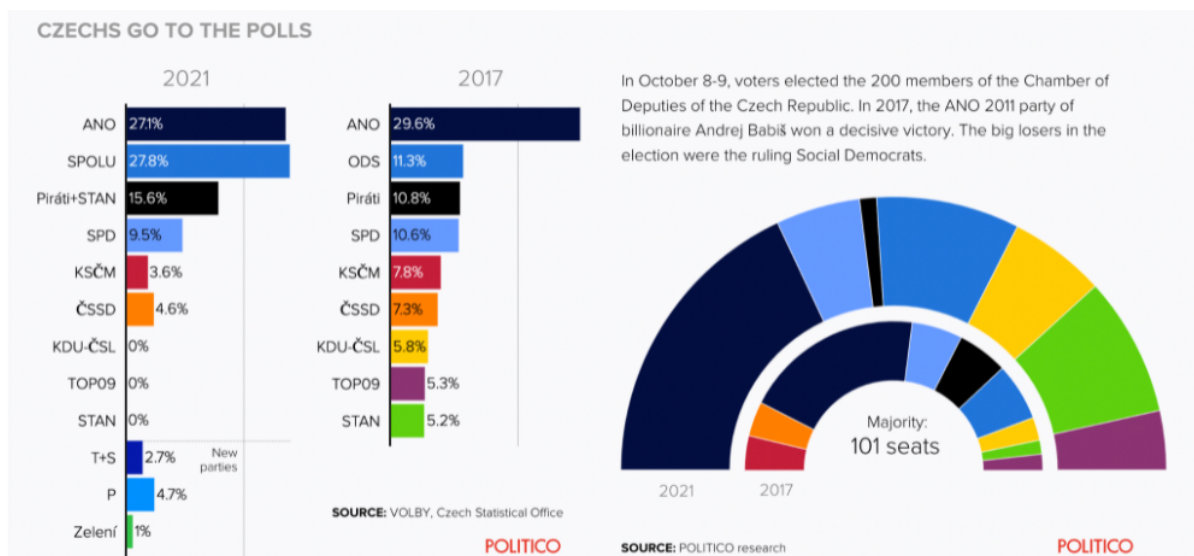
(Politico, Euronews)

Keeping up with politics — especially in the Czech Republic — can be incredibly confusing. Most of you will already have talked or heard about the legislative elections that took place on the 8th and 9th of this month, the results of which were shocking to many.

The Czech Republic is a parliamentary democracy, divided into two separate chambers: the Chamber of Deputies (the lower house) and the Senate (the higher house). The President (currently Milos Zeman) is elected by the general public every five years, the Chamber of Deputies every four years, and the Senate every six years.

SPOLU is a coalition of three parties positioned in the center-right wing, namely ODS, KDU-ČSL, and TOP 09, and due to a new electoral law that was passed a few weeks prior that benefitted coalitions, the group had much better conditions to get into parliament. Pirati and STAN have signed a memorandum with SPOLU and now have the parliament majority.

ANO is a political party led by the current Prime Minister Andrej Babiš, and in 2017, the vast majority of the vote went to them, but this year they were narrowly beaten by the SPOLU coalition. This is presumably due to the Prime Ministers' recent feature in the Pandora Papers which brought the organization into disrepute.



Written By
**JASMINE SURI &
MARTIN SVOBODA**

Will China and Taiwan reunite & Poland EU Exit Fears

(NBC News, BBC)

Just 9 days ago, on October 9th, Chinese president Xi Jinping vowed in a speech to reunite China and Taiwan, two currently separate states. The president claimed that Taiwan's independence is the sole obstacle to the happiness of all Chinese people - but does Taiwan agree with that statement?

After this speech in Beijing's Great Hall of the People, Taiwan's president Tsai Ing-wen presented a speech, in which she stated that Taiwan will not bow to China's pressure. This speech came out the same day as Taiwan's Independence day, and it was highly fueled by the country's challenged nationalism. The main point of her speech was that "only Taiwanese people can decide their futures". The president additionally claimed that Taiwan will keep bolstering its defenses. Xi Jinping has been criticized by the State Department for his speech, as it provoked military activity and created tension between the two countries.

Written By
ALISA KROTOV

Concerns have been raised around the possibility of Poland leaving the EU, as a top court recently ruled that key EU laws were considered "incompatible" with the Polish constitution. The court ruling had a focus on the rejection of the principle of the primacy of EU laws over the state's national legislation, specifically in some judicial components. As a result of this, mass protests and rallies were held in around 100 cities, with an approximate of 100,000 demonstrators gathering in the capital Warsaw. However, Poland's prime minister, Mateusz Morawiecki, has stated that his ruling party has no plans of supporting this claim and leaving the EU, with what some are calling Polexit. Furthermore, Thierry Breton, the European Commission's industry chief, stated that he didn't believe "for one second" that Polexit would occur after the ruling. Therefore, in conclusion, many believe that this event is very unlikely to happen, however it is now a matter of discussion.

Written By
ANNA BELCIKOVA



Texas Abortion Law

(BBC, News)

Since 1973's *Roe v. Wade* decision, which enabled a woman's right to choose to have an abortion without excessive government restriction, the topic of abortion has been widely disputed and argued. Last week, the Department of Justice had to respond to a ruling by the Fifth Circuit Court to allow SB 8 (Texas' controversial abortion law), to be enforced while its legality is still being challenged. A lower court had previously blocked the enforcement of the law. The Justice Department argues that the law restricts women from exercising their constitutional rights as established in 1973's *Roe v. Wade* decision.

Written By
SARAH ESHANOVA

**Graffiti artist Banksy's "Love is in the Bin" sells for a whopping 25.4 million dollars
(continue reading on the next page)**

(Artsy)



Banksy is a street artist who creates revolutionary art that challenges many viewpoints in various fields. His main graffiti technique is stenciling. Although he has been creating his graffiti art for over 30 years, to this day, he remains anonymous.

Banksy's piece, which was famously shredded at a previous auction, sells for 25.4 million dollars, way over the guide price of \$5.5-8.2 million.

The piece was originally titled "Girl with Balloon" (2006), and was painted on a wall in London. At a 2018 auction, the piece was shredded live through a shredder installed into the frame. Last Thursday, the 15th, at the Sotheby's auction, 9 bidders bid for 10 minutes. A private investor outbid all others with a \$25.4 million offer on the half shredded piece, now titled "Love is in the Bin".

Written By
AYLA EICHLER

(BBC News)



Illustrated By
ALISA KROTOV



Mr. Hesham Trivia

What was Mr. Hesham's original chosen major in college?

- a) political science
- b) music
- c) mechanical engineering
- d) sociology

Make sure to check out next week's issue to find out the answer to this week's trivia question!

About Us

ISPrint is a student-led newsletter which brings to you the best and latest of school happenings, local news, and world events— all in bitesize reports and easy-to-read segments. With motivated student-journalists and editors from 6 countries, we strive to provide coverage as diverse as the team that puts it together. In doing so, we hope to promote global awareness, intercultural understanding, and engagement in the school community.

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**new issue out every
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