
SCHULZ: TRUMP 'UN-AMERICAN', WARNS AGAINST LIFTING RUSSIA SANCTIONS

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Germany's centre-left candidate for Chancellor, Martin Schulz, has criticised US President Donald Trump's policies as un-American and warned against lifting sanctions imposed against Russia over its role in the Ukraine crisis.

In one of the sharpest remarks yet by a senior German politician since the new American leader took office, Schulz told the Funke media group in an interview published today (1 February) that Europe had to stand up to defend liberal values.

What Trump is doing is un-American, Schulz said, adding that the United States like no other country in the world stood for enlightenment, democracy and freedom.

If Trump is now driving a wrecking ball through this set of values, then I will tell him as chancellor: That's not the policy of Germany and Europe, Schulz added.

SCHULZ BASHES TRUMP IN CAMPAIGN TO UNSEAT MERKEL AS GERMAN CHANCELLOR

Former European Parliament President Martin Schulz slammed Donald Trump for planning to build a wall at the US-Mexico border and supporting torture during a speech today (29 January) after Social Democratic Party leaders endorsed him as their candidate to take on Angela Merkel.

EurActiv.com

Germany's Social Democrats last week nominated former European Parliament president Schulz to run against Chancellor Angela Merkel in a federal election in September, and the surprise move has boosted popular support for the centre-left party.

Merkel said on Monday (30 January) the global fight against terrorism does not warrant putting groups of people under suspicion, adding Trump's order to restrict people from seven Muslim-majority countries from entering the United States violates the spirit of international cooperation.

Turning to Russian President Vladimir Putin and the Ukraine conflict, Schulz said that sanctions imposed against Russia could only be lifted after both sides had implemented the so-called Minsk peace plan.

NATO, RUSSIA, MERKEL, BREXIT: TRUMP UNLEASHES BROADSIDES ON EUROPE

NATO is obsolete, Germany's Angela Merkel made a catastrophic mistake on refugees, Brexit will be great and the US could cut a deal with Russia: Donald Trump unleashed a volley of broadsides

on Sunday (15 January) in interviews with European media.

EurActiv.com

As long as the Minsk peace agreement is not fully implemented, the sanctions cannot be lifted. We must tell Putin very clearly that Russia is obliged to respect and defend international law, Schulz said.

Schulz comments bring more clarity about his stance on Russia after some leading Social Democrats have voiced support for a partial lifting of sanctions as long as Russia is implementing some aspects of the plan.

Merkel, one of the architects of the peace deal, has repeatedly said that sanctions against Russia can only be lifted once the Minsk agreement has been fully implemented.

The chorus grows

US President Donald Trumps policy decisions are going in a totally wrong direction, German Economy Minister Brigitte Zypries said in a newspaper interview on Wednesday, warning that protectionism would cost growth and jobs in both economies.

Germany is one of the worlds leading trading nations, with exports accounting for some 45 percent of its gross domestic product. The United States became Germanys top trading partner in 2015, overtaking France for the first time since 1961.

Asked about Trumps first policy decisions since the new American president took office, Zypries told Bild: What we are witnessing over the past 10 days is alarming and irritating. This is going in a totally wrong direction.

GERMANY SAYS NATO CONCERNED ABOUT TRUMP OBSOLETE REMARK

Germanys Foreign Minister said yesterday (16 January) that US President-elect Donald Trumps comments that NATO was obsolete had aroused concern across the 28-member alliance.

EurActiv.com

On Tuesday (31 January), Trumps top trade adviser, Peter Navarro, stepped up the pressure, accusing Germany of using a grossly undervalued euro to gain a competitive advantage.

His remarks drew a rebuff from Chancellor Angela Merkel who said that the euro exchange rate was linked to the European Central Banks monetary policy and that the German government had no influence on the ECBs rate decisions.

Kaynak/Source: