

Central Banks Stand Ready On Eve Of Greek Vote

BY DAVID MCHUGH
AND SARAH DILORENZO

Associated Press

FRANKFURT, Germany — On the eve of Greek elections, Europe's central bankers are hoping to avert a financial panic by signaling their readiness to support banks.

At the same time, the head of the European Central Bank is calling on nations to pursue steps that could eventually boost economic growth, such as easing corporate regulations.

For now, the stresses gripping Europe from its debt crisis are tightening. Governments are struggling to borrow. Banks are wary of lending to each other and their customers. And nervous depositors are pulling money from Greek and Spanish banks.

As European officials head for a Group of 20 summit in Mexico, where they'll face pressure to defuse the crisis, central bankers say it's up to government leaders to find a solution.

Mario Draghi, head of the ECB, said Friday that the central bank would continue to support solvent banks if the election results Sunday point to Greece's exit from the euro currency union and ignite panic in financial markets.

But what the eurozone needs most, Draghi said, is a tighter fiscal and political union to strengthen individual countries' banking systems.

Draghi and the central bank favor stronger action by political leaders to boost confidence and ease pressure on the ECB to take more emergency steps. Such steps might include further low-cost loans to banks or direct purchases of government bonds.

The ECB chief said he and other European Union officials are drafting proposals to revamp the eurozone and will address them at a summit of EU leaders late this month. Those proposals could include more centralized supervision of banks and individual countries' spending; action to stimulate growth; and some system of common borrowing that might prevent government defaults.

Issa Could Postpone Vote Against AG

WASHINGTON — Rep. Darrell Issa says he is willing to postpone a contempt of Congress vote against Attorney General Eric Holder if the Justice Department turns over additional records as promised in the congressional investigation of a flawed gun-smuggling probe on the Southwest border.

However, Issa says he still has concerns that the number of documents the department says it will deliver may not be sufficient to end the investigation by the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee.

On Thursday, the attorney general said the department is prepared to turn over documents detailing how Justice Department officials came to the realization that federal agents in Arizona had used a controversial investigative tactic that resulted in hundreds of illicitly purchased guns winding up in Mexico, many of them at crime scenes.



People hold signs outside the White House in Washington, D.C., during a rally to celebrate President Barack Obama's announcement that his administration will be granted deferred action and work permits to DREAMers end deportations and urge relief by governmental agencies for those in deportation proceedings, Friday, June 15, 2012.

Obama Acts To Spare Many Youths From Deportation

BY JIM KUHNHENN
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Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama suddenly eased enforcement of the nation's immigration laws Friday, an extraordinary step offering a chance for hundreds of thousands of illegal immigrants to stay in the country and work. Embraced by Hispanics, his action touched off an election-year confrontation with many Republicans.

Mitt Romney, Obama's GOP election foe, criticized the step but did not say he would try to overturn it if elected.

Obama said the change would become effective immediately to "lift the shadow of deportation from these young people."

"Let's be clear, this is not amnesty, this is not immunity, this is not a path to citizenship, this is not a permanent fix," Obama said from the White House Rose Garden. "This is the right thing to do."

The administration said the change will affect as many as 800,000 immigrants who have lived in fear of deportation. It bypasses Congress and partially achieves the goals of the "DREAM Act," legislation that would have provided a pathway to citizenship for young illegal immigrants who went to college or served in the military.

Under the administration plan, illegal immigrants will be able to avoid deportation if they can prove they were brought to the United States before they turned 16 and are younger than 30, have been in the country for at least five continuous years, have no criminal history, graduated from a U.S. high school or earned a GED or served in the military. They also can apply for a work permit that will be good for two years with no limits on how many times it can be renewed.

The move comes in an election year in which the Hispanic vote could be critical in swing states like Colorado, Nevada and Florida. While Obama enjoys support from a majority of Hispanic voters over Republican challenger Romney, Latino enthusiasm for the president has been tempered by the slow economic recovery, his inability to win congressional support for a broad overhaul of immigration laws and by his administration's aggressive deportation policy.

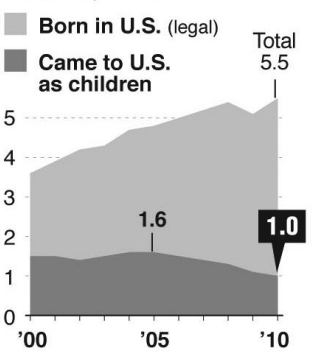
Some Republicans in Congress — and the governor of Arizona, whose state has been at the center of enforcement controversy — strongly criticized

Children of illegal immigrants

The Obama administration has announced it will stop deportation of most younger illegal immigrants who came to the U.S. as children, and would instead allow them to apply for work permits.

A smaller share

An estimated one million children* of illegal immigrants are foreign-born and therefore illegal in 2010; children with at least one illegal immigrant parent, 2000-10; in millions



Federal criteria

Government will not pursue illegal immigrants who:

- Came to U.S. under age 16
- No older than 30
- Enrolled in school, graduated high school or served in military
- In U.S. for five unbroken
- No criminal record

Illegal immigrant population

There are 11.2 million illegal immigrants in the U.S., 3.7 percent of the total population; states with the largest percentage



State	Illegal pop.	% of pop.
Nev.	190,000	7.2%
Calif.	2,550,000	6.8
Texas	1,650,000	6.7
N.J.	550,000	6.2
Ariz.	400,000	6.0
Md.	275,000	4.6
D.C.	25,000	4.5
Fla.	825,000	4.5
Ga.	425,000	4.4
N.M.	85,000	4.3

*Under 18 and not married

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Source: Pew Hispanic Center, MSNBC
Graphic: Judy Treible

the Obama action. But the response from Romney was more muted.

Romney said Obama's decision will make finding a long-term solution to the nation's immigration issues more difficult. But he also said the plight of illegal immigrants who were brought to the U.S. as children is "an important matter to be considered."

During the Republican presidential primaries, Romney said he would veto the DREAM Act with its pathway to citizenship.

Obama's new policy tracks a proposal being drafted by Republican Sen. Marco Rubio of Florida, a potential vice presidential running mate for Romney, as an alternative to the DREAM Act, formally the Development, Relief and Education of Alien Minors Act.

Rubio said, "Today's announcement will be welcome news for many of these kids desperate for an answer." But, like Romney, he said it was "a short-term answer to a long-term problem," and he added, "By once again ignoring the Constitution and going around Congress, this short-term policy will make it harder to find a balanced and responsible long-term one."

The change in enforcement

policy, to be carried out by the Department of Homeland Security, comes one week before Obama plans to address the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials' annual conference in Orlando, Fla. Romney is to speak to the group on Thursday.

Making his case on humanitarian grounds, Obama said, "These are young people who study in our schools, they play in our neighborhoods, they're friends with our kids, they pledge allegiance to our flag. They are Americans in their heart, in their minds, in every single way but one: on paper."

The political appeal for many of America's Hispanics was clear. The president and CEO of the National Council of La Raza, Janet Murguía, said, "When it comes to the Hispanic community, this action is a political plus" for Obama. "It's always good to be able to point to your track record and move the needle toward a promise that you made."

In Los Angeles, immigrant students and their supporters rallied at a downtown street to celebrate the announcement, briefly blocking a freeway entrance ramp.

Hospitals: Birth Control Proposal Unworkable

WASHINGTON (AP) — Sharpening an election-year confrontation over religious freedom and government health insurance rules, the nation's Catholic hospitals on Friday rejected President Barack Obama's compromise for providing birth control coverage to their women employees.

The Catholic Health Association was a key ally in Obama's health care overhaul, defying opposition from church bishops to help the president win approval in Congress. But the group said Friday it does not believe church-affiliated employers should have to provide birth control as a free preventive service, as the law now requires.

The hospital group's decision calls into question a compromise offered by the president himself only months ago, under which the cost of providing birth control would be covered by insurance companies and not religious employers. While churches and other places of worship are exempt from the birth control mandate, non-profits affiliated with a religion, such as hospitals, are not.

In a letter to the federal Health and Human Services department, the hospital group said the compromise initially seemed to be "a good first step" but that examination of the details proved disappointing. The plan would be "unduly cumbersome" to carry out and "unlikely to adequately meet the religious liberty concerns" of all its members, the group said.

While some liberal-leaning religious groups see no problem with the birth control rule, Roman Catholic bishops and conservative-leaning groups are treating it as an affront and calling it an attack on religious freedom. Institutions ranging from the University of Notre Dame to Catholic Charities in several states to the Archdiocese of Washington have sued to block the rule.

Egypt's Muslim Brotherhood Hopes Waning

CAIRO (AP) — Egypt's Muslim Brotherhood pinned its hopes Friday on weekend elections to salvage its waning political fortunes, responding to a court order dissolving its power base in parliament by urging voters to support the Islamist group's candidate for president.

The runoff vote set for Saturday and Sunday pits Ahmed Shafiq, a military-rooted strongman promising a firm hand to ensure stability, against Brotherhood candidate Mohammed Morsi.

The Islamist movement has seen its fortunes rise and fall dramatically in the 16 months since the ouster of Hosni Mubarak. Repressed under the old regime, it rose to become the strongest political force in parliament after elections that started in November only to lose that power when the legislature was dissolved by court order on Thursday.

The Brotherhood is now hoping to salvage its position by portraying itself as the last bulwark against the ousted president's loyalists bent on a comeback.

"Isolate the representative of the former regime through the ballot box," a Brotherhood statement said on Friday, referring to Shafiq. It was published just before the noon deadline to end campaigning.

Suicide Of N.Y. Surgeon Leaves Questions

BUFFALO, N.Y. (AP) — A former Army weapons expert pursued after the shooting death of his ex-girlfriend apparently killed himself with a gunshot to the head, quelling the risk of more bloodshed and silencing perhaps the only voice that might have answered the central question: What caused a gifted trauma surgeon widely beloved as a lifesaver to end his life in a spasm of violence?

After a two-day nationwide manhunt, police found the body of a man believed to be Timothy Jorden in thick brush near the doctor's Lake Erie shoreline home. A neighbor had reported hearing a gunshot from the area on Wednesday morning, and police with dogs found the body, dressed in surgical scrubs, on Friday morning.

Neighbor June Dupree said she was distraught over the developments.

"It doesn't make any sense that he did that and that he killed himself," she said. "Oh, my God, it's just terrible. I can't get over it. I'm just about in tears right now."

She said everybody loved Jorden.

Plague Confirmed In Oregon Patient

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — Health officials have confirmed that an Oregon man has the plague after he was bitten while trying to take a dead rodent from the mouth of a stray cat.

The unidentified Prineville, Ore., man was in critical condition on Friday. He is suffering from a blood-borne version of the disease that wiped out at least one-third of Europe in the 14th century — that one, the bubonic plague, affects lymph nodes.

There is an average of seven human plague cases in the U.S. each year. A map maintained by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention shows that most cases since the 1970s have been in the West, primarily the southwest.

The plague bacteria cycles through rodent populations without killing them off; in urban areas, it's transmitted back and forth from rats to fleas. There's even a name for it, the "enzootic cycle."

The bacteria thrive in forests, semi-arid areas and grasslands, which plague-carrying rodents from wood rats to rock squirrels call home.

Once a coin flip with death, the plague is now easier to handle for humans in the U.S. The national mortality rate stood at 66 percent before World War II, but advances in antibiotics dropped that rate to its present 16 percent.

Central Oregon health officials don't blame the cat.

"The reality is that, in rural areas, part of the role of cats is to keep the rodent population controlled around our homes and barns" said Karen Yeagain of the Crook County Health Department.

The Prineville man, who is in his 50s, remained in critical condition Friday at a Bend hospital. His illness marks the fifth case of plague in Oregon since 1995.

State public health veterinarian Dr. Emilio DeBess told *The Oregonian* (<http://is.gd/XkSL7Y>) that the man was infected when he was bitten by the stray his family befriended. The cat died and its body is being sent to the CDC for testing.

DeBess has collected blood samples from two dogs and another cat that lives with the man's family, the newspaper reported.

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Independence Day Deadlines

The Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan will be closed **Wednesday, July 4th**, for the Independence Day holiday.

The following deadlines will apply:

Thursday, July 5 newspaper 5 p.m., Friday, June 29th

Friday, July 6 newspaper 5 p.m., Monday, July 2nd

Saturday, July 7 newspaper 5 p.m., Tuesday, July 3rd

There will be no newspaper on Wednesday, July 4, 2012.

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