

THE EURO BRIEF



DECEMBER 01, 2017

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

EUROPE – US

[U.S. Joins Europe in Fighting China's Future in W.T.O.](#)

The United States has filed arguments to the World Trade Organization in a looming dispute over China's future in the international body, which could shape the global trading system for decades to come. [*The New York Times*, November 29, 2017].

[Trump hits out at UK PM Theresa May after far-right video tweets](#)

The US president had earlier tweeted inflammatory videos posted online by a British far-right group. Mrs May's spokesman said it was "wrong for the president to have done this". Trump has told Prime Minister May to focus on "terrorism" in the UK. [*BBC*, November 30, 2017].

EUROPE – RUSSIA

[EU anti-propaganda unit gets €1m a year to counter Russian fake news](#)

The EU is stepping up its campaign to counter disinformation and fake news from Russia by spending more than €1m a year on its specialist anti-propaganda unit. [*The Guardian*, November 25, 2017].

[Facebook and Twitter to give details of Russian-backed Brexit posts](#)

Facebook and Twitter have agreed to hand over some information relating to the reach of Russian-backed posts during the Brexit referendum. [*The Guardian*, November 28, 2017].

EUROPE – EAST ASIA

Growing Tensions between China and the EU Over 16+1 Platform

With the sixth premiers' summit of China-Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) 16+1 cooperation in Budapest, there seem to be growing tensions between China and Western Europe over this initiative. [*The Diplomat*, November 29, 2017].

Chinese the most bullish on EU investment, report finds

Chinese business circles are more optimistic about investment prospects in the EU than their US and European counterparts. Ninety percent of Chinese investors said they will increase their investment in Europe over the next five years. [*EUobserver*, November 27, 2019].

EUROPE – MIDDLE EAST

Macron visits Africa amid anger over human trafficking and slavery

The French president, Emmanuel Macron, will start a four-day visit to Africa on Monday amid growing anger across the continent about politicians' collective failure to do more to clamp down on human trafficking, and even slave auctions, in Libya. Macron has called for an emergency meeting of the United Nations Security Council. [*The Guardian*, November 26, 2017].

Turkish PM warns EU over refugee deal ahead of Syrian peace talks

Turkey's prime minister has warned that the country has the power to allow millions of refugees to resume their journeys to Western Europe if the US and EU-backed Kurdish forces fighting in Syria are given a role in peace talks. [*The Guardian*, November 27, 2017].

EUROPE – ISRAEL

Israel, NATO sign agreement to share classified information

After several years of deadlock an agreement on the protection of classified information has been signed this month. The agreement is important for expanding the sharing of intelligence by Israel and NATO. [*Globes*, November 29, 2017].

EU diplomats reportedly angry after Netanyahu 'invites self' to summit

Foreign ministers see PM's upcoming attendance at Brussels meeting as a stunt arranged behind their backs, say Abbas will get similar invite, according to Israeli report. [*The Times of Israel*, November 29, 2017].

INTERNAL AFFAIRS

EU POLITICS

Bosnian Croat war criminal dies after drinking poison in court

Former Bosnian Croat commander Slobodan Praljak died in hospital Wednesday after drinking poison during a hearing in The Hague. The dramatic scene occurred shortly after UN judges upheld his prison sentence. [*France24*, November 30, 2017].

Juncker calls for migrants to have 'legal ways' to reach Europe

The European Union needs to "create legal ways" for migrants to come to Europe as the Continent "will clearly need immigration in the coming decades," European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker said in an interview published Tuesday. [*Politico*, November 28, 2017].

Kaczynski's PiS pulls Poland to periphery of European Union

Over 80 percent of Poles support EU membership, but the Law and Justice Party has halted the country's integration into the bloc. As PiS puts it, the European Union is a necessary evil — one to be handled with hostility. [DW, November 16, 2017].

Carles Puigdemont calls for Catalonia to leave EU

The ousted Catalan leader came under pressure from his own pro-independence party today after suggesting that Catalonia should be allowed a vote to quit the European Union. [The Times, November 27, 2017].

DOMESTIC POLITICS

Brexit Cost Rises as Britain Retreats on Divorce Demands

The proposition that Britain could have its cake and eat it during Brexit, as the foreign secretary Boris Johnson once said, was always dismissed as a fiction by opponents. [The New York Times, November 29, 2017].

Germany: Altena's pro-migrant mayor stabbed in kebab shop

The mayor of the western German town of Altena has been stabbed inside a kebab shop in an attack described by authorities as "politically motivated." Altena is known for welcoming refugees. One man has been charged. [DW, November 28, 2017].

The Refugee Scandal on the Island of Lesbos

As winter arrives, the situation on the Greek island of Lesbos is unsustainable. Conditions at the refugee camps are horrific and island residents are tired of being left in the lurch by Athens and the EU. A visit to ground zero of European ignominy. [Spiegel, November 24, 2017].

JEWISH COMMUNITIES

GERMAN JEWS STOP WEARING KIPPOT DUE TO MUSLIM ATTACKS

Members of the small Jewish community in the West German city of Bochum announced that they will no longer wear kippot because of attacks on them by Muslim youths. [The Jerusalem Post, November 29, 2017].

European Parliament: EU Should Ostracize BDS

The European Parliament has issued a letter to the European Union (EU) that calls on the EU to completely ostracize the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement. [Jewish Journal, November 28, 2017].