

THE EURO BRIEF



JANUARY 11, 2018

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

EUROPE – US

[Will EU join new US sanctions on Putin elite?](#)

The US sanctions should focus on people who have made their money on close connections with Russian president Vladimir Putin and other Kremlin leaders. However the US administration policy comes out, more formal coordination between the EU and the US would be desirable. [*Euobserver*, January 8, 2018]

[USA: 'EU very difficult to do business with – looking forward to UK pressing reset button'](#)

The U.S. Department of Agriculture called the EU a very difficult place to do business and welcomed Brexit as an opportunity to 'press the reset button'. [*Express*, January 6, 2018]

[Trump administration condemns EU for not supporting Iran protesters](#)

President Donald Trump and his administration are disappointed in the European Union for not doing more to support Iran's anti-government protesters. [*Independent*, January 7, 2018]

EUROPE – RUSSIA

[Russia launched 'full-scale war' simulation against NATO](#)

Russia simulated a military attack against NATO to simulate a conflict with the US-led alliance as well as to show off Russia's ability to deploy a large amount of troops at short notice. [*Express*, January 7, 2018]

[EU takes billion-euro battle to Russia](#)

Brussels claims meat restrictions on European exports to Russia were politically motivated and unlawful. The European Union is now pressing to claw back €1.4 billion each year from Moscow. [*Politico*, January 8, 2018]

[Macron's war on fake news from Russia angers Le Pen](#)

The far right National Front has accused President Macron of trying to muzzle the French press after he promised to bring in laws to fight fake news. [*The Times*, January 5, 2018]

EUROPE – EAST ASIA

[Emmanuel Macron to visit China as Beijing shifts focus from UK to France](#)

Macron will make his first official visit to China for talks aimed at boosting the global influence of both countries and forging closer ties with the European Union. [*The Guardian*, January 7, 2018]

[France's Macron says EU needs coordinated stance on Chinese trade](#)

French President Emmanuel Macron called for a more coordinated European approach to trade with China during an official visit to Beijing. [*Reuters*, January 9, 2018]

[North Korea: EU aligns its lists of sanctioned people and entities](#)

The EU Council has added 16 persons and one entity to the lists of those subject to an asset freeze and travel restrictions in response to North Korea ongoing nuclear weapon and ballistic missile-development activities. [*EU News*, January 8, 2018]

EUROPE – MIDDLE EAST

[Macron suggests 'partnership' with EU for Turkey](#)

Emmanuel Macron said that political developments in Turkey were blocking the country's EU accession bid, suggesting a "partnership" instead of full membership. [*France24*, January 5, 2018]

[EU to invite Iranian Foreign Minister for talks over antigovernment protests](#)

The European Union will invite Iran's foreign minister for talks about the widespread antigovernment protests that have rocked the country. [*Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty*, January 8, 2018]

[Germany Officially Reprimands Iran for anti-Israel Spying on Its Territory](#)

Germany's domestic intelligence service highlighted Iran's spying activities noting that Tehran was focused heavily on Israeli or pro-Jewish targets. [*Haaretz*, January 9, 2018]

EUROPE – ISRAEL

[EU slams 'inhuman and degrading' death penalty after Israel advances bill](#)

The European Union said it opposes an Israeli bill that would make it easier for military courts to sentence terrorists who commit murder to death. [*Haaretz*, January 3, 2018]

[Abbas to ask EU Foreign Ministries to recognize Palestine within 1967 borders](#)

The Palestinian Authority is pushing public protest in the West Bank in response to Trump's recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital and amid U.S. threats to cut aid to refugee aid agency. [*Haaretz*, January 7, 2018]

[Norway, EU call meeting in bid to 'speed up' efforts for 2-state solution](#)

Norway and the European Union said they would convene an “extraordinary session” of donor countries to the Palestinians, saying efforts to reach a peace deal needed to be hurried up. [*Times of Israel*, January 10, 2018]

INTERNAL AFFAIRS

EU POLITICS

[Is Emmanuel Macron Europe's new Angela Merkel?](#)

German Chancellor Angela Merkel was used to being Europe's leading figure. But now, French President Emmanuel Macron is gradually taking over her role. Still, both depend on each other. [*Deutsche Welle*, January 7, 2018]

[EU's budget crisis: European regions terrified of Brexit demand for compensation](#)

The European Union urgently needs to create a special fund to “offset the consequences” of Brexit for the regions that will be hardest hit. [*Express*, January 8, 2018]

[EU sets date for next wave of enlargement](#)

The EU is preparing to pledge a 2025 deadline for the next wave of enlargement, but Albania, Bosnia, Macedonia, and Kosovo disputes could hold things back. [*Euobserver*, January 9, 2018]

[Italy's Five Star Movement drops its threat to ditch the euro as election looms](#)

Italy's most popular party has dropped a long-held threat to ditch the euro. The Five Star Movement's change of heart means the election will have a less Eurosceptic flavor than previously expected. [*Telegraph*, January 10, 2018]

['Brexodus': More than 2,300 EU academics resign from British universities](#)

Theresa May has urged EU citizens to stay in the UK after Britain leaves the bloc but prolonged uncertainty over post-Brexit rights has made some academics fearful for the future. [*Independent*, January 7, 2018]

[Poland's prime minister sacks ministers in move to mend ties with EU](#)

Defense, foreign and environment ministers dismissed after Brussels accused Warsaw of subverting democratic values. [*The Guardian*, January 9, 2018]

DOMESTIC POLITICS

[Scotland facing constitutional crisis over Brexit bill](#)

A constitutional crisis is looming after Nicola Sturgeon suggested a second referendum on leaving the EU may be “irresistible” and MSPs warned they will reject the Brexit Bill in its current form. [*The Scotsman*, January 9, 2018]

[Carles Puigdemont set to be named Catalonia president in exile](#)

Carles Puigdemont is set to be re-installed as Catalonia's president of government after a deal was reached between the region's two major separatist parties: Junts per Catalunya party and the Catalan Republic Left. [*The Guardian*, January 10, 2018]

[Belgian government at risk of collapse over Sudan migrants' scandal](#)

Belgium's coalition government is at risk of collapse over a scandal involving the forced repatriation of 100 people to war-torn Sudan. PM Charles Michel dismisses "blackmail" as Flemish party warns it could pull support for the coalition if its minister is forced out. [*The Guardian*, January 8, 2018]

[Silvio Berlusconi lures Italian voters with flat tax plan](#)

Italy's resurgent center-right led by former Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi has put a "flat tax" plan at the heart of its economic platform for the March general election, sparking concern about the potential impact on the country's strained finances. [*Financial Times*, January 10, 2018]

[Where CDU, CSU and SPD have to come together](#)

CDU, CSU and SPD begin tomorrow the official talks for a joint governing coalition. However on important matters, there are still major differences that must be bridged. [*Süddeutsche Zeitung*, January 10, 2018]

[Refugees could be given right to vote in Scotland](#)

The Scottish government is considering allowing refugees and non-EU citizens to vote in local and Scottish parliament elections. The SNP minority government is keen to make major changes that will set it apart from the rest of the UK. [*Independent*, January 7, 2018]

JEWISH COMMUNITIES

[French society 'Under Stress' from Islamist Terror](#)

French Jews continue to feel in the "forefront" of the threats posed by terrorism and religious extremism. [*Algemeiner*, January 9, 2018]

[German conservatives to propose deporting anti-Semitic migrants](#)

Angela Merkel's conservative alliance has said it will propose beefed-up legislation to deal with anti-Semitism among migrant groups, which would include the possibility of deportation. [*Politico*, January 6, 2018]