

# THE EURO BRIEF

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**APRIL 01, 2018**

## FOREIGN AFFAIRS

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### EUROPE – US

#### [Germany at odds with France over tariffs on U.S. cars](#)

Germany is willing to offer the US concessions to stop President Donald Trump from slapping tariffs on European steel and aluminum, exposing a divide with France on how to avert a trade war. [*Bloomberg*, March 27, 2018]

#### [Poland buys \\$4.75 billion Patriot missile system from US](#)

The purchase is part of the Poland's effort to modernize its armed forces amid heightened tensions with Russia and will allow the country to coordinate its anti-missile operations with NATO allies. [*Deutsche Welle*, March 28, 2018]

### EUROPE – RUSSIA

#### [Fourteen EU states expel Russian diplomats over UK nerve agent attack](#)

The action is an escalation of the bloc's response to the UK nerve agent attack and European Council president said that additional coordinated EU country counter-measures against Russia should not be excluded in the coming days and weeks. [*Financial Times*, March 26, 2018]

#### [Russian TV stations using UK bases to broadcast Kremlin propaganda](#)

Two Russian-owned television stations are using Britain as a hub to broadcast Kremlin propaganda and conspiracy theories about the Salisbury attack to former Soviet republic. [*The Telegraph*, March 25, 2018]

### EUROPE – EAST ASIA

#### [China says it's willing to step up communications with EU on steel](#)

The Chinese Ministry of Commerce said China is willing to strengthen communications and coordination with the EU to cope with chaos caused by the US aluminum and steel tariffs. [*Reuters*, March 26, 2018]

### [China in military drills to 'prepare for war' as British frigate due to sail through contested South China Sea](#)

China's air force and navy have announced drills in the South China Sea to help develop preparedness for war, after the British defense secretary indicated the UK would sail a warship through the disputed region. [*The Telegraph*, March 26, 2018]

## **EUROPE – MIDDLE EAST**

### [European powers press for Iran sanctions to buttress nuclear deal](#)

France, Britain and Germany sought to persuade their EU partners to back new sanctions on Iran to preserve the nuclear deal with Tehran. The new measures proposed could include members of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps. [*Reuters*, March 28, 2018]

### [EU-Turkey talks fail to thaw frosty relationship](#)

The EU said more intensive talks will be needed to defrost the icy relationship that has evolved between Turkey and the EU and agreed to continue the dialogue in difficult circumstances. [*The Irish Times*, March 27, 2018]

## **EUROPE – ISRAEL**

### [Germany and France to Netanyahu: sanctioning Iran's missile program better than altering nuclear deal](#)

The foreign ministers of Germany and France visited Israel and discussed with Prime Minister Netanyahu the American ultimatum to pull out of the Iranian nuclear agreement and stressed that their countries don't seek to change the agreement. [*Haaretz*, March 26, 2018]

### [EU: there is no State of Palestine without Gaza](#)

The EU's Foreign Policy Chief Federica Mogherini said that the Palestinian Authority must control the Gaza Strip and the area must be part of a future Palestinian state, as Palestinian unity is an important element for reaching the two-state solution. [*The Jerusalem Post*, March 21, 2018]

## **INTERNAL AFFAIRS**

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### **EU POLITICS**

#### [EU outlines plans for 'military Schengen zone'](#)

The EU wants to lower barriers for moving military equipment and troops across Europe, make rail and road routes suitable for military transport and upgrading existing infrastructure amid rising concern of Russian aggression. [*Deutsche Welle*, March 28, 2018]

#### [Eurozone threat: Europe at risk of financial chaos from 'populism and protectionism'](#)

The head of the International Monetary Fund alluded to the need for the Eurozone to protest against populism and protectionism and warned Eurozone leaders to prepare for a downturn and set up a "rainy day fund" as they battle "forceful headwinds". [*Express*, March 26, 2018]

### [UK opposes Brexit threat to role in EU's Galileo scheme](#)

British companies may be frozen out of the European space industry after Brexit, the European Commission says, citing security concerns. UK ministers oppose the commission's view and want the country to remain involved in all aspects of the work. [BBC, March 26, 2018]

### [French deficit falls below EU limit for first time in decade](#)

The figures are a boost for President Emmanuel Macron, who has made fixing France's troublesome public finances a plank of his plans to revamp the eurozone's second-largest economy. [Financial Times, March 26, 2018]

### [German judge keeps Catalan leader in custody pending extradition decision](#)

The secessionist leader Carles Puigdemont, who was arrested in Germany, will remain in custody pending a decision on his extradition to Spain, where he is wanted on charges of rebellion, sedition and misuse of public funds. [El País, March 27, 2018]

### [EU calls for 'calm, wisdom' as Serbia-Kosovo tensions heighten](#)

The EU has called for calm, wisdom, restraint, and leadership to prevail after the detention and expulsion of a senior Serbian government official by Kosovo authorities fueled friction between the two neighbors. [Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, March 28, 2018]

### [Thousands march on Moldovan capital to demand country unifies with Romania](#)

Union between Romania, who is a member of the EU, and its smaller neighbour to the northeast looks unlikely but the issue highlights a divide in Moldova between pro-Western and Moscow-backed factions. [Independent, March 25, 2018]

## **DOMESTIC POLITICS**

### [Berlusconi says League plotting government with Five Star](#)

Silvio Berlusconi's Forza Italia Party accused the League of breaking the center-right coalition's unity in an attempt to form a government with the anti-establishment Five Star Movement and described the Senate vote as "an act of cold hostility". [Bloomberg, March 23, 2018]

### [French Républicains leader: Macron is 'naive' on terror](#)

The leader of France's conservative Les Républicains has accused Macron of irresponsibility in his response to homegrown terrorism and called on the government to reinstate its state of emergency and put a stop to 'contagion' of Islamic terror. [Politico, March 26, 2018]

### [Catalonia: Clashes after separatist leaders detained](#)

Crowds of protesters in Catalonia have clashed with police after the Supreme Court ruled 25 Catalan leaders should be tried for rebellion, embezzlement or disobeying the state. [BBC, March 24, 2018]

### [New Slovak government wins confidence vote in parliament](#)

Slovakia's new government has won a confidence vote in parliament amid the political crisis and large street protests sparked by the shooting deaths of an investigative journalist and his fiancée. [The Washington Post, March 26, 2018]

['Ghettos and no-go zones': Hungary's far right fuels migrant fears ahead of vote](#)

The tone for the election in Hungary has been set by Prime Minister, Viktor Orbán, on a far-right platform of sealing Hungary's borders to migrants. He said that Hungary has two paths ahead to choose from: a national government or an immigrant country. [*The Guardian*, March 28, 2018]

**JEWISH COMMUNITIES**

[UK Jews demand 'zero tolerance' from Corbyn's Labour](#)

Members of the Jewish community, members of Parliament and other supporters gathered in London's Parliament Square in a protest against anti-Semitism in the UK's Labour Party and cried 'shame on you, anti-Semites'. [*Haaretz*, March 26, 2018]

[The brutal killing of a Holocaust survivor raises anti-Semitism fears in France](#)

The Paris prosecutor's office is investigating whether anti-Semitism was a motivation for the killing of an 85-year-old Holocaust survivor that has outraged France's Jewish community. [*The Washington Post*, March 26, 2018]