

## THE EURO BRIEF

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MAY 01, 2018

### FOREIGN AFFAIRS

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#### EUROPE – US

##### [Merkel warns: The EU will 'defend its interests' if Trump pushes tariffs](#)

German Chancellor Angela Merkel said that she and the leaders of France and Britain are prepared to push back if the Trump administration doesn't permanently exempt the EU from new import taxes on aluminum and steel. [*Business Insider*, April 30, 2018]

##### [Macron and Trump renew Franco-American ties over 'shared battles'](#)

Praising the strength of America's oldest alliance, Macron told Trump that together the US and France would defeat terrorism, curtail weapons of mass destruction in North Korea and Iran and act together on behalf of the planet. [*France24*, April 24, 2018]

#### EUROPE – RUSSIA

##### [Juncker: No European security agenda 'without Russia'](#)

At a time of heightened tension between the EU and Russia, European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker said Europe and Russia need to re-establish contact and move past Cold War rhetoric. [*Politico*, April 28, 2018]

##### [Fury as EU states block Britain from hitting Russia with sanctions](#)

The majority of EU member states are determined to send Russia a warning after the attempted poisoning of former spy and the chemical attack in Syria, but a small number of rebel EU states are blocking the rest from issuing sanctions. [*Express*, April 26, 2018]

## **EUROPE – EAST ASIA**

### [China-EU economic, trade relations enjoy bright future: ambassador](#)

Ambassador Zhang Ming, head of the Chinese Mission to the EU, said that China's greater openness, the Belt and Road Initiative and huge potential on mutual investment would be driving force behind China-EU cooperation. [*Xinhua*, April 28, 2018]

### [Macron says he wants to 'fix' the China-Tibet crisis](#)

Macron has offered to act as a mediator between China and the Dalai Lama in order to help find a peaceful solution to the ongoing Tibet crisis and ruled out meeting with the Dalai Lama without Beijing's blessing. [*Express*, April 26, 2018]

## **EUROPE – MIDDLE EAST**

### [UK, Germany, France agree Iran deal is 'best way' to stop nuclear threat](#)

The leaders of the UK, Germany and France discussed the importance of the Iran nuclear deal as the best way of neutralizing the threat of a nuclear-armed Iran and agreed that there were important elements that the deal does not cover. [*Politico*, April 29, 2018]

### [Germany set to ban arms sales to Saudi Arabia and Turkey](#)

Germany is set to ban arms sales to Saudi Arabia, Turkey and the United Arab Emirates amid fears they are being used to carry out human rights abuses. [*Independent*, April 28, 2018]

## **EUROPE – ISRAEL**

### [Czech president suggests Israel embassy move to Jerusalem](#)

The Czech Republic's president suggested that his country was considering moving its embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. An honorary consulate will be opened in Jerusalem followed by other Czech institutions before the embassy's actual transfer. [*The Washington Post*, April 25, 2018]

### [Israeli firms unprepared as tough EU data-privacy rules take effect](#)

The rules will apply to companies outside the EU and impose stiff penalties on organizations that don't comply, but experts say that Israeli companies have been dangerously laggard in getting ready for the changing regulatory environment. [*Haaretz*, April 29, 2018]

## **INTERNAL AFFAIRS**

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### **EU POLITICS**

#### [Germany and France to deliver Eurozone reform plan by June](#)

Finance ministers from Germany and France committed to deliver a Eurozone reform road map in time for an EU summit planned for June. France claims it's all necessary to reboot the EU after the setback of Brexit. [*Deutsche Welle*, April 28, 2018]

#### [EU plot to freeze funds of rebel member states in blow to Poland and Hungary](#)

Eastern EU states, such as Poland and Hungary, would be punished under the proposals if they are deemed to have fallen short of the bloc's 'democratic values'. [*Express*, April 29, 2018]

### [EU's Tusk pledges more cooperation with Serbia and other Balkan nations](#)

European Council President Donald Tusk said the EU wants to remain the most trustworthy partner of the Western Balkans region and aims to further strengthen economic and other ties as they edge toward eventual membership. [*Reuters*, April 25, 2018]

### [DUP threatens to bring down May's Government if it crosses Customs Union red line](#)

Nigel Dodds, the leader of the Democratic Unionist Party at Westminster, said his party would vote against the Government if Northern Ireland is forced to stay in the Single Market or Customs Union after Brexit. [*The Telegraph*, April 26, 2018]

### [Spain's Rota base will be new strategic HQ for the EU](#)

After Brexit, the southern Spanish town of Rota will house one of the EU's five operational headquarters, replacing the current one at Northwood. A €1.5 million investment will be necessary to accommodate the new headquarters. [*El País*, April 23, 2018]

### [German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier visits and praises Switzerland](#)

Steinmeier highlighted the cooperation between Germany and Switzerland and discussed the future of democracy. However, he did not consider the Swiss model, as demanded by some politicians, to be suitable for Germany. [*Neue Luzerner Zeitung*, April 25, 2018]

## **DOMESTIC POLITICS**

### [Police and MI5 to get greater powers to fight terror](#)

The security services will be given tough new powers to fast-track terrorist suspects to justice before they have finalised their attack plans after security chiefs admitted that they need a "step change" to keep the public safe. [*The Times*, April 22, 2018]

### [Italy's 5Stars leader renews push for coalition with PD](#)

Luigi Di Maio highlighted policies on which both parties could see eye to eye, including the importance of keeping Italy within the EU and pushing Brussels to tackle tax avoidance. [*Politico*, April 30, 2018]

### [The great struggle to get out of coal](#)

According to the coalition agreement, a commission is to decide when and how Germany will withdraw from coal-fired power generation and behind the scenes there is a power struggle for influence in the commission body between four states. [*Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, April 30, 2018]

### [Public prosecutor to appeal "Running of the Bulls" gang rape verdict](#)

Thousands take to the streets to demonstrate against decision clearing five men of raping 18-year-old in Pamplona, but convicting them of lesser charge of sexual abuse. The high-profile case has drawn attention to social attitudes towards sexual violence. [*El País*, April 27, 2018]

### [Duke and Duchess of Cambridge name baby son Louis Arthur Charles](#)

The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge have named their third child Louis Arthur Charles and he will be known as His Royal Highness Prince Louis of Cambridge. [*The Guardian*, April 27, 2018]

### [France marks five-year anniversary of same-sex marriage](#)

As couples in France mark five years since same-sex marriage was made legal with the hashtag #5ansMariagePourTous, ex-president François Hollande expressed regret at not having done more to advance the rights of “non-traditional” families. [*France24*, April 23, 2018]

## **JEWISH COMMUNITIES**

### ['Ethnic purging': French stars and dignitaries condemn anti-Semitism](#)

More than 300 French dignitaries and stars, including ex-president Nicolas Sarkozy and actor Gérard Depardieu, have signed a manifesto denouncing a new anti-Semitism marked by Islamist radicalization, following a string of killings of Jews. [*The Guardian*, April 22, 2018]

### [Over 2,000 attend 'wear a kippa' protest in Berlin after anti-Semitic attack](#)

Germans of various faiths donned Jewish skullcaps and took to the streets in several cities to protest an anti-Semitic attack in Berlin and express fears about growing hatred of Jews in the country. [*Haaretz*, April 25, 2018]