

THE EURO BRIEF



MAY 11, 2018

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

EUROPE – US

[Trump grants EU extra month of relief from steel tariffs](#)

In response, the European Commission said the U.S. decision prolongs market uncertainty, which is already affecting business decisions and argued that the bloc should be fully and permanently exempted from these measures. [*Politico*, May 8, 2018]

[US ambassador to Germany Richard Grenell is sworn in](#)

Richard Grenell was officially sworn in as the new US ambassador to Germany, filling a position that had been vacant for more than a year, and will help strengthen the "historic and enduring friendship" between both countries. [*Deutsche Welle*, May 4, 2018]

EUROPE – RUSSIA

[UK's push to strengthen anti-Russia alliance](#)

The UK will use a series of international summits to call for a comprehensive strategy to combat Russian disinformation and urge a rethink over traditional diplomatic dialogue with Moscow. [*The Guardian*, May 6, 2018]

[Greens criticize Schröder as "claqueur" for Putin](#)

The Greens have criticized the former Chancellor for his participation in the swearing-in of Putin and said that Schröder must address shortcomings in the rule of law and democracy in Russia instead of sitting in the front row as a claqueur. [*Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, May 7, 2018]

EUROPE – EAST ASIA

[EU is ready to fight back against China's growing trade dominance](#)

Europe is set to tighten controls over foreign investment, a sign of growing wariness of China's efforts to use its \$11 trillion economy to become a dominant global power, and support draft legislation that would screen investments from outside the bloc. [*Bloomberg*, May 3, 2018]

[Nissan to withdraw from diesel vehicle market in Europe](#)

Nissan Motor Co. has decided to exit the diesel-powered vehicle market in Europe, in light of strict environmental regulations in Europe, and aims to focus its resources on the development of electric vehicles in Europe by 2025. [*The Japan Times*, May 7, 2018]

EUROPE – MIDDLE EAST

[Macron, Merkel and May express 'regret' at Trump's Iran move](#)

The leaders of France, Germany and the UK agreed their continuing commitment to the pact and urged all sides to remain committed to its full implementation and to act in a spirit of responsibility. [*Politico*, May 9, 2018]

[Turkey slams length of far-right murder trial in Germany](#)

The Turkish embassy in Berlin criticized the protracted trial of far-right extremists who are suspected of killing eight Turkish immigrants, a Greek citizen and a German policewoman between 2000 and 2007 and said that justice delayed is justice denied. [*Hürriyet Daily News*, May 8, 2018]

EUROPE – ISRAEL

[EU backs Israel's right to defend itself from Iranian strikes](#)

The EU backed Israel's right to defend itself and called on all regional actors to show restraint after widespread strikes against Iranian targets in Syria, in response to Iranian rockets fired towards the Golan Heights. [*The Times of Israel*, May 10, 2018]

[Cyprus, Israel and Greece push East Med gas pipeline to Europe](#)

The leaders of Cyprus, Israel and Greece say they want to push ahead with an envisioned pipeline that will supply east Mediterranean gas to Europe as the continent seeks to diversify its energy supply. [*Business Insider*, May 8, 2018]

INTERNAL AFFAIRS

EU POLITICS

[Long-term EU budget plan would punish 'rule of law deficiencies'](#)

The European Commission has proposed a larger multiannual budget for the years 2021 to 2027 that has a new mechanism that could punish countries that fail to respect the rule of law and put pressure on Hungary and Poland. [*Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty*, May 2, 2018]

[The EU believes Theresa May's 'unstable' government could collapse before Brexit](#)

The EU fears the unstable UK government could fall before Brexit negotiations reach a conclusion amid growing worry over the Irish border issue. [*Business Insider*, May 5, 2018]

[UK threatens EU on security cooperation over Galileo standoff](#)

The UK renewed its threat on defense cooperation with the EU, saying that joint work on the bloc's Galileo navigation satellite program would be a test of the ambitions of a post-Brexit security relationship. [*Bloomberg*, May 9, 2018]

[Irish MEP lashes out at EU over migrant crisis: 'we cannot give homes to everyone'](#)

An Irish MEP said the EU had failed to respond to the migrant crisis, more needed to be done to protect the vulnerable this coming summer and urged immediate action to protect those risking their lives crossing the Mediterranean. [*Express*, May 5, 2018]

[France left isolated in digital tax fight as UK backs away](#)

France push to create a temporary EU-wide tax on revenue generated by major tech players across the bloc is running into trouble, as former supporters of the tax plan are getting cold feet and choosing to rally around an international solution via the OECD. [*Politico*, May 5, 2018]

[Hungary's Orbán upbraids EU on migration and integration 'nightmares'](#)

Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán has laid out ambitious plans to make his country a leading EU nation by 2030, while urging the bloc to abandon thoughts of deeper integration and focus instead on stopping migration. [*The Irish Times*, May 10, 2018]

DOMESTIC POLITICS

[Ex-SAS boss who led British hunt for bin Laden is appointed as new Army chief](#)

Lieutenant-General Mark Carleton-Smith, the former director of Britain's special forces responsible for leading the hunt for Osama bin Laden, has been named as the new head of the Army. [*The Telegraph*, May 9, 2018]

[Thousands of Scottish independence supporters march through Glasgow](#)

The march was organised by All Under One Banner coalition, a pro-independence organisation aims to march at regular intervals until Scotland is free. [*The Guardian*, May 5, 2018]

[Italy's President proposes caretaker government amid stalemate](#)

President Sergio Mattarella took Italy's gridlocked politics into his own hands and asked his country's bickering political leaders to support a neutral caretaker government of his own choosing. [*The New York Times*, May 7, 2018]

[Strikes continue as Air France, rail workers and students fight against reforms](#)

Air France staff kicked off another two-day strike joining rail workers for a second month of stoppages in a bitter feud pitting workers and students against the government over President Emmanuel Macron's labour reforms. [*France24*, May 7, 2018]

[Rajoy: "There was not and will not be impunity for ETA"](#)

The Spanish Prime Minister said that the crimes of the armed Basque nationalist organization will continue to be investigated, their crimes will continue to be judged and the sentences will continue to be fulfilled. [*El País*, May 4, 2018]

[There is no free workforce in Hungary, but it should be](#)

The Hungarian economy is struggling with an acute lack of labor with an increasing investment and outsourcing to the Hungarian economy by major western and some Eastern companies, as Hungarians emigrated abroad to find better work opportunities. [Index.hu, May 5, 2018]

JEWISH COMMUNITIES

[EU calls Abbas Holocaust remarks 'unacceptable'](#)

The EU's condemned remarks on the Holocaust by Palestinian President as unacceptable and remain committed to combat any form of anti-Semitism as is not only a threat for Jews but a fundamental menace to its open and liberal societies. [Reuters, May 2, 2018]

[2,000 Turkish Jews applied for Portuguese citizenship](#)

Some 2,000 Turkish Jews have applied for Portuguese citizenship after Portugal's government decided to grant nationality through naturalization to the descendants of Sephardic Jews who were expelled from Portugal and Spain in the 15th century. [Hürriyet Daily News, May 7, 2018]