

# THE EURO BRIEF

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**JUNE 01, 2018**

## FOREIGN AFFAIRS

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### EUROPE – US

#### [Berlin warns EU-US trade war will spread beyond steel](#)

Germany's Economy Minister warned that Europe's recovery and relations with the US were at stake as EU governments sparred over how to respond to Washington threat to impose punitive steel tariffs. [*Financial Times*, May 22, 2018]

#### [Emmanuel Macron slams Washington over lax tech rules](#)

French President Emmanuel Macron accused Washington of failing to address a loss of trust in technology firms and having a laissez faire approach to regulation that is not politically accountable. [*Politico*, May 24, 2018]

### EUROPE – RUSSIA

#### [Russia-bashing must stop, says Jean-Claude Juncker](#)

The president of the European commission has called for an end to “Russia-bashing” and said he believed it was time to renew ties with Vladimir Putin’s country, given its size and importance. [*The Guardian*, May 31, 2018]

#### [AfD members' flight sponsored with Russian money](#)

Members of the AfD flew to Moscow on a mysterious donor's dime during the 2017 campaign, according to the first report that had directly linked Russian money to some of the shrillest voices at the margins of Germany's political establishment. [*Deutsche Welle*, May 22, 2018]

## **EUROPE – EAST ASIA**

### [Angela Merkel calls for better data security cooperation with China](#)

German Chancellor called for better data protection assurances for German firms in future cooperation with Beijing and spoke critically about China's cyber security law, saying it lacks protection for companies' intellectual property and raises human rights concerns. [*Deutsche Welle*, May 25, 2018]

### [Xi calls on China and UK to strengthen cooperation.](#)

Chinese President said that China-UK cooperation in strengthening scientific and technological innovation is conducive to mutual benefit and win-win results, and will further substantialize the "Golden Era" of bilateral relations. [*Xinhua*, May 29, 2018]

## **EUROPE – MIDDLE EAST**

### [Turkey brink of collapse fear as Lira plummets threatening Euro crisis](#)

European banks fear the dramatic crash of the Turkish lira could spark a crisis reminiscent of the one that hit Wall Street financial institutions 20 years ago. [*Express*, May 31, 2018]

### [Austria's Sebastian Kurz wants to use EU border guards in Africa](#)

Austria's chancellor has said Frontex border control agents should be allowed to operate in northern Africa in order to prevent further migrants from crossing the Mediterranean to Europe. [*Deutsche Welle*, May 27, 2018]

## **EUROPE – ISRAEL**

### [EU condemn 'indiscriminate' attack on Israel from Gaza](#)

The EU's ambassador to Israel condemned the firing of more than two dozen mortar shells from the Gaza Strip at southern Israel, calling it "unacceptable", and focused on one of the shells striking a tree in the yard of a kindergarten. [*The Times of Israel*, May 29, 2018]

### [Israel calls on EU to stop funding groups promoting 'anti-Israel' boycotts](#)

Issuing a 40-page study, Israel's Ministry of Strategic Affairs and Public Diplomacy accused EU institutions of funding NGOs that promote anti-Israel boycotts and called for the support to end. [*The Jerusalem Post*, May 25, 2018]

## **INTERNAL AFFAIRS**

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### **EU POLITICS**

#### [EU regional aid for Eastern Europe to shrink in new budget](#)

Faced with new pressing challenges, the EU wants to modify aid eligibility criteria and shift part of the funds from Eastern Europe to countries in the south of the continent that face unemployment, climate change and the integration of migrants. [*Bloomberg*, May 29, 2018]

#### [Court 'disease' in Poland and Hungary could spread: judicial body chief](#)

The European Network of Councils for the Judiciary said that the changes to the court systems in Poland and Hungary that threaten judicial independence are a "disease" that could spread and undermine democracy in the EU. [*Reuters*, May 31, 2018]

#### [France and Germany push for EU funding for tech startups](#)

France and Germany called for the European Innovation Council to fund ambitious innovation and research in tech startups projects across the bloc so that Europe can compete more effectively against the likes of China and the US. [*Financial Tribune*, May 30, 2018]

#### [Brexit deal on security is blocked by France](#)

France is blocking Britain's national interest to remain part of the EU security system that helps to identify foreign criminals, share vital DNA, fingerprint and vehicle information with other European countries after Brexit. [*The Times*, May 31, 2018]

#### [Nicola Sturgeon: UK's Brexit position 'unsustainable'](#)

First Minister of Scotland said that the UK government's position on leaving the EU customs union and single market is "unsustainable" and dominated by "mad Brexiteers." [*Politico*, May 28, 2018]

#### [Juncker: Italians need to work harder and be less corrupt](#)

Jean-Claude Juncker has said Italians have to work harder, be less corrupt and stop looking to the EU to rescue the country's poor regions, in comments unlikely to ease the fraught political battle over Italy's future relationship with Brussels. [*The Guardian*, May 31, 2018]

#### [German MPs see exchange with Italy's intelligence agencies at risk](#)

Leading intelligence experts see the intelligence cooperation between Germany and Italy in danger and said that the exchange of information might need to be curtailed if the pro-Moscow parties were to form a government in Rome. [*Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, May 27, 2018]

### **DOMESTIC POLITICS**

#### [France's far left leads protests against Macron reforms](#)

France's main far-left party, the hardline CGT trade union and some 80 other organisations, led several thousand people in street protests across France against French President Emmanuel Macron's reforms of the public sector. [*France24*, May 26, 2018]

#### [Irish PM hails 'quiet revolution' as vote overturns abortion ban](#)

Prime Minister Leo Varadkar said that the public have spoken in favor of repealing the 8th amendment constitutional ban on abortion in a culmination of a quiet revolution that has been taking place in Ireland over the last couple of decade. [*Reuters*, May 26, 2018]

#### [Catalan premier reshuffles Cabinet lineup, paves way for end to direct rule](#)

Quim Torra has reshuffled his Cabinet lineup, replacing four candidates under investigation for their role in the unilateral independence drive and paving the way for an end to direct rule in the region by Madrid. [*El País*, May 30, 2018]

### [Hungary considered passing law that would make offering food to refugees a criminal offence](#)

Hungary's government is looking to pass a law that would make it a criminal offence to offer food or legal advice or print leaflets with information for asylum seekers and refugees. [*The Independent*, May 30, 2018]

### [Danish minister Stojberg provokes Ramadan row](#)

Denmark's Immigration Minister Inger Stojberg has faced criticism after she suggested Muslims should take time off working during Ramadan because of potential safety risks to the rest of society. [*BBC*, May 22, 2018]

### [Swedish far right at record high in pre-election poll](#)

Support for the far-right and anti-immigrant party Sweden Democrats is at a record high ahead of September's election, putting them hot on the heels of the ruling Social Democrats and center-right Moderates. [*Politico*, May 24, 2018]

## **JEWISH COMMUNITIES**

### [Dutch state TV accused of antisemitism in Israeli Eurovision song spoof](#)

A Dutch state-funded television show spoofed Israel's winning Eurovision song "Toy" by Netta Barzilai, prompting protests by critics who said the parody features anti-Semitic clichés about Jews and money. [*European Jewish Congress*, May 22, 2018]

### [Nearly a quarter of Brits 'not willing' to accept Jews as family members](#)

New research has found nearly a quarter of British people would be unwilling to accept Jews as members of their family, the second highest of the western European countries, and hold a mirror up to some worrying prejudices in British society. [*The Jewish Chronicle*, May 30, 2018]