

THE EURO BRIEF



JUNE 11, 2018

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

EUROPE – US

[EU will act against US tariffs on steel and aluminum](#)

German Chancellor said Europe will implement counter-measures against US tariffs on steel and aluminum and voiced regret about Trump's abrupt decision to withdraw support for a G7 communique via Twitter, calling it "sobering and a bit depressing". [Reuters, June 10, 2018]

[The US military is reportedly looking to install anti-missile defenses in Germany](#)

The US military is considering installing the powerful anti-missile system- Terminal High Altitude Area Defense- in Germany to bolster European defenses and send a political message to the Europeans that the US is serious about protecting its allies. [Business Insider, June 1, 2018]

EUROPE – RUSSIA

[Vladimir Putin: 'Russia does not want to split EU'](#)

Russian President Putin denied any Russian scheme to weaken the EU by lending support to Eurosceptic and populist movements and said that Russia needed a strong, united and flourishing EU because of its trade and economic links with the bloc. [Deutsche Welle, June 5, 2018]

[Italy's new Prime Minister calls for ending some EU sanctions on Russia](#)

New Italian populist Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte has said Italy will be the advocates of an opening toward Russia including ending EU sanctions against Russia that hurt civil society. [Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, June 6, 2018]

EUROPE – EAST ASIA

[EU Takes China to the WTO over technology-transfer practices](#)

The EU complained to the World Trade Organization about China's technology-transfer practices that forces European companies going to China to grant ownership or usage rights to local entities in a surprise move. [*Bloomberg*, June 1, 2018]

[China and EU vow to deepen strategic cooperation and safeguard multilateralism](#)

Top diplomats of China and the EU pledged to deepen strengthen strategic communication, promote mutual strategic trust, deepen strategic cooperation and jointly safeguard multilateralism and global free trade regime. [*Xinhua*, June 2, 2018]

EUROPE – MIDDLE EAST

[EU Foreign Policy Chief assures Jordan of continued aid](#)

The EU's foreign policy chief assured Jordan of continued financial support for social protection programs targeting vulnerable Jordanians, saying it's an investment in an ally in the "most heated and difficult area of the world". [*The Washington Post*, June 10, 2018]

[NATO dashes membership hopes of Qatar](#)

NATO has thwarted Qatar's hopes of becoming a member of the alliance and said it is a valuable and longstanding partner of NATO but according to Article 10 of the Washington Treaty, only European countries can become members of NATO. [*Politico*, June 6, 2018]

EUROPE – ISRAEL

[Netanyahu said to snub EU foreign policy chief, causing her to nix Israel visit](#)

Amid diplomatic tensions, Netanyahu refused a request by Mogherini to meet in Jerusalem, causing her to cancel a planned trip to Israel to take part in the American Jewish Committee's annual Global Forum conference. [*The Times of Israel*, June 8, 2018]

[Israel participating in two large scale military drills in Europe](#)

Israel is participating for the first time in two simultaneous large-scale international exercises in Eastern Europe- Swift Response and Saber Strike- and will send IDF paratroopers for the exercises. [*The Jerusalem Post*, June 4, 2018]

INTERNAL AFFAIRS

EU POLITICS

[Merkel warns that EU is at threat from impasse over asylum](#)

Angela Merkel warned that the EU's future would be endangered if member states failed to overcome a poisonous impasse over a common policy to handle asylum and impasse threatened free movement and passport-free travel within the Schengen area. [*Financial Times*, June 6, 2018]

['Italy deserves respect and trust' Juncker's makes desperate unity plea days after slurs](#)

EU president revealed he "deeply regrets" comments southern Italians were "corrupt and lazy" and said that Italy's place is at the heart of Europe and the EU and it reflects how much the country has done to build Europe. [*Express*, June 5, 2018]

[Austrian Chancellor short on immigrants: "They get protection, but not the better life"](#)

Austrian Chancellor Sebastian Kurz has presented his agenda for the Council Presidency to the EU Commission and said he wants to give the protection of the EU's external borders top priority and deal rigorously with immigrants. [*Der Spiegel*, June 6, 2018]

[Brussels urges EU leaders to push ahead with Poland censure](#)

The European Commission urged EU leaders to press forward with disciplinary action against Poland for allegedly violating rule-of-law standards and schedule a hearing in the Article 7 case, which could lead to the suspension of Poland's EU voting rights. [*Politico*, June 9, 2018]

[Orbán eyes legal umbrella to fend off EU democracy criticism](#)

Hungarian Prime Minister is considering establishing a legal umbrella to defend against interference in domestic affairs and said that at the heart of the changes may be an attempt to enshrine ideas on national identity in the constitution. [*Bloomberg*, June 8, 2018]

[EU's Juncker confident in future Slovenian government](#)

European Commission President has confidence in the constructive role a future Slovenian government will play in building a democratic, successful and stronger EU, after an anti-immigration opposition party won Slovenia's parliamentary election. [*Reuters*, June 4, 2018]

[Same-sex spouses have EU residence rights, top court rules](#)

The European Court of Justice ruled that member states should recognize gay marriages contracted in fellow EU states and grant couples the same residency rights that other families enjoy. [*BBC*, June 5, 2018]

DOMESTIC POLITICS

[Italy's interior minister vows to 'send home' undocumented immigrants](#)

Matteo Salvini has declared that one of the new populist government's top priorities will be to "send them home", signalling that he intends to keep a campaign promise to round up hundreds of thousands of undocumented immigrants in Italy. [*The Guardian*, June 1, 2018]

[Austria to shut down mosques and expel foreign-funded Imams](#)

Austria's far-right government plans to shut seven mosques and could expel dozens of imams in what it said was "just the beginning" of a push against radical Islam and foreign funding of religious groups that Turkey condemned as racist. [*The Allgemeiner*, June 8, 2018]

[Northern Ireland's abortion law violates human rights, Supreme Court rules](#)

Supreme Court judges ruled that Northern Ireland's ban on abortions in cases of sexual crime and fatal foetal abnormalities was incompatible with human rights legislation, but rejected a challenge on technical grounds. [*Independent*, June 8, 2018]

[Thousands form human chain for Basque secession vote](#)

Tens of thousands of Spaniards from the northern Basque Country have formed a line that stretched over 200 kilometers to demand a ballot on secession of the wealthy region. [*The Washington Post*, June 10, 2018]

[Police search French finance ministry in Macron chief of staff probe](#)

The probe is focusing on whether Macron's chief of staff Alexis Kohler had a conflict of interest during his time at the economy ministry due to his relationship with the Swiss-Italian shipping giant MSC. [*France24*, June 6, 2018]

JEWISH COMMUNITIES

[Anti-Semitic cartoon removed from far-right Austrian Vice Chancellor's Facebook page](#)

Strache refused to apologize for the cartoon, which portrays 'the bankers' as a man with Star of David buttons, posted by him six years on Facebook and defended the image saying it "is criticism of the structure of the banks". [*Haaretz*, June 9, 2018]

[Czech Holocaust survivor warns against rising tide of anti-Semitism and racism across Europe](#)

Doris Grozdanovicova, one of few living survivors of SS concentration camp in Terezin, said "we need to remember now what happened more than ever. It is very depressing to see what is happening in Europe, the extremism and the effect it's having". [*Independent*, June 9, 2018]