

THE EURO BRIEF



JULY 11, 2018

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

EUROPE – US

[EU president warns Trump: 'Appreciate your allies, you don't have many after all'](#)

The president of the European Council has warned Trump that he should appreciate his allies and he was isolated on the world stage and suggested he should think twice before criticizing the EU. [*Independent*, July 10, 2018]

[EU warns U.S. of boomerang effect if Trump imposes car levies](#)

The EU has warned the United States that imposing import tariffs on cars and car parts were unjustifiable and did not make economic sense as it would harm the US automotive industry and likely lead to counter-measures by its trading partners. [*Reuters*, July 2, 2018]

EUROPE – RUSSIA

[EU officially extends Russia sanctions through January 2019](#)

The EU leaders unanimously agreed to prolong the economic sanctions on banking and energy sectors first placed on Russia after its 2014 annexation of Crimea and its backing of separatists in eastern Ukraine until January 31, 2019. [*Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty*, July 5, 2018]

[Angela Merkel: NATO must refocus on Russia threat](#)

German Chancellor Angela Merkel said NATO must focus on setting up a presence at the alliance's Eastern flank to defend itself from potential Russian aggression, adding that "Of course, we want to have a responsible relationship with Russia." [*Politico*, July 7, 2018]

EUROPE – EAST ASIA

[China says it is open for business with Europe, as US trade war deepens](#)

Premier Li Keqiang said China remains open for foreign trade and benefits from an economically strong Europe and would continue its efforts to open its markets and provide opportunities for EU members and aspirants in the bloc's poorer half. [*Independent*, July 7, 2018]

[EU governments approve free trade deal with Japan](#)

EU governments have given the go-ahead for a free trade and strategic partnership agreement with Japan to boost cooperation in a range of areas and sent "a very powerful signal against protectionism and for the rules-based international order." [*Deutsche Welle*, July 6, 2018]

EUROPE – MIDDLE EAST

[Macron warning over EU's Africa migrant center plans](#)

Macron has said that Europe would be dealing with migration from Africa for decades due to their fundamental problem of unplanned population growth and the plan to create migrant centers will not work unless the process is led by those countries. [*BBC*, July 4, 2018]

[Iran says EU economic proposal to save nuclear deal not enough](#)

Foreign ministers from Britain, France, Germany, China and Russia met with their Iranian counterpart to discuss an economic plan that could save the 2015 agreement and agreed to continue talks on saving the nuclear deal. [*Deutsche Welle*, July 6, 2018]

EUROPE – ISRAEL

[EU countries file protest against Israel's upcoming demolition of Bedouin village](#)

UK, France, Germany, Italy and Spain submitted an urgent official protest against Israeli authorities' plan to demolish Bedouin village of Khan al-Ahmar and diplomats from twelve countries visited Khan al-Ahmar after locals clashed with police. [*Haaretz*, July 5, 2018]

[Israeli intelligence firm targeted NGOs during Hungary's election campaign](#)

The Israeli private intelligence firm Black Cube was involved in a campaign to discredit NGOs and individuals connected to American-Hungarian businessman George Soros ahead of Hungary's April election. [*Politico*, July 7, 2018]

INTERNAL AFFAIRS

EU POLITICS

[Euro zone budget could be conditional on discipline: IMF's Lagarde](#)

IMF Managing Director Christine Lagarde said that a proposed joint Euro zone budget could be designed with conditions so that it does not become a no-strings-attached transfer of rich countries' cash to poorer members. [*Reuters*, July 5, 2018]

[EU parliament to keep public in dark on MEP expenses](#)

The European Parliament has decided to keep the public in the dark when it comes to how MEPs spend €40m a year of taxpayer money on restaurants, hotels, travel and other daily expenses in an "absolutely scandalous" decision. [*EUobserver*, July 3, 2018]

[European Parliament rejects controversial EU copyright law backed by France](#)

The European Parliament rejected a highly controversial EU copyright law proposal that has pitted Beatles legend Paul McCartney against internet giants and the creators of Wikipedia. [*France24*, July 5, 2018]

[Italy Wikipedia shuts down in protest at EU copyright law](#)

Italian Wikipedia blocked readers from its pages in protest over the future of EU online copyright law and objects the EU's proposed directive on copyright in the digital single market, calling it "a serious threat to our mission". [*BBC*, July 3, 2018]

[Cabinet agrees Brexit deal that keeps Britain tied to EU rules on goods indefinitely](#)

Theresa May won her battle to a Brexit deal that keeps Britain tied to EU rules and regulations indefinitely as Britain would establish a "free trade area for goods" with the EU, allowing for frictionless trade and avoiding the need for a hard border in NI. [*The Telegraph*, July 6, 2018]

[Brexit to have greatest negative impact on regions outside London](#)

Price rises will disproportionately affect people in Northern Ireland, Wales, the Midlands and the North-East, due to their higher reliance on producing goods and food for export to the EU post-Brexit. [*The Guardian*, July 4, 2018]

[Macedonian parliament again OKs name deal with Greece](#)

Macedonia's parliament has voted for a second time to ratify an agreement with Greece to change the former Yugoslav republic's name, after the president temporarily blocked the deal. [*Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty*, July 5, 2018]

DOMESTIC POLITICS

[Poland's top judge refuses to leave after removal under new law](#)

Andrzej Duda used a new law that retroactively lowers Supreme Court judges' retirement age from 70 to 65 to try to force Supreme Court president Małgorzata Gersdorf into early retirement, despite her serving less than her six-year term. [*Politico*, July 3, 2018]

[In Denmark, harsh new laws for immigrant 'ghettos'](#)

Denmark's government is introducing a new set of laws to regulate life in 25 low-income and heavily Muslim enclaves and mandatory instruction in "Danish values" and noncompliance could result in a stoppage of welfare payments. [*The New York Times*, July 1, 2018]

[Dusseldorf demonstration against new police surveillance laws](#)

The protest brought together opposition politicians, unions and even fans from rival soccer clubs who say the draft law expands police powers on surveillance and controls without offering up enough protections for the rights of citizens. [*Deutsche Welle*, July 7, 2018]

[Matteo Salvini backed by politician 'with links to mafia'](#)

Interior minister won senate seat in the southern region of Calabria with backing of Giuseppe Scopelliti, who is accused of having ties to 'Ndrangheta, the criminal organization that controls most of the cocaine trade in Europe. [*The Guardian*, July 3, 2018]

[Catalan premier meets Spanish PM, insists on right to self-determination](#)

Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez and Catalan regional premier Quim Torra met for two and a half hours and gave their visions of Catalonia, in their first official effort to normalize relations between Madrid and Barcelona and solve the political problem. [*El País*, July 9, 2018]

JEWISH COMMUNITIES

[Yad Vashem slams 'highly problematic' Israeli-Polish Holocaust statement](#)

The Yad Vashem Holocaust memorial center slammed the joint declaration issued by Warsaw and Jerusalem, saying it "contains highly problematic wording that contradicts existing and accepted historical knowledge in this field." [*The Times of Israel*, July 5, 2018]

[MPs join criticism of Labour's anti-Semitism code](#)

Labour MPs have criticized the party's new code of conduct on anti-Semitism, who states that "anti-Semitism is racism. It is unacceptable in our party and in wider society", as it does not sign up in full to the IHRA's working definition of anti-Semitism. [*BBC*, July 6, 2018]