

# THE EURO BRIEF

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**JULY 21, 2018**

## **FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

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### **EUROPE – US**

#### [EU leaders respond as ‘friends’ after Trump’s ‘foe’ remarks](#)

European Commission Vice President responded to Trump's remarks that the EU is a "foe", saying "Europeans and Americans are bound by history and their shared values and Europeans will never give up on America because America never gave up on us." [Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, July 15, 2018]

#### [US trade war: EU prepares to retaliate over car tariffs ahead of Juncker-Trump talks](#)

The EU is preparing to retaliate if Trump raises tariffs on cars and car parts imports and will put forward the possibility of broaching a limited free-trade agreement, as Brussels chief Juncker heads to Washington to try and placate the US President. [Express, July 19, 2018]

### **EUROPE – RUSSIA**

#### [Eurosceptics queuing up to rick bloc's Moscow position](#)

The EU is facing a revolt with Italy and Hungary amongst a group of Eurosceptic member states who are growing frustrated about the bloc's refusal to drop sanctions on Russia and pressure on the Brussels leadership to do more business with Moscow. [Express, July 17, 2018]

#### [Russian army of online trolls also active in the Netherlands](#)

Russian organized internet trolls have tried to stir up anti-Islam sentiment in the Netherlands and Belgium after several terror attacks that took place in Europe by sending hundreds of Dutch-language messages via Twitter. [NRC Handelsblad, July 15, 2018]

## **EUROPE – EAST ASIA**

### [EU-Japan free trade agreement defies protectionism](#)

The EU and Japan have signed an Economic Partnership Agreement that will be the largest trade deal ever negotiated by the EU and will create a trade zone covering 600 million people and nearly a third of global GDP. [*Deutsche Welle*, July 17, 2018]

### [EU-China Summit: deepening the strategic global partnership](#)

The 20th Summit between the EU and China held in Beijing has underlined that the partnership between both countries regarding climate change, security, multilateralism and open and fair trade has reached a new level of importance. [*European Commission*, July 16, 2018]

## **EUROPE – MIDDLE EAST**

### [European Bank throws doubt on EU plan to salvage Iran nuclear deal](#)

The head of the European Investment Bank has thrown into doubt whether the EU can deliver on its pledge to save the Iranian nuclear deal, saying the bank cannot invest in Iran and risk the business model of the bank as the EU has envisioned. [*Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty*, July 19, 2018]

### [Turkey and Netherlands agree to 'normalize diplomatic ties' after sour period](#)

Turkey and the Netherlands have agreed to normalize the diplomatic relations between both countries and reinstate ambassadors in Ankara and The Hague in the second half of this year. [*Hürriyet Daily News*, July 20, 2018]

## **EUROPE – ISRAEL**

### [EU blasts Israeli Minister: You feed disinformation and mix BDS and terror](#)

The EU's Federica Mogherini penned a sharp-worded letter to Israel's Public Security Minister Gilad Erdan, accusing him of making 'unfounded and unacceptable' allegations that the organization supports terror. [*Haaretz*, July 17, 2018]

### [EU leads criticism after Israel passes Jewish 'nation state' law](#)

The EU has led a chorus of criticism after Israel passed a controversial law declaring that only Jews have the right of self-determination in the country, adding that the legislation would complicate a two-state solution to the Israel-Palestinian conflict. [*The Guardian*, July 19, 2018]

## **INTERNAL AFFAIRS**

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### **EU POLITICS**

#### [Italy's Conte seeks EU Commission involvement in migrant's crisis](#)

Italy is asking the EU to create a permanent role of mediator to ease tensions on migrants and change the Dublin accord, which assigns responsibility for processing asylum claims to the first nation a migrant enters. [*Bloomberg*, July 19, 2018]

#### [Merkel on brink: EU set to sue Germany over consumer law row](#)

The European Commission has accused Germany of ignoring its rules aimed at increasing competition in the energy sector and is preparing to sue Germany for refusing to implement EU laws designed to reduce bills for households. [*Express*, July 20, 2018]

### [UK sets up Brexit battle over Irish border and rejecting 'unworkable' EU plan](#)

British Prime Minister has criticized the EU's "backstop" plan to avoid a "hard" border between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland and proposed instead that any backstop should apply to the whole of the UK. [CNN, July 20, 2018]

### [UK flights 'will not be able to land in Ireland' without post-Brexit deal](#)

The Irish Aviation Authority has confirmed flights from UK carriers will not be permitted to land in Ireland in the event of a hard Brexit unless a separate deal to cover aviation is struck with the UK government. [Irish Times, July 20, 2018]

### [Germany remembers failed Hitler assassination with attack on populism](#)

German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas condemned right-wing populism in Europe and called for a more united Europe as he marked the 74th anniversary of the failed plot to assassinate Hitler. [Deutsche Welle, July 20, 2018]

### [Hungary pursued by EU over 'Stop Soros' migrant law](#)

Hungary has been referred to the European Court of Justice for "non-compliance" with EU legislation as Hungary returns asylum seekers to other countries or detains them on its border with Serbia. [BBC, July 19, 2018]

### [Judge drops international arrest warrant against former Catalan premier](#)

The Supreme Court judge has rejected the extradition from Germany of Carles Puigdemont on charges of misuse of funds and withdrawn the European arrest warrant issued against him and five other politicians who fled Spain to avoid detention. [El País, July 20, 2018]

## **DOMESTIC POLITICS**

### [Macron accused of cover-up over violent security official](#)

Macron accused of cover-up and faces the biggest crisis of his presidency over the growing scandal as Alexandre Benalla, part of his inner circle, faces charges of violence and impersonating police officer. [The Guardian, July 20, 2018]

### [French PM Philippe unveils new anti-terror plan](#)

Édouard Philippe announced France is beefing up its counterterrorism powers, creating a new terrorism prosecutor's office and concentrating leadership of counterterrorism activities with the DGSJ domestic intelligence. [France24, July 13, 2018]

### [New leader for Spain's People's Party](#)

Spain's conservative People's Party has elected of former party spokesman and 37-year-old lawyer Pablo Casado as its new leader, who promised to defend the values of "life and the family". [EUnews, July 21, 2018]

### [Poland pushes to replace Supreme Court judge who defied government](#)

The Polish parliament adopted rules to expedite the naming of a new Supreme Court chief under a judicial overhaul by the ruling party that critics say undercuts democracy. [Reuters, July 20, 2018]

### [Life sentence for Beate Zschäpe](#)

The regional court in Munich has sentenced Beate Zschäpe to life imprisonment for her role in the 10 murders committed by the NSU right wing terror organization as she helped the two perpetrators of the attacks. [*Der Spiegel*, July 12, 2018]

## **JEWISH COMMUNITIES**

### [Orbán to Netanyahu: All Jews can feel safe in Hungary](#)

Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán said on his visit to Israel that all of the Jewish citizens in Hungary should feel safe under his government and that Hungary would show “zero tolerance” for anti-Semitism. [*Reuters*, July 19, 2018]

### [Jewish group to sue Labour over anti-Semitism code](#)

Jewish campaigners are preparing to sue the Labour Party using human rights laws after Jeremy Corbyn’s party ditched key elements of the internationally accepted definition of anti-Semitism from Labour’s code of conduct. [*The Times*, July 21, 2018]