

THE EURO BRIEF



AUGUST 01, 2018

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

EUROPE – US

[Trump-Juncker meeting: US and EU strike 'zero tariffs' deal to avoid trade war](#)

The US and EU have reached an understanding on lowering barriers between the two sides and agreed to try and create an environment of zero tariffs, barriers or subsidies on non-auto industrial goods. [*Independent*, July 26, 2018]

[US President and Italian Prime Minister meet at the White House](#)

With their like-minded views on trade and immigration and following a meeting in the White house, Trump and Conte announced a new strategic dialogue between Italy and United States that will enhance cooperation on a range of issues. [*Euronews*, July 30, 2018]

EUROPE – RUSSIA

[EU slaps sanctions on six Russian groups over Crimea bridge](#)

The EU has imposed asset freezes on six Russian firms for their involvement in the construction of a new road-and-rail bridge linking Russia to the annexed Crimean peninsula, which the bloc says is a further violation of Ukraine's sovereignty. [*Reuters*, July 31, 2018]

[German broadcasters targeted by Russian hackers](#)

Two of Germany's largest public broadcasters, ZDF and WDR, have been attacked by a Russian hacking group known as "Sandworm", but it remains unclear what the group's intention was or whether any sensitive data was stolen. [*Deutsche Welle*, July 27, 2018]

EUROPE – EAST ASIA

[UK foreign secretary discusses potential free trade deal with China](#)

China has offered to hold talks with Britain on a post-Brexit free trade deal during a visit by foreign secretary Jeremy Hunt, who is in Beijing to try to rekindle the “Golden Era” of Sino-British co-operation. [*The Irish Times*, July 30, 2018]

[China’s pursuit of Western tech assets hits a German roadblock](#)

Germany fended off Chinese bids for two strategically important industrial assets, on national security grounds and in an effort to prevent China from snapping up technological know-how seen as crucial to Western economic success. [*The Wall Street Journal*, July 27, 2018]

EUROPE – MIDDLE EAST

[UK fight back against ISIS](#)

Under the assumption that anyone who travels to parts of Syria, Iraq or other war-torn countries would have committed a crime, ISIS jihadists will face automatic prosecution in the UK under new proposed laws which plan to “take back control”. [*Express*, July 24, 2018]

[Swedish student's plane protest stops Afghan man's deportation 'to hell'](#)

Elin Ersson refused to sit down on Gothenburg flight until an Afghan asylum seeker being deported from Sweden was removed from the flight and shined a spotlight on domestic opposition to Sweden’s tough asylum regime. [*The Guardian*, July 26, 2018]

EUROPE – ISRAEL

[EU condemns Israel's new nationality law](#)

The EU expressed concern over the national law that was approved by the Israeli Knesset and Federica Mogherini clarified that the law grants Jews alone the right to self-determination in the country and will hinder a two-state solution. [*Al-Monitor*, July 27, 2018]

[EU calls on Israel to stop using ‘excessive force’ against civilians](#)

The EU has urged Israel to refrain from using “excessive force” against unarmed Palestinian civilians in the Gaza Strip, calling for all parties to exercise restraint and work with the international community to ease conditions in Gaza. [*Middle East Monitor*, July 26, 2018]

INTERNAL AFFAIRS

EU POLITICS

[EU court damns Polish legal system](#)

The EU’s highest court ruled Ireland can refuse to hand over an alleged drug dealer to Poland if its judiciary determines he may not receive a fair trial there, in a move that will inflame the ongoing fight between Brussels and Warsaw over rule of law. [*Politico*, July 27, 2018]

[Orbán calls for surge of 'illiberal Christian democracies' in fresh threat to EU](#)

Orbán said Western political "elite" of the EU had failed to protect the bloc from Muslim immigration and warned next year's European parliament election could bring to power "illiberal Christian democracy", ending decades of multiculturalism. [*Express*, July 28, 2018]

[Italian police clear Roma camp despite EU ruling requesting delay](#)

Police in Rome have cleared nearly 400 people from a camp of the minority Roma community, despite an EU court ruling halting demolition, in the latest victory for far-right interior minister, who rallies against minority. [*The Guardian*, July 26, 2018]

[In Madrid, Macron and Sánchez see eye to eye on EU immigration policy](#)

French President and Spanish Prime Minister met to discuss cooperation on immigration, euro zone reform and other issues aimed at increasing EU integration and produced eight-point document detailing views on how to solve migrant crisis. [*El País*, July 27, 2018]

[EU piracy task force to leave UK post-Brexit](#)

The UK will lose command of the EU naval task force - known as EU Navfor and set up to combat piracy off the coast of Somalia - as it exits the EU. The headquarters will move from the UK to Spain and France. [*BBC*, July 30, 2018]

[Matteo Salvini, leader of Italy's right, warns EU is 'swindling' Britain out of Brexit](#)

Italy's far-right interior minister accuses the EU of trying to punish the UK for voting to leave the bloc and urges Theresa May to adopt a tougher stance in her Brexit negotiations and be prepared to walk away without a deal. [*The Times*, July 28, 2018]

[Brussels plots emergency no deal Brexit plans for British cats, dogs and ferrets](#)

Brussels bureaucrats are drawing up emergency Brexit plans for British cats, dogs and ferrets after Jean-Claude Juncker took a personal interest in how "no deal" could damage the EU's pet passport scheme. [*The Telegraph*, July 27, 2018]

DOMESTIC POLITICS

[Macron government survives no-confidence votes over Benalla scandal](#)

French President Emmanuel Macron's government survived two votes of no confidence in the wake of a political and public uproar triggered by a video of his chief bodyguard beating a protester. [*France24*, July 31, 2018]

[Black athlete attacked as Salvini criticised for 'climate of hate' in Italy](#)

Opposition politicians in Italy have condemn far-right interior minister, Matteo Salvini, and accused him of creating a climate of hate after a series of racist attacks that have coincided with his anti-immigration drive. [*The Guardian*, July 30, 2018]

[Thousands gather in Munich to protest Bavarian ruling party CSU](#)

Thousands of protesters in Munich gathered to demonstrate against right-wing populism, denounced the ruling Bavarian party CSU's hard-line migration policies and urged an "end to the incitement of hate." [*Deutsche Welle*, July 22, 2018]

[Poland protests: Thousands rally against court changes](#)

The protesters have rallied in central Warsaw chanting "Shame!" and accused the government of politicizing the judiciary and weakening its independence after Duda granted the nationalist government more power over court appointments. [BBC, July 27, 2018]

[Tsipras assumes 'political responsibility' as criminal investigation launched](#)

Greece has opened a criminal investigation into the deadly wildfires that devastated a coastal resort near Athens, as Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras said he assumed "political responsibility" for the tragedy. [The Telegraph, July 27, 2018]

[Sweden struggles over child marriage](#)

A row over how to deal with child marriage among immigrants has inflamed political debate ahead of a general election in Sweden, where migration continues to divide public opinion and the far right is riding high in the polls. [Politico, July 23, 2018]

JEWISH COMMUNITIES

[Jews warn Jeremy Corbyn has taken Labour to a 'dark place'](#)

Corbyn has been accused by Jewish leaders of taking the Labour Party into an "ugly" place after a second MP was told that he faced disciplinary action for criticizing its new policy on anti-Semitism. [The Times, July 30, 2018]

[Jewish teens enlisted to fight anti-Semitism in Germany](#)

The Central Council of Jews started a peer-to-peer education project focus on Jewish life in Germany today, the perils of anti-Semitism and the crimes of their forefathers, amid fresh concerns about anti-Semitism in schools and on the streets. [The Times of Israel, July 29, 2018]