

THE EURO BRIEF



SEPTEMBER 01, 2018

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

EUROPE – US

[France's Macron turns away from Trump in laying out roadmap](#)

Macron's speech focused on strengthening the EU to face today's challenges rather than counting on the US support and security. Macron also urged Trump not to place tariffs on European steel and aluminum. [*The Washington Post*, August 27, 2018]

[German foreign minister calls for revamp of EU-US ties](#)

German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas called for Europe to reshape its relationship with the US, saying the two sides had been drifting apart even before Trump's presidency and urged the EU to play a bigger global role. [*Politico*, August 22, 2018]

EUROPE – RUSSIA

[It's time for realism in EU-Russia ties: France's Macron](#)

French President Emmanuel Macron urged the EU to modernize its post-Cold War ties with Russia and pursue "strategic relations" with Russia that brings stability, strength and coherency. [*Reuters*, August 30, 2018]

[Kurz reaffirms commitment to EU after shock Putin wedding invitation](#)

Austrian Chancellor has been forced to reaffirm his country's commitment to the EU and said "Our position in Europe did not change because of a wedding, our foreign policy towards Russia is clear and we are committed to all the EU's decisions." [*Express*, August 22, 2018]

EUROPE – EAST ASIA

[EU ends trade controls on Chinese solar panels](#)

The EU will end restrictions on the sale of solar panels from China in a move that would increase the bloc's supply of renewable energy and lead to a flood of cheap imports. [*Reuters*, August 31, 2018]

[UK China dairy deal 'important for Northern Ireland'](#)

The deal, valued at almost £240m over five years, was secured as China approves imports of dairy products made in the UK, such as milk powder, cream and yoghurt. Northern Ireland is likely to be the main beneficiary of this deal. [BBC, August 23, 2018]

EUROPE – MIDDLE EAST

[British Airways and Air France to halt flights to Tehran](#)

British Airways ("as the operation is currently not commercially viable") and Air France ("the line's weak performance") have said they will halt direct flights to Tehran, months after Trump announced plans to reimpose sanctions on Iran. [Deutsche Welle, August 24, 2018]

[Muhammad cartoon contest in Netherlands sparks Pakistan protests](#)

Thousands protest in Pakistan to demand Imran Khan's new government sever diplomatic ties with the Netherlands over a "blasphemous" cartoon competition and Islamist leader says 'only jihad' is sufficient to punish 'blasphemous' Wilders stunt. [The Guardian, August 29, 2018]

EUROPE – ISRAEL

[Baltic leaders affirm support for two-state solution after meeting Netanyahu](#)

Despite Netanyahu's claim that the trip's goal is to change EU approach to Israel, the prime ministers of the three Baltic nations expressed their support for the two-state solution to end the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. [Haaretz, August 24, 2018]

[Arab Israeli MKs said set to appeal to EU to oppose Jewish nation-state law](#)

Arab Israeli lawmakers are set to hold a series of meetings with Foreign Policy Chief Federica Mogherini and various foreign ministers and ambassadors, and urge them to oppose the controversial nation-state law and pressure Israel to repeal it. [The Times of Israel, August 31, 2018]

INTERNAL AFFAIRS

EU POLITICS

[Brexit: Raab and Barnier claim progress but no Irish breakthrough](#)

Both sides in Brexit talks say progress is being made on issues of security, judicial and defense co-operation but without any breakthrough on the Irish border, intellectual property, data protection and the role of the European Court of Justice. [BBC, August 31, 2018]

[Matteo Salvini and Viktor Orbán to form anti-migration front](#)

The Italian interior minister and the Hungarian prime minister have said they are "walking down the same path", change Europe's commission, protect their borders and fight pro-migrant policies supported by Macron and Soros. [The Guardian, August 28, 2018]

[Macron warns far-right alliance of Salvini and Orbán](#)

Macron has portrayed himself as the nemesis of Europe's far-right politicians, after Salvini and Orbán pledged to work together to obstruct his European agenda on migration and said that "If they see me as their main opponent, they're right." [*Independent*, August 29, 2018]

[Poland gets brash as top EU Court starts weighing justice revamp](#)

Poland's government showed its brash attitude toward the EU, saying it was ready to defy a fundamental principle and ignore a decision of the European Court of Justice if it rules against a sweeping revamp of the justice system. [*Bloomberg*, August 27, 2018]

[Former German intelligence chief warns against sharing secrets with Austria](#)

The warning comes amid growing fears over the close links between senior Austrian ministers and Russia and the police raid on the headquarters of Austria's BVT domestic intelligence agency earlier this year. [*The Telegraph*, August 22, 2018]

[Serbia and Kosovo presidents broach border changes for historic deal](#)

The presidents of Serbia and Kosovo seek to calm fears in the EU that border changes could lead to demands for other borders to be redrawn in the Balkans and reignite ethnic violence and call on the EU to provide crucial support for their efforts. [*Politico*, August 27, 2018]

[EU to recommend end to changing clocks twice a year](#)

Consultation finds more than 80% of EU citizens against biannual time changes and any practice of changing the clocks would need approval from national governments and the European parliament to become law. [*The Guardian*, August 31, 2018]

DOMESTIC POLITICS

[Merkel slams far-right violence in Chemnitz, Seehofer and AfD more muted](#)

Many high-ranking German politicians joined Chancellor Merkel in issuing a blanket condemnation of racism and violence. However, anti-immigration voices in the corridors of power were less vehement. [*Deutsche Welle*, August 28, 2018]

[Minister of the Environment Nicolas Hulot announces he is leaving the government](#)

French environment minister announced he is resigning from his position citing the delays and lack of sufficient environmental progress. [*Le Figaro*, August 28, 2018]

[Giuseppe Conte threatens to resign over the actions of his populist deputies](#)

Italian prime minister was contemplating his resignation as the populist coalition that elevated him to power grew increasingly unruly and magistrates pursued one of his deputies, Matteo Salvini and Luigi Di Maio. [*The Sunday Times*, August 31, 2018]

[Theresa May indicates she would fight a Boris Johnson leadership bid](#)

Theresa May indicated she would seek to fight off any leadership challenge from Boris Johnson and suggested she would lead the Conservatives into the next general election as she repeated a promise to lead the party "for the long term." [*The Guardian*, August 28, 2018]

[Pressure builds on PM to take stand against independence symbols in Catalonia](#)

The conservative Popular Party and center-right Ciudadanos have called on the government to ban the public display of pro-independence symbols in Catalonia as the symbols “insult democracy and the rule of law.” [*El País*, August 28, 2018]

[Parties deadlocked ahead of September Swedish election](#)

Sweden’s main center-left and center-right political blocs are running virtually neck-and-neck just days ahead of an election dominated by worries over immigration and surging support for the populist Sweden Democrats. [*Reuters*, August 30, 2018]

JEWISH COMMUNITIES

[Corbyn's comments most offensive since Enoch Powell “rivers of blood” speech](#)

Jonathan Sacks, the former UK's chief rabbi, has called Jeremy Corbyn an antisemite who has given support to racists, terrorists and dealers of hate who want to kill Jews and remove Israel from the map. [*The Guardian*, August 28, 2018]

[Holocaust memorials in Estonia defaced with anti-Semitic graffiti](#)

Monuments for Holocaust victims at Kalevi-Liiva in Estonia were defaced with anti-Semitic slogans and symbols and also damaged with a blowtorch. [*Haaretz*, August 25, 2018]