



European Latitudes

Perspectives on Europe, Italy, and the world.

The press review connecting the key socio-political and economic developments shaping today's debate.

i The non-English articles present in the Europe and International section are translated to English.

Friday, 11 September 2026

Europe

EU seeks to transform procurement into €600B driver of industry, *Politico EU*

The EU's Public Procurement Act aims to transform public spending into a strategic industrial policy tool, with €600 billion of annual procurement governed by streamlined rules replacing 900 pages of directives. The Act introduces a minimum 30% quality weighting for tenders, rising to 50% for labour-intensive contracts, with environmental, social, innovation, security, and resilience criteria counting as quality. Public authorities can now more easily favour EU goods and services, imposing origin requirements or restricting participation where non-EU content is below 50%. A network of digital platforms will simplify cross-border tender access, while the accompanying European Innovation Act seeks to address the "valley of death" for startups, boosting EU competitiveness in R&D procurement.

<https://www.politico.eu/article/eu-public-procurement-act-e600b-industrial-policy-tool/>

Mining Anglo nickel deal tests EU resolve over Chinese control of resources, *Financial Times*

The EU is set to issue a formal warning over China-backed MMG's \$500 million bid for Anglo American's Brazilian nickel assets, testing Brussels' resolve to curb Beijing's influence over critical resources. EU regulators fear the deal could reduce ferronickel supplies to Europe's stainless steel sector, increasing costs and vulnerability to economic coercion. MMG insists independent data shows no market foreclosure risk, but Eurofer warns the bloc must safeguard responsible sourcing. While ferronickel is not classified as critical, the case highlights EU concerns over Chinese ownership of overseas supplies, with critics arguing that differences in quality and carbon intensity make alternative sources difficult to substitute. The Brazilian assets' low-carbon footprint adds complexity to the debate.

<https://www.ft.com/content/1dbb63ef-359b-410e-8e86-5cd2df59fc3d>

Putin's bot army is targeting German and French elections, Sweden warns, *Politico EU*

Sweden's Psychological Defence Agency has warned that Russia is deploying bot networks to influence upcoming elections in Germany and France, aiming to polarise societies and undermine support for Ukraine. Director General Magnus Hjort noted that while Sweden's unified stance deters targeting, larger EU nations with rising far-right parties are priorities. Social media platforms like X, TikTok, and Facebook are urged to step up efforts against these networks, which have already spread 50,000 divisive posts via a 1,200-account "holiday network". Russia's tactics include the Matryoshka method, designed to waste fact-checkers' time, and Hjort calls for stronger EU-platform cooperation to protect democratic processes from foreign interference and disinformation campaigns.

<https://www.politico.eu/article/russia-election-interference-europe-sweden-disinformation-bots/>

How 'Made in Israel' is powering European security, *Politico EU*

European nations are increasingly turning to Israeli defense firms for critical security systems, with Greece's €3 billion Achilles Shield deal exemplifying

this trend. Israel's advantage stems from its military-to-commercial pipeline, with firms like Israel Aerospace Industries, Rafael, and Elbit Systems providing sensors, interceptors, and surveillance tech. Despite political tensions over Gaza and Lebanon, bilateral defense cooperation flourishes, often via direct awards that bypass EU competition rules. Critics warn this creates new dependencies, undermining Europe's strategic autonomy. Yet countries like Germany, Finland, and Italy continue prioritising Israeli tech, with the sector attracting 25% of global cyber investment, highlighting the bloc's reliance on non-EU suppliers for advanced defense capabilities.

<https://www.politico.eu/article/how-made-in-israel-is-powering-european-security/>

Keep calm and regulate on: Inside the EU's response to AI extinction warnings, *Politico EU*

The European Union has met recent AI extinction warnings from Silicon Valley with composed confidence, framing them as validation of its regulatory foresight. Brussels underscores its Artificial Intelligence Act, which already mandates that companies mitigate systemic risks such as loss of model control or misalignment with human values. The Commission's AI Office, supported by independent researchers like METR, oversees compliance. EU policymakers argue their framework, including obligations for high-risk models, positions Europe as a leader in responsible AI development. With the European Parliament scheduled to discuss these concerns on 30 September, officials are pushing for full enforcement of existing laws, seeing the current panic as an opportunity to reinforce Europe's proactive stance on AI governance while balancing industrial competition and safety.

<https://www.politico.eu/article/eu-response-ai-extinction-warnings/>

EU in space: Going boldly where plenty of people have gone before [opinion], *Politico EU*

Emmanuel Macron and Ursula von der Leyen have endorsed the Bromo project, a joint venture between Airbus, Leonardo, and Thales, to develop a European alternative to Elon Musk's Starlink. Macron's ambition includes a crewed spaceflight programme within a decade, while von der Leyen frames it as a strategic move for EU autonomy. However, the article highlights Europe's

bureaucratic inertia, with space policy remaining under Commission control. The initiative underscores Europe's push for sovereignty in space, though its feasibility is questioned given the bloc's historical delays and the dominance of existing players like Starlink.

<https://www.politico.eu/article/eu-in-space-going-boldly-where-plenty-of-people-have-gone-before/>

Au Sommet international sur l'espace, la France et l'UE à la rescousse d'Iris² [*translated*], *Le Monde*

The International Space Summit in Paris has strengthened support for Iris², the future European constellation of communication satellites, with 348 units planned to provide secure services without relying on non-European actors. France and the EU have signed contracts with Airbus, Thales Alenia Space, Aerospacelab, and OHB for satellite production, operated by the SpaceRISE consortium (Eutelsat, SES, Hispasat). The project's cost has risen to €15.7 billion, two-thirds publicly funded. Despite initial tensions, 22 European countries, including Germany and Italy, now support its acceleration. Challenges remain, particularly financing and technical interoperability, but the goal is a phased deployment between 2030 and 2032.

https://www.lemonde.fr/economie/article/2026/09/11/au-sommet-international-sur-l-espace-la-france-et-l-ue-a-la-rescousse-d-iris-la-future-constellation-de-satellites-souveraine-de-l-europe_6770563_3234.html

Italy

Meloni: «Basta accordi di libero scambio con chi non rispetta i nostri standard», *Il Sole 24 Ore*

Il presidente del Consiglio Giorgia Meloni, intervenendo al festival Risò a Vercelli, ha sottolineato che il riso è un'eccellenza del Made in Italy con un export annuale superiore a 800 milioni di euro, frutto del lavoro di generazioni in Lombardia e Piemonte. Ha ribadito il sostegno alla candidatura di Maurizio Martina a direttore della FAO, sostenendo che l'Italia ha molto da offrire in tema di sicurezza alimentare globale. Meloni ha affermato che l'Italia non stipulerà accordi di libero scambio con Paesi che non rispettano gli standard

UE su lavoro e ambiente, citando le importazioni agevolate di riso da Cambogia e Myanmar. Ha promesso di difendere la Politica Agricola Comune, porre l'agricoltura al centro delle politiche nazionali e contrastare l'Italian Sounding, annunciando provvedimenti mirati sui carburanti per la prossima settimana.

<https://www.ilsole24ore.com/art/meloni-basta-accordi-libero-scambio-chi-non-rispetta-nostri-standard-AJsxAlAB>

Petrolio e gas, nuovi commissari per accelerare il via all'estrazione, // Sole 24 Ore

Il Consiglio dei ministri ha approvato una misura per accelerare permessi e concessioni per la ricerca e l'estrazione di idrocarburi in Italia, nominando commissari governativi per supportare le Regioni. La premier Giorgia Meloni ha sottolineato che aumentare la produzione nazionale riduce la dipendenza dall'estero, garantendo costi più bassi e sicurezza energetica. Parallelamente, l'Italia ha avviato l'iter per attivare la clausola di flessibilità del Patto UE, che permetterebbe un extradeficit fino a 36 miliardi in tre anni per investimenti in energia e difesa. La lettera alla Commissione UE delinea obiettivi come lo sviluppo delle rinnovabili e la riduzione della dipendenza dai combustibili fossili importati, con decisioni attese dopo i dati Istat su Pil e deficit del 22 settembre.

<https://www.ilsole24ore.com/art/petrolio-e-gas-nuovi-commissari-accelerare-via-all-estrazione-AJA5ws9>

Il rialzo dei tassi: una polizza contro il rincaro dell'energia, // Sole 24 Ore

La Banca centrale europea ha aumentato i tassi di interesse, portando quello sui depositi al 2,50%, in risposta al rialzo dell'inflazione al 3,3%, trainata dai prezzi dell'energia. L'inflazione di fondo, escludendo energia e alimentari non lavorati, si attesta intorno al 2,1-2,2%. La Bce teme gli effetti indiretti del caro energia su altri prezzi e sulle aspettative, con il Brent a 97,5 dollari. I servizi mostrano una lenta disinflazione, mentre i beni industriali non energetici presentano segni di pressione. I prestiti alle aziende stanno accelerando, suggerendo che l'economia può assorbire un ulteriore moderato inasprimento monetario. Un nuovo rialzo a dicembre, fino al 2,75%, non è escluso e dipenderà dalle proiezioni macroeconomiche e dai dati in arrivo.

<https://www.ilsole24ore.com/art/perche-bce-puo-aumentare-tassi-AJ6CkS6>

Aiuti all'Ucraina, dopo lo sblocco Ue dei Patriot ipotesi Samp T di nuova generazione, *Il Sole 24 Ore*

L'Italia sta predisponendo il 13esimo pacchetto di aiuti all'Ucraina, che potrebbe includere il sistema missilistico SAMP/T di nuova generazione, sviluppato dal consorzio europeo Eurosam (MBDA Italia, MBDA Francia e Thales) per la difesa terra-aria e contro missili balistici. Il SAMP/T NG, frutto di una cooperazione italo-francese pluridecennale, è dotato del missile Aster B1NT con gittata oltre 150 km e del radar Kronos Grand Mobile High Power di Leonardo, capace di rilevare minacce a oltre 350 km. Resiste a forti interferenze elettroniche e può ingaggiare contemporaneamente decine di bersagli, dai missili balistici ai droni. Intanto l'UE ha sbloccato 3,2 miliardi dal prestito comunitario per l'acquisto di intercettori Patriot, e il ministro della Difesa Guido Crosetto ha assicurato che l'Italia continuerà a fare la sua parte.

<https://www.ilsole24ore.com/art/aiuti-all-ucraina-lo-sblocco-ue-patriot-ipotesi-samp-t-nuova-generazione-AJ1EQ57>

Chi era Emma Bonino, la guerriera democratica, *Il Sole 24 Ore*

Emma Bonino, storica leader radicale e paladina dei diritti civili, è morta dopo una lunga battaglia contro un tumore ai polmoni. Nata a Bra nel 1948, si è distinta per il suo impegno in campagne per l'aborto, contro il nucleare e per la liberalizzazione delle droghe, oltre che per la difesa dei diritti umani e l'abolizione della pena di morte a livello internazionale. Deputata dal 1976, commissaria europea dal 1995 al 1999, ministro per il Commercio Internazionale e le Politiche Europee nel 2006, e degli Esteri nel 2013, ha fondato +Europa nel 2018. La sua concezione politica, sempre totalizzante, l'ha resa protagonista del radicalismo liberale e del femminismo in Europa, con un approccio pratico e gestionale all'interno delle istituzioni, che l'ha portata a ricoprire ruoli di rilievo in Italia e in Europa.

<https://www.ilsole24ore.com/art/addio-emma-bonino-guerriera-democratica-AGoDx1f>

International

IEA: Global Coal Demand Set to Hit Record High as Iran War Chokes LNG Supply, *OilPrice.com*

The International Energy Agency reports that global coal demand is set to hit a record 8.94 billion tons in 2026, rising by 1.2% due to soaring LNG prices caused by the Iran war's blockage of the Strait of Hormuz. Economies including China, India, Japan, and South Korea are switching from gas to coal for electricity generation. Chinese demand is forecast to rise 1% to 5 billion tons, while India's will increase by 4.2% to 1.353 billion tons, reversing last year's slight decline. The IEA notes that if LNG shipment disruptions persist, coal demand could climb further, with the shift driven by both geopolitical tensions and an unusually strong El Niño weather pattern.

<https://oilprice.com/Latest-Energy-News/World-News/IEA-Global-Coal-Demand-Set-to-Hit-Record-High-as-Iran-War-Chokes-LNG-Supply.html>

Bad actors in China and Russia are already weaponizing Anthropic's AI, *Politico*

Anthropic's report reveals that foreign actors from China, Russia, and Yemen have bypassed restrictions to access its Claude AI models for dangerous purposes, including bioweapons research, autonomous drone development, and mass surveillance. Over eight months, bad actors used VPNs and stolen accounts to circumvent geographic controls, with five cases involving pathogen research for potential bioweapons programmes. While Anthropic disrupted all identified misuse and reported it to authorities, the report underscores how AI capabilities are accelerating real-world threats once deemed hypothetical. It also documents influence operations in six continents, though most AI-generated content gained little traction before being stopped. The findings highlight the urgency of strengthening safeguards as AI's dual-use potential grows.

<https://www.politico.com/news/2026/09/10/bad-actors-china-russia-weaponizing-anthropic-01070435>

Lex Elon Musk's gas turbines could shake up the backlogged sector [opinion], *Financial Times*

SpaceX's plan to produce gas turbine components in-house could disrupt a

backlogged sector where GE, Siemens, and Mitsubishi dominate, the author argues. With data centres driving electricity demand, turbines are unavailable before 2030, but Musk aims to accelerate delivery by 18 months by casting blades and vanes internally. SpaceX's \$1 billion acquisition of APR Energy, which operates mobile turbines, signals serious intent. Success could boost SpaceX's data centre revenue—already a quarter of its projected 2027 income from deals with Anthropic and Google—while pressuring suppliers like Howmet Aerospace. Even the threat of competition may push incumbents to expand capacity, easing bottlenecks without Musk needing to fully enter the market.

<https://www.ft.com/content/38e0e6c6-0775-4f05-89e4-c02bbcf7008a>

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