



European Latitudes

Perspectives on Europe, Italy, and the world.

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

Monday, 23 June 2026

Europe News

'Every man for himself': Europe warned of rising competition for energy from Asia, *POLITICO*

Europe faces renewed energy-market pressure as low gas reserves, high summer prices and rising Asian demand threaten a bidding contest for limited LNG cargoes. EU rules require member states to refill storage to at least 80 per cent by December, but weak incentives for summer storage and reliance on spot markets have left reserves below the five-year average. ACER estimates that meeting targets could require up to 13 per cent more LNG imports than in 2025, difficult if Persian Gulf production remains constrained. Centralised Asian buyers, including China, South Korea, Vietnam and Thailand, may move faster than fragmented European importers, exposing limits in EU joint-purchasing tools and raising risks for winter security and prices.

<https://www.politico.eu/article/every-man-for-himself-europe-warned-of-rising-competition-for-energy-from-asia/>

Ireland's Big Tech presidency dilemma: Shaping the rules for companies it hosts, *POLITICO*

Ireland's EU Council presidency from 1 July will place Dublin at the centre of sensitive digital-policy negotiations while it remains deeply exposed to US technology firms. Sixteen of the world's top 20 tech companies operate in Ireland, the sector employs more than 100,000 people, and two large firms reportedly provided almost 40 per cent of 2024 corporate tax receipts, or €11 billion. The agenda includes tech sovereignty, satellite spectrum, supply chains, simplification of digital rules, social-media limits for children, consumer

fairness and telecoms reform. Critics warn of conflicts of interest and weak enforcement by Irish regulators, while ministers and diplomats argue Ireland can act as an honest broker despite intense lobbying by Big Tech.

<https://www.politico.eu/article/ireland-big-tech-dublin-clear-eyed-pressures-during-presidency/>

Taoiseach Micheál Martin says Ireland can secure an EU capital markets deal this year, *The Irish Times*

Ireland believes it can broker an EU agreement by year-end on the savings and investment union, intended to integrate the bloc's 27 capital markets and mobilise trillions of euro in private savings for productive investment. Taoiseach Micheál Martin said there was already about 80 per cent agreement on proposals led by the six largest EU economies and that Dublin's presidency could find a landing zone. The central dispute remains whether major market infrastructure, including exchanges, central counterparties and securities depositories, should come under stronger ESMA supervision in Paris. Smaller states, including Ireland, have resisted centralisation, but Martin argues deeper capital markets are essential for competitiveness, start-up finance and reducing Europe's gap with the US and China.

<https://www.irishtimes.com/business/2026/06/22/taoiseach-micheal-martin-says-ireland-can-secure-an-eu-capital-markets-deal-this-year/>

Germany would be strong partner for GCAP fighter project, Leonardo CEO says, *Reuters*

Leonardo's chief executive Lorenzo Mariani said Germany would be a highly valuable industrial partner for the Global Combat Air Programme, after Berlin and Paris scrapped the rival Future Combat Air System project. GCAP is being developed by Britain's BAE Systems, Italy's Leonardo and Japan Aircraft Industrial Enhancement, backed by Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, with the aim of delivering a next-generation fighter by 2035. Italy has approved an almost €9 billion funding plan, while total programme costs are expected to run into tens of billions; FCAS had been estimated at about €100 billion. Germany's possible involvement would broaden expertise and cost-sharing, at a time when Europe is under pressure to rebuild defence capacity and meet NATO spending expectations.

<https://www.reuters.com/business/aerospace-defense/germany-would-be-strong-partner-gcap-fighter-project-leonardo-ceo-says-2026-06-09/>

Italy News

Meloni, Trump trade barbs in escalating spat after G7, *POLITICO*

Relations between Donald Trump and Giorgia Meloni have deteriorated sharply after a dispute over whether the Italian prime minister sought a photo with the US president at the G7 summit in Évian. Trump repeated the claim, attacked Meloni's popularity and criticised Italy for refusing use of military facilities during the US-Israeli campaign against Iran. Meloni rejected the allegation as fabricated, defended Italy's treaty-based handling of US bases and said her domestic standing was not Trump's concern. The row prompted Foreign Minister Antonio Tajani to cancel a planned US visit and may strain bilateral and NATO coordination, especially on Iran, defence burden-sharing and Italy's positioning between Atlantic commitments and domestic political autonomy.

<https://www.politico.eu/article/donald-trump-giorgia-meloni-g7-photo/>

Legge elettorale, Pagano: non mi risulta disponibilità per slittamento a luglio, *Il Sole 24 Ore*

La maggioranza non risulta disponibile a rinviare a luglio l'approdo della legge elettorale nell'Aula della Camera, attualmente previsto per venerdì 26 giugno. Il presidente della commissione Affari costituzionali, Nazario Pagano, sostiene che l'esame in commissione possa concludersi entro mercoledì, con discussione di tutti gli emendamenti e confronto di merito tra maggioranza e opposizione. Il ministro per i Rapporti con il Parlamento, Luca Ciriani, prevede la discussione generale venerdì e l'approvazione la settimana successiva, auspicando di non ricorrere alla fiducia a Montecitorio. Le opposizioni, in particolare il M5S, denunciano accantonamenti su nodi centrali, compreso il voto fuori sede, e avvertono contro forzature procedurali.

<https://www.ilsole24ore.com/art/legge-elettorale-pagano-non-mi-risulta-disponibilita-slittamento-luglio-AI4DaunD>

L'antiriciclaggio fa il pieno di alert con evasione e frodi, *Il Sole 24 Ore*

Nel 2025 le segnalazioni antiriciclaggio collegate a ipotesi di illeciti fiscali sono state poco più di 32mila, pari al 20% dei 162mila alert trasmessi all'Uif, in aumento dell'11,5% sul 2024. Il dato conferma il nesso strutturale tra evasione, frodi e reimpiego di denaro illecito. Dopo l'ondata legata alle cessioni anomale dei crediti edilizi, salite a 2.816 segnalazioni nel 2022 e poi scese a 743 nel 2023 e 619 nel 2024, emergono nuovi rischi sulle Deferred tax assets. Crediti fiscali fittizi vengono creati e trasferiti tramite catene societarie opache, con possibili indebite compensazioni, cessioni a terzi e flussi verso società già note per false fatturazioni.

<https://www.ilsole24ore.com/art/l-antiriciclaggio-fa-pieno-alert-evasione-e-frodi-AluMMMmD>

PMI: solo una su 10 mette a bilancio spese per ricerca e sviluppo, ma gli investimenti crescono, *Borsa Italiana*

Solo una PMI familiare italiana su dieci iscrive a bilancio spese di ricerca e sviluppo, e tra il 2020 e il 2024 il numero di imprese che lo fa è diminuito dell'11%, mentre l'investimento complessivo è cresciuto del 17%. L'innovazione risulta quindi più concentrata, strutturata e spesso associata a una minore quota di proprietà familiare e a maggiore apertura esterna. Il report, basato su oltre 6.300 imprese familiari con fatturato tra 20 e 150 milioni di euro, evidenzia poli forti in Lombardia, Veneto ed Emilia-Romagna, ma una propensione relativa elevata nel Mezzogiorno. I brevetti sono 75.406, concentrati in un quarto del campione e prevalentemente difensivi.

https://www.borsaitaliana.it/borsa/notizie/teleborsa/economia/pmi-solo-una-su-10-mette-a-bilancio-spesse-per-ricerca-e-sviluppo-ma-gli-investimenti-crescono-57_2026-06-22_TLB.html

La Toscana traina l'export italiano grazie al boom dei metalli preziosi di Arezzo, Traders Union

Nel primo trimestre 2026 la Toscana è salita al secondo posto tra le regioni italiane per export, grazie al boom dei metalli preziosi del distretto di Arezzo verso la Svizzera. Le vendite aretine alla Svizzera sono passate da 485 milioni a oltre 4 miliardi di euro in un anno, mentre l'export complessivo provinciale di metalli preziosi ha superato i 6 miliardi, triplicando e rappresentando circa il 60% del totale nazionale della categoria, pari a 10,3 miliardi. Il rialzo dell'oro, superiore al 50% medio in dodici mesi, spiega solo parte del fenomeno; la debole domanda interna di gioielleria spinge oro non assorbito verso lingotti destinati ai mercati esteri.

<https://tradersunion.com/it/news/financial-news/show/2424655-tuscany-export-boom-arezzo-metals/>

International News

Trump-Backed Outsider Appears to Win Colombian Presidential Race, The New York Times

Abelardo De La Espriella, a Trump-backed criminal defence lawyer with no prior political experience, appeared set for a narrow victory in Colombia's presidential election, taking 49.7 per cent of the vote against 48.7 per cent for leftist senator Iván Cepeda with more than 99 per cent counted. The result would return Colombia to conservative rule after Gustavo Petro's left-wing presidency and reinforce Latin America's rightward shift. De La Espriella campaigned on security, anti-corruption, economic recovery and closer US cooperation, promising megaprisons and a hard line against armed groups and "narcoterrorists". The preliminary outcome triggered celebrations and protests, underscoring deep polarisation and raising questions over institutional restraint, security policy and fiscal consolidation.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2026/06/21/world/americas/colombia-election-de-la-espriella.html/>

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