



European Latitudes

Perspectives on Europe, Italy, and the world.

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

Friday, 3 July 2026

Europe

The EU has a window of opportunity. Can Ireland deliver?, *POLITICO*

Ireland's six-month presidency of the Council of the EU begins amid a narrow opportunity to advance enlargement and the next long-term EU budget before France's April 2027 presidential election constrains decision-making. The removal of Hungary's former veto-heavy leadership has eased blockages, giving Dublin scope to push accession files for Montenegro and Ukraine. Kyiv wants all five remaining negotiating clusters opened in July to sustain reform momentum, but Ukraine's scale, wartime status and budgetary implications remain politically sensitive. Ireland must also broker talks on the 2028 Multiannual Financial Framework, balancing demands for more EU funding for defence, competitiveness, enlargement and Ukraine against resistance from frugal states and looming French electoral pressures.

<https://www.politico.eu/article/irish-presidency-thomas-byrne-eu-window-of-opportunity-can-ireland-deliver/>

Dublino accelera sulla riforma della vigilanza dei mercati Ue, *Il Sole 24 Ore*

La presidenza irlandese dell'Unione europea punta a chiudere entro fine anno un accordo sulla riforma della vigilanza dei mercati finanziari, con l'obiettivo di accelerare l'integrazione del mercato unico dei capitali. Il dossier resta sensibile, poiché la supervisione delle Borse è ancora prevalentemente nazionale, ma cresce la pressione per attrarre investimenti e ridurre la fuga di risparmio europeo verso gli Stati Uniti, stimata in circa 300 miliardi di euro l'anno. La proposta della Commissione rafforzerebbe la vigilanza diretta

dell'Esma su alcune entità transfrontaliere significative nel trading e post-trading. Sei Paesi, tra cui Germania, Francia e Italia, sostengono un rafforzamento calibrato. L'accordo richiede maggioranza qualificata, non unanimità.

<https://www.ilsole24ore.com/art/dublino-accelera-riforma-vigilanza-mercati-ue-AInVnGzD>

'Houston, we have a problem': Was the EEAS set up to fail?, *POLITICO*

The European External Action Service faces a structural crisis rooted in the compromises that created it under the Lisbon Treaty. Designed to give the EU a stronger foreign policy voice, it lacks the authority, clarity and institutional coherence of a real foreign ministry. Its 5,000 staff are split between permanent EU officials and seconded national diplomats, fuelling internal rivalry, weak morale and disputed accountability. Persistent tensions between the high representative, the Commission, the Council and member states have limited strategic effectiveness. Reform could be achieved through a unanimous Council decision rather than treaty change, with options ranging from administrative overhaul to reintegration into the Commission, but the central challenge remains defining clear EU diplomatic objectives.

<https://www.politico.eu/article/houston-we-have-a-problem-was-the-eeas-set-up-to-fail/>

Nel nuovo piano finanziario pluriennale la coesione al bivio: redistribuzione o crescita? (*opinion*), *Il Sole 24 Ore*

Nel negoziato sul Quadro finanziario pluriennale 2028-2034 emerge un nodo strategico: la politica di coesione deve restare uno strumento redistributivo o diventare motore di crescita integrato con competitività, ricerca e politica industriale. La proposta della Commissione vale circa 1.763 miliardi di euro a prezzi 2025, pari all'1,26 per cento del reddito nazionale lordo, e concentra 865 miliardi in piani nazionali e regionali, accanto a 450 miliardi per il Fondo europeo per la competitività e 175 miliardi per Horizon Europe. Secondo l'analisi, senza crescita i divari territoriali aumenteranno, ma l'integrazione dei fondi richiede capacità amministrative, indicatori solidi, governance multilivello e strategie territoriali credibili.

<https://www.ilsole24ore.com/art/nel-nuovo-piano-finanziario-pluriennale-coesione-bivio-redistribuzione-o-crescita-AIAG4hxD>

EU extends Ukraine-style trade relief to Armenia, *POLITICO*

The European Commission has proposed autonomous trade measures for Armenia, modelled on support previously given to Ukraine, to help Yerevan reduce economic exposure to Russia and consolidate its pro-European trajectory. The measures would liberalise around 80 per cent of Armenian exports to the EU once approved by the European Parliament and member

states. The package follows recent parliamentary elections that strengthened Armenia's reform-oriented government and comes alongside a €52 million support measure announced in June, within a broader €288 million EU programme. Brussels aims to help Armenian producers diversify away from Russian markets, including sectors hit by Moscow's restrictions, while a high-level EU-Armenia dialogue will assess economic reforms and deepen cooperation later in 2026.

<https://www.politico.eu/article/eu-extends-ukraine-style-trade-relief-to-armenia/>

EU to provide 200 million euros to boost South Caucasus connectivity, von der Leyen says, *The Straits Times*

The European Union will provide up to €200 million in grant funding to strengthen transport, energy and digital links across the South Caucasus, aiming to translate the Armenia-Azerbaijan peace settlement into practical regional cooperation. The "Peace through Connectivity Package" is intended to support economic integration, resilience and cross-border infrastructure after nearly four decades of conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh and a US-brokered peace agreement reached in August 2025. An additional €20 million programme will support local communities in Armenia and Azerbaijan through healthcare, demining, skills development and small-business investment. The initiative positions connectivity as a peacebuilding instrument while expanding the EU's strategic role in a region shaped by Russian, Turkish and wider geopolitical competition.

<https://www.straitstimes.com/world/europe/eu-to-provide-200-million-euros-to-boost-south-caucasus-connectivity-von-der-leyen-say>

Trump's court win reignites fight to sink €1.7T data deal with Europe, *POLITICO*

A US Supreme Court ruling allowing Donald Trump greater authority to dismiss independent regulators has reopened legal and political challenges to the EU-US Data Privacy Framework, which supports about €1.7 trillion in annual transatlantic trade. European privacy advocates argue the ruling weakens the independent oversight required under EU constitutional standards for transferring Europeans' data to the United States. The European Data Protection Board is assessing implications for the framework, while privacy group Noyb and French lawmaker Philippe Latombe are pushing for revocation or annulment. The European Commission holds the formal power to review the deal. Industry groups counter that the framework rests on a wider set of US safeguards and periodic review mechanisms.

<https://www.politico.eu/article/european-regulators-assessing-whether-scotus-ruling-threatens-transatlantic-data-flows/>

EU top court upholds record \$6b Google fine, *The Straits Times*

The Court of Justice of the European Union has upheld a €4.1 billion fine against Google and Alphabet for anti-competitive practices linked to Android, confirming the EU's largest-ever antitrust penalty. The Commission found in 2018 that Google abused Android's market power by requiring device manufacturers to pre-install Google Search and Chrome, restricting opportunities for rivals. The General Court upheld the finding in 2022 while reducing the original €4.3 billion fine, and the top court has now rejected Google's remaining legal arguments. The ruling strengthens Brussels' wider enforcement agenda against dominant digital platforms, alongside the Digital Markets Act, under which firms face upfront obligations rather than only retrospective investigations into anti-competitive conduct.

<https://www.straitstimes.com/world/europe/eu-top-court-upholds-record-6b-google-fine>

Lithuania moves to end nuclear weapon ban as 'situation getting worse', *The Straits Times*

Lithuania's parliamentary parties have agreed to pursue constitutional amendments lifting bans on nuclear weapons and foreign military bases, reflecting a deteriorating security environment shaped by Russia's war against Ukraine. The change requires two-thirds majorities in two parliamentary votes and could be adopted by the end of 2026. Lithuania, a NATO member bordering Russia's Kaliningrad exclave and Belarus, has tripled defence spending since 2022, strengthened border defences and is preparing infrastructure for a permanent combat-ready German brigade by 2027. Officials say there are no immediate plans to host nuclear weapons, and Lithuania will remain bound by the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, but removing the restriction would ensure no legal obstacle to future allied deterrence measures.

<https://www.straitstimes.com/world/europe/lithuania-moves-to-end-nuclear-weapon-ban-as-situation-getting-worse>

Volodymyr Zelenskiy urges Ireland to cut off alumina supply to Russia, *The Irish Times*

Volodymyr Zelenskiy has urged Ireland to stop alumina produced at the Aughinish refinery in County Limerick from reaching Russia, warning that every tonne of raw material supports Moscow's war effort. The Irish Government is investigating whether output from the Rusal-owned plant enters supply chains linked to Russian military production, including aluminium used in missiles, tanks and aircraft. Taoiseach Micheál Martin said the inquiry would conclude shortly and be shared with the European Commission. Swedish tax authorities have determined that Rusal's European operations remain under the control of sanctioned oligarch Oleg Deripaska, potentially triggering EU sanctions. During Zelenskiy's Dublin visit, the Air Corps tracked an alumina-linked cargo ship travelling through the Irish Sea.

<https://www.irishtimes.com/ireland/2026/07/01/volodymyr-zelenskiy-urges-irish-government-to-cut-off-alumina-supply-to-russia/>

EU plans weaker data centre climate rules in boost for Big Tech, *Traders Union*

The EU is considering weaker climate rules for data centres as it seeks to expand AI infrastructure while preserving competitiveness. A June 30 draft eases an earlier traffic-light rating system for energy and water use and relaxes requirements for matching fossil-fuel emissions with clean electricity certificates from new, local and time-aligned projects. The revised approach would allow broader certificates, including nuclear-linked credits, meaning a gas- or coal-powered facility could offset emissions using clean power generated elsewhere and at another time. Technology firms and industry groups had warned stricter rules would raise costs. The policy trade-off is sharpening as AI demand drives electricity consumption: Amazon reported a 34% rise in purchased electricity emissions between 2024 and 2025, while Google reported a 37% rise in grid-based emissions.

<https://tradersunion.com/news/financial-news/show/2551575-eu-data-centre-climate-rules/>

Moldavie : le premier ministre, Alexandru Munteanu, démissionne, *Le Monde*

Le premier ministre moldave Alexandru Munteanu a annoncé sa démission le 3 juillet, après environ huit mois à la tête du gouvernement d'un pays engagé dans un processus d'adhésion à l'Union européenne. Nommé fin octobre 2025 par la présidente proeuropéenne Maia Sandu, l'ancien homme d'affaires et novice politique avait pour mandat de soutenir la relance économique et les réformes institutionnelles. Son départ intervient alors que le Parti action et solidarité conserve la majorité parlementaire, dans un contexte marqué par des accusations d'ingérence russe lors des législatives de 2025. La présidente engagera des consultations avec les factions parlementaires afin de désigner un nouveau chef de gouvernement et de renforcer la cohésion exécutive autour de l'objectif européen.

https://www.lemonde.fr/international/article/2026/07/03/moldavie-le-premier-ministre-alexandru-munteanu-demissionne_6719156_3210.html

EU shipyard races to service Putin's LNG fleet before sanctions bite, *Politico*

A Danish shipyard is carrying out final maintenance on specialised Arc7 ice-class LNG carriers serving Russia's Yamal project before an EU ban on such servicing enters force in January. Because these vessels require major overhaul only every two to three years, work completed this summer could allow them to keep operating well beyond the sanctions deadline, weakening the

measure's practical effect. Fayard says it is complying with current EU rules and supporting gas supply to Europe, but Ukrainian officials, campaigners and Green lawmakers argue the servicing sustains Kremlin export revenues. The 15-vessel fleet is central to Russia's Arctic LNG trade, with the EU having spent around \$40 billion on Russian LNG since the war began.

<https://www.politico.eu/article/eu-shipyard-races-to-service-russia-vladimir-putin-lng-fleet-before-sanctions-bite/>

Europe targets shadow fleet tankers falsely using Cameroon flag, sources say, *The Straits Times*

European authorities are intensifying action against Russian shadow-fleet tankers falsely operating under Cameroon's flag, including boarding, inspecting and detaining suspect vessels at sea. The EU expanded Operation IRINI's mandate on June 8, enabling naval forces to stop ships suspected of supporting sanctions evasion. Recent inspections found several tankers using fraudulent Cameroonian registration, while nine vessels have been seized by European navies since the start of 2026, including five flying Cameroonian flags. Cameroon has removed 39 ships from its registry after identifying unlawful registrations and fraudulent websites assigning its flag. The EU is preparing further sanctions in July, potentially listing 30 additional vessels and extending criteria to refuelling and cargo-transfer activities, citing sanctions enforcement, maritime safety and environmental risks.

<https://www.straitstimes.com/world/europe/europe-targets-shadow-fleet-tankers-falsely-using-cameroon-flag-sources-say>

Italy

Elettricità, l'Italia paga quasi il doppio di Francia e Spagna: pesa la dipendenza dal gas, *Il Sole 24 Ore*

Nel 2025 il Prezzo unico nazionale dell'elettricità ha raggiunto in media 115,9 euro per MWh, il 7 per cento in più rispetto al 2024 e il valore più alto tra le principali borse europee. Il divario con Francia e Spagna è marcato: rispettivamente 61,1 e 65,3 euro per MWh. La causa principale resta la dipendenza italiana dalla generazione a gas, che continua a determinare il prezzo all'ingrosso nonostante le rinnovabili coprano il 48 per cento della produzione nazionale. Le famiglie pagano 35,12 centesimi per kWh, il 13 per cento sopra la media dell'Area euro. Per le imprese il prezzo finale supera la media europea del 24,1 per cento, comprimendo competitività industriale e margini.

<https://www.ilsole24ore.com/art/elettricit%C3%A0-l-italia-paga-quasi-doppio-francia-e-spagna-pesa-dipendenza-gas-AloRBuxD>

Tutti i membri di opposizione in Vigilanza Rai si sono dimessi, // Post

I 16 parlamentari di opposizione nella Commissione di vigilanza Rai si sono dimessi in blocco per protestare contro lo stallo politico che da quasi due anni paralizza l'organo incaricato di garantire imparzialità, indipendenza e pluralismo del servizio pubblico. La crisi nasce dalla mancata conferma di Simona Agnes alla presidenza Rai, indicata nel 2024 dal ministro dell'Economia, ma non sostenuta dalle opposizioni, che contestano l'assenza di una scelta condivisa. Poiché la nomina richiede una maggioranza di due terzi, la maggioranza ha evitato il voto disertando i lavori. Le dimissioni, che includono presidente e vicepresidente della Commissione, potrebbero aprire la strada a uno scioglimento e ricostituzione dell'organo, come avvenne nel 2008.

<https://www.ilpost.it/2026/07/02/dimissioni-opposizione-commissione-vigilanza-rai/>

Siccità: il Veneto dichiara lo stato di emergenza regionale, Il Sole 24 Ore

Il Veneto ha dichiarato lo stato di emergenza regionale dopo che condizioni idrologiche anomale e il rischio di risalita del cuneo salino nel distretto del fiume Po hanno aggravato la pressione sulle risorse idriche. Le precipitazioni sono rimaste persistentemente sotto la media, con un deficit del 21 per cento da marzo e una carenza del 28 per cento nell'anno idrologico al 31 maggio, pari a quasi 2,4 miliardi di metri cubi d'acqua. Le riserve nivali si sono esaurite in anticipo a causa delle alte temperature di aprile e maggio, mentre le portate di Piave, Brenta e Po risultano inferiori del 23 per cento alle medie storiche e l'Adige registra un calo del 21 per cento. Le misure includono riduzione dei consumi idrici, campagne di sensibilizzazione sull'irrigazione, piani siccità, conservazione delle riserve nei bacini e coordinamento urgente tramite l'Osservatorio del distretto del Po.

<https://en.ilsole24ore.com/art/drought-in-veneto-regional-state-of-emergency-declared-AI53zmyD>

Lombardia, situazione idrica difficile: deficit del 36%, Il Sole 24 Ore

La Lombardia registra una situazione idrica critica, con risorse inferiori del 36% rispetto alla media del periodo, pur lontana dal deficit del 61% osservato nella siccità record del 2022. Il quadro, valutato su laghi, invasi ed equivalente idrico nivale, segnala severità media regionale, con deficit leggermente superiori al 40% nei bacini di Ticino, Adda, Oglio e Brembo, mentre il sistema Garda-Mincio è meno esposto, al 20%. Le cause principali sono la scarsa neve invernale, già sciolta per le alte temperature, e una primavera povera d'acqua. Sono state concordate riduzioni dei rilasci agricoli dai laghi alpini e apporti straordinari dagli operatori idroelettrici per proteggere il primo raccolto.

<https://www.ilsole24ore.com/art/lombardia-situazione-idrica-difficile-deficit-36per cento-AIXA9TzD>

Auto, per la filiera 930 milioni con l'incognita delle regole, Il Sole 24 Ore
Il nuovo Dpcm automotive sblocca circa 930 milioni di euro per sostenere la riconversione della filiera italiana, in un contesto di concorrenza cinese, transizione elettrica e digitalizzazione dei veicoli. Sono previsti 630 milioni per accordi di innovazione e 300 milioni per contratti di sviluppo destinati a costruttori e componentistica. Le linee di ricerca riguardano veicoli e sistemi a basse emissioni, auto connessa e intelligente, diversificazione industriale e tecnologie strategiche dual-use. Tuttavia, il Fondo automotive è stato ridotto da tagli pregressi e ulteriori prelievi, fino a 1,35 miliardi complessivi. L'efficacia dipenderà dalle regole attuative del Mimit, soprattutto per rendere accessibili gli strumenti alle imprese medie della componentistica.

<https://www.ilsole24ore.com/art/auto-la-filiera-930-milioni-l-incognita-regole-AIZmsyyD>

Porto di Gioia Tauro, piano da cento milioni per l'elettrificazione, *Il Sole 24 Ore*

Il porto di Gioia Tauro avanza un piano di elettrificazione delle banchine da oltre 100 milioni di euro, volto a sostenere decarbonizzazione, competitività logistica e conformità agli standard europei. Dopo un primo lotto sulla banchina di Levante, con una grande cabina elettrica e tre prese mobili da 7,5 megawatt estendibili a 11, è in avvio un nuovo tratto che porterà a cinque le prese per le grandi portacontainer. Il finanziamento comprende quasi 70 milioni dal Pnrr, contributi dell'Autorità portuale e del terminalista Mct, oltre a risorse proprie. A regime, la fornitura potrà raggiungere 160 megawatt, azzerando le emissioni locali all'ormeggio e rafforzando il ruolo dello scalo nel transhipment mediterraneo.

<https://www.ilsole24ore.com/art/porto-gioia-tauro-piano-cento-milioni-l-elettrificazione-AIIZURzD>

International

Human rights catastrophe unfolding in Sudan's al-Obeid, says UN's Turk, *The Straits Times*

A severe human rights emergency is developing around al-Obeid, capital of Sudan's North Kordofan state, amid intensified fighting between the Sudanese army and the Rapid Support Forces. Civilians have endured siege-like conditions for 18 months, including acute shortages of clean water and repeated drone strikes. UN investigators have documented patterns of summary executions, abductions, torture and sexual violence along displacement routes across Kordofan. At least 45 civilians were killed and 41

injured in 15 drone strikes between June 6 and 28. The warning carries major policy implications after atrocities in al-Fashir, where at least 6,000 people were killed over three days last year.

<https://www.straitstimes.com/world/europe/human-rights-catastrophe-unfolding-in-sudans-al-obeid-says-uns-turk>

Russia approved secret China military training at top level, sources say, *The Straits Times*

Russian and Chinese military cooperation reportedly included covert 2025 training for Russian forces at People's Liberation Army facilities, approved at senior level and involving high-ranking officers from both countries. Documents described courses in radiological, chemical and biological protection, including chemical and radiation reconnaissance and protection of ventilation systems from contamination. Around 200 Russian personnel were previously reported to have trained in China, with some later deployed to Ukraine. Beijing denies the claims and says its position on the war remains neutral, while Brussels says it has confirmed the training through its own channels and is assessing the implications. The episode intensifies EU concerns that China is enabling Russia's war effort, despite Europe's significant trade dependence on Beijing.

<https://www.straitstimes.com/world/europe/russia-approved-secret-china-military-training-at-top-level-sources-say>

Canada, Alberta announce new west coast oil pipeline to boost exports, *Reuters*

Canada and Alberta have announced plans for a new one-million-barrel-per-day oil pipeline from Alberta's oil sands to British Columbia's southwest coast, designed to expand access to Asian markets and reduce dependence on US buyers. Construction could begin as early as September 2027, with government-owned Trans Mountain Corp coordinating the project alongside Pembina Pipeline, which would hold a 10% construction stake and may acquire another 10% after start-up. Cost and financing details remain unresolved, and the plan faces regulatory, environmental and Indigenous partnership hurdles. The project reflects a policy compromise between energy export ambitions, Alberta's economic priorities and federal climate commitments, including links to a large-scale carbon capture project and retention of the northwest coast tanker ban.

<https://www.reuters.com/business/energy/canada-alberta-announce-new-west-coast-oil-pipeline-boost-exports-2026-07-03/>

Record-high ocean heat could fuel sea level rise and extreme weather on land, *Euronews*

Global sea surface temperatures have reached record highs for the time of year, signalling increasing climate risk across marine and terrestrial systems.

Copernicus data show the global average hit 21.0°C on 21 June, exceeding previous 2023 and 2024 records by about 0.1°C. Although small in numerical terms, such increases can intensify marine heatwaves, damage ecosystems and fisheries, accelerate sea level rise and supply extra energy for storms, heavy rainfall and flooding. The emergence of El Niño in the Equatorial Pacific is contributing to the spike, but the broader trend reflects climate change, with non-polar ocean temperatures over the past three years running 0.35°C to 0.73°C above the long-term average.

<https://www.euronews.com/2026/07/01/record-high-ocean-heat-could-fuel-sea-level-rise-and-extreme-weather-on-land>

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