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, 10 July 2026

Europe

EU drafts ‘Buy European’ rules for public tenders to curb foreign dependence, *Reuters*
Draft EU procurement rules would allow public authorities to favour European suppliers in strategic sectors and reject major bids containing less than 50% European content. The proposed regulation, expected in September and subject to approval by all 27 member states, seeks to reduce dependence on foreign suppliers and limit awards based predominantly on price. Procurement represents about 15% of EU GDP, or roughly €2.5 trillion using 2025 output, giving the policy substantial industrial leverage. Contracts would use a best price-quality ratio, with quality worth at least 30% of the score and 50% for labour-intensive contracts. Authorities could assess foreign ownership, financing, interference, cybersecurity and supply-chain risks. The measure would replace three directives and establish interoperable digital credentials and EU-wide procurement data systems.
https://www.reuters.com/world/china/eu-drafts-buy-european-rules-public-tenders-curb-foreign-dependence-2026-07-09/

Europe's industries demanded a bonfire of red tape. Now they hate it., *POLITICO Europe*
The EU’s 20-month simplification drive has disappointed companies that regard it as slow, costly and procedurally complex. Since February 2025, the Commission has proposed 12 omnibus bills covering defence, energy, chemicals, technology, agriculture and reporting obligations, promising billions in savings. Businesses argue that benefits remain distant because measures

take months or years to pass through Parliament, member states and national implementation, while negotiations often restore conditions and reporting duties. Industry also warns that repeatedly reopening recently adopted rules undermines legal certainty. However, companies and civil society caution against weakening health, privacy and Green Deal protections. The debate exposes a structural tension between competitiveness and safeguards, with some firms seeking five to ten years of regulatory stability and others identifying energy costs and carbon taxation as deeper constraints.
https://www.politico.eu/article/europe-industry-demand-bonfire-red-tape-now-they-hate-it/

All’Eurogruppo sull’energia rispuntano gli Eurobond, *Il Sole 24 Ore*
L’Eurogruppo valuta resiliente l’economia dell’area euro nonostante il rincaro energetico, ma prevede per il 2026 una crescita più debole e un’inflazione al 3%, in rallentamento verso il 2% nel 2027. I rischi restano orientati al ribasso. In questo contesto la Spagna ha rilanciato, fuori agenda, una proposta di emissione parzialmente centralizzata del debito degli Stati membri. Il meccanismo consentirebbe alla Commissione di collocare titoli destinati a finanziare prestiti nazionali, creando un mercato comune più liquido e un’attività finanziaria sicura capace di attrarre risparmio e investitori. Madrid stima una capacità fino a 850 miliardi di euro annui con la partecipazione di tutti i Paesi. Italia e Francia si sono mostrate favorevoli, mentre i Paesi Bassi restano contrari e manca un consenso generale.
https://www.ilsole24ore.com/art/all-eurogruppo-sull-energia-rispuntano-eurobond-AJbdobE

‘The boy who cried wolf’: NATO allies take Trump’s bluster in stride at crunch summit, *Politico*
At the NATO summit in Ankara, European allies and Canada adopted a more confident posture towards Donald Trump, prioritising deterrence and their own security needs over appeasing Washington. Despite renewed criticism over Greenland, Iran and Spain’s defence spending, leaders closed ranks behind Denmark and avoided escalation. NATO’s 32 members endorsed a statement covering new military capabilities, drones, Iran’s nuclear programme and more than $50 billion in procurement deals. Rising allied defence budgets are reshaping the balance: Europe and Canada increased spending by 20% last year and plan a further 11% rise in 2026, now accounting for 43% of NATO defence expenditure. The result is a less reactive alliance, more willing to manage US pressure while building European capability.
https://www.politico.eu/article/the-boy-who-cried-wolf-nato-allies-take-us-donald-trump-bluster-in-stride-at-crunch-summit/

Rutte's 'Made in NATO' weapons push collides with EU's 'Buy European' drive, *Politico*
NATO's push for a transatlantic defence industrial base is increasingly colliding with the EU's strategy to channel rearmament spending towards European companies. Mark Rutte presented more than $54 billion in new defence deals, including co-production schemes, as evidence of "Made in NATO" industrial integration and a way to keep Washington engaged. Yet EU initiatives, including the €150 billion SAFE loans programme, a €90 billion Ukraine loan and planned defence funding in a proposed €2 trillion budget, contain restrictions favouring EU content. The dispute reflects a strategic trade-off between speed, industrial sovereignty and alliance cohesion. Frontline states prioritise rapid access to advanced systems, including US drones and missiles, while Brussels seeks long-term European capacity and taxpayer returns.
https://www.politico.eu/article/mark-rutte-nato-weapons-eu-buy-european-defense/

Trump orders a halt to US trade with Spain, *Politico*
Donald Trump said he wanted to halt US trade with Spain, escalating a dispute over Madrid's defence spending and its position within NATO. Spain had refused to endorse NATO's 2035 target of spending 5% of GDP on defence, making it a focal point of US pressure on burden-sharing. Trump also linked the threat to Spain's refusal to support US military action against Iran and to allow the use of Spanish bases for that campaign. The practical effect of such a measure remains unclear, since Spain's trade policy is governed by the EU, not Madrid alone. The confrontation highlights the growing risk that defence-spending disputes could spill into transatlantic trade relations and wider alliance cohesion.
https://www.politico.eu/article/trump-says-hes-cutting-off-trade-with-spain-over-defense-spending-iran/

Germany to borrow €800bn for rearmament in historic shift, *Luxembourg Times*
Germany plans to borrow more than €800 billion by 2030, marking a historic departure from fiscal restraint to fund rearmament and infrastructure renewal. Chancellor Friedrich Merz's government intends to raise more than €200 billion next year, with defence spending reaching €109 billion in 2027 and €183.6 billion by 2030. Berlin also plans €11.6 billion in military aid to Ukraine next year. The shift follows constitutional changes exempting defence from the debt brake and establishing a €500 billion infrastructure fund. Germany expects to reach NATO defence spending of 2.8% of GDP this year and 3.5% from 2029. Critics warn that debt-service costs could almost double from €42 billion next year to €81 billion by 2030.

https://www.luxtimes.lu/world/germany-to-borrow-800bn-for-rearmament-in-historic-shift/158347506.html

Germany agrees deal to buy long-range US Tomahawk missiles, Merz says, *Associated Press*
Germany has agreed to purchase an undisclosed number of US-made Tomahawk cruise missiles and ground-based Typhoon launchers, with Washington expected to grant procurement approval in August. Chancellor Friedrich Merz said the agreement, reached alongside the NATO summit in Ankara, would close a significant strategic gap while Germany and its partners develop European long-range strike systems. Tomahawks have an approximate range of 1,600 kilometres and fly at about 30 metres above ground, complicating detection and enabling precision attacks deep inside hostile territory. The letter of intent excludes the deployment of US personnel to operate the systems. Berlin has pursued such an arrangement since 2023, reflecting Europe's strengthened deterrence posture following Russia's invasion of Ukraine and a broader transfer of US defence technology to key allies.
https://apnews.com/article/germany-merz-trump-us-tomahawk-nato-russia-ukraine-36a701c79c5d305d30d279d72e48ec1e

Trump says US will give Patriot missile licence to Ukraine, *The Straits Times*
Donald Trump said the United States would grant Ukraine a licence to produce Patriot missiles, potentially strengthening Kyiv's ability to counter Russian ballistic attacks. Patriot interceptors remain the only weapons in Ukraine's arsenal capable of stopping ballistic missiles, whose speed and flight path have repeatedly exposed gaps in air defence. The announcement followed another Russian strike on Kyiv, in which Ukraine intercepted 139 of 169 drones but none of the five ballistic missiles. Trump framed Patriots as defensive weapons and suggested pressure could be applied to manufacturers, with Lockheed Martin the prime contractor. The move could ease Ukraine's shortage of US-made interceptors while shifting production responsibility, as both leaders said they wanted an end to the war but acknowledged major political obstacles.
https://www.straitstimes.com/world/europe/trump-says-both-sides-in-ukraine-war-want-a-settlement

'Can you help us?': US oil execs turn to Trump to topple Europe's climate rules, *Politico*
US oil and gas producers, backed by the Trump administration, are pressing the EU to delay and dilute methane rules due to take effect on 1 January. The regulation would require importers to verify methane leakage and intensity across oil and gas supply chains, targeting a greenhouse gas with around 80 times the warming power of carbon dioxide. Industry argues that the structure

of the US gas market makes field-level tracing impractical and could disrupt exports to Europe. An industry-backed study claims the rules could endanger 43% of EU gas imports and 87% of crude imports, though several EU officials dispute this. Seventeen member states have supported delay, exposing tensions between energy security, competitiveness and climate enforcement.
https://www.politico.com/news/2026/07/07/oil-executives-trump-europe-climate-00987782

Sondaggio: Le Pen è ampiamente in testa per le presidenziali 2027, *Il Sole 24 Ore*
Marine Le Pen raggiungerebbe il 36% al primo turno delle elezioni presidenziali francesi del 2027, secondo un sondaggio Ifop realizzato dopo l'annuncio della sua quarta candidatura all'Eliseo. Il dato rappresenta un aumento di quattro punti in quindici giorni e conferma un netto vantaggio del Rassemblement National nella fase iniziale della competizione. La candidatura resta tuttavia condizionata dal procedimento giudiziario sugli assistenti parlamentari europei: Le Pen è stata condannata in appello, ma ha presentato ricorso in Cassazione e la sentenza non è quindi definitiva. Il procuratore generale Rémy Heitz ha dichiarato che la Corte farà il possibile per pronunciarsi prima del primo turno. Il quadro introduce una rilevante incertezza istituzionale, poiché l'esito giudiziario potrebbe incidere direttamente sull'ammissibilità e sulla configurazione della corsa presidenziale.
https://www.ilsole24ore.com/art/sondaggio-pen-e-ampiamente-testa-le-presidenziali-2027-AJsX7nD

Italy

Italy leads push to weaken green rules in €2 trillion EU budget, *POLITICO Europe*
Italy is leading efforts to dilute the "Do No Significant Harm" principle in the EU's proposed €2 trillion budget for 2028–2034, arguing that uniform environmental conditions could exclude heavy industry and major infrastructure from funding and weaken competitiveness. The Commission intends to apply the safeguard across most EU expenditure, while exempting defence, security, crisis measures and potentially projects of overriding public interest; draft exemptions also cover electrification, space infrastructure and hazardous-waste incineration. Rome abstained on the broader guidelines and plans to seek further changes when governments negotiate in autumn. Nordic states, environmental groups and Green lawmakers support strong safeguards, warning that additional carve-outs would undermine climate, nature and pollution objectives. The centre-right EPP also favours a lighter approach, particularly where compliance creates new administrative burdens.

https://www.politico.eu/article/italy-push-weaken-green-rules-eu-budget/

Meloni: pronti a aumentare spese militari, ma con i nostri tempi e modi, *Il Sole 24 Ore*
L'Italia conferma l'impegno ad aumentare la spesa per difesa e sicurezza, ma rivendica tempi, modalità e priorità compatibili con il contesto nazionale. Al vertice Nato di Ankara, Giorgia Meloni ha indicato una quota del 2,8% del Pil, con spesa "core" per armamenti al 2,1%, e ha ribadito l'obiettivo di rispettare l'impegno del 5% entro il 2035 senza sottrarre risorse a capitoli come la sanità. Gli investimenti dovrebbero sostenere industria, ricerca e lavoro qualificato italiani. Roma continuerà inoltre gli aiuti militari a Kiev, manterrà il no alla partecipazione agli attacchi Usa contro l'Iran e sostiene una maggiore responsabilità europea nella Nato, senza segnali formali di disimpegno americano.
https://www.ilsole24ore.com/art/meloni-trump-non-mi-pento-nulla-punto-all-unita-dell-occidente-AJJ4mnC

Produzione industriale -0,3% a maggio, +1,1% su anno, *Il Sole 24 Ore*
La produzione industriale italiana è diminuita dello 0,3% a maggio rispetto ad aprile, dopo tre mesi di crescita, ma è aumentata dell'1,1% su base annua corretta per il calendario. Nel trimestre marzo-maggio il livello produttivo è salito dello 0,9%. Solo l'energia ha registrato un incremento congiunturale, pari al 4,6%; sono arretrati beni strumentali (-0,1%), beni di consumo (-0,5%) e intermedi (-0,8%). Su base annua crescono mezzi di trasporto (+11,6%), farmaceutica (+3,5%) e chimica (+3,3%), mentre calano tessile e abbigliamento (-6,6%). Il Pil è aumentato dello 0,3% nel primo trimestre, contro il -0,2% dell'area euro, con crescita acquisita 2026 allo 0,6%. Persistono rischi legati agli shock energetici e alle tensioni geopolitiche.
https://www.ilsole24ore.com/art/industria-istat-03percento-produzione-maggio-11percento-anno-AJpK2yE

Rinnovabili, dal 2020 fermi in autorizzazione progetti per 144 GW, *Il Sole 24 Ore*
In Italia risultano bloccati in autorizzazione 144 GW di progetti rinnovabili presentati dal 2020, a fronte di 25 GW approvati e 17 GW respinti o archiviati. Le richieste complessive degli ultimi sei anni ammontano a 186 GW, di cui 119 GW solari e 67 GW eolici. L'eolico è il segmento più penalizzato: 35 GW attendono la Via nazionale e il ministero della Cultura ha espresso parere negativo nel 91% dei casi onshore greenfield. Dal 2021 al 31 maggio 2026 sono stati installati 27.785 MW, soprattutto fotovoltaico, ma restano 52.216 MW da realizzare per raggiungere gli 80.001 MW previsti al 2030. I colli di bottiglia autorizzativi minacciano transizione energetica, competitività e riduzione delle bollette.

https://www.ilsole24ore.com/art/rinnovabili-2020-fermi-autorizzazione-progetti-144-gw-AJNHj4B

UniCredit secures 48% of Commerzbank shares, nearing control, *Reuters*
UniCredit has secured 47.6% of Commerzbank’s shares, bringing it close to effective control of the German lender after a takeover effort launched in 2024. Excluding non-voting treasury shares, its voting stake reaches 49.7%, above the level generally associated with control under German corporate rules. The European Central Bank is expected to assess whether UniCredit has de facto control, although majority ownership would still be needed to appoint all shareholder representatives to the supervisory board. Berlin, which retains a 12% stake after the 2009 bailout, continues to oppose the move, while unions and Commerzbank management remain resistant. The transaction’s heavy use of derivatives and swap-linked tendered shares could also trigger legal disputes and capital-accounting consequences.
https://www.reuters.com/legal/transactional/unicredit-secures-176-commerzbank-2026-07-08/

Dalla cybersecurity alla stampante 3D: al via i nuovi voucher per la transizione digitale delle Pmi, *Il Sole 24 Ore*
Il nuovo Bando Voucher Doppia Transizione mette a disposizione 150 milioni di euro nel triennio per cofinanziare investimenti digitali e sostenibili delle micro, piccole e medie imprese. Partecipano 61 Camere di commercio; i contributi, a fondo perduto e in regime de minimis, coprono fino al 70% delle spese ammissibili. Sono finanziabili intelligenza artificiale, stampa 3D, cloud, quantum computing, cybersecurity, robotica, big data, blockchain, IoT, gestionali, monitoraggio energetico e strumenti Esg, mentre restano esclusi hardware di base, siti web e pubblicità digitale. Le domande seguono l’ordine cronologico fino a esaurimento fondi tramite ReStart, con Spid e firma digitale. È obbligatoria l’autovalutazione Selfi4.0; previste premialità di 250 euro per rating di legalità o certificazione di parità di genere.
https://www.ilsole24ore.com/art/dalla-cybersecurity-stampante-3d-via-nuovivoucher-la-transizione-digitale-pmi-AJj7Uy

International

UN probe says mass killings, rapes, abductions, starvation by Sudan force amount to genocide, *The Straits Times*
A UN fact-finding mission has found that Sudan’s Rapid Support Forces committed mass killings, abductions of women and girls, gang rapes and forced starvation in al-Fashir, North Darfur, as part of an intentional policy amounting

to genocide. The force captured the city last year after a prolonged siege, during which relief supplies were obstructed and food production systems shelled. The findings build on earlier conclusions that attacks on non-Arab communities bore hallmarks of genocide. The warning is urgent because similar patterns are emerging around al-Obeid, now home to around 500,000 people, including more than 83,000 internally displaced persons. The case strengthens the imperative for international prevention, accountability and humanitarian access before atrocities escalate further.
https://www.straitstimes.com/world/europe/un-probe-says-mass-killings-rapes-abductions-starvation-by-sudan-force-amount-to-genocide

OpenAI and Google are supplying AI models to Chinese groups on the Pentagon's blacklist, *Il Sole 24 Ore*
OpenAI and Google have confirmed that Singapore and Hong Kong-based subsidiaries of Alibaba, Baidu and Tencent can access their artificial-intelligence services, despite the Chinese parent groups appearing on the Pentagon's list of companies allegedly linked to the People's Liberation Army. The transactions are legal because US rules restrict certain cutting-edge models but do not impose a comprehensive ban on supplying AI software to blacklisted Chinese companies overseas. OpenAI recently suspended API access associated with Alibaba over suspected model distillation and notified the US government. Google likewise prohibits distillation but says geographic controls can be circumvented. The case has intensified calls for tighter export controls, while Anthropic has adopted broader restrictions and alleged that Alibaba created about 25,000 fraudulent accounts generating 28.8 million Claude interactions.
https://en.ilsole24ore.com/art/openai-and-google-provide-ai-models-chinese-groups-blacklisted-by-the-pentagon-AJDrosE

IEA's Russian oil output forecasts cut after Ukraine attacks, *The Straits Times*
The International Energy Agency has lowered its Russian oil-production forecasts because sustained Ukrainian drone attacks are damaging refineries, storage sites and transport infrastructure. It cut expected supply by 85,000 barrels per day for 2026 and 150,000 bpd for 2027, forecasting output of 8.9 million bpd this year and 8.8 million in 2027, against 9.2 million in 2025. June crude production rose by 120,000 bpd to 8.86 million, but remained 900,000 bpd below Russia's OPEC+ quota. Refinery disruption has redirected more crude towards exports: total crude shipments reached 5.8 million bpd in June, up 620,000, while western ports handled nearly 3 million bpd. Product exports fell to 1.91 million bpd, prompting new Russian restrictions on diesel, petrol and jet-fuel sales abroad.
https://www.straitstimes.com/world/europe/ieas-russian-oil-output-forecasts-cut-after-ukraine-attacks

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