



European Latitudes

Perspectives on Europe, Italy, and the world.

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

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

Tuesday, 4 August 2026

Europe

EU countries recast 'Made in Europe' around products, not countries, *POLITICO Europe*

EU governments want to revise the Industrial Accelerator Act so that preferential treatment in public procurement and industrial-support programmes is based on the legal origin of individual products, rather than on a simple list of countries regarded as European partners. Under the proposed "partner origin" system, a product made outside the EU could receive the same treatment as an EU-made product only when the EU has explicitly granted market access for that type of product through the World Trade Organization's Government Procurement Agreement, a free-trade agreement or a customs union. This would prevent every product from a trade-partner country from qualifying automatically. Member states would also gain greater influence over which countries and products are included, taking account of reciprocal access for European goods, strategic dependencies and security-of-supply risks. The European Commission would publish detailed product-by-product eligibility lists through its Access2Markets portal. For steel, origin would be determined by where the metal was melted and poured, limiting the ability to obtain European status through minor processing. European-content requirements for steel, cement and aluminium would remain, although their planned introduction in 2029 could be postponed if the necessary technical rules are not ready. The compromise is intended to make the policy more compatible with international

trade law and more acceptable to national governments, but its greater legal and administrative complexity could delay adoption.

<https://www.politico.eu/article/eu-countries-recast-made-in-europe-around-products-not-countries/>

France bolsters checks on ‘sensitive’ foreign investments, *POLITICO Europe*

France will require government approval when non-European investors seek more than 10 per cent of a French company operating in a sensitive sector and listed outside the EU. Covering defence, critical infrastructure and key technologies, the measure extends a Covid-era screening threshold previously applied to companies listed on European markets. Authorities aim to respond within 10 days, balancing national-security protection with companies’ need to raise capital efficiently. The reform follows a parliamentary call for a broader economic-security policy encompassing strategic assets, critical supply chains, technological sovereignty and reduced external dependencies. It is designed to prevent opportunistic acquisitions by non-EU investors and brings France closer to German and Spanish regimes that apply similar 10 per cent thresholds in strategic sectors.

<https://www.politico.eu/article/france-check-sensitive-foreign-investment-sebastien-lecornu/>

Europe wants to kick its Palantir habit, *POLITICO Europe*

European governments are pursuing sovereign alternatives to Palantir as the US data-analytics company becomes embedded across policing, intelligence, defence, health care and major industries. France and Germany have selected ChapsVision for intelligence work, Spain is restricting future procurement, and Britain may reconsider the NHS’s £330 million Federated Data Platform contract in 2027. However, Palantir’s ability to integrate vast datasets, support battlefield targeting and embed engineers inside client organisations remains difficult to replicate; NATO officials say no viable competitor currently matches its military AI. The debate combines security, democratic accountability and industrial policy. European suppliers remain fragmented, while dependence on US cloud and hardware compounds the challenge. Replacing Palantir would therefore test whether procurement, standards and sustained public investment can deliver meaningful digital sovereignty.

<https://www.politico.eu/article/europe-wants-to-kick-its-palantir-habit/>

Italy and Germany’s censure of Spain’s migrant amnesty is ‘hypocritical’, *Financial Times*

Criticism of Spain’s migrant regularisation by Italy, Germany and other EU governments is undermined by their own legalisation programmes. Spain expected about 500,000 applications but received 1.2 million, while Italy is

projected to issue almost 1.1 million work permits under Giorgia Meloni between 2022 and 2028, including 590,700 granted by 2025 and a further 497,550 planned. Although formally designed for overseas recruitment, Italy's Flow Decree often benefits people already residing irregularly. Germany granted roughly 90,800 temporary permits to people with tolerated status, while Greece approved about 25,000 regularisations. Spain has conducted six previous amnesties, including nearly 600,000 cases in 2005. Regularisation can reduce informal work and raise tax revenues, but inconsistent national approaches risk political friction and uneven application of EU migration rules.

<https://www.ft.com/content/d640ec5d-16c9-44e2-875e-30db7714ada9>

Hungary faces energy crunch as drought shuts down Paks nuclear plant, PM says, *POLITICO Europe*

Hungary faces an acute electricity-supply risk after record drought and falling Danube levels forced the complete shutdown of the Paks nuclear plant for the first time in 44 years. The Soviet-built facility normally supplies about 40 per cent of national generation, making the outage severe as Budapest temperatures are forecast to exceed 40°C. The government has identified a critical five-day period, asked households and businesses to cut consumption between 5pm and 10pm, and urged limits on air conditioning and washing-machine use. Contingency plans include rotating restrictions for industry and higher output from other plants, while neighbouring countries have offered support. The European Commission may convene the Electricity Coordination Group, highlighting climate-related vulnerabilities in nuclear cooling and regional energy security.

<https://www.politico.eu/article/hungary-shuts-down-paks-nuclear-plant-danube-drought-intensifies-energy-crisis/>

Denmark begins extended military conscription in response to Russia, Trump, *The Straits Times*

Denmark has begun expanded conscription, with about 1,600 recruits starting 11 months of service as Copenhagen strengthens defence amid Russia's war in Ukraine and Arctic tensions. The reform extends standard service from four months, includes women for the first time and aims to raise annual conscription from 5,000 people to 7,500 by 2033. Recruits will complete five months of basic training and six months of operational service, with specialist pathways including a drone platoon. More than 100 conscripts are also expected to deploy to Greenland for one month, assuming duties from professional troops. The move carries strategic weight because the United States has renewed claims over the territory, firmly rejected by Denmark and Greenland, reinforcing Copenhagen's commitment to defend all NATO territory.

<https://www.straitstimes.com/world/europe/denmark-begins-extended-military-conscription-in-response-to-russia-trump>

Italy

Difesa, dallo specialista cyber militare ai droni, scatta il primo tempo della riforma Crosetto, *Il Sole 24 Ore*

La riforma della Difesa porta il cyberspazio nell'architettura militare ordinaria e attribuisce al Capo di Stato maggiore la guida delle operazioni cibernetiche. Il perimetro comprende infrastrutture hardware e software, dati, connessioni, sistemi cyber-fisici, sensori e controlli industriali installati su mezzi e piattaforme, anche per attività oltre i confini nazionali. Nasce lo Specialista Cyber Militare e il ministero assume organizzazione, formazione e impiego del personale cyber interforze, ferme le competenze dell'Agenzia per la cybersicurezza nazionale. Il disegno di legge, articolato in 15 articoli, istituisce inoltre un fondo da 10 milioni di euro annui dal 2026 per ricerca militare, rafforza la governance interforze, crea un centro contro le minacce ibride, disciplina i droni e facilita permute immobiliari. La riserva volontaria resta rinviata per carenza di risorse.

<https://www.ilsole24ore.com/art/difesa-specialista-cyber-militare-droni-scatta-primo-tempo-riforma-crosetto-AjzFxFd>

Italy's Giorgia Meloni bets big on nuclear power revival, *Financial Times*

Italy is preparing a return to nuclear power as high electricity prices, gas dependence and rural opposition to wind and solar reshape energy policy. Parliament's lower house has approved a framework for small modular reactors; after expected Senate approval, the government would have 12 months to establish regulation, licensing and waste-disposal procedures. Italian power prices are around 30 per cent above the European average, while fossil fuels generate about half of electricity. Newcleo has raised \$780 million to develop lead-cooled reactors using recycled nuclear waste, but commercial SMRs remain unproven and industry warns that businesses cannot wait a decade. About 130GW of renewable projects await approval. Nuclear support has risen to 57 per cent, yet siting, costs, waste and a possible referendum remain major obstacles.

<https://www.ft.com/content/6a987490-f3f8-45f7-8b1c-fd09d9fa874d>

Pil: Upb alza stima a +0,9% nel 2026, conferma +0,6% nel 2027, *Il Sole 24 Ore*

L'Ufficio parlamentare di bilancio ha rivisto al rialzo la crescita italiana per il 2026 allo 0,9%, quattro decimi in più rispetto alla valutazione di aprile, confermando invece lo 0,6% per il 2027. La correzione segnala una resilienza dell'economia superiore alle attese nonostante instabilità geopolitica, tensioni commerciali e shock energetici. L'inflazione, tuttavia, resta il principale rischio:

è salita al 3% nel secondo trimestre, trainata dai rincari energetici connessi alle tensioni in Medio Oriente, per poi rallentare al 2,8% in luglio. Il deflatore dei consumi delle famiglie è previsto intorno al 3,1% medio nel 2026 e al 2,3% nel 2027. Poiché il costo del lavoro crescerebbe meno dei prezzi, è attesa una temporanea erosione del potere d'acquisto.

<https://www.ilsole24ore.com/art/pil-upb-alza-stima-09percento-2026-conferma-06percento-2027-AjfwOTe>

Ortaggi, frutta e olio d'oliva: caldo e siccità mettono in ginocchio l'agricoltura. Latte -10%, *Il Sole 24 Ore*

L'agricoltura italiana è stretta tra siccità, caldo estremo e rincari di carburanti e fertilizzanti legati alla crisi mediorientale. Il raccolto di grano duro è diminuito del 6%, mentre riso e mais sono esposti alla scarsità d'acqua e alla pressione delle importazioni asiatiche. Nella zootecnia da latte, il caldo ha ridotto la produzione di circa il 10%. L'ortofrutta registra contemporaneamente minori rese e prezzi agricoli in caduta, con pere a -17% e pesche e nettarine a -18%. Vino e olio, filiere da oltre 19 miliardi di euro complessivi, affrontano raccolti anticipati e scorte elevate: 46,6 milioni di ettolitri di vino e oltre 250.000 tonnellate di olio. Servono promozione, gestione mirata dell'offerta, semplificazione e incentivi all'innovazione.

<https://www.ilsole24ore.com/art/ortaggi-frutta-e-olio-d-oliva-caldo-e-siccita-mettono-ginocchio-l-agricoltura-AjfQ2pd>

International

AI offers 'lifeline' for emerging economies, World Bank says, *Reuters*

Artificial intelligence could allow developing economies to compress a century of progress into a decade, provided governments close gaps in electricity, connectivity, digital skills and device access. Low-cost, locally adapted tools could improve diagnosis, lesson planning, judicial services and agricultural advice without requiring expensive domestic large-language models or vast data-centre capacity. Labour-market exposure is also lower than in wealthy economies: generative AI threatens an estimated 4.5 per cent of jobs in low- and middle-income countries, compared with 14.2 per cent in high-income countries. Potential productivity gains are more comparable, affecting 16.2 per cent and 18.7 per cent of jobs respectively. The opportunity is substantial, but policy safeguards are essential because AI may widen income inequality, strengthen misinformation and enable political repression.

<https://www.reuters.com/business/ai-offers-lifeline-emerging-economies-world-bank-says-2026-08-04/>

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