

The future of Europe will be decided in Ukraine

Jonatan Vsevirov - 09 Jun 2026

The war in Ukraine is a decisive issue for the future of Europe, since its outcome will have a lasting impact on the continent's security and stability. Lasting peace can only be achieved by preventing Russia from achieving its objectives, through increased support for Ukraine and greater economic pressure. The country's integration into European structures is a key strategic lever for ensuring future stability. More broadly, Europe must take greater responsibility for its own security and assert itself as an autonomous strategic actor.



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■ Foundation :



NextGenEU: new payments for Poland and Italy

On 2 June, the European Commission made a fourth payment of €7.2 billion to Poland, which has now received 62.4% of its total allocation of €54.71 billion under the Recovery and Resilience Facility. On 4 June, Italy received its ninth payment, amounting to €12.8 billion. Italy has received 85% of its funds allocated to the Recovery and Resilience Plan, amounting to a total of €194.4 billion. The Robert Schuman Foundation provides a summary of the various national recovery plans on its website, setting out the amounts, timetables and priorities. [Read more](#)

■ Commission :



Measures to strengthen technological sovereignty

On 3 June, the European Commission presented measures aimed at strengthening Europe's capabilities in the fields of semiconductors, artificial intelligence (AI), cloud computing and open source. The stated objectives are to accelerate the adoption of new technologies, strengthen the resilience of supply chains and reduce certain strategic dependencies. Two pieces of legislation are devoted to this: the Chips Act 2.0, focused on semiconductors, and the law on the development of cloud computing and AI, which aims to triple Europe's data centre capacity by 2030. This decision comes at a time when the EU remains 80% dependent on third countries, primarily the United States and China, for its digital products, services and infrastructure. [Read more](#)



The European Semester 2026 'Energy' Roadmap

On 3 June, the European Commission presented the Spring Package of the European Semester, setting out its recommendations on the economic, budgetary and social policies of the Member States. Among the common priorities, it highlights the importance of sound public finances and the need to maintain sustainable fiscal trajectories, whilst several countries remain subject to an excessive deficit procedure. In this context, the Commission announced that Member States taking measures to strengthen the Union's energy security could request limited fiscal flexibility with specific ceilings for energy resilience. [Read more](#)



Unprecedented deployment of fire-fighting resources

On 2 June, the European Commission announced the deployment of a record number of resources to tackle the risk of wildfires this summer. Under the EU Civil Protection Mechanism, 777 firefighters will be strategically pre-positioned across the European Union, supported by a summer fleet comprising 22 aircraft and 5 helicopters. To support them, the European Union Emergency Response Coordination Centre will be operating around the clock. In addition, the EU has set up rescEU, a strategic reserve ready to provide additional assistance in the event of large-scale crises. [Read more](#)



OceanEye initiative for ocean observation

On 3 June, the European Commission adopted the OceanEye initiative, which aims to position the European Union as the world's leading provider of ocean intelligence. This initiative aims to contribute 35% of the global ocean observation system by 2035. To strengthen the EU's position, OceanEye enables a structured approach to governance through the creation of a European digital ocean system that will incorporate existing services such as the Copernicus Marine Service and WISE Marine. An international alliance will be launched to enhance global coordination. [Read more](#)



European Women Innovators Award

On 4 June, at the European Innovation Council Summit, the European Commission announced the winners of the 12th European Women Innovators Award. Among the winners were Katerina Spranger, founder and CEO of Oxford Heartbeat, which uses artificial intelligence to improve treatments for cerebral aneurysms, and Marta Oliveria, co-founder and COO of ATMOS Space Cargo, which enables reusable space capsules to safely return materials from orbit. [Read more](#)

■ Council :



Meeting of Ministers for Justice and Home Affairs

On 4 and 5 June, the Ministers for Justice and Home Affairs reviewed the implementation of the European Pact on Migration and Asylum, just a few days before its scheduled entry into force on 12 June, and monitored progress on the new Eurodac system. They then discussed the general situation in the Schengen area and approved the Union's new action plan against drug trafficking. On 5 June, the ministers adopted a new position on the Justice Programme 2028–2034. A presentation was given on the status of the European Public Prosecutor's Office and its reforms, and Hungary officially announced that it would join it. [Read more](#) - [Other link](#)



New aid for Lebanon under the European Peace Facility

On 4 June, the Council adopted a fourth aid package aimed at strengthening the defence capabilities of the Lebanese Armed Forces. The total amount of aid granted to Lebanon under the European Peace Facility now stands at €182 million. This new non-lethal support programme is designed to strengthen the Lebanese Armed Forces in five areas, through the provision of military equipment and training: territorial control, multi-domain awareness, maritime security, protection of critical military sites and healthcare. [Read more](#)

■ Trilogues :



New rules on the return of migrants

On 1 June, negotiators from the European Parliament and the Council reached a provisional agreement on new rules concerning the return of third-country nationals in an irregular situation. Based on a Commission proposal of 25 March 2025, the text provides for transfers to third countries via bilateral agreements, provided they respect human rights. It also introduces a 'European return order' via the Schengen Information System, allowing Member States to enforce a decision taken by another EU country. The migrants concerned will be required to cooperate with the authorities, failing which they will face punishment. [Read more](#) - [Other link](#)

■ Diplomacy :



EU-Western Balkans Summit

On 5 June, leaders from the European Union and the six Western Balkan countries met in Tivat, Montenegro. This was the second summit in six months, enabling the European Union to reaffirm its commitment to the Western Balkans' accession prospects. Discussions focused on the implementation of the €6 billion growth plan. Security and defence were at the heart of the talks, with the EU particularly committed to building resilience against cyber threats in the Balkans. Furthermore, the President of the European Council, Antonio Costa, reiterated his commitment to the integration of the Balkans into the EU and encouraged them to accelerate their reforms in this direction. [Read more](#)

■ Denmark :



Mette Frederiksen succeeds in forming a new coalition government

On 3 June, Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen succeeded in forming a coalition government following the 24 March elections, bringing together four parties: the Social Democratic Party, the Socialist People's Party (SF), the Social Liberal Party (Radikale Venstre, centre-left) and the Moderates (Moderaterne, centre), thus totalling 82 seats out of 179. For the first time in Denmark's history, her new government has more women than men, with 11 women out of 21 ministers. When presenting her programme, she advocated a strong welfare state to support families in the face of inflation, whilst maintaining a restrictive immigration policy. [Read more](#) - [Other link](#)

■ France :



9th annual Choose France Summit

On 1 June, the 9th annual Choose France Summit took place in Versailles. Launched in 2018, this initiative—which brings together the French government and more than 200 business leaders from nearly 50 countries—showcases France's proactive policy to promote economic activity within its borders to major international companies. On this occasion, French President Emmanuel Macron announced 71 new investments in France, totalling a record €93 billion and creating over 15,000 jobs. Since 2018, 231 investment decisions have been finalised, representing approximately €87 billion invested in the country. [Read more](#)



Emmanuel Macron's visit to Montenegro

On 4 June, French President Emmanuel Macron visited Montenegro. This was the first official visit by a French president to Montenegro since its independence in 2006. During his visit, he met with his Montenegrin counterpart, Jakov Milatovic, and Prime Minister Milojko Spajic. These meetings resulted in the signing of five agreements, designed to strengthen bilateral cooperation between the two countries, particularly in the fields of energy, health, transport, defence, cybersecurity and the fight against disinformation. [Read more](#)

■ Hungary :



Peter Magyar's visit to Berlin and Paris

On 2 June, the Hungarian Prime Minister, Peter Magyar, travelled to Berlin, where he met with the German Chancellor, Friedrich Merz. The two men discussed competitiveness and the EU budget, as well as strengthening Hungary's position within the Union. He then travelled to Paris on 3 June, where he met with President Emmanuel Macron. The two men discussed, in particular, support for Ukraine and the continuation of sanctions against Russia, European security and defence, strengthening European competitiveness, and preparations for the next multiannual financial framework. [Read more - Other link](#)

■ Lithuania :



Social Democrats exclude populists from the ruling coalition

The Lithuanian Social Democrats, who lead the ruling coalition, decided on 6 June to exclude the populist party "Dawn on the Nemunas" and invited the "For Lithuania" Democrats' Union to begin talks on joining the coalition. The potential new coalition of Social Democrats, Democrats, the Agrarian Union and the Greens would have a majority of 75 out of 141 MPs, compared with the current 80. The new coalition is expected to be announced in the coming weeks. [Read more](#)

■ Romania :



Appointment of a new Prime Minister

On 4 June, the Romanian President, Nicosur Dan, appointed Eugen Tomac as Prime Minister, one month after the motion of no confidence in the government led by Ilie Bolojan was passed by the Social Democrats and the far right. The new Prime Minister, who was previously a Member of the European Parliament, has 10 days to submit a programme and a cabinet list to Parliament. [Read more - Other link](#)

■ Slovenia :



Janez Janša's new government

On 4 June, following the 11th extraordinary session of the National Assembly, Slovenian MPs approved the formation of the new coalition government led by Janez Janša, by 49 votes to 30. Backed by several centre-right and right-wing parties, it comprises 16 ministers, including five women. [Read more - Other link](#)

■ Armenia :



Nikol Pashinyan's pro-European path reinforced

On 7 June, Armenian voters backed outgoing Prime Minister, Nikol Pashinyan, leader of the Civic Contract party, who comfortably beat his opponents by securing 50% of the vote. These elections amounted to a choice between a rapprochement with the European Union or remaining within Moscow's orbit, embodied by the billionaire Samvel Karapetyan, leader of the Strong Armenia party (23%). The outgoing Prime Minister's victory, with a large majority, bolsters Nikol Pashinyan's position in pursuing the reforms already underway and signals both a gradual distancing from Russia and Armenia's rapprochement with Western partners. [Read more - Other link](#)

■ Kosovo :



Parliamentary elections: Prime Minister leads but loses ground

On 7 June, the party of outgoing Prime Minister Albin Kurti, Vetëvendosje (VV, left), came out ahead in the early parliamentary elections with nearly 43% of the vote. These elections had been called following the dissolution of Parliament in April, due to a lack of agreement among the parties on the appointment of the country's president. Despite this victory, the party saw a drop of eight percentage points compared to the previous election in December 2025, when it won 51% of the vote. The result means Albin Kurti cannot govern alone and paves the way for difficult negotiations to form a majority, whilst Kosovo remains locked in a deep institutional deadlock. [Read more](#)

■ Moldova :



1st EU-Moldova Investment Conference

On 4 June, at the first EU-Moldova Investment Conference, the European Commission announced investment plans and project initiatives worth €641 million, which are expected to reach €1.9 billion by 2027. This conference precedes the 2nd EU-Moldova Summit, scheduled for 22 June in Brussels. [Read more](#) - [Other link](#)

■ Ukraine :



Joint statement by France, the United Kingdom and Germany

On 7 June, British Prime Minister Keir Starmer, French President Emmanuel Macron and German Chancellor Friedrich Merz met with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky to reaffirm their unwavering support for Ukraine as it defends itself against Russia's illegal invasion, and to discuss the next steps in negotiations to support a just and lasting peace. They emphasised that Europe had an important role to play in any settlement, as an unwavering supporter of Ukraine. The leaders made it clear that all efforts must be carried out in the closest cooperation with Ukraine, the wider European partners and the United States. [Read more](#)



Volodymyr Zelensky urges NATO to strengthen Ukraine's air defences

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On 3 June, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky addressed participants at the NATO-Ukraine Council meeting in Kyiv, attended by the Alliance's Secretary General, Mark Rutte. On this occasion, the Ukrainian head of state called on the Allies to step up and accelerate deliveries of air defence systems, notably Patriot interceptors, in the face of intensifying Russian ballistic missile strikes. He called for increased development of European anti-missile system production capabilities and for deeper defence industrial cooperation between Ukraine and its Western partners. This address forms part of the preparations for the upcoming NATO summit, where Ukraine intends to secure new commitments regarding military and security support. [Read more](#) - [Other link](#)



Agreement on the rights of the Hungarian minority in Ukraine

On 3 June, the Hungarian Prime Minister, Peter Magyar, announced that he had reached an agreement with Ukraine on the treatment of the Hungarian minority in Ukraine. The agreement concerns the extension of linguistic, educational, cultural and political rights for the approximately 100,000 Hungarians living on Ukraine's western border, in Transcarpathia. In return, Hungary has pledged to lift its veto on the launch of accession negotiations between Ukraine and the EU, which had hitherto been blocked by former Prime Minister Viktor Orban. [Read more](#) - [Other link](#)

■ Vatican :



A laywoman appointed to head the Dicastery for Communication

On 2 June, Pope Leo XIV appointed Maria Montserrat Alvarado of Mexico to head the Dicastery for Communication with effect from 1 November. This appointment is part of a trend that began in early 2025, when Leo XIV first entrusted the leadership of a dicastery to a woman, demonstrating his commitment to increasing the number of women in the governing bodies of the Catholic Church. [Read more](#)

■ OECD :



Ministerial Meeting on Industrial Policy

On 3 and 4 June, OECD ministers concluded their annual meeting in Paris, chaired by Finland and themed "Industrial policies for open markets, growth and prosperity". On this occasion, they adopted a declaration aimed at strengthening international cooperation on industrial policies and securing supplies of critical minerals. They endorsed the OECD's first recommendation on quantum technologies, designed to promote innovation, skills development and the resilience of value chains. These commitments reflect member countries' determination to strengthen their technological competitiveness and economic security against a backdrop of growing industrial rivalry. [Read more](#) - [Other link](#)

■ UN :



Five new member states elected to the UN Security Council

On 3 June, the 193 UN member states voted to elect the new non-permanent members of the UN Security Council for the 2027–2028 term. For the two seats reserved for the "Western European" (WEOG) group, three countries stood as candidates: Germany, Austria and Portugal. After six consecutive terms on the Security Council since 1973, Germany suffered an unprecedented diplomatic setback with 104 votes, compared to 134 for Portugal and 131 for Austria. The three other contested seats were awarded to Zimbabwe and Trinidad and Tobago for the African Group and the Latin American and Caribbean Group, whilst Kyrgyzstan secured the Asia-Pacific seat for the first time in its history, ahead of the Philippines, following a four-round vote. [Read more](#) - [Other link](#)

■ Studies/Reports :



Justice Scoreboard

On 4 June, the European Commission published the 14th issue of the Justice Scoreboard for the European Union. The 2026 edition reports an improved perception of judicial independence and continued progress in the digitalisation of justice systems across the 27 Member States. For the first time, the report provides an overview of the jurisdiction of the highest administrative courts and ordinary courts of the Member States in commercial matters. The findings of the Scoreboard will feed into the Commission's 2026 report on the rule of law and the European Semester. [Read more](#) - [Other link](#)



Support for youth employment

On 4 June, the European Court of Auditors published a report on cohesion policy support for youth employment. It notes that the Youth Guarantee has benefited nearly 57 million young people since 2013 and that unemployment among 15–29-year-olds has fallen from over 20% to under 12%. Whilst defending the overall effectiveness of the European Social Fund, the Court calls on the Commission to better assess long-term results, to limit the free-ride effects of recruitment subsidies and to better target young people who are not in employment. [Read more](#)

■ Culture :



Monet in Le Havre

To mark the centenary of the death of Claude Monet (1840–1926), the André Malraux Museum of Modern Art in Le Havre is presenting, until 27 September, a unique insight into the painter's early years through the exhibition "Monet in Le Havre". Featuring nearly a hundred works and documents from prestigious public and private institutions, as well as from the collections of the artist's descendants, the exhibition sheds new light on the links between the father of Impressionism and the city of Le Havre. [Read more](#)



Berthe Brincour in Luxembourg

Until 10 January 2027, the National Museum um Fëschmaart in Luxembourg is presenting the first retrospective of the work of the Luxembourgish painter Berthe Brincour, 80 years after she bequeathed her entire body of work to the State. Her expressive and modern art is now on display, following extensive research and restoration work [Read more](#)



Contemporary Art in Glasgow

Until 21 June, Glasgow is hosting the 11th annual Scottish Biennial of Contemporary Art, bringing together more than 50 Scottish and international artists through exhibitions, performances and talks held at over twenty cultural venues across the city. This year's edition focuses on the themes of memory, solidarity, community and international exchange. [Read more](#)



Maribor Theatre Festival

Until 21 June, Maribor is hosting the 61st Borštnikovo Srečanje, Slovenia's leading theatre festival, across 19 venues throughout the city. In addition to the 12 Slovenian productions in competition and the invited international productions, the festival offers a supporting programme packed with professional networking events, exhibitions and conferences. At the end of the event, a professional jury will award several prizes, including the Borštnikov Ring, which recognises an actor's lifetime achievement. [Read more](#)



Granada Festival

Until 12 July, Granada is celebrating music and dance with the 75th edition of its festival. Featuring classical music, ballet and flamenco, the festival is a veritable explosion of artistic activities and takes place in the city's most iconic venues. [Read more](#)



Bachfest in Leipzig

Until 21 June, Leipzig is hosting the Bachfest festival, which brings together around a hundred musical events centred on an annual theme. This year, the theme "In Dialogue" celebrates the dialogue between musical voices and the interpretative traditions that characterise Bach's work. The programme ranges from the opening concert conducted by the current Thomaskantor to the traditional closing concert, featuring a performance of the Mass in B minor at St Thomas Church. [Read more](#)



Lucian Freud in Denmark

Until 27 September, the Louisiana Museum, in collaboration with the National Portrait Gallery in London, is dedicating its summer exhibition to Lucian Freud's lifelong fascination with the human face and figure. Exploring the artist's supreme mastery of drawing in all its forms – from pencil, pen and ink to charcoal and printmaking – the exhibition highlights the unique dialogue that exists between Freud's drawings and his paintings. [Read more](#)



Opening of new Franco-German Cultural Institutes

On 4 June, France and Germany announced the opening of two new Franco-German Cultural Institutes (ICFA) in Córdoba (Argentina) and Glasgow, as part of the Aachen Treaty aimed at strengthening their cultural cooperation abroad. These joint structures, supported by the networks of the Alliance Française and the Goethe-Institut, aim to promote linguistic, cultural and educational exchanges, as well as shared democratic values. This new phase of expansion brings the number of ICFAs opened since 2021 to five and forms part of the Franco-German strategy to consolidate its cultural influence on an international scale. [Read more](#)

■ Sport :



FIFA World Cup

On 11 June, Mexico will kick off the 2026 FIFA World Cup, which is also being held in the United States and Canada and will feature 48 teams for the first time. The 16 European teams that qualified through the qualifying rounds will be vying for the title on 19 July at MetLife Stadium in New Jersey. [Read more](#)

■ Agenda :

 08/06/2026

'Transport, Telecommunications, Energy' Council (Brussels)

 10-11/06/2026

ECB Council of Governors (Frankfurt/Main)

 10/06/2026

European Union-Republic of South Korea Summit (Brussels)

 11/06/2026


Eurogroup

 12/06/2026

'Economic and Financial Affairs' Council

 15-18/06

European Parliament Plenary Session (Strasbourg)

 15-17/06/2026

G7 Summit (Evian)

 15/06/2026

Foreign Affairs Council



The Letter n°1159

PDF

in English -- Edition of Tuesday 9th June 2026

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N° ISSN: **2729-6482**

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