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text

August 2025

NEWSLETTER

Think Visegrad in Brussels

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Welcome to the **August edition** of the newsletter of Think Visegrad in Brussels. This issue traditionally presents activities and publications of the **Think Visegrad** in Brussels projects, the individual members of the **Think Visegrad** platform and informs about the upcoming events.

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Europe 2025 : Danish EU Council Presidency, EU - China Summit, EU Budget 2028–2034,

EUUS Joint Statement on Peace for Ukraine

📍 Brussels, 10 August 2025

👥 Signatories:

President Macron, Prime Minister Meloni, Chancellor Merz, Prime Minister Tusk, Prime Minister Starmer, President von der Leyen, President Stubb

🔑 Key Messages

🌐 On Trump–Putin Talks

- Leaders welcome **President Trump's efforts** to stop the war and achieve a just and lasting peace.

👤 Conditions for Peace

- A diplomatic solution **must protect Ukraine's and Europe's vital security interests.**
- These include robust, credible security guarantees enabling Ukraine to defend its sovereignty and territorial integrity.
- **Ukraine alone has the freedom to choose its destiny;** no negotiations without Ukraine.

On Russia's War of Aggression Against Ukraine

- Reaffirm that **Russia's invasion is a flagrant violation of the UN Charter, the Helsinki Final Act, the Budapest Memorandum,** and Russia's own commitments.

👥 EU leaders pledge to:

- Uphold **military and financial support to Ukraine,** incl. through the Coalition of the Willing.
- Maintain and impose restrictive **measures against Russia.**

EU 🌐 Joint Statement on the Humanitarian Situation in Gaza

📍 Brussels, 12 August 2025

👥 Signatories:

Foreign Ministers of Andorra, Australia, Belgium, Canada, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, UK

- Kaja Kallas, Dubravka Šuica, Hadja Lahbib

🔑 Key Messages

- Gaza faces unimaginable suffering; **famine is unfolding.**
- **Urgent action is needed** to stop and reverse starvation.
- Humanitarian space must be safeguarded, aid must not be politicised.
- Call on Israel to authorise NGO shipments and unblock aid actors.

🚚 🌐 Safe Access & Protection

- **Immediate, permanent steps** needed to allow large-scale **access for UN and humanitarian partners.**

📄 Political Track

- Gratitude to the US, Qatar, Egypt for ceasefire efforts.

Urgent needs:

- Ceasefire to end the war
- Release of hostages
- Unhindered land access for humanitarian aid

US EU The US–EU “Turnberry Deal” – A Framework on Reciprocal, Fair & Balanced Trade

📌 Joint Statement, 21 August 2025

The agreement between President Trump and Commission President von der Leyen – struck in Turnberry on 27 July and **published on 21 August** – has been described both as a **betrayal of EU multilateral principles** and as the **best available compromise to stabilise relations and ensure US support on Ukraine**. US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer framed it as the start of a new **“Turnberry System”** replacing the post-WWII Bretton Woods order.

🔑 Key Provisions

🇺🇸 Tariffs & Market Access

- US applies a **15% ceiling on most EU imports** (except cork, aircraft & parts, pharmaceuticals – MFN only).
- Car tariffs cut from **27.5% → 15%**, retroactive from 1 August once EU legislation is passed.

📈 Purchases & Investments

- **EU to procure \$750bn US energy** and \$40bn AI chips by 2028.
- **European companies expected to invest \$600bn** in US strategic sectors.
- **EU commits to “substantially increase”** procurement of **US defence** equipment.

⚖️ Implementation & Risks

- **US:** Enforcing the deal via **executive orders** and **tariff threats**, not dispute settlement.
- **EU:** Commission gains wide powers to **suspend liberalisation** if US fails to comply or undermines objectives.
- **Many commitments** (energy, AI chips, investments) **are aspirational**; failure could trigger tariff escalation.

EU UA EU delivers over €4 billion to Ukraine ahead of its Independence Day

📌 24 August 2025 – Brussels

Ahead of Ukraine’s 34th Independence Day on 24 August, the EU has disbursed **€4.05bn** in support to the country:

- **€3.05bn** via the **Ukraine Facility** (4th regular payment)
- **€1bn** via the **Commission’s Macro-Financial Assistance** (MFA, contribution to G7-led ERA loans)

President of the European Commission,**Ursula von der Leyen:**

"Our solidarity with Ukraine is unwavering. This new funding underlines our commitment not only to Ukraine's recovery, but to its future as a sovereign and democratic country."

⚖️ Context & Risks

- **EU + Member States remain Ukraine's largest donor:** €168.9bn mobilised since Feb 2022.
- **€73.6bn humanitarian**, budget & recovery support
- **€59.6bn military aid** (incl. EPF)
- €15bn bilateral Member State aid
- **€3.7bn from frozen Russian assets**

EU **EU Foreign & Defence Ministers: Informal "Gymnich" Meeting in Copenhagen**

📍 Copenhagen | 📅 28–30 August 2025

As part of the Danish EU Presidency, foreign and defence ministers of the European Union gathered in Copenhagen for informal "Gymnich" meetings to discuss Europe's foreign, security and defence policy.

🇪🇺 Defence Ministers (28–29 August)

- Discussions centred on **EU military support to Ukraine**, including ammunition, missiles and air defence initiatives.
- Ministers also exchanged views on strengthening **EU-Ukraine defence industry** cooperation, with emphasis on ensuring Ukraine's long-term self-defence capabilities.
- NATO Deputy Secretary General Radmila Shekerinska joined the debate.

Ministers reviewed progress on the **White Paper on European Defence Readiness 2030** and the proposed **REARM plan**, with calls to close critical capability gaps and reduce dependence on external actors.

🇪🇺 Training Mission Debate

- **HR/VP Kaja Kallas** proposed expanding the mandate so **training could immediately begin in Ukraine** once a ceasefire is reached.
- **Ministers gave "broad support" in principle** but stopped short of immediate backing. The mission's current mandate, **extended until end-2026**, limits training to EU territory.
- So far, the EU has trained over **80,000 Ukrainian soldiers**, making it the largest provider of training.

us Strategic Signal

Kallas stressed that extending the training mission into Ukraine would **send an important message to the United States:** that Europeans are ready to take the lead on **security guarantees for Kyiv.**

🌐 Foreign Ministers (29–30 August)

- Core topics included **Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine** and the situation in the Middle East.

- Broader reflection on the **EU's global role and foreign policy strategy**, with participation of external partners
- Meeting hosted by **Danish Foreign Minister Lars Løkke Rasmussen** and **chaired by EU High Representative Kaja Kallas**.

 The "Gymnich" Format

- **Informal meetings of foreign ministers** take place every six months.

In this **August edition**, and throughout the year, we will bring you analyses, insights, and expertise from top experts within the **Think Visegrad platform**, offering a Central European perspective on what lies ahead for the EU—from security and defence to economic shifts and digital transformation.

Stay with us and stay ahead of the key developments **shaping Europe in 2025!**

From our members: selected publications



OSW

CENTRE FOR EASTERN STUDIES
OSRODEK STUDIÓW WSCHODNICH



PISM

POLSKI INSTYTUT SPRAW MIĘDZYNARODOWYCH
THE POLISH INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Kamil Kłysiński

In the shadow of a potato crisis: problems of the Belarusian economy.

Paulina Wankiewicz

Protests in Serbia: government's provocations and escalation of violence

Imogen Wymer

Choosing Sides? The UK Between Trump's America and a United Europe

Rebeka Hengalová

Carbon Tax and Social Cohesion in Czechia

Aleksandra Maria Spancerska

Türkiye Eyes Role in European Security Architecture

Kinga Dudzińska

PM's Resignation Sparks Government Crisis in Lithuania



Olha Vasylevska-Smahliuk

**The True Cost of
Independence**

Jan Macháček

**Trump won the first round of
the trade war. Long term
consequences will not be
positive for anyone.**

Philip Pilkington

**Is the U.S. Treasury
Becoming Dependent on
Tariff Revenue?**

Zsolt Trembeczki

**From Breakthrough to
Breakdown: The Near
Collapse of U.S.–India Trade
Talks and What Comes Next**

Our Members: Future Events

>INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL
RELATIONS PRAGUE

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Czech Security Forum 2025: A New Cold War? Proxy Conflicts in a New Cold War.” **Registration Open**

 22 October 2025 |  09:00 CEST

 Kampus Hybernská, 110 00 Nové Město, Prague 1

 Language: English

We are pleased to invite you to our annual security conference:

“Czech Security Forum 2025: A New Cold War? Proxy Conflicts in a New Cold War.”

Today’s world is increasingly polarised, with global power dividing into Western-aligned states and **anti-Western powers** such as **Russia and China**, often supported by **Iran and North Korea**.

These **rivals use proxy wars** and information warfare to destabilise democracies, raising urgent questions:

- How do today’s proxy wars differ from the past?
- What new strategies and technologies are emerging?
Is this a clash of democracy vs authoritarianism?
- How will “neutral” states navigate the rivalry?
- How do today’s proxy wars differ from the past?

Our members on social media

[Centre for Euro-Atlantic Integration and Democracy](#)



[EUROPEUM Institute for European Policy](#)



[Center for Eastern Studied \(OSW\)](#)



[GLOBSEC Policy Institute](#)



[Hungarian Institute of International Affairs \(HIIA\)](#)



[Institute of International Relations Prague \(IIR\)](#)



[Slovak Foreign Policy Association \(SFPA\)](#)



[The Polish Institute of International Affairs \(PISM\)](#)



What is the ‘Think Visegrad in Brussels’ project?

In the first half of 2016, the Think Visegrad platform members agreed on the idea proposed by the EUROPEUM Institute for European Policy, to create a common representation office in Brussels. The main motivation for it is the need to encourage debate on issues of common interest to the EU and the V4 and explain the positions of the V4 to a wide audience. We would like to project an image of constructive partners, to explain the dynamics of the debates within our regions and to highlight our active contributions to EU policy-making. With this view and with the aim to boost discussions specifically on the Czech Republic and the EU, EUROPEUM has opened its Brussels office in January 2016.

The project run in the second half of 2016 and consisted of many interesting and successful events. The second part of the project was approved in June 2017 and continued until the end of the year. Project has been continuously running since 2018.





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