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text

June 2025

## NEWSLETTER

# Think Visegrad in Brussels

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Welcome to the **June 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 : NATO SUMMIT, G7, European Council 2025



## G7, NATO SUMMIT, European Council

### **G7 Summit 2025: Unity Undermined, Ukraine Sidestepped, Allies Walk on Eggshells**

At the **51st G7 summit**—marking the **57th annual meeting**—hosted by Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney in **Kananaskis, Alberta (June 16–17, 2025)**, leaders tried to project unity, but behind closed doors, divisions were hard to ignore

#### us U.S.: Blocking Consensus on Ukraine

- No joint **G7 statement** on Ukraine due to U.S. resistance. • Instead, a chair's summary was issued, expressing "**support for President Trump's efforts**" toward peace.
- **Trump refused stronger language on Russia**, despite pressure from other leaders.

#### CA Canada Steps In Alone

- **Carney** announced **billions in Canadian aid** and new sanctions on **Russian entities**.
- At the press conference, he subtly contradicted **Trump's revisionist comments** on Russia's G8 expulsion.

#### GBEU U.K. and EU: Moving Ahead Without the U.S.

- **Prime Minister Starmer** pledged to proceed with efforts to cap the price of Russian oil.
- European Commission **President Ursula von der Leyen** emphasized that "peace through strength" requires **renewed pressure on Russia and strategic stability among G7 partners**.
- The **EU called for a frank discussion** to restore predictability and coordination—signaling growing concern over U.S. reliability.
- Yet without full **G7 backing**, sanctions and oil price caps face serious implementation gaps.

#### **Key Takeaways**

- **No unified stance on Russia** = weakened G7 leverage
- Growing unease with the **U.S.'s role as a reliable partner**
- **G6 allies are increasingly exploring parallel or EU-led paths** to uphold international norms and support Ukraine

### **NATO Summit: Ukraine's Irreversible Path and a New Defence Pledge**

At the **NATO summits in Washington** and most recently in **The Hague, Netherlands (June 24–25, 2025)**, Allies reaffirmed unity and signalled stronger support for Ukraine—while also navigating complex strategic realities.

#### UA Ukraine: Closer to NATO

- A key outcome was NATO's declaration that **Ukraine's future membership** is "irreversible." While no date was given, this marks a **political step forward**.

#### **The Hague summit produced a headline agreement:**

- **5% of GDP for defence in exchange** for a renewed commitment to Article 5.
- **3.5% for core defence** capabilities
- **1.5% for dual-use** infrastructure and industrial support
- Yet questions remain: no new strategy on Russia was adopted, **Ukraine wasn't central**

**to discussions**, and spending increases won't solve coordination or capability gaps without deeper integration.

## EU What's Next for Europe?

- Coordinate **defence planning** and procurement
- Align spending with **strategic goals**
- The 5% pledge is **only a starting point**.
- Strategic clarity and **collective action** must follow.

## EU European Council 2025: Strategic Resolve, Institutional Caution, and a Message to Partners

At the meeting in **Brussels (June 26–27, 2025)**, EU leaders tackled pressing global crises while reinforcing the **Union's strategic autonomy** and **long-term competitiveness**.

### UA Ukraine: Firm Support, Clear Conditions

- **158.6 billion committed in total support**, incl. €59.6 billion military aid EU calls for full unconditional and immediate ceasefire by Russia
- **Reinforced pledge to provide security guarantees**, air defence systems, and defence industry cooperation
- **17th sanctions package adopted** – targeting Russia's shadow oil fleet and revenue streams
- Accession track: Council invited to **open fundamentals cluster**, recognizing Ukraine's reform progress

### Middle East: Ceasefire in Gaza, Pressure on Israel

- Call for **immediate ceasefire** and full humanitarian access
- Condemnation of settler violence and **illegal expansion in the West Bank**
- Israel's compliance with **Article 2 of the EU–Israel Agreement under review**
- Strong support for a two-state solution and upcoming international peace conference

### European Defence: Ramping Up by 2030

- Council **welcomed activation of SAFE** (€150 billion for joint procurement)
- Urged national reforms, EIB financing, and adoption of EU Defence Industry Program
- **Defence readiness roadmap** to be presented; review in October
  - Message: a stronger **EU is complementary to NATO**, not an alternative

### Hybrid Threats, Security, Migration

- Condemnation of **Russian hybrid attacks** and election interference
- **Renewed call to counter radicalisation**, trafficking, and instrumentalised migration
- **Progress on safe third country lists** and alignment of visa policy
- Internal security and crisis preparedness treated as cross-cutting priorities

In this **June 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



INSTITUT PRO EVROPSKOU POLITIKU  
INSTITUTE FOR EUROPEAN POLICY

**PISM**

POLSKI INSTYTUT SPRAW MIĘDZYNARODOWYCH  
THE POLISH INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

**Moscow's response to Israeli attacks on Iran**

**Miłosz Bartosiewicz  
Marek Menkiszak**

**The Kaja Kallas era: Estonia's high-profile diplomacy**

**Bartosz Chmielewski**

**The Green Transition as an Economic Opportunity**

**Filip Křenek**

**CITIES TAKING THE HEAT: Adaptation and heatwave preparedness in Europe**

**Katarína Svitková**

**G7 Summit in Canada - Erupting Conflicts Overshadow Economic Security Talks**

**Damian Wnukowski**

**U.S. Strikes Selected Nuclear Centres in Iran**

**Marcin Andrzej Piotrowski**



**GLOBSEC**  
IDEAS SHAPING THE WORLD

**Stolen Generation a Systematic Violation of Ukraine's Future**

**Megan Gittoes**

**The Kremlin's Double Game: Russian Attempts to Influence Poland's 2025 Election**

**Jakub Kubś**



**Magyar Külügyi Intézet**  
Hungarian Institute of International Affairs

**Blood and Water Cannot Flow Together: The Indus Water Treaty, Pahalgam, and River Politics in Asia**

**Zsolt Trembeczki**

## Our Members: Future Events

>INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL  
RELATIONS PRAGUE

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## SAVE THE DATE

### **Human Rights Justifications in the EU and Beyond**

Join IIR for a presentation of the upcoming book "**Human Rights Justifications in the EU and Beyond**", developed under WP3 of the Horizon Europe project **HRJust**. The volume brings together experts in EU law, human rights, philosophy, and political science to explore when and **how states and the EU invoke human rights** as legitimate justifications across domestic, European, and global contexts.

The webinar will introduce the main ideas behind the project and welcome feedback from participants

Speakers:

- **Ester Herlin-Karnell** (Gothenburg University)
- **Enzo Rossi** (University of Amsterdam)
- **Aravind Ganesh** (University of Sussex)
- **Claudio Corradetti** (Tor Vergata Rome University)
- **Ayelet Banai** (University of Haifa)
- **Nikola Schmidt** (Institute of International Relations Prague)

**8 July 2025 | Online**

## 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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**Think Visegrad in Brussels Newsletter | June 2025**