



The latest news from the World of Security

INSIDE

**EU Foreign Ministers
in Kyiv**

**Stoltenberg in
Denmark**

US and Balkans

Coup in Niger

Diplomacy in Asia

**Defence Partnerships
with Ukraine**

Uranium Prices Soar

**EU's Cyber Resilience
Act**



Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and EU foreign ministers pose for a picture during a EU-Ukraine foreign ministers meeting, in Kyiv, Ukraine [Ukrainian Presidential Press Service/Handout via Reuters]

EU Foreign Ministers Met in Kyiv

By Sarah Cernikova

In a historic event, all 27 European Union foreign ministers, led by High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Josep Borrell, gathered in Kyiv, marking a powerful display of solidarity and support for Ukraine's desire to join the EU. This unannounced summit signaled the EU's commitment to Ukraine's future as an EU member state, with plans to commence negotiations expected to culminate in a decision by December of the same year.

Notably, the EU foreign ministers also deliberated on a substantial military assistance package, amounting to 5 billion euros through the European Peace Facility. This comprehensive aid initiative encompassed the provision of weaponry and extensive training programs, including specialized training for fighter jet pilots. It additionally aimed to promote collaboration between European and Ukrainian defense industries and enhance cooperation in the realm of cyber defense. The EU's strong support for Ukraine, demonstrated during the summit, held immense importance for Ukraine, especially given recent decisions by the US Congress and Poland to withhold additional military aid. Beyond its symbolic value, the summit conveyed a clear message to Russia, reaffirming the EU's unwavering and long-term commitment to Ukraine.



Photo: Danish Ministry of Defence.

Transatlantic quantum community: NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg visited Denmark

By Sarah Cernikova

In June 2023, NATO launched the Defence Innovation Accelerator for the North Atlantic (DIANA) to facilitate collaboration between universities, industry, governments, and innovators to address critical defence and security challenges. As part of its efforts to strengthen cooperation within DIANA, NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg visited Denmark. Denmark's prominence in quantum technologies in Europe made it the ideal choice for establishing a transatlantic quantum community focused on fostering innovation and technology advancement in the quantum field through collaboration between public, private, and academic sectors within the alliance.

NATO's initial step towards quantum integration is developing a quantum strategy by the end of 2023 to equip all member states with the appropriate quantum technologies. During Stoltenberg's visit, a new Deep Tech Lab - Quantum was inaugurated, primarily focusing on commercialising quantum-enabled solutions. This lab will be an integral part of the DIANA network, comprising test centres and accelerator sites across NATO countries, and it is one of five pilot accelerator sites initiated in 2023.

Brinkmanship, Balkans Tensions, and Trump's Legal Battles

By Ondrej Pragr

Recent global developments highlight several key challenges facing the United States. President Biden has emphasized the need to end political brinkmanship following the avoidance of a government shutdown. However, concerns persist over unresolved aid allocation to Ukraine, underscoring the difficulties in managing international priorities.

In the Balkans, tensions have escalated due to a significant buildup of Serbian troops in Kosovo, prompting international concern and monitoring by the United States and the United Kingdom. The potential for regional instability emphasizes the importance of diplomatic efforts and conflict resolution in this volatile area.

Former President Trump faces ongoing legal battles, including a newly emerging fraud case in New York. This legal scrutiny reflects the complex legal landscape surrounding the former president.

These events collectively underscore the multifaceted challenges confronting the United States both domestically and on the global stage, highlighting the importance of staying informed about evolving geopolitical, security, and legal issues.

Global Diplomacy Shifts in Asia

By Ondrej Pragr

In recent global developments, diplomatic discussions have begun among China, Japan, and South Korea to alleviate concerns about their relationships with the United States. As China's influence continues to grow in the region, Japan and South Korea, both long-standing U.S. allies, are navigating their foreign policies to balance their economic interests with China and their security partnerships with the United States.

The Maldives' presidential election has seen pro-China candidate Mohamed Muizzu emerge as the winner, signifying a potential shift in the nation's foreign policy and its relationship with neighbouring India. Traditionally, the Maldives has maintained close ties with India, but Muizzu's victory suggests a willingness to explore stronger relations with China, potentially impacting regional power dynamics and economic partnerships.



Timor-Leste's prime minister Xanana Gusmão meets a Chinese rear admiral in Dili. The upgrading of relations with Beijing has rattled governments across the regions - including Indonesia and Australia. Photograph: Valentino Dariel Sousa/AFP/Getty Images

Evergrande, the Chinese real estate giant, has experienced a sharp surge in finance. Founder Hui Ka Yan's efforts to address the company's debt crisis have attracted attention worldwide, impacting the global financial market. Steps to stabilise the company have relieved investors and markets, underscoring the interconnectedness of the global economy.

Meanwhile, Timor-Leste's new agreement with Beijing has raised regional concerns, particularly for Australia. Observers evaluate whether this engagement signifies a strategic move or a genuine regional threat. This agreement's implications are being closely monitored as it could have broader ramifications for the balance of power in the Asia-Pacific region.



Strengthening Defence Partnerships with Kyiv

By Karolina Badrianova

Last Thursday, NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg unexpectedly visited Kyiv. After discussing the Alliance's next steps, Stoltenberg revealed that NATO recently closed contracts worth €2.4 billion for ammunition supplies to Ukraine. Defence Ministers from France and the United Kingdom also visited Kyiv last week, pledging support for Ukrainian defence forces, particularly in anti-aircraft warfare. The UK delegate even mentioned the possibility of conducting military training for British soldiers in Ukraine. However, this proposal was later reversed by Prime Minister Rishi Sunak due to a desire to avoid direct conflict with the Russian Federation.

These visits preceded the First International Defence Industries Forum held in Kyiv, which brought together 252 companies from 30 countries specialising in the military sector. President Zelensky announced several new initiatives to enhance defence cooperation, and during the Forum, Ukraine signed 20 documents with foreign partners. One notable cooperation format is joint arms production, and Zelensky expressed Ukraine's readiness to offer special conditions to interested companies. Furthermore, in order to stimulate investment in the Ukrainian defence industry, a special economic regime will be implemented. This will be accompanied by the establishing of the Defence Fund, which will allocate funds towards the well-being of soldiers, military infrastructure, and the development of new technologies.

Sahel: July's coup in Niger - position of the foreign actors

By Petra Nemcova

The EU and ECOWAS, the Economic Community of West African countries, are debating over the future of Niger. On the 26th of July, 2023, another military coup occurred by ousting democratically elected President Mohamad Bazoum. This event also questioned the security assistance that the EU provided to the region to fight terrorism. The EU has already suspended development and security aid, with them being previously on high levels. ECOWAS is also considering intervention despite scepticism.

Generally speaking, the countries in the Sahel are known for multiple coups in recent years. However, the main reasons for the Niger coup are unknown.

Some of the main current consequences are:

Niger and neighbouring countries: Mali and Burkina Faso signed a defence agreement on the 16th of September. Both countries support the coup and are against intervention.

France recalled its ambassador in Niger and agreed to withdraw troops by the end of 2023

A Chinese representative visited the country on the 17th of September to mediate talks regarding the coup resolutions.

EU Member States will most likely reassess agreements with Niger, namely the EUCAP Sahel Niger, a civilian mission and EUMPM Niger (EU Military Partnership in Niger).

Nuclear Energy's Revival: Uranium Prices Soar Amid Global Demand

By Karolina Badrianova

The prices of uranium on the spot market have surged, reaching \$70 per pound last week, the highest since the Fukushima disaster in 2011. Since many European leaders are reluctant to depend on Russian deliveries, their search for alternative suppliers in an already tight supply market may further support the price surge. Furthermore, global demand for nuclear energy is rising, and several factors contribute to this.



A worker holds an intermediate form of uranium. A shift to lower-carbon power sources and volatility in major producer Kazakhstan have sent uranium prices rising, and miners are toying with restarting facilities as the market looks for sources outside the central Asian country.

Source: Pallava Bagla/Corbis News via Getty Images

Firstly, the Russia-Ukraine war has sparked growing interest in nuclear energy as it may enhance countries' energy security by reducing dependence on imported fossil fuels, particularly natural gas. Secondly, considering countries' pledges to mitigate climate change, nuclear energy, as a low-carbon energy source, appears to be a viable option to help achieve their climate goals. Acting upon this, China intends to replace coal-fired power plants with nuclear ones, currently having 23 reactors under construction, making China the world's fastest-growing nuclear power producer. Lastly, recent innovations, particularly in small modular reactors (SMR), are making nuclear energy more attractive again, with an increasing number of states announcing plans to build SMR fleets.

Therefore, the decarbonization efforts and geopolitical worries could further boost uranium prices. At the same time, higher prices incentivize increased production and attract the necessary investments, especially in the uranium mining industry, which has been facing challenges due to low prices over the last decade.

Will vulnerabilities have serious consequences?

By Petra Nemcova

Cybersecurity experts, including representatives from Google, have expressed concerns about the EU's Cyber Resilience Act (CRA), particularly its requirement for reporting unpatched vulnerabilities within 24 hours of exploitation. They argue that this could increase the risk of malicious actors exploiting these vulnerabilities. Overall, the field of cybersecurity has seen a significant increase in vulnerabilities and attacks, with a shortage of cybersecurity staff in businesses making them more vulnerable.



Artificial intelligence tools such as ChatGPT make it easier for students to cheat, and harder for colleges to detect cheating. Photograph: John Walton/PA Wire

The rise of artificial intelligence (AI) in various sectors, including education, presents new challenges. Platforms like ChatGPT, commonly used by students, have streamlined tasks like essay writing but also pose potential risks. To address these issues, the University of Galway is hosting an international conference on academic and research integrity this week. There is a need for further discussions on incorporating AI platforms into education while preventing their misuse by students.