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High Representative Josep Borrell (r) and Dmytro Kuleba (l), Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ukraine. | © Pool P

Hungary Shadow Over Upcoming European Summit

By Sarah Cernikova

The December European summit is scheduled to take place from the 14th to the 15th of December. During this summit, the European leaders will discuss providing additional military aid to Ukraine. The most critical topic of discussion, however, will be Ukraine's potential membership in the European Union. Earlier this week, the EU's foreign ministers met to prepare for the summit, and Ukraine's Foreign Minister, Dmytro Kuleba, also attended the meeting. He expressed doubts regarding the EU's readiness to begin talks about Ukraine's membership in the EU.

The biggest question mark stick upon Hungary. As the Hungarian Prime Minister, Victor Orban, may veto both major topics of discussion. Orban has been rejecting financial or military aid for Ukraine, mainly because Hungary has lost some of its EU funding due to issues with its rule of law. Despite this, the European Commission is set to unlock 10 billion euros for Hungary this week. It is believed that this monetary support could potentially resolve any potential Hungary veto.

Changes in the G5 Anti-Jihadist Force

By Petra Nemcova

Chad and Mauritania, two remaining members of West Africa's G5 Sahel alliance, have announced their intention to dissolve the anti-rebel grouping after Burkina Faso and Niger left the alliance. The alliance was created in 2014 and was backed by France, aiming to make the Sahel a zone of security and development. They will implement measures in accordance with the G5 founding convention, notably Article 20.



People enter the G5 Sahel force's new military headquarters in Sevare, in central Mali, on October 22, 2017 [Aaron Ross/Reuters]

Diplomatic Challenges: U.S. Aid to Ukraine and Gaza Ceasefire Resolution

By Ondrej Pragr

The United States encounters obstacles in delivering aid to Ukraine, posing challenges to its commitment to supporting the Eastern European nation. Delays and complications in aid distribution raise concerns about the effectiveness of assistance programs amid ongoing geopolitical tensions. The intricacies of U.S.-Ukraine relations come to the forefront as the Biden administration grapples with ensuring timely and efficient aid delivery while navigating the broader landscape of international diplomacy. The challenges in aid delivery to Ukraine highlight the broader implications of U.S. foreign policy decisions and the intricate dance of diplomacy in addressing the needs of nations facing geopolitical challenges.

The United States announces its decision to oppose an Arab-backed resolution calling for an urgent ceasefire in Gaza. As diplomatic dynamics unfold, this stance adds complexity to the U.S. role in addressing conflicts in the Middle East. The opposition to the resolution puts the U.S. at odds with Arab nations and prompts scrutiny of its approach to fostering peace in the troubled region. The international community observes closely as these diplomatic developments impact the prospects of stability and resolution in the Gaza conflict. The U.S. stance on the Gaza ceasefire resolution not only reveals the complexities of American involvement in the Middle East but also underscores the delicate balance the nation navigates in addressing regional conflicts with global implications.

Xi Jinping's Visit to Vietnam and Provocations in Taiwan

By Ondrej Pragr

Chinese President Xi Jinping's visit to Vietnam yields key outcomes with regional implications. The trip focuses on strengthening economic ties, particularly within the context of the Belt and Road Initiative. Both nations sign agreements to enhance cooperation in trade, infrastructure, and cultural exchanges. Xi emphasizes the importance of regional stability and mutual benefit, emphasizing a shared vision for development. As China asserts its influence, the visit underscores the intricate dynamics in Southeast Asia and the evolving geopolitical landscape.



Mr Xi with Vietnamese leader Nguyen Phu Trong in 2015

Tensions rise in the lead-up to Taiwan's presidential election as China deploys a weather balloon into Taiwan's air defense identification zone. This move adds to the existing strain between the two sides, especially with recent allegations of espionage and interference. The incident further highlights the sensitive geopolitical dynamics in the region, emphasizing the potential impact of such actions on cross-strait relations. As Taiwan prepares for a crucial election, the presence of Chinese assets near its airspace adds complexity to an already delicate situation. The international community monitors the evolving situation with concern.



The European Parliament building in Strasbourg © European Union 2018 - EP

EU's Regulations on AI

By Petra Nemcova

Google has opened a new cybersecurity hub in Málaga, Spain, to address the growing sophistication, cost, and aggressive nature of cyber threats, called The Safety Engineering Center (GSEC). This hub will house a range of teams and experts working on developing and scaling cutting-edge research and tools using AI, speed, open source, and AI. The center will also house a dedicated training space for government officials, businesses, job seekers, NGOs, and local schools. Google has pledged \$10 million through Google.org to advance cybersecurity skills training and help local community organizations. The center also aims to build a stronger cybersecurity posture for businesses and individuals, leveraging AI to identify malicious code faster, more accurately, and for more people.

AI's Impact on Cybersecurity

AI has evolved to a serious discipline, with its impact on cybersecurity increasing rapidly. However, there is still friction within organizations, making it harder for chief information security officers (CISOs) to protect against increasing cyberattack surfaces. For instance, ransomware attacks have spiked in 2023, with the Corvus indicator showing an increase of 55% year on year. AI can also spread misinformation via deep fake technology.

The rapid evolution of AI underscores the need for cyber insurance and continuous dialogue between all parties in the risk transfer process. By uniting in the goal of blocking bad actors' paydays, taking a joined-up approach within organizations, and combining cyber insurance with an always-on threat detection and risk management solution, it might be possible to fight cyberattacks.

Sweden: NATO Member-to-be Signed a Defence Agreement with the U.S.

By Sarah Cernikova

As Sweden continues to await approval for its NATO membership from Turkey and Hungary, a new Defence Cooperation Agreement has been signed between Sweden and the United States. This Agreement solidifies a heightened level of cooperation in defence and regional security.

As a result of the Agreement, the United States now has access to all military bases in Sweden. Both parties expressed a desire for Sweden's NATO membership approval to come through soon. The United States commended Sweden as a dependable and formidable partner that will undoubtedly bolster the alliance in many aspects.

Israel Under Risk of Diplomatic Isolation

By Sarah Cernikova

The United Nations has urgently appealed for an immediate ceasefire and the regular provision of humanitarian aid to Gaza. Despite a brief period of releasing hostages and prisoners from both Hamas and Israeli prisons, no additional agreement was reached, leading Israel to persist and escalate its military operations.

In terms of international responses, US President Joe Biden expressed that Israel lost international support due to the indiscriminate bombing of civilians.

Voting Ended		12/12/2023	4:26:49 PM
Item 5 - A/ES-10/L.27			
Protection of civilians and upholding legal and humanitarian obligations			
+ AFGHANISTAN	X CAMEROON	+ FINLAND	+ KUWAIT
+ ALBANIA	+ CANADA	+ FRANCE	+ KYRGYZSTAN
+ ALGERIA	+ CENTRAL AF...	+ GABON	+ LAO PDR
+ ANDORRA	+ CHAD	+ GAMBIA	+ LATVIA
+ ANGOLA	+ CHILE	X GEORGIA	+ LEBANON
+ ANTIGUA-BA...	+ CHINA	X GERMANY	+ LESOTHO
X ARGENTINA	+ COLOMBIA	+ GHANA	+ LIBERIA
+ ARMENIA	+ COMOROS	+ GREECE	+ LIBYA
+ AUSTRALIA	+ CONGO	+ GRENADA	+ LIECHTENSTEIN
- AUSTRIA	+ COSTA RICA	- GUATEMALA	X LITHUANIA
+ AZERBAIJAN	+ COTE D'IVOIRE	+ GUINEA	+ LUXEMBOURG
+ BAHAMAS	+ CROATIA	+ GUINEA-BISS...	+ MADAGASCAR
+ BAHRAIN	+ CUBA	+ GUYANA	X MALAWI
+ BANGLADESH	+ CYPRUS	HAITI	X MALAYSIA
+ BARBADOS	- CZECHIA	+ HONDURAS	+ MALDIVES
+ BELARUS	+ DEM PR OF K...	X HUNGARY	+ MALI
+ BELGIUM	+ DEM REP OF ...	+ ICELAND	+ MALTA
+ BELIZE	+ DENMARK	+ INDIA	X MARSHALL IS...
+ BENIN	+ DJIBOUTI	+ INDONESIA	+ MAURITANIA
+ BHUTAN	+ DOMINICA	+ IRAN (ISLAMI...	+ MAURITIUS
+ BOLIVIA	+ DOMINICAN ...	+ IRAQ	+ MEXICO
+ BOSNIA-HER...	+ ECUADOR	+ IRELAND	- MICRONESIA...
+ BOTSWANA	+ EGYPT	- ISRAEL	+ MONACO
+ BRAZIL	+ EL SALVADOR	X ITALY	+ MONGOLIA
+ BRUNEI DAR...	X EQUATORIAL...	+ JAMAICA	+ MONTENEGRO
X BULGARIA	+ ERITREA	+ JAPAN	+ MOROCCO
+ BURKINA FASO	+ ESTONIA	+ JORDAN	+ MOZAMBIQUE
+ BURUNDI	+ ESWATINI	+ KAZAKHSTAN	+ MYANMAR
X CABO VERDE	+ ETHIOPIA	+ KENYA	+ NAMIBIA
+ CAMBODIA	+ FIJI	+ KIRIBATI	- NAURU
			+ NEPAL
			X NETHERLAN...
			+ NEW ZEALAND
			+ NICARAGUA
			+ NIGER
			+ NIGERIA
			+ NORTH MAC...
			+ NORWAY
			+ OMAN
			+ PAKISTAN
			X PALAU
			+ PANAMA
			- PAPUA NEW ...
			+ PARAGUAY
			+ PERU
			+ PHILIPPINES
			+ POLAND
			+ PORTUGAL
			+ QATAR
			+ REP OF KOREA
			+ REP OF MOL...
			+ ROMANIA
			+ RUSSIAN FED...
			+ RWANDA
			+ SAINT KITTS-...
			+ SAINT LUCIA
			+ SAINT VINCE...
			+ SAMOA
			+ SAN MARINO
			+ SAO TOME-P...
			+ SAUDI ARABIA
			+ SENEGAL
			+ SERBIA
			+ SEYCHELLES
			+ SIERRA LEONE
			+ SINGAPORE
			X SLOVAKIA
			+ SLOVENIA
			+ SOLOMON IS...
			+ SOMALIA
			+ SOUTH AFRICA
			X SOUTH SUDAN
			+ SPAIN
			+ SRI LANKA
			+ SUDAN
			+ SURINAME
			+ SWEDEN
			+ SWITZERLAND
			+ SYRIAN ARA...
			+ TAJIKISTAN
			+ THAILAND
			+ TIMOR-LESTE
			X TOGO
			+ TONGA
			+ TRINIDAD-TO...
			+ TUNISIA
			+ TURKMENIST...
			+ TUVALU
			+ TÜRKIYE
			+ UGANDA
			X UKRAINE
			+ UNITED ARA...
			X UNITED KING...
			+ UNITED REP T...
			- UNITED STAT...
			X URUGUAY
			+ UZBEKISTAN
			+ VANUATU
			+ VENEZUELA
			+ VIET NAM
			+ YEMEN
			+ ZAMBIA
			+ ZIMBABWE
+ IN FAVOUR: 153		- AGAINST: 10	X ABSTENTION: 23

Source: UN News via X

On Tuesday, December 12th, the UN General Assembly passed a resolution demanding an immediate ceasefire. Out of the 193 member states, 153 voted in favor of the resolution, while ten states, including the United States and the Czech Republic, opposed it.

