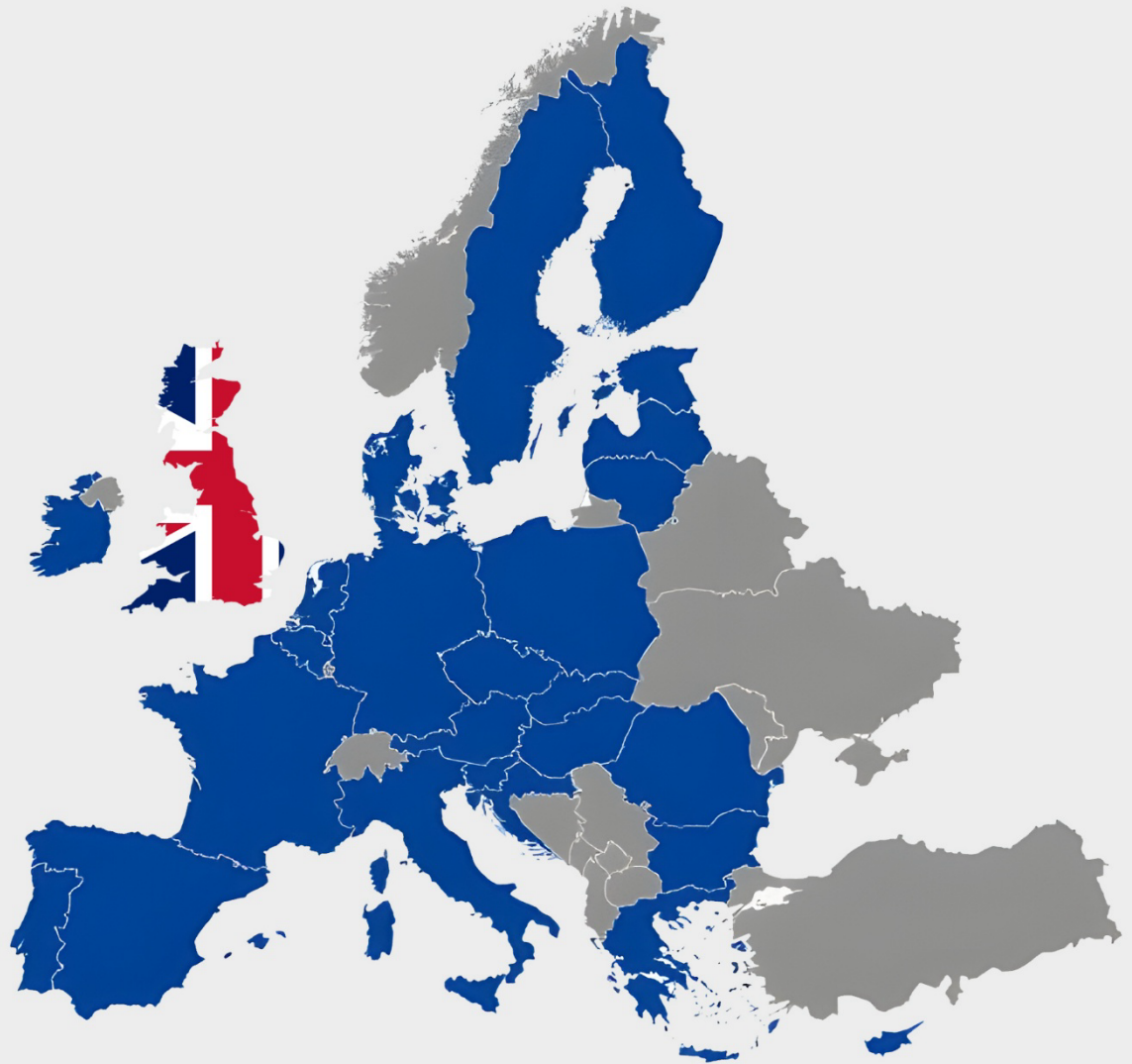


CLAWS Newsletter



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by Nomita Chandola

EUROPE-US NEWS

1. Canadian PM seeks European Alliances ([The Economic Times, 16th March 2025](#))

Newly elected Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney is making his first foreign trip to France and the UK to strengthen alliances in response to US President Donald Trump's economic and sovereignty challenges. Trump's 25% tariffs and remarks about Canada becoming the 51st US state have fueled tensions, prompting Carney to seek trade diversification and reinforce Arctic sovereignty.

Carney will meet with French President Emmanuel Macron and UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer to explore coordinated responses to Trump's trade policies. He will also visit Canada's Arctic region before returning to Ottawa, where he is expected to call an election soon. While open to talks with Trump if Canadian sovereignty is respected, Carney is avoiding Washington, wary of Trump's treatment of past Canadian leaders. With Canada heavily reliant on US trade, diversifying economic ties and addressing Arctic security remain top priorities as tensions with the US escalate.

2. Macron urges EU to buy European Defence equipment ([Politico, 16th March 2025](#))

French President Emmanuel Macron is pushing EU countries to prioritize European defence products over U.S. alternatives, advocating for Franco-Italian SAMP/T missile systems and Rafale jets instead of Patriots and F-35s. As NATO members increase reliance on American weapons, Macron urges European defence firms to cut costs and streamline production.

He also proposed limited European troop deployments in Ukraine for training and dismissed Putin's ceasefire conditions as unacceptable. Additionally, he announced reforms to France's voluntary national service while ruling out compulsory military service. His stance highlights Europe's need for defence autonomy amid global tensions.

3. Kaja warns against trusting Russia ([Euro News, 17th March 2025](#))

Estonian High Representative Kaja Kallas cautioned that Russia cannot be trusted to seek peace in Ukraine, rejecting Putin's ceasefire demands as manipulative. While Ukraine accepted the U.S.-proposed 30-day truce, Putin's conditions suggest he aims to prolong the war. European leaders and Ukrainian President Zelenskyy share this skepticism, citing Russia's military buildup.

Meanwhile, Trump remains optimistic about his upcoming call with Putin, hinting at territorial negotiations. His previous talks disrupted Western unity, prompting leaders like Macron and Starmer to form a coalition to support Ukraine. Kallas has proposed a €40 billion military aid fund, set for debate at an EU summit.

4. EU towards Green steel to secure its Industry and Defence ([Politico, 20th March 2025](#))

The European Union has unveiled a plan to revive and green its struggling steel and metal industries, recognizing their critical role in both economic stability and defence production. With rising global competition, high energy costs, and renewed trade tensions with the U.S.—especially after President Donald Trump imposed 25% tariffs on metal imports—the EU is stepping up efforts to shield and modernize the sector.

The strategy aims to protect European steelmakers from cheaper foreign imports while supporting their transition to low-carbon production using renewable energy, hydrogen, and recycled materials. Brussels sees this as essential for European security, as military hardware, from tanks to aircraft, relies heavily on steel and aluminium.

To achieve these goals, the EU is considering extending trade safeguards, launching proactive investigations into unfair competition, and tightening regulations to track the origins of steel imports. The Commission is also preparing changes to the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) to prevent loopholes that allow foreign firms to bypass EU carbon taxes.

While industry groups welcomed the move, calling it a long-overdue recognition of steel's strategic importance, green advocates also praised the focus on decarbonization. The EU now faces the challenge of delivering on its promises, ensuring that European steelmaking remains both competitive and sustainable in the face of global shifts.

5. UK seeks stronger defence ties with EU ([The Guardian, 20th March 2025](#))

With Donald Trump scaling back US military commitments in Europe and Vladimir Putin's continued aggression, the UK is reassessing its defence strategy. Prime Minister Keir Starmer is pushing for closer security cooperation with the EU, despite Britain being excluded from the bloc's new €150bn defence investment scheme. Negotiations are underway for a defence pact that could grant the UK partial access to EU funding.

Labour aims to strengthen Britain's arms industry, crucial for local economies, while balancing ties with both the US and Europe. Concerns over US reliability have grown, especially after Trump's abrupt halt to military aid for Ukraine and reports of high-tech US weapons losing functionality. While UK-US defence cooperation remains strong, Britain is prioritizing deeper security and industrial ties with Europe to safeguard its long-term strategic interests.

6. EU on Trump's Car Tariffs ([Politico, 27th March 2025](#))

The European Union is grappling with how to respond to U.S. President Donald Trump's decision to impose a 25% tariff on all imported vehicles starting April 2, with an additional tax on auto parts set for May. The move escalates transatlantic trade tensions and threatens Europe's already struggling automotive sector, particularly Germany's car industry, which exported 749,000 vehicles worth €38.5 billion to the U.S. last year.

While EU leaders, including Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, stress the need for negotiations, Germany and France have taken a more aggressive stance, calling for retaliatory tariffs on American goods. However, European unity may weaken

as the economic impact varies across member states, with Germany hit hardest while countries like France, Spain, and Italy are less affected.

Previous trade disputes, such as over Chinese electric vehicles and U.S. tariffs on steel and aluminium, have shown how difficult it is for the EU to maintain a unified response when national interests diverge. German automakers, already struggling with competition from cheaper Chinese EVs, now risk losing access to the U.S. market, further straining their global position.

Despite calls for negotiations from the German car lobby and European manufacturers, Trump remains firm in his trade stance and has warned against EU retaliation. With both sides preparing potential countermeasures, the trade conflict is likely to intensify, creating further uncertainty for Europe's economy.

EUROPE-RUSSIA NEWS

7. Europe accuses Russia of 'State sponsored Terrorism' ([Politico, 12th March 2025](#))

The EU's top diplomat, Kaja Kallas, has accused Russia and Iran of engaging in "state-sponsored terrorism" against Europe through disinformation, sabotage, and cyberattacks. Investigations revealed that pro-Russia groups have been recruiting individuals on Telegram, offering cryptocurrency payments for acts such as vandalism and espionage. Recent incidents include cyberattacks, GPS jamming, and undersea cable sabotage. NATO and the EU have intensified their defences against these hybrid threats, warning that such attacks will persist regardless of a potential ceasefire between Russia and Ukraine.

8. EU plans more sanctions on Russia ([The Guardian, 20th March 2025](#))

EU leaders, except Hungary's Viktor Orbán, have agreed to increase sanctions on Russia and strengthen existing measures after discussions with Ukraine's President Zelenskyy. Orbán refused to support an EU declaration backing Ukraine, raising concerns about Hungary's growing divergence from the bloc's stance. Meanwhile, European leaders are debating plans to boost the continent's defence, with proposals for an €800bn strategy to deter potential threats by 2030. However, disagreements

persist over military spending, debt financing, and security priorities, with southern European nations advocating a broader definition of defence beyond traditional rearmament. NATO officials stress the need for stronger European contributions, especially amid uncertainties about the US commitment to the alliance.

9. France prepares Emergency Survival Guide ([Global News, 20th March 2025](#))

The French government is set to release an emergency preparedness manual to help citizens withstand crises such as invasions, natural disasters, cyber incidents, and terrorist attacks. A spokesperson for Prime Minister Francois Bayrou stated that the guide aims to enhance public resilience and provide practical steps for responding to various threats. The manual will include sections on personal safety, emergency procedures, and community defence, encouraging citizens to volunteer in reserve units and firefighting groups. Additionally, authorities have outlined a 72-hour survival kit containing essentials like water, food, medical supplies, cash, and important documents. France follows countries like Sweden and Denmark in promoting crisis readiness. President Emmanuel Macron has also announced plans to increase military reserve personnel from 40,000 to 100,000 over the next decade, emphasizing the need for defence preparedness to prevent future conflicts.

10. Poland ramps up military preparedness ([Politico, 27th March 2025](#))

Poland is undertaking a massive military expansion, aiming to train every adult male for war in response to increasing concerns over Russian aggression. Prime Minister Donald Tusk emphasized that the training is voluntary, countering fears of a return to conscription. With NATO's highest defence spending at 4.7% of GDP, Poland is rapidly expanding its army, acquiring advanced weaponry, and planning to double its military to 500,000 troops while training millions of reservists. Authorities are rolling out short-term military training programs, with options ranging from basic defence skills to advanced combat training. The government also plans to offer financial incentives and tax breaks to encourage participation. While over half of Poles support the initiative, some citizens remain skeptical, citing economic struggles and questioning their personal obligation to fight. The government is expanding military education programs in schools and integrating civil defence training into gym classes. Military experts

argue that widespread preparedness will serve as a deterrent against Russian aggression, reinforcing Poland's defensive capabilities.

11. Hungarian PM criticizes EU's 72-hour Survival Kit Proposal ([Euro News, 28th March 2025](#))

Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán has strongly criticized the European Commission's recommendation for citizens to prepare a 72-hour emergency survival kit, calling it alarming and questioning the motives behind it. Speaking on national radio, he suggested that Brussels is making preparations for war, implying a deeper involvement in the Ukraine conflict. Orbán argued that Europe is not under direct military threat and dismissed the idea that NATO countries like Hungary, Poland, or the Baltic states would be attacked. He linked the emergency kit proposal to broader EU war preparations, claiming it signals an intention to escalate support for Ukraine. He reaffirmed Hungary's stance of not providing weapons or troops to Ukraine. The European Commission's strategy, announced as part of its Preparedness Union Strategy, includes 30 measures to strengthen crisis readiness, covering natural disasters, industrial accidents, and potential military or cyber threats.

EUROPE-CHINA NEWS

12. China and UK to seek stronger ties in Green Development ([Reuters, 17th March 2025](#))

China's Vice Premier Ding Xuexiang expressed willingness to collaborate with the UK on financial services, trade, investment, and green development during a meeting with British Energy Secretary Ed Miliband in Beijing. Ding emphasized that a stable China-UK relationship would help address global challenges, according to a statement from China's foreign ministry.

13. EU flags China's military actions as growing threat ([SCMP, 20th March 2025](#))

The EU's newly released "White Paper for European Defence – Readiness 2030" highlights growing military threats, including Russia's war in Ukraine and China's increasing assertiveness in the Indo-Pacific. It warns that China's military expansion, particularly in the Taiwan Strait, could cause major economic and strategic disruptions

for Europe. The report underscores Beijing's authoritarian governance, its push for supremacy in trade and technology, and its coercive actions toward Taiwan. In response, the EU proposes increased defence investment, procurement of advanced systems, and enhanced military readiness, while continuing support for Ukraine. The paper coincides with the launch of the €800 billion ReArm Europe Plan, reflecting Europe's push for greater self-reliance in defence amid shifting US priorities.

14. China's hybrid surge in EU ([SCMP, 25th March 2025](#))

China's exports of plug-in hybrid electric vehicles (PHEVs) to the EU have surged, unaffected by the high tariffs imposed on fully electric vehicles (EVs). In the first two months of 2025, PHEV exports to the EU rose by 892% year-on-year, while EV exports dropped by one-third due to tariffs of up to 45%. Analysts warn that hybrids may also face future trade restrictions if their sales continue to rise. The shift toward hybrids reflects global concerns over charging infrastructure and declining government EV subsidies. Meanwhile, China and the EU remain engaged in trade disputes, with China urging Brussels to resolve its tariffs on Chinese EVs.

15. China urges EU to unite against US ([Reuters, 27th March 2025](#))

China's Vice Premier He Lifeng invited EU Trade Commissioner Maros Sefcovic to collaborate against U.S. protectionism, emphasizing a shared interest in safeguarding global trade. Both China and the EU have been hit by President Trump's tariffs, including a 20% levy on all Chinese imports and planned duties on European cars, which could severely impact German automakers.

China's state media urged the EU to strengthen ties with Beijing amid growing uncertainty in U.S. policy. However, the EU remains cautious, citing concerns over market access, trade imbalances, and data transfer restrictions. While China expressed willingness to address these issues, no specific commitments were outlined.

EUROPE-INDIA NEWS

16. India-Italy 13th Military Cooperation group meeting ([India Strategic, 24th March 2025](#))

The 13th edition of the India-Italy Military Cooperation Group (MCG) meeting took place in Rome from March 20-21, 2025. Co-chaired by senior defence officials from both nations, the discussions focused on expanding bilateral military cooperation through enhanced exchange programs, capability development, and strategic collaboration. The meeting reviewed ongoing defence engagements and explored ways to optimize future interactions. The MCG continues to serve as a vital institutional mechanism for strengthening defence ties between India and Italy.

17. India plans retaliatory duties ([The Economic Times, 28th March 2025](#))

India has proposed imposing retaliatory duties on certain EU imports after failing to reach an agreement over the EU's extended safeguard measures on specific steel products. These measures, first imposed in 2018 and now extended until 2026, have caused significant trade losses for India, amounting to \$6.92 billion since their implementation. The latest extension follows similar restrictions by the US, adding further strain to global trade. India, which has a substantial interest in steel exports to the EU, argues that the measures violate global trade norms. The two sides held consultations on March 19 but could not reach a consensus. India's iron and steel exports to the EU increased to \$6.64 billion in 2023-24, but overall trade tensions persist as both sides negotiate a free trade agreement to enhance economic ties.

About the Author

Nomita Chandola is a dedicated scholar in International Relations, with a strong academic foundation and a passion for understanding complex global issues. She recently earned her master's degree in International Relations from the University of Leeds, where she focused on modules such as global governance and climate security. Prior to this, she completed her bachelor's degree in Political Science with a minor in Economics from Kamla Nehru College, University of Delhi.

Currently, Nomita is a Research Assistant at the Centre for Land Warfare Studies, where she delves into critical issues of strategic affairs and geopolitical dynamics. Her primary area of interest lies in South Asian studies, emphasizing security dynamics and their intersections with global politics. She aspires to pursue a PhD to further explore these themes. With a keen eye for policy analysis and research, Nomita aims to contribute meaningfully to the academic and policy discourse on international security and regional stability.



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