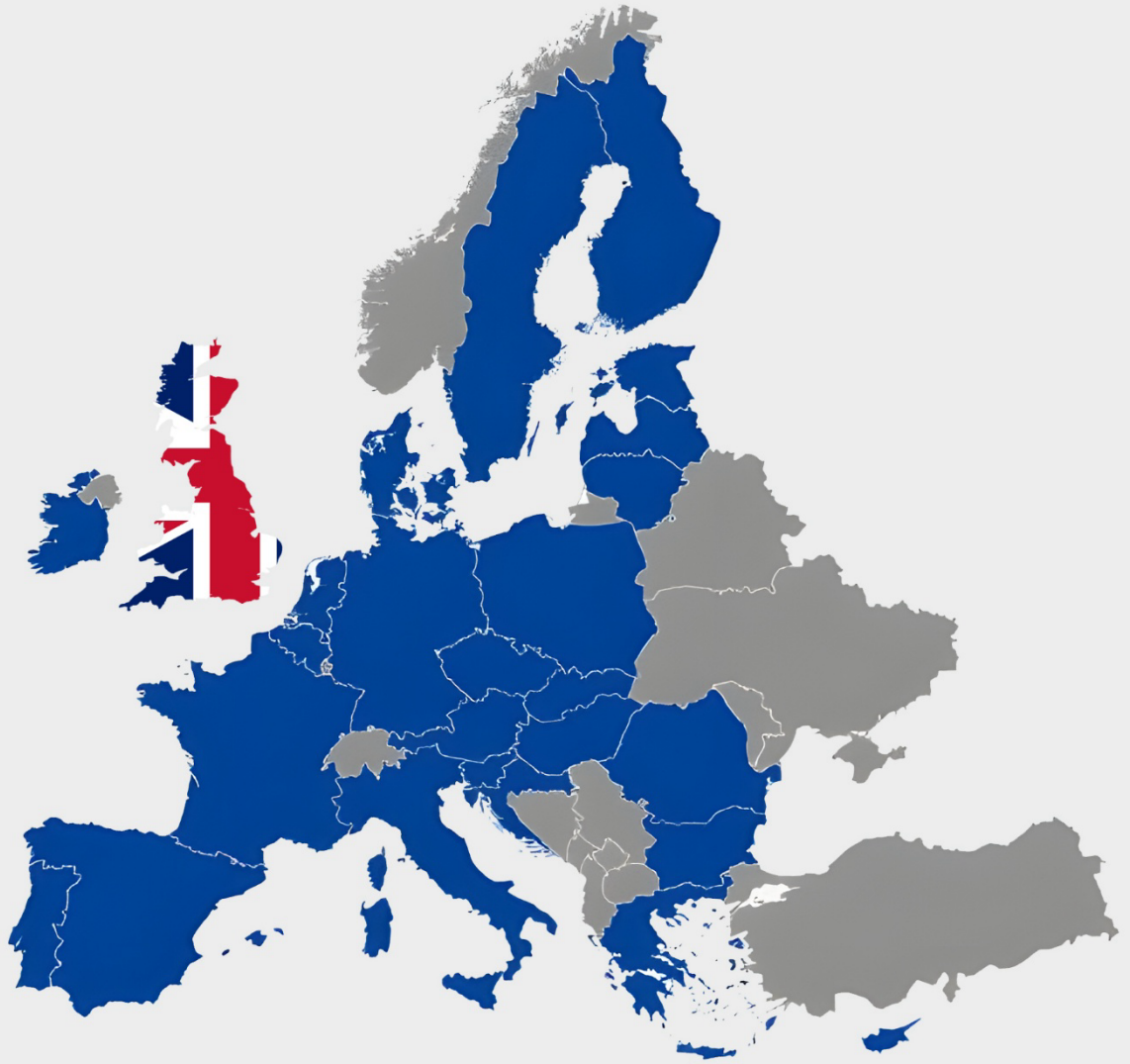


CLAWS Newsletter



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by Nomita Chandola

EUROPE NEWS

1. India-Denmark renew energy pact ([News Arena India, 2nd May 2025](#))

India and Denmark have renewed their energy sector partnership with a fresh MoU signed on May 2, 2025, extending their successful five-year collaboration. The agreement, signed by India's Power Secretary and Denmark's Ambassador, aims to support India's net-zero emissions target by 2070 through continued cooperation, expert exchanges, joint training, and study tours focused on clean energy development.

2. India urges Italy and ADB to cut funding to Pakistan ([The Economic Times, 5th May 2025](#))

In response to the Pahalgam terror attack that killed 26 people, India has asked Italy and ADB to halt financial support to Pakistan. During a meeting at the ADB Annual Meeting in Milan, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman made this demand to her Italian counterpart and the ADB, while India also downgraded diplomatic ties with Pakistan, suspended the Indus Waters Treaty, and plans to approach FATF to greylist Pakistan.

3. Finance Minister at ADB meet in Milan ([CNBC , 6th May 2025](#))

At the ADB Annual Meeting in Milan, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman showcased India's development agenda, reaffirming its goal of becoming a developed nation by 2047 under the "Viksit Bharat" vision. She praised ADB's evolving role and emphasized India's private sector-led growth, citing reforms like GST, IBC, and PLI schemes. In bilateral meetings with finance ministers from Italy, Japan, and Bhutan, she discussed investment, innovation, and cooperation in areas like green energy and fintech. Sitharaman also engaged with global financial leaders, think tanks, and the Indian diaspora during her visit.

4. Slovakia and Hungary reject EU's plan ([Reuters, 7th May 2025](#))

Slovakia and Hungary have strongly opposed the European Commission's proposal to phase out Russian gas and other energy imports by 2027, calling it economically harmful and unrealistic. Slovak PM Robert Fico warned the plan would raise energy

prices and damage EU competitiveness, calling it "economic suicide," while Hungary's foreign minister labeled it "unacceptable" and vowed to fight it. The proposal, part of the EU's effort to cut ties with Russia post-Ukraine invasion, still needs approval from the European Parliament and a majority of member states.

5. India reaches out to US, France for Naval Helicopter (IDRW, 12th May 2025)

The Indian Navy has begun government-to-government talks with the United States and France to procure all-weather, twin-engine Naval Utility Helicopters (NUHs) as part of its strategy to boost maritime capabilities. These helicopters, expected to weigh around 5 tonnes and feature folding blades for ship-to-shore operations, are intended to enhance operational flexibility. This aligns with the Navy's long-standing need for 111 NUHs to support maritime surveillance, logistics, and search-and-rescue operations. The move reflects India's goal to modernize its naval aviation with advanced, reliable aircraft suited for diverse environments in the Indo-Pacific. Details on suppliers and specifications will emerge as the process advances.

6. EU's new sanction on Russia ([Politico, 14th May 2025](#))

The EU has agreed on its 17th round of sanctions against Russia, targeting nearly 200 shadow fleet ships and banning business with 30 entities evading sanctions. The package also lists 75 individuals and companies linked to Russia's war in Ukraine and expands legal tools to act against those damaging underwater infrastructure or spreading propaganda. Final approval is expected on May 20. European leaders, including Germany's new Chancellor Friedrich Merz, support increasing pressure on Russia, with discussions underway on further measures like seizing assets and ending fossil fuel imports under the RePowerEU plan.

7. China invites UK to AI summit ([Politico, 14th May 2025](#))

China has invited the UK to the World AI Conference in Shanghai this July, calling for closer AI cooperation. The offer comes amid tense UK-China relations, with Beijing criticizing London's security stance and its trade pact with the US. China's ambassador urged both nations to resist protectionism and maintain global tech collaboration.

8. US's willingness to negotiate with EU ([Politico, 14th May 2025](#))

The US has sent a letter to the European Commission indicating a willingness to negotiate a trade deal, marking the first positive step from the Trump administration since retaliatory tariffs were paused. This follows EU offers of regulatory concessions and cooperation on curbing Chinese overproduction. Trump had earlier imposed new tariffs, with threats of further hikes by July if no agreement is reached. The move comes after a recent US-UK trade deal and progress with China, raising EU concerns about falling behind in securing a US agreement.

9. Germany vows military build-up ([DW, 14th May 2025](#))

Chancellor Friedrich Merz, in his first major speech to the Bundestag, pledged to transform Germany into a growth-driven economy and build Europe's strongest conventional army. Emphasizing US-European unity on Ukraine, he framed his inexperienced cabinet as a chance for real change. Meanwhile, a Berlin court halted the deportation of four pro-Palestinian activists, citing legal doubts over the immigration office's actions, in a case seen as a significant legal win for civil rights.

10. India-UK FTA ([Mayer Brown, 15th May 2025](#))

On May 6, 2025, the UK and India signed a landmark Free Trade Agreement, aiming to boost bilateral trade by £25.5 billion and UK GDP by £4.8 billion annually. The deal includes major tariff cuts, expanded access to services and investment, digital trade provisions, and professional mobility measures. It grants UK firms access to India's £38 billion procurement market and introduces India's first anti-corruption chapter in a trade deal. While legal services and data flow issues remain unresolved, the agreement marks a significant step in strengthening UK-India economic relations post-Brexit.

11. China urges fair business in France ([Times of India, 15th May 2025](#))

Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng urged France to ensure a fair and predictable business environment during talks in Paris, amid EU-China trade tensions. No resolution was reached on China's anti-dumping measures affecting French cognac, though both sides remain open to further discussions.

12. Macron open to deploy French nukes across EU ([essanews, 15th May 2025](#))

French President Emmanuel Macron signaled readiness to discuss deploying France's nuclear weapons in other EU countries, citing reduced U.S. commitment to Europe and rising geopolitical tensions. France, which maintains an independent nuclear arsenal, sees strategic and financial incentives in expanding its nuclear umbrella within the EU. The move would likely involve Rafale jets equipped with ASMP-A missiles, with future upgrades including hypersonic ASN4G missiles.

13. France welcomes Indian Students ([Times of India, 15th May 2025](#))

France has set a target to welcome 30,000 Indian students by 2030, nearly tripling current numbers, as part of a broader Indo-French partnership. Key initiatives include the “classes internationales” program to ease language and academic integration, increased scholarships, affordable tuition at public universities, and strong post-study work opportunities. Indian students are now the largest foreign group in French business schools, and the move aims to foster mutual academic and economic growth without triggering brain drain.

14. Germany signals a tougher stance on China ([SCMP, 15th May 2025](#))

In his first major address to the Bundestag, Germany's new Chancellor Friedrich Merz announced a shift toward “strategic de-risking” from China, citing systemic rivalry and China's growing ties with Russia as key concerns. Emphasizing geopolitical accountability, Merz called on China to help end the war in Ukraine and highlighted the importance of a stable, secure Indo-Pacific for Germany and the EU.

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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