

CLAWS Newsletter



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The Atlantic Brief

October 2026 was marked by escalating Russia–Ukraine tensions, renewed peace negotiations and uncertainty over US involvement. Germany pledged additional military and energy assistance to Ukraine, while European countries strengthened defences amid concerns over Russian drone attacks, sabotage and cyber threats. EU leaders sought a greater role in peace talks and debated funding Kyiv’s estimated €70 billion shortfall for 2027. Economic pressures persisted, with eurozone inflation rising to 3.8% and government debt reaching 88.8% of GDP. The EU also considered new trade restrictions against China, while delaying methane regulations for fossil-fuel imports. Russia deepened strategic cooperation with China but faced Ukrainian drone attacks on industrial facilities. Meanwhile, US–Russia discussions explored energy deals alongside efforts to restart Ukraine peace negotiations. Across the Americas, Canada pursued stronger partnerships with Türkiye, while Argentina advanced energy investment plans and EnergyX signed a \$2 billion lithium supply agreement. Technological developments included advances in AI research, photonic chips and counter-drone systems, highlighting the growing importance of innovation, critical minerals and technological security

EUROPE

CLAWS

Foreign Policy

4 October (Reuters): Germany Pledges €1 Billion in Military Aid During Merz’s Kyiv Visit. German Chancellor Friedrich Merz visited Kyiv on October 4, 2026, reaffirming Germany’s support for Ukraine amid escalating Russian drone attacks. He announced €1 billion in additional military aid and €350 million for energy infrastructure repairs. Germany and Ukraine also advanced plans for joint drone and weapons production, including long-range systems. Merz urged Russian President Vladimir Putin to end the war, while emphasizing that Germany would not be intimidated by Russian attacks.

5 October (Reuters): Russia’s Hybrid Attacks Put European Lives at Risk, Warns EU Chief Kaja Kallas. EU foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas warned that Russia’s increasing hybrid attacks, sabotage attempts and airspace violations threaten lives across Europe. Moldova reported Russian drones crossing its airspace, while Moscow’s September 30 strikes heavily

targeted Ukraine's energy infrastructure. German Chancellor Friedrich Merz also cautioned about drone and cyber threats, reaffirming support for Ukraine ahead of winter. Russia has rejected accusations of conducting hybrid attacks against European countries.

12 October (Reuters): Germany Warns of a “Shadow War” Beyond Cold War Threats.

German Interior Minister Alexander Dobrindt warned on October 12 that Germany faces a “shadow war” involving cyberattacks, sabotage, disinformation and alleged assassination plots. Officials highlighted concerns over Russian hybrid operations targeting European countries supporting Ukraine. Germany is considering legislation to expand domestic intelligence agencies' powers to counter these threats. Russia denies such accusations, while German authorities stress the need to strengthen national security and intelligence capabilities.

16 October (Euronews): EU–Turkey Summit Seeks to Restart Cyprus Peace Talks.

EU and Turkish leaders are expected to discuss reviving negotiations over Cyprus at a high-level summit in October. Cypriot President Nikos Christodoulides said the UN-backed initiative aims to create conditions for renewed dialogue. He stressed that progress in EU–Turkey relations depends on restarting talks within the agreed framework. The UN is also pursuing diplomatic efforts to encourage negotiations.

20 October (Euronews): Witkoff Meets Zelenskyy in Oslo Before Putin Talks.

US envoy Steve Witkoff met Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in Oslo on October 20 to advance peace efforts. Zelenskyy proposed a trilateral meeting with US President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin to address key issues. Witkoff was scheduled to travel to Russia for talks with Putin, carrying Ukrainian and European proposals amid strained US–Ukraine relations.

22 October (Euronews): A Difficult Push for Peace and a Race to Secure Funding for

Ukraine. European leaders are pursuing renewed peace talks between Ukraine and Russia while scrambling to secure additional financial assistance for Kyiv. Ukraine faces an estimated €70 billion funding shortfall for 2027 as intensified Russian attacks increase its military and economic needs. The European Union is considering additional joint borrowing and the possible use of frozen Russian central bank assets, but disagreements among member states, particularly Belgium, complicate efforts to reach a solution.

22 October (Euronews): EU and Canada Strengthen Ties as Britain Seeks a Brexit Reset.

The European Union and Canada plan deeper cooperation in trade, defence, energy, technology and critical minerals at their October 29–30 Montreal summit. Brussels has proposed making Canada its first associate member, amid uncertainty over US President Donald Trump's policies. Meanwhile, British Prime Minister Andy Burnham seeks closer EU relations after Brexit, highlighting London's challenge in rebuilding ties with Brussels.

Military Affairs

12 October (Reuters): Europe Remains Divided on Buying Locally for Defence, MBDA CEO Says.

European governments remain divided over prioritising domestic defence suppliers, according to MBDA CEO Eric Beranger at the Warsaw Security Forum on October 12, 2026. France supports buying more European-made weapons, while countries including Poland, Germany and the Netherlands have purchased US equipment. The debate reflects concerns about reliance on American security guarantees and Europe's ambition to strengthen its strategic autonomy amid tensions with Russia.

22 October (Reuters): Denmark Orders Long-Range Missiles, Drawing Strong Russian Condemnation.

Denmark has agreed to acquire its first long-range precision missiles to strengthen national security and deter potential Russian aggression. The purchase includes Anthem missiles from US defence firm Covenant, produced in Germany, and Joint Strike Missiles from Norway's Kongsberg for Denmark's F-35 fighter jets. Defence Minister Jeppe Bruus cited Europe's worsening security environment. Russia condemned the move, warning of serious consequences. The order's cost and missile quantities remain undisclosed.

22 October (Reuters): Romania to Boost Black Sea Defences After Deadly Cargo Ship Attacks.

Romania will accelerate the development of Black Sea surveillance and defence capabilities to counter drone and mine threats following attacks on commercial vessels. At least seven cargo ships have been hit near Romania and Bulgaria in the past two weeks, with around 30 sailors reported dead or missing. Romanian F-16 jets recently shot down two Russian drones over Romanian waters. NATO plans to deploy additional patrol aircraft, radar systems and drones to strengthen regional security.

23 October (Euronews): EU Seeks Bigger Role in Ukraine Peace Talks Amid Concerns Over US-Russia Ties.

The European Union is pushing to join upcoming Ukraine-Russia peace

negotiations to influence Washington's approach and safeguard European security interests. Brussels wants to expand US-led trilateral talks into a multilateral format involving European representatives. Concerns have grown over US President Donald Trump's recent engagement with Moscow. Russia remains open to negotiations but insists upcoming discussions will initially involve only Russia, Ukraine and the United States.

Economy and Trade

2 October (Reuters): Euro Zone Inflation Surge Raises Pressure on ECB to Hike Rates.

Euro zone inflation climbed to 3.8% in September from 3.2% in August, exceeding forecasts amid soaring energy and food costs. Core inflation also edged up to 2.5%, remaining closer to the European Central Bank's 2% target. Rising prices are increasing pressure on policymakers to raise interest rates further and governments to support struggling households. However, subdued underlying inflation and financial stability concerns may encourage a cautious approach to future rate hikes.

21 October (Euronews): Eurozone Debt Rises to 88.8% of GDP as Italy Nears Greece.

Eurozone government debt reached 88.8% of GDP in the second quarter of 2026, up from 87.3% a year earlier, according to Eurostat. Greece remained the EU's most indebted country at 140.8%, closely followed by Italy at 139.9%. France's debt climbed to 119.1%, while its 10-year borrowing costs exceeded 5%, intensifying concerns over fiscal sustainability.

22 October (Reuters): European Parliament Backs Three-Year Delay to EU Methane Rules.

The European Parliament voted to postpone EU methane emissions requirements for oil, gas and coal imports by three years, following pressure from countries including France and the United States. The rules, originally scheduled to begin in January 2027, require foreign suppliers to monitor and report methane emissions. Under Parliament's proposal, importers would have until May 31, 2031, to demonstrate compliance. The revised deadline still requires negotiations with EU governments.

23 October (Politico): EU and China Consider New Sectors for Trade Restrictions.

The European Union and China are considering additional sectors for trade measures as Brussels seeks to address its widening trade deficit. EU Trade Commissioner Maroš Šefčovič identified plastics as a leading candidate for safeguards, including tariffs and import quotas. Chemicals,

machinery, agrifood and pharmaceuticals are also under consideration. The EU aims to protect domestic industries and jobs while pursuing negotiations with Beijing to rebalance trade ties.

Science and Technology

21 October (Reuters): AI Boom and Green Energy Help Euro Zone Withstand Energy Shock, Says ECB. The European Central Bank (ECB) said the euro zone has weathered the 2026 energy shock better than expected, supported by lower dependence on fossil fuels, renewable and nuclear energy, stronger government spending and booming artificial intelligence investments. The region's oil dependence has halved since the early 1990s. However, economists warned that fading AI investment, weaker global demand and escalating geopolitical tensions could threaten growth, while rising energy-driven inflation may prompt further interest rate hikes.

22 October (Europa): EU Deepens Research and Innovation Cooperation with Western Balkans. The European Union and six Western Balkan partners have endorsed a joint declaration to strengthen research and innovation cooperation, supporting the region's path towards EU membership. The agreement prioritises research careers, innovation ecosystems and a new joint action plan. Through the Horizon Europe programme, the partners have secured approximately €237 million across more than 1,000 projects, advancing scientific collaboration and regional integration.

RUSSIA

Foreign Policy

1 October (Euronews): Russia Expels Hungarian Diplomats Amid Budapest's Policy Shift. Russia ordered Hungarian embassy and consulate staff to leave within two weeks, retaliating against Hungary's September expulsion of 10 Russian diplomats over alleged unacceptable activities. The dispute marks a shift under Prime Minister Péter Magyar, whose government has strengthened Hungary's alignment with the EU and NATO. Budapest says it wants to avoid escalating tensions while maintaining its diplomatic presence in Russia

1 October (Reuters): Putin Expects Xi Meeting at APEC Summit to Strengthen Russia-China Ties. Russian President Vladimir Putin expressed confidence that a planned meeting

with Chinese President Xi Jinping at next month's Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit in China would deliver positive results and deepen bilateral relations. In a letter to Xi, Putin highlighted opportunities to strengthen cooperation. China neither confirmed nor denied the meeting but emphasised that high-level diplomatic engagement is essential for the stable, long-term development of relations between the two countries.

2 October (BBC): Putin Warns West Over Kaliningrad, Threatens Use of All Weapons.

Russian President Vladimir Putin has warned that Russia would use all available weapons if its territory, particularly the Kaliningrad exclave, came under direct attack. He said Moscow was responding to statements by Western leaders rather than threatening other countries. The warning heightens tensions between Russia and NATO amid growing concerns over European security and the risk of further escalation.

14 October (Reuters): Russia and China Discuss Ukraine, Iran and Strategic Cooperation.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi discussed bilateral cooperation and international security concerns during talks in Azerbaijan. Their discussions covered the conflicts in Ukraine and Iran, relations with the United States, and coordination through international organisations. Both sides reaffirmed their strategic partnership and commitment to closer diplomatic engagement, as Moscow and Beijing seek to strengthen cooperation amid growing global tensions and regional instability.

21 October (Reuters): Putin Agrees to Resume Ukraine Peace Talks, Releases US Citizen.

Russian President Vladimir Putin agreed in principle to resume trilateral peace negotiations involving Russia, Ukraine and the United States, potentially beginning around November 10 in Abu Dhabi. The agreement followed talks with US special envoy Steve Witkoff, who presented proposals for ending the war. Russia also released Stephen Hubbard, a 74-year-old retired American teacher detained since 2022. However, major disagreements remain over Ukrainian territory, security guarantees and NATO membership.

24 October (Reuters): Russia and Ukraine Agree to Local Ceasefire as Peace Talks Loom.

Russia and Ukraine have agreed to a temporary ceasefire in the Russian-occupied town of Oleshky to facilitate humanitarian aid deliveries and civilian evacuations. Brokered with assistance from US First Lady Melania Trump, the truce aims to address worsening conditions for residents. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy said peace negotiations involving Ukraine, Russia and the United States are planned for November in Abu Dhabi or Switzerland.

Military Affairs

1 October (Reuters): Putin Warns West Against Escalation, Threatens Nuclear Response if Kaliningrad Is Attacked. Russian President Vladimir Putin warned that the world is experiencing a dangerous period of rising international tensions, cautioning the West against escalating its confrontation with Russia over Ukraine. Speaking at the Valdai Forum, he said Moscow could use its entire arsenal, including nuclear weapons, if its Kaliningrad exclave faced a direct attack. Putin denied plans to attack European countries and called for peaceful coexistence, while warning that escalating retaliation could lead to catastrophic consequences.

12 October (Reuters): Russia Claims Drone Strikes Hit Ships Carrying Military Cargo to Ukrainian Ports. Russia's Defence Ministry said its forces struck three cargo vessels allegedly transporting military supplies to Ukraine's Black Sea ports. Two ships were reportedly heading to Odesa, while the third was bound for Mykolaiv. Moscow also reported a strike on a logistics centre in Ukraine's Mykolaiv region. Reuters said it could not independently verify Russia's claims, and details about casualties or damage to the vessels were not confirmed.

22 October (Reuters): Russia Bombs Kyiv as Ukraine Launches Hundreds of Drones Towards Moscow Despite Peace Talks. Russian missiles struck Ukraine's capital, Kyiv, early Thursday, following an evening attack that injured six people and damaged homes, a petrol station and transport infrastructure. Meanwhile, Ukrainian drones targeted buildings and a medical facility in Russia's Lipetsk region, injuring one person. The attacks came as US envoy Steve Witkoff held separate talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy to revive negotiations aimed at ending the war.

Economy and Trade

2 October (Reuters): Russia May Partially Lift Diesel Export Ban if Domestic Production Exceeds Demand. Russia will consider partially reopening diesel exports if domestic production exceeds consumption, Deputy Prime Minister Alexander Novak said. Moscow recently extended restrictions on diesel exports by fuel producers through October to ensure sufficient domestic supplies amid disruptions caused by Ukrainian drone attacks on oil refineries. Novak said the domestic market remained balanced and supplies were adequate. The

potential easing could provide relief to global fuel markets facing supply shortages and rising prices.

24 October (Reuters): Ukrainian Drone Attack Damages Russian Industrial Facilities. A drone attack damaged several industrial facilities in Russia's Togliatti, with no casualties initially reported, local authorities said. Ukraine claimed it struck the Togliattikauchuk petrochemical plant, a major synthetic rubber producer. Kyiv also reported attacks on an electronics factory in Oryol and an aircraft at Yeysk airfield. Russia said its air defences intercepted 1,297 drones and several missiles within 24 hours.

Science and Technology

9 October (AJEL News): Russian and Chinese Scientists Develop Ultrafast Laser for AI Chips. Scientists from Russia's HSE University and China's Shandong Academy of Sciences have developed an ultrafast micro-laser for artificial intelligence photonic chips, achieving a record response speed of 4.15 gigahertz. Using a standardised measurement method, researchers accurately assessed its performance. The breakthrough could enable faster data transfer, improve computing efficiency and support advanced data centres and neural networks by integrating multiple computing systems onto a single chip.

THE AMERICAS

NORTH AMERICA

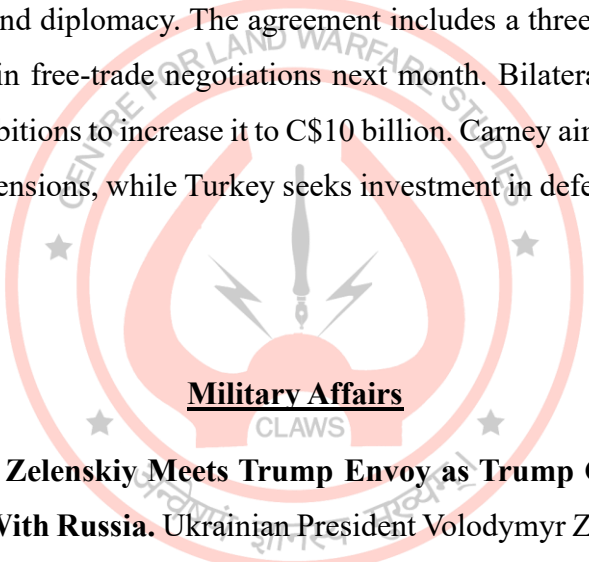
Foreign Affairs

2 October (Reuters): Carney Plans Turkey Visit to Boost Trade and Defence Ties. Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney planned to visit Turkey in October to meet President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Reuters reported. Discussions were expected to cover free-trade negotiations, energy and defence cooperation. The visit reflects Canada's efforts to diversify international partnerships and reduce reliance on the United States amid trade tensions.

Bilateral trade remains relatively small, but both countries see opportunities in energy, aerospace, mining and security

13 October (Reuters): US Hopes Russia Diesel Deal Will Help Restart Ukraine Peace Talks. The United States hopes a deal allowing Russian diesel exports could encourage Moscow to resume peace negotiations with Ukraine. US envoys reportedly suggested the agreement might soften Russia's position, although critics warn it could generate revenue for Moscow without securing meaningful concessions. Ukraine remains sceptical, while Washington has also urged Kyiv to stop attacking Russian oil refineries.

22 October (Reuters): Canada and Turkey Sign Strategic Partnership as Carney Seeks to Reduce US Trade Dependence. Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan signed a strategic partnership agreement to strengthen cooperation in trade, defence, energy and diplomacy. The agreement includes a three-year action plan, while both countries will begin free-trade negotiations next month. Bilateral trade reached C\$4.34 billion in 2025, with ambitions to increase it to C\$10 billion. Carney aims to diversify Canadian exports amid US trade tensions, while Turkey seeks investment in defence, nuclear energy and mining.



Military Affairs

20 October (Reuters): Zelenskiy Meets Trump Envoy as Trump Criticises Ukraine and Signals Warmer Ties With Russia. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy met US special envoy Steve Witkoff in Norway to repair strained relations with Washington and revive peace negotiations with Russia. US President Donald Trump praised Moscow's conduct in the conflict while accusing Zelenskiy of obstructing progress and suggesting Ukraine should appoint another negotiator. Kyiv raised concerns over military assistance, missile-warning intelligence and satellite communications. European leaders joined the diplomatic effort, stressing that Ukraine must participate in decisions affecting its future.

23 October (Euronews): Ukraine and Europe Alarmed as Trump Moves Closer to Putin. US President Donald Trump's outreach to Vladimir Putin has heightened fears in Ukraine and Europe that Washington may pressure Kyiv into accepting unfavourable peace terms. Deals involving Russian diesel, eased sanctions and uncertainty over US military support have

deepened tensions. European leaders are pushing to maintain support for Ukraine and influence negotiations, while warning that concessions to Moscow could undermine European security.

Economy and Trade

2 October (Reuters): Mexico Must Step Up Efforts to Reduce Public Debt: IMF. The International Monetary Fund has urged Mexico to accelerate fiscal consolidation to prevent public debt from rising. It recommends stronger tax collection, more efficient public spending, gradual fuel subsidy reductions, and reforms to state oil company Pemex. With economic growth projected at 1.5% in 2026, Mexico faces the challenge of stabilising public finances while supporting investment, growth, and essential public services.

3 October (Reuters): US-Russia Ukraine Talks Expand to Multi-Billion-Dollar Oil Deal. US-Russia negotiations aimed at ending the Ukraine war have reportedly expanded to include a multi-billion-dollar deal involving Russian energy giant Lukoil's global oil fields, refineries and petrol stations. According to The New York Times, the proposed transaction involves billionaire investor Todd Boehly, Middle Eastern business groups linked to US negotiators Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner, and a US government entity. The deal requires approval from Washington and Moscow, with its outcome uncertain.

5 October (Reuters): Canada's Services Sector Contracts for Fourth Consecutive Month. Canada's services sector contracted for the fourth straight month in September 2026, as US tariffs and the Iran war weighed on demand and business confidence. The S&P Global Services PMI rose to 48.3 from 46.8 in August but remained below the 50-point growth threshold. New business weakened, while rising input costs added pressure. However, business confidence improved to a five-month high.

12 October (Reuters): US Hopes Russian Diesel Deal Will Bring Moscow Back to Ukraine Peace Talks. US President Donald Trump's envoys reportedly told Ukrainian officials that a deal allowing Russia to supply more than 2.25 million barrels of diesel to US and global markets could encourage Moscow to resume peace negotiations. Washington also urged Kyiv to halt strikes on Russian oil refineries, hoping to secure reciprocal concessions. However, Ukraine criticised the deal for potentially financing Russia's war, while disagreements over territory and security guarantees continue to obstruct a settlement. Neither side has formally agreed to an energy ceasefire.

14 October (Reuters): US Inflation Accelerates as Gasoline Prices Surge. US consumer prices rose 3.7% year-on-year in September 2026, up from 3.4% in August. The Consumer Price Index increased 0.6% monthly, driven largely by higher gasoline costs. Core inflation, excluding food and energy, reached 2.6% annually. Renewed price pressures have raised concerns about household purchasing power and increased the possibility of further Federal Reserve interest-rate hikes.

23 October (Reuters): US Administrations Asked Musk to Adjust Starlink Services Across Conflict Zones. The Biden and Trump administrations repeatedly asked Elon Musk's SpaceX to activate or disable Starlink services in Ukraine, Iran, Yemen and Lebanon, former US officials told Reuters. Requests included supporting Ukraine's military communications, enabling internet access for Iranian protesters and blocking access by Iran-linked groups. Recent restrictions on Ukraine's military satellite services have raised concerns about battlefield communications and Europe's reliance on SpaceX for critical defence capabilities.

Science and Technology

5 October (Reuters): US Army Tests Anti-Drone Technology as Cartel Drone Activity Rises. The US Army is testing counter-drone systems along the Mexican border as drug cartels increasingly use commercial drones for surveillance and smuggling. During an Arizona exercise, military officials evaluated radar, interceptor drones and automated weapons. The military reported 378 drone incursions in 30 days and said lasers had downed 11 suspected cartel drones since deployment in August.

19 October (BBC): US Bans DeepSeek from Government Systems Amid AI Rivalry with China. The US Department of Homeland Security has banned China's DeepSeek AI from civilian government agencies, citing security concerns amid intensifying technological competition. The restriction excludes Defence Department agencies. Washington has accused Chinese firms of exploiting American AI models, while DeepSeek's low-cost, open-source technology remains popular among developers and businesses. The move highlights growing US efforts to protect AI leadership and national security.

22 October (BBC): Trump's Green Card Curbs Threaten Indian Tech Workers' American Dream. The Trump administration has suspended green-card labour certification applications at eight technology firms, including Microsoft, Infosys, TCS and Wipro, creating

uncertainty for Indian H-1B workers. Nearly one million Indians awaited employment-based green cards as of December 2025. While companies expect limited business disruption, affected workers face prolonged residency delays, fewer career options and growing concerns about immigration restrictions and anti-Indian sentiment.

SOUTH AMERICA

Foreign Affairs

29 September (AP News): Argentina Escalates Falklands Oil Dispute, Seeking International Tribunal Intervention. Argentine President Javier Milei has taken his dispute with Britain over the Falkland Islands' Sea Lion oilfield to an international maritime tribunal, seeking to halt development. The project, led by British firm Rockhopper Exploration and Israel's Navitas Petroleum, is expected to begin production in 2028. Britain maintains the project is lawful, while Argentina claims the oil resources violate its sovereignty.

3 October (AP News): US and Australia Suspend Consular Services in Brazil Over Security Concerns. The United States suspended consular services and Australia temporarily closed its embassy in Brazil on October 2, citing security concerns ahead of the presidential election. Brazilian federal police searched locations in São Paulo and the Federal District over suspected threats to US diplomatic facilities but found no confirming evidence or identified suspects. Authorities continued investigating as Brazil prepared for a closely contested election.

14 October (AP News): Colombia Opens Embassy in Jerusalem, Restoring Ties with Israel. Colombia opened an embassy in Jerusalem on 14 October, marking a major shift in relations after President Abelardo de la Espriella restored diplomatic ties severed in 2024 over the Gaza war. The move aims to strengthen trade, security, intelligence and cybersecurity cooperation. It also aligns Colombia more closely with the US and Israel, while challenging the international consensus of keeping embassies in Tel Aviv.

17 October (AP News): Chile and Bolivia Seek to Reset Ties After 71 Years Amid Trump's Regional Security Push. Chilean President José Antonio Kast visited Bolivia for the first time in 71 years, meeting President Rodrigo Paz in La Paz to improve strained relations. Both conservative leaders, allies of Donald Trump, pledged greater cooperation on trade, mining, energy and border security through the "Shield of the Americas" coalition against drug

trafficking. However, restoring full diplomatic ties and Bolivia's longstanding demand for Pacific Ocean access remain unresolved.

Military Affairs

5 October (AP News): Colombia Launches Joint Military Task Force to Protect Pipeline and Fight Rebels. Colombian President Abelardo de la Espriella has launched Task Force Urano to combat rebel groups and drug gangs in northeastern Colombia. The unit will target fuel theft from a pipeline allegedly exploited by the National Liberation Army (ELN) to finance cocaine production, illegal mining and criminal activities. The initiative revives joint military operations abandoned in 2024, reflecting the government's shift from peace negotiations toward intensified military offensives.

Economy & Trade

29 September (BBC): Argentina Threatens Legal Action Against UK Over Falklands Oil Exploration. Argentine President Javier Milei has given Britain two weeks to halt the Sea Lion oilfield project near the Falkland Islands, threatening international arbitration and legal action. British and Israeli companies, Rockhopper Exploration and Navitas Petroleum, maintain they hold valid licences. The dispute reignites longstanding sovereignty tensions over the islands, which Britain retained following the 1982 war. The oilfield reportedly contains 1.7 billion barrels of oil.

2 October (Reuters): Argentina's Milei Discusses Major LNG Export Project With Eni CEO. Argentine President Javier Milei met Eni CEO Claudio Descalzi to discuss investment opportunities and the development of the country's liquefied natural gas (LNG) industry. The Argentina LNG project, developed by Italy's Eni, state-owned YPF and Abu Dhabi's XRG, aims to exploit the Vaca Muerta shale basin. Its initial phase targets annual production of 12 million tonnes of LNG, with output expected to begin in 2030. A final investment decision is expected by the end of 2026.

12 October (Reuters): EnergyX Signs \$2 Billion Lithium Supply Deal with Trafigura. US-based lithium startup EnergyX has signed a binding 10-year agreement worth approximately \$2 billion to supply commodities trader Trafigura with 100,000 metric tonnes of battery-grade

lithium from projects in Chile and Texas. Production is expected to begin in 2028. The deal supports EnergyX's financing efforts and aims to strengthen battery supply chains for electric vehicles and energy storage, amid rising global lithium demand.

22 October (AP News): Experts Challenge Trump's Claims About Venezuela's Oil Reserves. Experts have questioned US President Donald Trump's claim that a deal gives Washington control over 65 billion barrels of Venezuela's proven oil reserves. While Venezuela officially reports 303 billion barrels, analysts estimate realistically recoverable reserves at 60–120 billion. Technical difficulties, ageing infrastructure and unreliable historical data could undermine the agreement's profitability and plans to boost US energy security

Science and Technology

12 October (Reuters): EnergyX Signs \$2 Billion Lithium Supply Deal with Trafigura. Startup EnergyX has signed a binding 10-year agreement worth approximately \$2 billion with commodities trader Trafigura to supply 100,000 metric tons of lithium products from planned projects in Chile and Texas. Production is expected to begin in Chile in 2028 and Texas in 2029. The deal supports EnergyX's financing efforts and reflects growing demand for lithium used in batteries and energy storage systems

20 October (ECLAC): Latin America Urged to Strengthen AI Capabilities for Economic Growth. The UN's ECLAC and Chile's CENIA urged Latin America and the Caribbean to strengthen artificial intelligence capabilities to boost productivity, innovation and social inclusion. The ILIA 2026 report identified gaps in computing infrastructure, business adoption and strategy implementation. While 85% of countries have AI strategies planned or underway, limited funding and skilled professionals remain challenges. Regional cooperation is essential to reduce inequalities and build technological capacity.

About the Author

Khushboo Sen Dhuruv is currently serving as Research Assistant at the Centre for Land Warfare Studies (CLAWS), New Delhi. She completed her Ph.D. and M.Phil. from the Centre for European Studies, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University. She also holds a Master's degree in Politics (specialization in International Relations), JNU, and a Bachelor's degree in Political Science, University of Delhi. Her academic and research interests focus on Europe, EU Foreign, Security and Defence Policy, Russia, Transatlantic Partnership, and India-EU relations. Through her work, she engages with contemporary geopolitical and strategic issues shaping European and global affairs.

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