



THE EUROPE DIGEST

NOVEMBER 2025

YOUR MONTHLY INSIGHTS INTO EUROPEAN POLITICS



EUROPE LAUNCHES HUGE MILITARY- SPENDING SPREE

02 NOVEMBER 2025

A new report shows European countries sharply increasing defence budgets. The International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) warns Russia's war-economy could threaten Europe by as soon as 2027. European NATO members are spending record amounts to shore up deterrence, signalling a major shift in continental security policy.



ZELENSKY : “OUR FUTURE IS IN THE EUROPEAN UNION”

03 NOVEMBER 2025

At the Euronews Enlargement Summit, Volodymyr Zelenskyy emphasized that Ukraine’s future lies in joining European Union – urging swift accession talks and appealing to EU leaders to honour Ukraine’s aspirations amid Russia’s war. He called for fast-tracking membership negotiations, rejecting delays by individual member states.



EU FOREIGN-POLICY CHIEFS BACKS ENLARGEMENT PUSH 04 NOVEMBER 2025

The European Union could admit new members by 2030, said its foreign-policy chief Kaja Kallas, in a renewed push for enlargement in view of shifting geopolitics after Russia's invasion of Ukraine. While lauding progress by frontrunners Montenegro and Albania, she cautioned against backsliding in countries like Serbia and Georgia.



EU FUNDS 132 NEW GREEN AND CLIMATE PROJECTS

07 NOVEMBER 2025

The European Union could admit new members by 2030, said its foreign-policy chief Kaja Kallas, in a renewed push for enlargement in view of shifting geopolitics after Russia's invasion of Ukraine. While lauding progress by frontrunners Montenegro and Albania, she cautioned against backsliding in countries like Serbia and Georgia.



INDIA-EU FTA TALKS HELD IN NEW DELHI

07 NOVEMBER 2025

A senior EU negotiation team visited New Delhi from 3-7 November for talks with Indian counterparts on a proposed India-EU Free Trade Agreement (FTA). The discussions, covering goods, services, investment, rules of origin and regulatory alignment, concluded with both sides reaffirming commitment to a comprehensive, balanced, mutually beneficial trade deal and agreeing to accelerate efforts.



EU BACKS GLOBAL COALITION FOR COMPLIANCE CARBON MARKETS AT COP30

15 NOVEMBER 2025

The European Union endorsed the Leaders' Declaration on the Open Coalition for Compliance Carbon Markets at COP30 in Belém, cooperating with Brazil to promote carbon pricing as a core climate tool. Ursula von der Leyen urged nations to develop domestic carbon markets, stressing fairness, ambition, and joint action to meet Paris Agreement goals.



**EURO-ZONE ECONOMY TO GROW MODESTLY
AMID RISING DEFENSE SPENDING
17 NOVEMBER 2025**

The European Commission forecast euro-zone GDP growth of 1.3% in 2025 (up from 0.9%), driven by a pre-tariff-hike export surge. Growth is predicted to slow to 1.2% in 2026 before rising to 1.4% in 2027.



**EU , INDO-PACIFIC MINISTERS MEET IN
BRUSSELS ON GLOBAL SECURITY
20 NOVEMBER 2025**

EU and Indo-Pacific foreign ministers met in Brussels to discuss coordinated action on Ukraine support, sanctions against Russia’s “shadow fleet,” and crisis responses in the Sahel and Sudan. The talks also advanced cooperation with Indo-Pacific states on maritime security, supply-chain resilience and critical raw-materials sourcing.



**GERMANY SEEKS TO BUILD “EUROPE’S
STRONGEST ARMY” UNDER SWEEPING REFORM**
23 NOVEMBER 2025

Bundeswehr — Germany’s armed forces — will expand from ~180,000 to 260,000 soldiers, plus 200,000 reservists by 2035, under a new reform bill. The plan prioritises voluntary enlistment (with higher pay and incentives) but keeps open the option of compulsory call-ups if recruitment targets fall short.



**EU BOOSTS SPACE BUDGET BY ~ 30% OVER
THREE YEARS
24 NOVEMBER 2025**

European nations agreed to raise space spending by roughly 30%, earmarking €22.1 billion over the next three years. The increase is part of an effort to catch up with U.S., Chinese and private sector advances in space technology, with plans to expand satellite, launch and strategic space-related capabilities across the bloc.



**EU APPROVES €1.7 BN DEFENCE
INVESTMENT PROGRAMME
25 NOVEMBER 2025**

The European Parliament approved the European Defence Industrial Programme (EDIP), allocating €1.5-1.7 billion to strengthen defence manufacturing and joint procurement across member states. By 2027, at least 65% of component costs must come from the EU or allied partners. The initiative is a key plank in Europe's push for strategic autonomy amid ongoing security concerns.



EU AND SOUTHERN MEDITERRANEAN PARTNERS 28 NOVEMBER 2025

Ministers from EU member states and ten Southern Mediterranean partner countries gathered in Barcelona, marking the 30th anniversary of the original Barcelona Process. Co-chaired by Kaja Kallas and Dubravka Šuica, the Pact sets a new framework of 100+ joint initiatives to promote growth, stability, connectivity, climate resilience, migration management, and shared prosperity across the Mediterranean.



EU PLANS TO CUT RAW-MATERIALS RELIANCE ON CHINA

29 NOVEMBER 2025

The EU agreed to unveil a strategy aimed at reducing dependence on China for critical raw materials such as rare earths, lithium and gallium. The plan calls for €3 billion funding for 25 strategic projects and supports local mining, refining, recycling – a move driven by industrial, security and supply-chain concerns.



HUNGARY DEFIES EU , PLEDGES TO KEEP BUYING RUSSIAN OIL 28 NOVEMBER 2025

Viktor Orbán told Vladimir Putin that Hungary will continue importing Russian oil – directly defying EU efforts to phase out Russian fossil fuels by 2027. The move underscores Budapest's reliance on Russian energy and strains EU unity on sanctions.



EU PROPOSES USING FROZEN RUSSIAN ASSETS TO SUPPORT UKRAINE

30 NOVEMBER 2025

Viktor Orbán told Vladimir Putin that Hungary will continue importing Russian oil — directly defying EU efforts to phase out Russian fossil fuels by 2027. The move underscores Budapest's reliance on Russian energy and strains EU unity on sanctions.

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