

## IMF sees Turkish markets calming after Central Bank adds liquidity

Reuters, 20.07.2016



The International Monetary Fund expects volatility in Turkey's financial markets to calm after the country's Central Bank added liquidity to the financial system in the wake of last weekend's coup attempt, IMF chief economist Maury Obstfeld said.

Obstfeld told a news briefing it was important that Turkey preserve the democratic institutions that have been key to its strong economic growth in recent decades. "We are seeing some volatility in financial markets" following the coup attempt, Obstfeld said.

"The Turkish authorities, particularly the Central Bank, have stepped in very effectively to provide liquidity, and we would anticipate in our baseline that things will settle down, and that will require continued vigilance by the Turkish authorities."

## S&P rate cut raises criticism

Anadolu Agency, 21.07.2016



Turkey should respond to S&P rating downgrade with its strong economy, experts have said. The international rating agency downgraded Turkey's credit rating to "BB" with a "negative" outlook following a failed military coup.

"Turkey will need to cope with it [the downgrade] and counter by showing the resilience of the government and economy in the coming months," Cyril Widdershoven, a partner of consultancy firm VEROY in the Netherlands, told. "If the economic resilience of Turkey is strong enough, an upgrade could be expected also soon, bringing additional focus and emphasis on growth potential," he added.

Turkey's annual growth was projected to be 3.4 percent in 2016, compared to the 4 percent seen in 2015, according to S&P, which affirmed Turkey's rating at "BB+" and revised up its outlook to "stable" from "negative". At the time the rating agency had emphasized the upward revision with a statement that said: "The Turkish economy was resilient to the challenges posed by the busy electoral calendar in 2015, the end of the peace process with Kurdish militants, heightened regional instability and weak investor sentiment toward emerging markets." "The stable outlook reflects the balance between the resilience of the Turkish economy and modest fiscal deficits against lingering regional and domestic risks and still-high external financing needs," the statement added.

Widdershoven emphasized that the Turkish government should ensure markets and investors will not be adversely affected by uncertainties stemming from the attempted coup. "Investors' confidence at present is dented, which is normal in the light of current developments. However, taking the political-military issues out of the constellation, overall economic issues could be minor, so confidence overall can be restored," he said.

Ed Hirs, an economist at the University of Houston, Texas, also stressed the government's role and the resilience of the economy to weather the storm. Referring to S &P's downgrade, he said: "This is not the fault of the government but of the coup attempt." Hirs stated that rating agencies are looking for the Turkish government to do its best to reassure investors that business would continue as usual, despite all the turmoil.

Meanwhile, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) had revised Turkey's 2016 growth forecast to 3.8 percent, from 3.2 percent, according to its World Economic Outlook report published in April. The IMF expects Turkey to grow by 3.4 percent in 2017.

## Turkish Central Bank reveals measures to ensure financial stability after coup attempt

Hurriyet Daily News, 17.07.2016



The Central Bank has announced a raft of measures to minimize the adverse effects of the failed military coup attempt in Turkey, including unlimited liquidity.

"The Central Bank will provide banks with necessary liquidity, without limits," said the Bank in a written statement, following top level meetings. It also noted that the commission rate for the intraday liquidity facility will be zero. "Banks will be allowed to place foreign exchange deposits as collateral without limits for necessary Turkish Lira liquidity," said the Bank, adding that its current foreign exchange deposit limits of around \$50 billion may be increased.

The announcement came after Deputy Prime Minister Mehmet Şimşek tweeted that Turkey's macro fundamentals are solid and the government is taking all necessary precautions. "I have spoken with the Treasury undersecretary and the Central Bank governor. We have decided to take all necessary precautions. We are in charge and there is no need to worry," Şimşek said, adding that he would be holding a teleconference with international investors today. The Central Bank also stated that market depth and prices would be closely monitored. "All necessary measures will be taken to ensure financial stability," it added.

## Turkish Deputy PM confident about economy after coup attempt

Hurriyet Daily News, 21.07.2016



Turkey does not expect to experience difficulties about any rollover of its external debt, Mehmet Şimşek stated.

Speaking in a TV interview following the declaration of a state of emergency after the failed military coup on the night of July 15, Şimşek vowed that Turkey's economic base is "solid," adding that it has repeatedly surprised observers with its resilience during previous global economic crises and geopolitical rifts. "A significant part of this debt is related to finance of trade, which means being in debt to companies who sell goods to us on credit. Will they stop selling goods to us? This is important," he said.

"Secondly, there are financial institutions with which Turkish banks have had relations for a very long time. Will they quit relations all of a sudden?" he added. After Standard & Poor's downgraded Turkey's credit rating one notch – triggering fears of significant capital outflow – Şimşek admitted that credit costs may edge up due to credit rating agencies' decisions. The deputy prime minister said the government would "prioritize reforms aimed at increasing domestic savings, which means we will reduce dependence on external finance."

President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan leveled harsh criticism against S&P late on July 20, describing the decision to lower Turkey's rating as "political." Erdoğan vowed that such a decision would not harm Turkey. Considering the state of emergency declared on July 20, particularly regarding its possible effects on the economy and the lives of ordinary people, Şimşek vowed that the measures would only focus on those who took part in the failed coup attempt. He said the state of emergency was aimed at bringing all coup plotters "swiftly" to justice.

"The lives of ordinary people and the economy will go on uninterrupted. It will be business as usual and emergency powers will not be abused," Şimşek said. His comments came after Turkey announced on July 20 a nationwide three-month state of emergency after a failed coup which killed hundreds of people and injured more than 1,500 last week.

# Kremlin: Erdogan, Putin to meet in first 10 days of August

Anadolu Agency, 08.07.2016



Turkey Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan will meet his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin some time during the first 10 days of August, the Kremlin said, adding the exact date and location were yet to be determined.

“The meeting between Putin and Erdoğan is being prepared through diplomatic channels,” Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told journalists at a press conference, while adding that the meeting would take place in Russia. “We agreed to hold the meeting during the first 10 days of August and in the Russian Federation, but the exact date and the city is not clear yet,” he also said.

Refuting claims that the meeting will take place in Baku, Peskov noted a trilateral meeting would take place between Iran, Russia and Azerbaijan in the city. Ankara and Moscow have recently engaged in tentative dialogue to restore relations. Erdoğan had sent a letter to Putin in late June to express his deep sorrow over the downing of the Russian jet and the killing of one Russian pilot on Nov. 24, 2015.

With the normalization of ties, Russia removed some sanctions on trade and restrictions on Russian tourists, though it will continue to impose visa regime to Turkish nationals. A deeper conversation between the two countries over a number of international issues like Syria and Crimea between the two foreign ministers will follow soon before the Putin-Erdoğan meeting.

Putin called Erdoğan on July 17, after Turkish security forces quashed a July 15 coup attempt staged by a group of high-ranking officers within the army, telling him that “Russia found anti-constitutional acts and violence unacceptable and is hoping for the restoration of order and stability in Turkey.” Putin had also told Erdoğan that he hoped Russian tourists would be protected in the aftermath of the failed coup attempt.

# Kerry says US and Russia plan ‘concrete’ Syria steps

Reuters, 20.07.2016



U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry said that the United States and Russia have planned “concrete steps” for the direction they will take in Syria.

He also urged Russia to use its influence on Syrian President Bashar al-Assad to halt Syrian military attacks on opposition groups and civilians. Kerry spoke to Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov by phone earlier on July 19 and discussed ways to resolve the Syria crisis, the Russian Foreign Ministry said in a statement. At a news conference in London, Kerry described his visit to Moscow last week as “the concrete steps that the U.S. and Russia are planning to take.”

“I spoke to Foreign Minister Lavrov again today,” he said. “We both believe that we have an understanding of the direction we are going in and what needs to be achieved and our teams will meet shortly and we are going to continue to do that in order to bolster the cessation of hostilities and in order to increase our capacity to fight back against al Qaeda, which is Nusra, as well as fight back against ISIL [the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant],” Kerry said. “We will also do everything in our power to improve delivery of food, medicine, water, incredibly essential humanitarian needs,” Kerry said.

In a meeting with U.N. Syria envoy Staffan de Mistura in London, Kerry said it was vital for Moscow to use its influence with the Assad regime to halt its attacks on opposition groups and innocent civilians, which he said were in violation of the cessation of hostilities. He also emphasized the need to end all attempts to besiege the city of Aleppo and other besieged towns and ensure full humanitarian access there, according to U.S. State Department Spokesperson John Kirby.

At the same London news conference, British Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson called on Russia to use its “unique ability” to stop the Syrian conflict by convincing Assad to put an end to five years of fighting that have ravaged the country. “Russia in particular has a unique ability to persuade the Assad regime to end the carnage and return to the negotiating table,” Johnson said.

Meanwhile, Syrian rebels and a monitoring group said two explosions that struck a Syrian town near the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights on July 20 were caused by an Israeli air strike but Lebanon’s Hezbollah blamed rocket fire by al-Qaeda-linked militants. At least one blast struck near the governorate building in Baath City, capital of the southern province of Quneitra which borders the Golan region.

The town is held by pro-Syrian government forces, including the army and Hezbollah fighters. The Nusra Front, Western-backed rebels, and groups which have pledged allegiance to ISIL also operate in the region.

A Syrian military source said two rockets had hit the town but their origin was unknown. "There is information that there was a rocket which fell on one of a government headquarters in Quneitra in the area of the town of Baath," he said. Two Syrian rebels said an Israeli jet had been seen circling the area and carried out an air strike on a military position. "Our information is that the attack targeted a Hezbollah outpost," said Maher al Ali, a spokesman for the Syrian Revolutionaries Front, a Western-backed rebel group. The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights monitoring group said an Israeli jet fired a rocket near the governorate building. It said it had no information on casualties.

## Iraq PM accepts resignation of five new ministers

AFP, 20.07.2016



**Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi, who has been trying for months to replace the current cabinet, has accepted the resignations of five more ministers, his office said.**

**Abadi issued orders accepting the resignations of the ministers of oil, transport, housing and construction, water resources and industry, as well as interior, which had been previously announced. But replacing them will be a major challenge: Abadi struggled to win parliament's approval for even relatively minor ministers, and oil and interior are two of the most powerful ministries in the country.**

And while parliament finally approved a few of Abadi's candidates in late April, a court scrapped the session, from which some lawmakers were barred from attending, two months later. The premier called in Feb. for the cabinet to include technocrats, but has faced major opposition from powerful political parties that rely on control of ministries for patronage and funds.

Populist Shiite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr later took up the call for a technocratic government, and has organised repeated demonstrations calling for reforms. His supporters have broken into Baghdad's fortified Green Zone area, where the government is headquartered, on multiple occasions during Friday protests. Sadr called for a break in protests during the month of Ramadan, when observant Muslims fast from dawn to dusk, which ended two weeks ago.

The cleric urged his supporters to protest again last Friday, making a brief appearance himself in Baghdad's Tahrir Square as thousands of people defied government warnings against demonstrating. The protest renews pressure on the government to carry out reforms, but demonstrations in the past year have ultimately resulted in little more than unfulfilled promises, as those in a position to effect change benefit from the existing system.

## Hollande tells UK no single market without free movement

Hurriyet Daily News, 22.07.2016



French President Francois Hollande told Britain it would have to choose between access to the single market and the free movement of people when it begins its negotiations on leaving the European Union.

The French leader accepted Britain's right to delay formal exit talks, but described the timing of its departure as "the sooner the better," following the country's shock vote to leave last month. "It's the most crucial point... Britain will have to choose: stay in the single market and accept free movement or have another status," he said without elaborating on the latter option, according to AFP.

Speaking after talks in Paris with British Prime Minister Theresa May, Hollande took a tougher line than German Chancellor Angela Merkel a day earlier in Berlin. "The United Kingdom has decided to leave the European Union. It's their choice, it's their responsibility and we respect that decision.... There can be no discussions, no pre-negotiation before the negotiation," Hollande told a joint news conference with May.

On the timing for the talks, Hollande acknowledged that Britain would need time to prepare a negotiating position. "There can be preparations for this negotiation," he said. "But I repeat. The sooner the better, it's in the common interest, of Europe, the United Kingdom, and our economies," he added. May said she was committed to achieving a deal that reflected the sentiments expressed by most Britons in the June 23 referendum. "The message the British people gave in their vote for the UK to leave the EU had a very clear message: that we should introduce some controls to the movement of individuals from countries in the European Union into the UK. "I'm clear the government should deliver, and will deliver on that for the British people. "But we also want to get the right deal on trade in goods and services," she said, calling it a matter of importance to both Britain and its EU partners.

# British nuclear submarine docks in Gibraltar after collision

AFP, 21.07.2016



A British nuclear submarine docked in Gibraltar after it collided with a merchant vessel off the coast of the territory located on Spain's southern tip, Britain's ministry said.

“The submarine suffered some external damage but there is absolutely no damage to her nuclear plant and no member of the ship's company was injured in the incident,” the ministry said in a statement. “We are in contact with the merchant vessel and initial indications are that it has not sustained damage,” it added. The HMS Ambush submarine was submerged and carrying out a training exercise when it collided with the merchant vessel.

It arrived in Gibraltar later the same day to undergo further checks, the ministry said. The HMS Ambush has the capacity to carry a mix of up to 38 Spearfish heavyweight torpedoes and Tomahawk land-attack cruise missiles, and can target enemy submarines, surface ships and land targets with pinpoint accuracy, according to the defence ministry's website. The submarine is a regular visitor to Gibraltar, having stopped in the territory last month and in March. The defence ministry said there “are no safety concerns” associated with the presence of the HMS Ambush in Gibraltar, and that it has opened an “immediate investigation” into the collision.

In 2010 a British nuclear submarine, the HMS Tireless, docked in Gibraltar for repairs for nearly a year after a crack was found in a cooling pipe near its nuclear reactor, sparking fears that it could leak and contaminate the environment. People in Gibraltar and in southern Spain staged regular protests against the HMS Tireless and it has been the subject of a high-profile direct action campaign by the environmental organisation Greenpeace.

Spain's prime minister at the time, Jose Maria Aznar, was criticised at home for not insisting that the submarine be moved back to Britain for repair. The captain of the HMS Tireless at the time, Mike Walker, assumed the post of Commander of British Forces in Gibraltar last week. Britain's defence ministry did not provide details of the damage done to the HMS Ambush, saying only that “this is not a similar situation to the HMS Tireless”.

A tiny enclave located on Spain's southern tip, Gibraltar has been a British territory since 1713 and is known to its 30,000 residents as “the Rock”. Gibraltar remains a source of British-Spanish tensions, with Madrid long claiming the territory should be returned to Spanish sovereignty.



# Italy says 3,200 boat migrants rescued in one day, one body recovered

Reuters, 20.07.2016



Some 3,200 migrants were plucked from overcrowded boats off the coast of Libya and one dead body was recovered, the Italian coast guard said, as people smugglers operating in Libya took advantage of calm seas and warm weather.

A coast guard spokesman said the smugglers had sent at least 26 boats toward Italy, the latest in a tide of migrants fleeing war and poverty in Africa, the Middle East and Asia. Three Italian navy ships took part in rescues, picking up more than 1,000 of those brought to safety. British and Spanish ships operating within the European Union's anti-people-smuggling mission also conducted rescues.

The Doctors Without Borders charity and migrant rescue groups MOAS and Sea Watch also participated. An Irish navy ship and a private tug boat completed the cast of rescuers. A deal struck between the EU and Turkey and border closures have helped to stem the flow of migrants from the Middle East and Asia coming through Turkey and Greece. But Italy has received about the same number of migrants setting off from North Africa this year as during the same period of 2015.

As of July 18, 79,861 migrants had arrived in Italy by sea, compared with 83,119 during the same period of last year, while the number of migrants arriving in Greece from Turkey was down 95 percent. Almost 3,000 boat migrants have died or gone missing in the Mediterranean this year, according to the International Organization for Migration. Fabrice Leggeri, head of Frontex, the agency in charge of protecting the EU's external borders, said July 12 that the "new front line" was now Italy, where about 750 people, mostly from sub-Saharan and Western Africa, arrived each day compared with about 50 in Greece.

# North Korea fires three ballistic missiles in new show of force

Reuters, 19.07.2016



North Korea fired three ballistic missiles which flew between 500 and 600 kilometers into the sea off its east coast, South Korea's military said, the latest in a series of provocative moves by the isolated country.

The U.S. military said it detected launches of what it believed were two Scud missiles and one Rodong, a home-grown missile based on Soviet-era Scud technology. North Korea has fired both types numerous times in recent years, an indication that unlike recent launches that were seen as efforts by the North to improve its missile capability, the ones were meant as a show of force.

"This smells political rather than technical to me," said Melissa Hanham, a senior research associate at the U.S.-based Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey, California. "I think the number and distance of the missiles lets them remind the Republic of Korea of what they are up against," she said, referring to South Korea by its official name.

North Korea and the rich, democratic South are technically still at war because their 1950-53 conflict ended in an armistice, not a peace treaty. The North regularly threatens to destroy Japan, South Korea and the South's main ally, the United States. The launches came nearly a week after South Korea and the United States chose a site in the South to deploy the Terminal High Altitude Area Defence (THAAD) anti-missile system to counter threats from the North, which had prompted Pyongyang to threaten a "physical response." "Our assessment is that it was done as a show of force," a South Korean Joint Chiefs of Staff official said at a briefing.

# US says its forces will keep operating in South China Sea

Reuters, 20.07.2016



U.S. military forces will continue to operate in the South China Sea in accordance with international law, the U.S. Chief of Naval Operations John Richardson said during a visit to a Chinese naval base.

China has refused to recognize a ruling by an arbitration court in The Hague that invalidated its vast territorial claims in the South China Sea and did not take part in the proceedings brought by the Philippines. China has repeatedly blamed the United States for stirring up trouble in the South China Sea, a strategic waterway through which more than \$5 trillion of trade moves annually.

China, Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines, Taiwan and Vietnam all have rival claims, of which China's is the largest. The United States has conducted freedom of navigation patrols close to Chinese-held islands, to Beijing's anger, while China has been bolstering its military presence there. Meeting Yuan Yubai, commander of the Chinese North Sea Fleet, Richardson "underscored the importance of lawful and safe operations in the South China and elsewhere professional navies operate," the U.S. Navy said.

U.S. forces would keep sailing, flying and operating wherever international law allows, Richardson added. "The U.S. Navy will continue to conduct routine and lawful operations around the world, including in the South China Sea, in order to protect the rights, freedoms and lawful uses of sea and airspace guaranteed to all. This will not change."

Freedom of navigation patrols carried out by foreign navies in the South China Sea could end "in disaster," a senior Chinese admiral said over the weekend. Chinese state news agency Xinhua said on July 20 that countries outside the region should stay out of the South China Sea issue lest they cause unwanted problems. "Western countries have a long history of failing to establish orderly rule over parts of the world. The Middle East is a classic example," it said.

# World powers ready to arm Libya unity government

Reuters, 16.07.2016



World powers said that they supported the lifting of an arms embargo on Libya and were ready to supply weapons to the country's new unity government to help it fight the growing threat posed by the ISIL.

“The Government of National Accord has voiced its intention to submit appropriate arms embargo exemption requests to the U.N. Libya Sanctions Committee to procure necessary lethal arms and materiel to counter U.N.-designated terrorist groups and to combat [ISIL] throughout the country. We will fully support these efforts,” read a statement by John Kerry and 24 other top diplomats after talks in Vienna.

ISIL has taken advantage of the chaos left by the toppling and death of longtime leader Moammar Gadhafi in 2011, which left rival militias vying for control of the oil-rich country. A recently formed unity government backed by the international community has been slowly asserting its authority in Tripoli, but it still faces a rival administration in the east.

A total of 25 top diplomats were in attendance, including the U.N.'s special envoy to Libya Martin Kobler and EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini. “The key question is whether Libya remains a place where terrorism, people-smuggling and instability continue to flourish or whether we can regain statehood with the new unity government,” German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier said.

# Fighting flares again in South Sudan capital after UN demand for restraint

Reuters, 17.07.2016



Heavy fighting erupted again in South Sudan's capital a day after the U.N. Security Council told rivals President Salva Kiir and Vice-President Riek Machar to rein in their forces and end days of violence that have left scores dead.

Residents reported tanks on the street. A U.N. official said heavy gunfire had erupted around U.N. bases again. The capital has been mired in fighting almost every day since July 7 when troops loyal to Kiir and soldiers backing former rebel leader Machar first clashed, raising fears of a slide back to a full-blown conflict after a two-year civil war.

It was not immediately clear who was leading the fighting or if either side was gaining the upper hand. The violence has raised concerns that Kiir and Machar, longtime political and military rivals, may not have full control of their forces. There has been no official death toll but at least five soldiers died on July 7 and a Health Ministry source said 272 people, including 33 civilians, were killed on July 8. After a brief lull on July 9, the July 10 fighting appeared even more fierce.

"We urge an end to these hostilities and hope they [political leaders] will return back to taking up all the action points of the peace agreement," Shantal Persaud, spokeswoman for the U.N. mission UNMISS, told Reuters by telephone. She said gunfire had erupted on July 11 around the U.N. headquarters in the Jebel area of Juba and also around a base near the airport. U.N. bases were hit by small arms and heavy weapons on July 10. One U.N. Chinese peacekeeper was killed.

UNMISS said it was "outraged" by renewed violence in the world's newest nation, which marked five years of independence from Sudan last week. South Sudan's people remain mired in poverty. Oil production, the nation's mainstay, has plummeted. The U.N. Security Council, after an emergency meeting, told the two leaders to "do their utmost to control their respective forces, urgently end the fighting and prevent the spread of violence" and commit themselves to their peace deal. Attacks on civilians, U.N. personnel and U.N. premises might amount to war crimes that would need investigation, it said.

# US Republicans nominate Donald Trump for president

Reuters, 21.07.2016



Ted Republicans formally chose Donald Trump as the party's presidential nominee, a landmark moment in American politics and a stunning victory for a man whose White House ambitions were once openly mocked.

After a roller-coaster campaign that saw Trump defeat 16 rivals and steamroller stubborn party opposition, the tycoon said it was time to "go all the way" and beat Hillary Clinton in November. "This is a movement," he told the delegates via video link. On the convention floor, states from Alabama to West Virginia took it in turns to pledge their delegates.

It fell to Trump's home state of New York, represented by a coterie of the candidate's adult children, to hand him the majority-plus-one needed to clinch the nomination. "It's my honor to be able to throw Donald Trump over the top in the delegation count tonight," Donald Trump Jr said to cheers and applause.

When the bombastic mogul came down the escalators of Trump Towers in New York 13 months ago to announce his candidacy, few experts gave him even the faintest chance. His campaign has defied political norms -- embracing racially inflammatory policies, offending key voting blocks, eschewing big-spending advertising campaigns and relying on saturated media coverage above campaign structure. "It's unbelievable. It's surreal. I'm so proud of my father," said Trump's eldest daughter and businesswoman Ivanka Trump, often described as his secret weapon. "He's the ultimate outsider and he did it. We are so proud of him."

Trump became the presumptive nominee nearly two months ago. But relentless controversy over his campaign rhetoric and a simmering movement by anti-Trump delegates to deny him the nomination made it less than a foregone conclusion. Around the convention floor, Trump's victory was far from universally welcomed.

Many delegates clapped politely after his victory, a few angrily walked out or voiced their unease. Several states refused to honor party convention and pledge their delegates to a frontrunner who was by then unopposed. "I'm disappointed" said Utah Senator Mike Lee. "But it is what it is."

Washington delegate Teri Galvez said baldly: "We do not support Donald Trump." But as the last vestiges of Republican resistance were quashed, there fresh signs that the party establishment had thrown its lot in with Trump in a bid to beat Clinton. New Jersey governor Chris Christie led delegates in declaring Clinton "guilty" and encouraged visceral chants of "lock her up."



The Speaker of the House of Representatives Paul Ryan declared “the Obama years are almost over. The Clinton years are way over. Two-thousand sixteen is the year America moves on.” The Trump campaign will hope that disdain for Clinton will unite the party and make a series of missteps irrelevant.

“The party is unified, we’re all here, I will bet you, if you polled this place, there is not one vote for Hillary Clinton in this building,” key Trump lieutenant Corey Lewandowski told AFP. “People are ready for a fundamental and unequivocal change in Washington and the person who is going to bring that is Donald Trump.” Before Trump emerged victorious, it had been a brutal week for the candidate. His glamorous wife Melania Trump brought some pizzazz to the proceedings on the opening night. But an embarrassing plagiarism scandal tarnished her prime-time speech -- and brought her husband’s presidential campaign under withering scrutiny.

Earlier delegates exchanged jeers and heckles as anti-Trump forces tried in vain to thwart his nomination. Again on Tuesday it fell to Trump’s kin to reshape his public image. Donald Trump Jr made a sweeping speech peppered with personal anecdotes that humanized his father. The married father of five touched on themes of economic inequality, job creation, promised healthcare for “our most vulnerable citizens” and to improve public education. Clinton wasted no time seeking to capitalize on Trump’s party victory. “Donald Trump just became the Republican nominee. Chip in now to make sure he never steps foot in the Oval Office,” she said in a fundraising tweet.



# Announcements & Reports

## *Russian Federation 2016*

**Source** : IMF  
**Weblink** : <http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/scr/2016/cr16229.pdf>

## *The China-Russia Trade Relationship and Its Impact on Europe*

**Source** : Bruegel  
**Weblink** : <http://bruegel.org/2016/07/the-china-russia-trade-relationship-and-its-impact-on-europe/>

## *Singapore-U.S. Relations to Set Pace for Twenty-first Century U.S. Engagement in Southeast Asia*

**Source** : CSIS  
**Weblink** : <https://www.csis.org/analysis/singapore-us-relations-set-pace-twenty-first-century-us-engagement-southeast-asia>

# Upcoming Events

## *The Search for Europe*

**Date** : 22 July 2016  
**Place** : Brussels - Belgium  
**Website** : <http://bruegel.org/events/the-search-for-europe/>

## *The UK and the EU: Managing the Euro and the Single Market*

**Date** : 22 July 2016  
**Place** : London - UK  
**Website** : <https://www.chathamhouse.org/event/uk-and-eu-managing-euro-and-single-market>

## *Competitive Gains in the Economic and Monetary Union*

**Date** : 23 July 2016  
**Place** : Brussels - Belgium  
**Website** : <http://www.bruegel.org/nc/events/event-detail/event/534-competitive-gains-in-the-economic-and-monetary-union/>

## *The Future of Capitalist Democracy: UK-Japan Perspectives*

**Date** : 24 July 2016  
**Place** : London - UK  
**Website** : <http://www.chathamhouse.org/event/future-capitalist-democracy-uk-japan-perspectives>





## *Emerging Markets and Europe: Time for Different Relationships?*

**Date** : 25 July 2016  
**Place** : Brussels - Belgium  
**Website** : <http://www.bruegel.org/nc/events/event-detail/event/524-emerging-markets-and-europe-time-for-different-relationships/>

## *What future for Europe's Social Models?*

**Date** : 28 July 2016  
**Place** : Brussels - Belgium  
**Website** : <http://www.bruegel.org/nc/events/event-detail/event/526-what-future-for-europes-social-models/>

## *Challenges for Growth in Europe*

**Date** : 28 July 2016  
**Place** : Brussels - Belgium  
**Website** : <http://www.bruegel.org/nc/events/event-detail/event/521-challenges-for-growth-in-europe/>

## *Global Governance of Public Goods: Asian and European Perspectives*

**Date** : 30 July 2016  
**Place** : Paris - France  
**Website** : <http://www.bruegel.org/nc/events/event-detail/event/529-global-governance-of-public-goods-asian-and-european-perspectives/>

## *The Future of the Welfare State*

**Date** : 30 July 2016  
**Place** : Berlin - Germany  
**Website** : <http://www.bruegel.org/nc/events/event-detail/event/541-the-future-of-the-welfare-state/>