

## Turkish PM: Germany leaving İncirlik air base won't affect our contribution to anti-ISIL coalition

Hurriyet Daily News, 07.06.2017



A potential decision by the German parliament to remove its troops from İncirlik air base to another base will not affect Turkish contribution to the international coalition's fight against jihadists in Syria, Prime Minister Binali Yıldırım has said, stressing that Turkey's doors were open to all friends willing to fight against terror.

"We are in full cooperation with our allies and partners in the fight against Daesh ISIL and we are hosting soldiers of the coalition forces. Our contribution to the fight against terror will not be affected, although there are disagreements with one of our partners over the [use of] the base," Yıldırım told.

Yıldırım referred to an ongoing spat with Germany whose request for a visit to German troops stationed at the İncirlik base was rejected because of Berlin's decision to accept asylum requests of former military personnel allegedly linked with the July 2016 coup attempt. Germany is mulling over moving its troops and six Tornado surveillance aircrafts to Jordan.

"Our door is always open to our friends in the fight against terror. But if their conditions do not fit with it and if they ponder their contribution in a different way, then it's their own discretion," Yıldırım said.

President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, in his address to the ambassadors, reiterated Turkey's disturbance with the United States' decision to ally with People's Protection Units (YPG), an offshoot of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), in a military operation to liberate Raqqa from ISIL jihadists.

In his strong criticism, without naming the US, Erdoğan said lending support to terror organizations forces Turkey to sit on "a hand grenade with a pulled pin." "Those who are describing these groups as militia forces will soon understand their mistake.

It is very unfortunate that a kind of strategic blindness is being observed in Syria. A bloody-handed terror organization is being put in use in a bid to defeat Daesh terror. I repeat: be cruel to be kind. This [alliance with YPG] is an effort to clean blood with blood," he added.

Erdoğan said weapons recently seized in caves in mountains in the country's southeast prove Turkey's concerns over the U.S.'s decision to provide military equipment and arms to the YPG. "Saying 'we are your friend' does not resolve any problem," he said. "We have neutralized around 3,000 Daesh terrorists.

I ask, those who are fighting Daesh, how many of them have you neutralized?" he said. Although Turkey proposed to the U.S. a joint operation against ISIL, Erdoğan said: "But they told us that they will conduct it with PYD [Democratic Union Party] and its armed wing, the YPG, which we designated as a terror organization. What can we say to it? Good luck with it.

Good luck with it; but, we'll do whatever is necessary in the event of a slightest assault against us." Erdoğan also vowed that Turkey will take all measures to stop PKK from having new headquarters in northern Iraq and to prevent the establishment of a terror corridor in northern Syria.

## President Erdoğan: Turkey does not approve sanctions on Qatar

Hurriyet Daily News, 07.06.2017



President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan on June 6 voiced disapproval of the sanctions on Qatar, after several Arab countries led by Saudi Arabia severed diplomatic relations with Doha.

"I want to say clearly that we don't find the sanctions that have started to be imposed on Qatar correct. These developments, coming at a time when we need solidarity and cooperation more than ever, are no good for any country in the region," Erdoğan said at an iftar fast-breaking meal organized by the ruling AKP in the capital Ankara.

He added that the right way forward is for the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) members to solve issues between themselves by engaging in dialogue. "Within this framework, we appreciate the cool-headed and constructive attitude presented by Qatar.

The fact that Qatar, which we know is waging an effective struggle against terrorism, is being isolated in this way cannot solve any problems. I hope that all sanctions against Qatar will be lifted as soon as possible," Erdoğan said. Perceiving Qatar as a "terror suspect" is a "very heavy accusation," he added, claiming that "there is a different game being played here." "I've known them for 15 years. If such a thing existed, I would be the first president to oppose them. But I have not seen this.

There is a different game being played here. We have not yet been able to determine those behind this game yet, but we need to disappoint those waiting for an opportunity to meddle in the region," he added. During his speech, Erdoğan also said Turkey is ready to do its part to solve the countries' problems with Qatar. He also said he held phone calls with Qatari Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, Russian President Vladimir Putin, King Salman bin Abdulaziz al-Saud of Saudi Arabia, French President Emmanuel Macron, Indonesian President Joko Widodo, Malaysian Prime Minister Najib bin Tun Abdul Razak, Bahrain's King Hamad bin Isa al-Khalifa, Jordan's King Abdullah II and Lebanese Prime Minister Saad Hariri on the issue.

Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Egypt and Bahrain are among seven states that have cut diplomatic ties with Qatar, a gas-rich emirate at the Saudi border. Qatar says the “baseless” allegations that it supports terrorism are being used to tarnish the image and unity of Gulf states.

## Industry official: Turkish exporters ready to meet Qatar demand for food and water

Reuters, 07.06.2017



Turkish exporters are ready to meet demand for food and water from Qatar, the head of Turkey’s main exporting trade body, Mehmet Büyükek i, told Reuters, allowing the Gulf state to stave off possible shortages after its biggest suppliers cut ties.

Mehmet Büyükek i, chairman of the Turkish Exporters Assembly (T M), told Reuters that exporters stood ready to fill the gap after the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Saudi Arabia cut trade ties with Qatar. A government official in Qatar earlier told Reuters Doha was talking to Iran and Turkey about securing food and water supplies.

“We are in talks with Turkey and Iran and other countries,” said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity due to the sensitivity of the subject, adding that the supplies would be brought in through Qatar Airways cargo flights.

The official said there were enough grain supplies in the market in Qatar to last four weeks and that the government also had large strategic food reserves in Doha. Saudi Arabia, Egypt, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Bahrain severed relations with Qatar and closed their airspace to commercial flights, charging it with financing militant groups. Qatar vehemently denies the accusations.

It is the worst split between powerful Arab states in decades. The moves isolating Qatar are disrupting trade in commodities from crude oil to metals and food, and deepening fears of a possible jolt to the global gas market, where the tiny Gulf state is a major player.

Food imports are affected as Saudi Arabia closed its land border with Qatar, stranding thousands of trucks carrying supplies. Qatar, a desert country heavily dependent on food imports to feed its mostly foreign population of 2.6 million, has assured residents it has taken measures to assure that normal life continues. Although it is located in a volatile region of the world, its huge foreign currency reserves and comparatively small population mean arranging adequate new sources of food imports in an emergency is a possibility. Turkey is a key ally of Qatar and is setting up a military base in the country which also hosts the largest U.S. air base in the Middle East. Iran shares access with Qatar to the world’s biggest natural gas field.

# Turkey part of diplomacy for Qatar crisis

Hurriyet Daily News, 05.06.2017



A number of nations, including Turkey, have been engaged in intense diplomatic efforts to find a solution to the escalating crisis between Qatar and a group of Arab countries led by Saudi Arabia and Egypt.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan spoke by phone with the leaders of Qatar, Russia, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia in a bid to ease the crisis, presidential sources said. “The importance of regional peace and stability was underlined in the talks, as well as the importance of focusing on the path of diplomacy and dialogue to lower the current tension,” they added.

The Saudi-led group cut ties with Qatar, accusing the gas-rich Gulf country of supporting extremism. Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, Yemen and the Maldives joined the bloc in severing relations with Qatar, accusing Doha of harboring “terrorist and sectarian groups that aim to destabilize the region including the Muslim Brotherhood, Daesh [the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant – ISIL] and al-Qaeda.”

After the talks between Erdoğan and his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin, the Kremlin said both leaders called for “dialogue and compromise.” “The two presidents discussed the developments around Qatar and called on all interested countries to engage in dialogue with a view to reaching a compromise for the sake of preserving peace and stability in the Persian Gulf area,” the Kremlin said in a statement.

“It was emphasized that the grave crisis in the Middle East requires well-orchestrated efforts and close coordination of the international community in fighting the terrorist threat,” it added. The president also spoke with Saudi Arabia’s King Salman and the emirs of Qatar and Kuwait.

U.S. President Donald Trump said that he warned against funding “radical ideology” during his trip to the Middle East and that leaders there pointed to Qatar, appearing to take credit for Arab countries’ split as his administration was trying to resolve the dispute.

“During my recent trip to the Middle East I stated that there can no longer be funding of Radical Ideology. Leaders pointed to Qatar - look!” Trump wrote on Twitter. The United Arab Emirates said on June 6 that Qatar would need to provide a “guaranteed roadmap” before it would consider mending ties.

“We need a guaranteed roadmap to rebuild confidence after our covenants were broken,” UAE state minister for foreign affairs Anwar Gargash said on Twitter. Gargash accused Doha of turning to “money and media and partisanship and extremism” in a series of tweets earlier in the day. Qatar has denied the allegations. Kuwait’s Emir Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmad Al-Sabah left for Saudi Arabia for talks aimed at resolving a diplomatic crisis between Qatar and other Arab nations.

The official KUNA news agency said the emir left for the western port city of Jeddah at the head of a high-level delegation including the foreign and information ministers. The Kuwaiti ruler played a pivotal role in mediating a compromise in a 2014 diplomatic dispute between Saudi Arabia, Qatar and other Gulf states. Qatar's emir, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, has delayed a speech planned for broadcast on Al-Jazeera at the request of the Kuwaiti ruler, the Qatari foreign minister said.

Saudi Arabia and Bahrain revoked the licenses of Qatar Airways and ordered its offices to close within 48 hours. Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif urged the parties to engage in dialogue to resolve their dispute. France said it wanted the row to be resolved through dialogue, its foreign ministry said.

## Next round of Syria talks in Astana delayed

AFP, 08.06.2017



Russian-backed peace talks on Syria have been pushed back, organizers said on June 8, as key players wrangle over the future of fragile safe zones in the war-torn country.

Moscow earlier said that it was calling a fresh round of negotiations in Kazakhstan's capital for June 12-13 to try to shore up four "de-escalation zones" agreed in May between the talks' co-sponsors Russia, Iran and Turkey. But deputy foreign minister Mikhail Bogdanov told Russian news agencies that Moscow was now looking to start the talks "around" June 20 as the various delegations had "turned out to not be ready".

Kazakhstan's foreign ministry said it had been told representatives from the three powers would meet in their separate capitals in the "upcoming days and weeks." "The sponsor countries intend to inform Kazakhstan in the future about the timeframe, level, attendees and agenda they agree for the next round of Astana talks," ministry spokesman Anuar Zhainakov was quoted as saying by Russia's RIA Novosti. At the last round of negotiations in May attended by Syrian government and rebel delegations, regime backers Moscow and Tehran and rebel supporter Ankara agreed to establish four "de-escalation zones" to ease fighting in opposition areas.

The zones - where aerial bombardments were supposed to stop - have ushered in a marked decrease in fighting on the ground, but there remain key outstanding issues to negotiate. Despite pledging to agree on definitive boundaries by June 4, the sponsors are still arguing over the outlines and which countries should send in forces to police the safe zones. Moscow has spearheaded the Astana talks since the start of the year as it tries to turn its game-changing military intervention on the ground into a negotiated settlement. The tetchy negotiations - seen as a complement to broader UN-backed talks in Geneva - have involved armed rebels and government officials and have focused mainly on military issues.

# Iran's Revolutionary Guards claim Saudi Arabia behind deadly terror attacks in Tehran

AFP, 07.06.2017



Iran's Revolutionary Guards say Saudi Arabia was behind twin attacks in Tehran on June 7 that killed at least 12 people and injured 43, a statement published by the Guards said.

“This terrorist attack happened only a week after the meeting between the U.S. president and the Saudi backward leaders who support terrorists. The fact that Islamic State has claimed responsibility proves that they were involved in the brutal attack,” said the statement. The attacks were the first claimed by the hardline Sunni Muslim militant group in the tightly controlled Shi'ite Muslim Iran.

Suicide bombers and gunmen attacked Iran's parliament and the Mausoleum of Ayatollah Khomeini in Tehran on the morning of June 7, killing at least 12 people in a twin assault claimed by the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL).

The jihadist group released a video purporting to show gunmen inside the parliament building and one man, who appeared wounded, on the floor. The rare attacks were the first claimed by the hardline ISIL inside the Shiite Muslim country.

Iran is one of the powers leading the fight against ISIL in Syria and neighboring Iraq. The attacks began midmorning when assailants armed with Kalashnikov rifles stormed the parliament building. One of the attackers later blew himself up inside, where a session had been in progress, according to a statement carried by Iran's state TV.

Attackers dressed as women burst through parliament's main entrance in central Tehran, deputy interior minister Mohammad Hossein Zolfaghari said, according to the semi-official Tasnim news agency.

“One of them was shot dead and another one detonated his suicide vest,” he said. About five hours after the first reports, Iranian news agencies said four people who had attacked parliament were dead and the incident was over.

At least 12 people were killed by the attackers, the head of Iran's emergency department, Pir-Hossein Kolivand, was quoted as saying by state broadcaster IRIB. “I was inside the parliament when shooting happened. Everyone was shocked and scared. I saw two men shooting randomly,” said one journalist at the scene, who asked not to be named. Soon after the assault on parliament, another bomber detonated a suicide vest near the shrine of the Republic's revered founder, Ayatollah Khomeini, a few kilometers south of the city, Zolfaghari said, according to Tasnim.

A second attacker was shot dead, he said. The Intelligence Ministry said security forces had arrested another “terrorist team” planning a third attack, without giving further details. The attacks took place less than a month after the re-election of President Hassan Rouhani, a moderate, whose landslide victory defeated candidates supported by the hardline clergy and the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), which is responsible for national security.

Several countries, including Turkey, condemned the attacks. “We condemn these heinous attacks, wish Allah’s mercy upon those who lost their lives and convey our condolences to the people of Iran, particularly to the relatives of those who lost their lives, as well as the government of Iran, and wish a speedy recovery to the injured,” the Foreign Ministry said in a statement on June 7.

“We are saddened to learn that the Iran Islamic Consultative Assembly and Imam Khomeini Mausoleum in Tehran have come under terrorist attacks this morning and there are people who lost their lives or injured as a result of these attacks,” it added.

“We strongly condemn the attacks that targeted the Iranian parliament and the Imam Khomeini Mausoleum in Tehran,” the French Foreign Ministry said in a statement. The Kremlin said the attack on two targets underlined the need for countries to pool their efforts to fight against terrorism, something it said meant working closely with Muslim nations. The Syrian Foreign Ministry said the attacks were backed by various governments, without specifying.

## Britain’s strange election about nothing

Bloomberg, 07.06.2017



**Britain’s vote on Thursday is set to be a textbook example of the limits of elections. When choices are clear, and articulated by strong leaders, elections can move politics forward. When choices aren’t clear, and parties don’t know what they stand for, votes resolve nothing.**

**Six weeks ago, U.K. PM Theresa May’s call for a snap election made sense. With her popularity high and her Labour Party opponents in disarray, she hoped to strengthen her position in Parliament, undercutting her party’s euroskeptic hard-liners and making it easier for her to negotiate the terms of Britain’s divorce from the European Union.**

Things haven’t gone according to plan. New terrorist atrocities have sidelined discussion about Brexit, such as it was. May has waged a weak campaign and seen the once-commanding lead of her Conservative Party evaporate. A Labour win still looks unlikely, but anything less than a big Tory victory will leave May diminished, and the outlook for Brexit even more muddled.

Fact is, on the two main issues -- Britain’s exit from the EU and the persistent threat of Islamist terrorism -- there isn’t much difference between the main parties. The Labour opposition isn’t promising to reverse Brexit, only to make it less disruptive. (It hasn’t said how.)

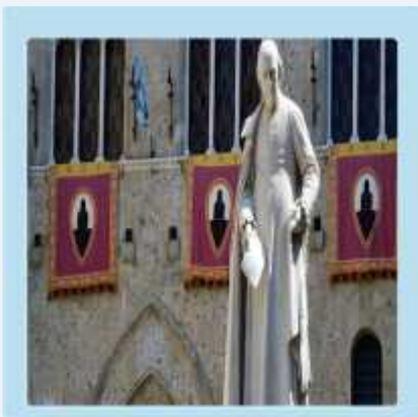
On counterterrorism policy, both parties have deplored the attacks with equal conviction and run up against the same familiar, intractable trade-offs between security and civil liberties. All of which has lent a strange air of near-irrelevance to Thursday's vote.

Issues of world-historical import bear down on British voters -- and the election has had almost nothing to say about them. Instead, the parties have been squabbling about May's so-called dementia tax and Labour's half-baked economic plan.

Taking the parties' programs at face value, the Tories make a far better case. Yet it's come down to a confidence vote on the two leaders, May and Jeremy Corbyn. At a moment of great political stress, Britain finds it has little confidence in either.

## That time Theresa May forgot that elections come with opponents

Foreign Policy, 09.06.2017



Like war, elections are not exercises in project management. Yet PM May approached last night's general election as if it were — just one more sequential step on her Brexit planning timeline, something to neatly check off between the formal Article 50 notification to leave the European Union in March, and the start of negotiations with the EU later this June.

This mechanistic approach, translated into a tedious and robotic campaign, which combined a monomaniacal focus on “strong and stable leadership” with an effort to build a bizarre personality cult around May, to the point where Tory literature barely mentioned the Conservative Party.

This left the Tories with no positive message, and when a live Labour enemy showed up, May's script fell apart. If current projections regarding the one still undeclared seat are right, this morning finds the Conservatives with 319 seats in Parliament (out of 650): 11 fewer than before, and short of an overall majority of 326. Labour, by contrast, picked up 29 additional seats, and while still behind on 261, boosted its share of the vote by more than any party since 1945. Now twice in two years, a Conservative prime minister who promised stability has delivered chaos.

The biggest hole in the Tory battle plan should have been obvious: Whether or not one thinks Brexit is a good idea, it is plainly not about stability, or continuity. The biggest hole in the Tory battle plan should have been obvious: Whether or not one thinks Brexit is a good idea, it is plainly not about stability, or continuity. It's potentially the most radical change in U.K. domestic and foreign policy in half a century, a step that will change the daily lives of everyone in this country and that of their children. May was consistently caught between these two realities, backing Brexit, but refusing to commit to its potential for upheaval, good or bad.



And when pushed, the woman who sought to project strength and stability proved to be a rather spineless politician, who meekly told people what they wanted to hear. Business heard that there would be no sharp break with the vital EU single market; her base heard that she would be a “difficult woman” who would not simply accept the EU’s terms to stay in that market (which would involve a relationship like Norway’s, in which the U.K. accepts many EU rules). In the end, her genuine attitude to Brexit remained opaque, and she sounded evasive and nervous when questioned on this most fundamental point.

The other major Tory mistake in this election was to overlook the generational divide that now defines British politics. Today, the 18-25 and 65+ age groups, respectively, form the key Labour or Conservative constituencies. (Socioeconomic class, however, appears from the same data set to show roughly the same spread across both parties).

The Tory dependence on older voters explains why May had to U-turn on her policy to have them pay more for social care, which was received with outrage, even if it made fiscal sense. This shift on a major manifesto commitment blew up her strong and stable image, upon which her campaign was founded.

But of course, credit where credit is due. Jeremy Corbyn, who has been much maligned over the last two years now looks like he will end up outliving two Conservative prime ministers. His biggest strength, in contrast to May, is his sincerity, which was even recognized during the campaign by the likes of Nigel Farage. Unlike May, people trust that he means what he says, even if they disagree with him.

His biggest weaknesses are his own hard-left political views, which are well outside of the mainstream. But that problem was mitigated by Labour’s manifesto, which reflected the attitude of the majority of Labour MPs, and was far closer to the center than Corbyn’s own views. It also didn’t hurt that many seem to have voted for Labour as a protest against an arrogant Tory campaign that took victory, and by implication the British people, for granted.

We have a hung Parliament in which no party has the necessary 326 majority to form a government by itself. The last time this occurred was in 2010, leading to a Conservative-Liberal Democrat coalition with a majority of 36. Today, however, the most likely outcome is that the Tories form a coalition with the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) from Northern Ireland, which adds their 10 seats to the 319 Tory seats to give a wafer-thin majority of only 3.

That outcome is a recipe for unstable government. Even beyond obvious frictions over the terms of access to the EU single market, the Brexit deal as a whole requires agreement on a range of issues, from the customs union (which is distinct from the single market) to a “Great Repeal Bill” which seeks to convert all EU law to U.K. law, while leaving out unwanted parts.

The customs union will be very thorny with the DUP, who do not want a hard border between Ireland and Northern Ireland. The customs union will be very thorny with the DUP, who do not want a hard border between Ireland and Northern Ireland; there is no realistic way to keep the border open without effectively accepting all the EU’s terms, as the Irish-Northern Irish border is soon due to become an EU external border.



Likewise, the Great Repeal Bill deals with a whole range of contentious issues that will be very hard to get through if the government cannot afford to lose even three votes. In short, do not be surprised if we see new elections within a year.

May herself has refused to resign, and she could stumble on for a while for want of an alternative if the hard Brexiteers stand behind her. But her authority has taken a mighty blow, and having called this election in part to get out of the grip of the right wing of her own party, she now finds herself hostage to them.

What about Brexit, the most important issue in the country today? One argument says that a so-called soft Brexit, in which the U.K. economy stays plugged into the EU single market, is now more likely, given that was what the Labour party effectively campaigned for, and they now have more influence in Parliament.

But this argument is problematic. For with such a thin majority, the hard Brexiteers can now without difficulty frustrate any government, whether led by May or not, that does not take a hard line on EU negotiations. In my view, the result actually makes an accident, in which the U.K. crashes out the EU without a deal, more likely. (The hard Brexiteers will tell you that the EU needs a deal as much as the U.K., and so the U.K. has the leverage to get a deal on London's terms that has all the benefits of the single market without any of the burdens. Ignore them. That is pure fantasy).

If there is a glimmer of stability that has emerged from this election it is that of the United Kingdom itself. The Scottish National Party did badly, losing 21 MPs, including their leader in Westminster, Angus Robertson. This makes the case for a second Scottish independence referendum recede into the distance, for now.

Theresa May has only herself to blame for this mess. She called for battle, but forgot about the enemy. Her side have just about won the field, but at far too high a cost. Several members of her Cabinet lost their seats fighting for her, and far from cauterizing the wounds of the Brexit referendum, her strategy has only increased the bad blood all round that has flowed from that vile, divisive experience.

Two weeks ago, when the Tories still expected to come out of this with a massive new majority, Theresa May attacked Jeremy Corbyn as being "naked and alone" — as if he were leading Labour as one might do a nudist colony, who see nothing ridiculous about themselves. But as fate would have it, as a nervous peace descends on the battlefield, like a medieval knight thrown from her horse, May finds herself stripped of her armor, naked, alone, and possibly left for dead.

# Trump doesn't actually care about US sovereignty

Foreign Policy, 02.06.2017



Foreign leaders across the world should not have more to say with respect to the U.S. economy than our own citizens and their representatives. Thus, our withdrawal represents a reassertion of America's sovereignty."

This sounded like the biggest applause line in President Trump's announcement on Thursday that the United States would withdraw from the Paris climate accord. Unfortunately, like much of the speech, it was a lie. The accord doesn't infringe on U.S. sovereignty. And if Trump actually cared about American sovereignty, he would not be derailing investigations into Russia's hack of the U.S. election.

While some argue that sovereignty does not really exist in today's global world, politicians cling to the concept. And, of course, nations should have the right to determine what is in the best interests of their people and act on that knowledge without unwanted interference from outsiders.

But the Paris accord does not diminish U.S. sovereignty. It does not contain a binding legal commitment to reduce carbon emissions. Every one of the 195 countries that negotiated the agreement chose its own national targets, in order to get other countries to do the same, so they could, together, stave off future disaster for all residents of the planet.

The Paris accord was a giant exercise in peer pressure. It was historic and it was successful — countries are making the changes they need to meet their pledges. It could not have happened without brave U.S. leadership.

If Trump wanted to change the commitments that the Obama administration made in Paris, he could have, unilaterally. This explains why much of the rest of the world is so angry at the United States right now. Our exit is a harsh slap in the face of a united global community trying hard to ward off the worst effects of climate change, and further, an assault on the very idea of a global community. It was also completely unnecessary.

Other international agreements, like the North Atlantic Treaty (which established NATO) and the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, do legally require the United States to take certain steps. In those cases, U.S. leaders judged that compliance was worth the benefits we got in return. For example, as members of the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty, the United States allows international inspectors into its weapons facilities periodically to ensure we are following the rules.

In return, most of the rest of the world pledges not to develop nuclear weapons and that deal makes Americans much safer than they otherwise would be. This tradeoff is the best way to protect U.S. interests.



And, at the end of the day, no country or group of countries can make us do something we don't want to do. Nevertheless, the GOP has wielded the sovereignty argument like a club to prevent the United States from entering some treaties that would benefit us a great deal, like the Convention on the Law of the Sea.

But again, the Paris agreement is not a treaty. It did not create binding emissions targets. Pulling out of it greatly diminished or even extinguished U.S. global leadership, perhaps permanently, in exchange for nothing but scattered applause from a small minority of Americans. And, no, our exit will not create jobs.

The sovereignty argument is false, but it is also patently insincere. We have recently experienced the most profound infringement of American sovereignty in recent memory. As the unanimous January report from our intelligence agencies concluded:

We assess Russian President Vladimir Putin ordered an influence campaign in 2016 aimed at the US presidential election. Russia's goals were to undermine public faith in the US democratic process, denigrate Secretary Clinton, and harm her electability and potential presidency. ... We have high confidence in these judgments.

Russia interfered in America's presidential election through covert intelligence, cyber, and influence operations, including stealing and distributing private emails and systematically spreading fake news stories through social media, with the clear intent of assisting candidate Trump.

But when it comes to this dire and harmful infringement of American sovereignty, we have gotten nothing but obfuscation from the White House and silence from most Republican members of Congress. In fact, Trump has handed the Kremlin one foreign policy victory after another, most recently becoming the only U.S. president in the modern era not to have affirmed America's Article 5 obligation under NATO (a real treaty) to defend others if attacked. Congress has failed to create a bipartisan, independent commission to make sure Russia's hack, and any American collusion, could never happen again. History will not judge today's leaders kindly. They cried sovereignty when it wasn't at risk and failed to defend America when it was. They have forsaken the planet and their role in protecting America.

# No renegotiation as US pulls out of climate deal

AP, 02.06.2017



European leaders have pledged to keep fighting against global warming as President Trump announced he was pulling out of the Paris climate accord, but they rejected his suggestion that the deal could later be renegotiated.

The leaders said they regretted the decision, but affirmed “our strongest commitment” to implement measures and encouraged “all partners to speed up their action to combat climate change.” While Trump said the US would be willing to rejoin the accord if it could obtain favorable terms, the leaders said the agreement cannot be renegotiated, “since it is a vital instrument for our planet, societies and economics.”

President Emmanuel Macron of France repeated that belief in an English-language speech from the presidential palace, unprecedented from a French president in an address at home. He said, “I do respect this decision but I do think it is an actual mistake both for the U.S. and for our planet.”

“Wherever we live, whoever we are, we all share the same responsibility: Make our planet great again,” Macron added. The European Union’s top climate change official, Miguel Arias Canete, said in a statement that Trump’s decision to leave the Paris accord made it “a sad day for the global community,” adding that the bloc “deeply regrets the unilateral decision.”

Canete also predicted that the EU would seek new alliances from the world’s largest economies to the most vulnerable island states, as well as U.S. businesses and individuals supportive of the accord. U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres called the U.S. withdrawal from the Paris climate agreement “a major disappointment” and said it was “crucial that the United States remains a leader on environmental issues,” according to his spokesman.

Fiji’s Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama, who in November will chair an annual climate summit in Germany, said he was deeply disappointed by Trump’s decision and did what he could to try to persuade Trump to stick with the agreement as nations tackle “the greatest challenge our planet has ever faced.” He said he was convinced the U.S. will eventually rejoin. Bainimarama said the decision is a grave disappointment for places like his Pacific island nation and U.S. coastal cities like New York and Miami that are vulnerable to climate change. He promised to do all he can to continue to forge a grand coalition to accelerate the momentum that has built since the Paris agreement.

Japan, Australia, New Zealand and South Korea also regretted the U.S. move and reiterated their commitment to implement the agreement. In Tokyo, an irate Koichi Yamamoto, the environment minister, said “I’m not just disappointed, but also feel anger.”



Japanese Finance Minister Taro Aso drew parallels to the U.S. setting up a plan to establish the League of Nations after World War I, only to back out later. “Who created the League of the Nations? It was the United States who set up the League of the Nations. Then, once it started, who didn’t join in? The United States. I think that’s just how they are,” he told reporters.

Inventor and entrepreneur Elon Musk said he would keep his promise to end his participation in two presidential councils after Trump issued his decision. “Climate change is real. Leaving Paris is not good for America or the world,” the CEO of electric car maker Tesla Inc. tweeted shortly after Trump officially withdrew the U.S. from the global climate pact.

Meanwhile, General Motors, the No. 1 U.S. automaker, said it would continue its commitment to “creating a better environment.” Bill Ford, chairman of the Ford Motor Co., also weighed in, saying: “We believe climate change is real, and remain deeply committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions in our vehicles and our facilities.”

Before Trump announced his decision on June 1, Chinese Premier Li Keqiang told reporters during a visit to Berlin that fighting global warming was a “global consensus” and an “international responsibility.”

Without mentioning the U.S. specifically, Li said that “China in recent years has stayed true to its commitment” and pointed out that his was one of the first countries to ratify the 2015 Paris Agreement.

While traveling abroad last week, Trump was repeatedly pressed to stay in the deal by European leaders and Pope Francis. Withdrawing would leave the United States as one of just three countries outside the agreement. The other two are Syria and Nicaragua.

Russia joined the chorus speaking out for the climate accord. Speaking to reporters on Thursday before Trump’s decision was announced, a spokesman for President Vladimir Putin said Russia “thinks highly” of the accords and sees no alternative to it. Spokesman Dmitry Peskov added that its implementation will not be as effective “without the key signatories.”

Scientists say Earth is likely to reach more dangerous levels of warming sooner if the U.S. retreats from its pledge because America contributes so much to rising temperatures. Calculations suggest withdrawal could release up to 3 billion additional tons of carbon dioxide a year - enough to melt ice sheets faster, raise seas higher and trigger more extreme weather.



# Announcements & Reports

## *Central Asia at 25*

**Source** : Bruegel  
**Weblink** : <http://bruegel.org/2017/05/central-asia-at-25/>

## *What Factors Cause Individuals to Reject Violent Extremism in Yemen?*

**Source** : Rand  
**Weblink** : [https://www.rand.org/pubs/research\\_reports/RR1727.html](https://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RR1727.html)

## *Actualising East: India in a Multipolar Asia*

**Source** : Brookings  
**Weblink** : <https://www.brookings.edu/research/actualising-east-india-in-a-multipolar-asia/>

# Upcoming Events

## *13th Asia Europe Economic Forum (AEEF)*

**Date** : 26 June 2017  
**Place** : Beijing - China  
**Website** : <http://bruegel.org/events/13th-asia-europe-economic-forum/>

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

**Date** : 27 June 2017  
**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** : 27 June 2017  
**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** : 27 June 2017  
**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** : 28 June 2017  
**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** : 28 June 2017  
**Place** : Berlin - Germany  
**Website** : <http://www.bruegel.org/nc/events/event-detail/event/541-the-future-of-the-welfare-state/>

## *Vision Europe Summit 2016*

**Date** : 28 June 2017  
**Place** : Lisbon - Portugal  
**Website** : <http://bruegel.org/events/vision-europe-summit-2016/>