

## Turkish president invites Donald Trump to Turkey

Hurriyet Daily News, 13.11.2016



Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan invited newly elected U.S. President Donald Trump to Turkey, daily Hürriyet has reported.

Erdoğan evaluated the victory of Trump while returning from Belarus, where he paid a one-day visit, answering questions from journalists. Erdoğan said he believed that ongoing anti-Trump demonstrations indicated that people could not digest the mogul's victory. "I congratulated Donald Trump on the first night he was elected. He will take over the duty of the presidency on Jan. 20, 2017. We can also meet before this date if possible.

I said during the phone call that we would be pleased to meet reciprocally as soon as possible. I remarked that we would be pleased if Turkey is one of his first visits abroad. He responded positively," Erdoğan stated. Erdoğan also said Trump's team had a similar view to Iraq and Syria as Turkey.

"For instance, the no-fly zone issue is very important. They [Trump's team] have similar opinions on this issue. This issue is a vital subject for us. Why? We are referring to the area that has been purged of terror. But the area which was purged from terror should also be a no-fly zone. When that issue is solved, there is one thing to do: train and equip. We are already involved in training and equipping," he said.

In an interview with Wall Street Journal, Trump said he "had an opposite view of many people regarding Syria," adding that he suggested a sharper focus on fighting the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) in Syria, rather than on ousting Syrian President Bashar al-Assad.

"My attitude was you're fighting Syria, Syria is fighting ISIL, and you have to get rid of ISIL. Russia is now totally aligned with Syria, and now you have Iran, which is becoming powerful, because of us, is aligned with Syria. ... Now we're backing rebels against Syria and we have no idea who these people are."

Trump said that if the U.S. attacks Assad, then, "we end up fighting Russia, fighting Syria." Erdoğan also stated that Trump did not receive any money from the Gülenist movement. "These demonstrations against Trump are temporary, in my opinion. I will not be surprised if the group that is protesting Trump, falls in line to get an appointment from him. Trump did not win the election by receiving money from FETÖ [Fethullahist Terrorist Organization]. He has financial power and he subsidized his election campaign by his own means. The rumors about the other side [Hillary Clinton] getting money from the [FETÖ] was reflected in the press. There is some news about those claims that will be investigated," he added.

Trump called roughly a dozen foreign heads of government the day after his election victory, including leaders in Ireland, Turkey, India, Japan and Mexico. The president-elect also spoke with leaders in Egypt, Israel, Australia and South Korea, Trump spokeswoman Hope Hicks confirmed. A day later, he had phone conversations with German Chancellor Angela Merkel and U.K. Prime Minister Theresa May.

## Turkish Lira falls to historic low against US dollar

Hurriyet Daily News, 18.11.2016



The Turkish Lira hit another record low against the U.S. dollar, having fallen more than 8 percent so far this week, hit by a statement by the head of U.S. Federal Reserve chairwoman and signs of more discord between Turkey and Europe.

The greenback climbed up to 3.4078 against the lira, its historic high, before it eased to 3.3970 liras as of 12:00 a.m. The dollar stood at 3.3460 at the close on Nov. 17. Turkey's Economic Coordination Committee will meet today at 4 p.m., under PM Binali Yıldırım, state-run Anadolu Agency reported.

Deputy prime ministers, ministers related to economy and a number of bureaucrats are included in the committee, which makes key decisions on the matter. Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen told the Joint Economic Committee of Congress that Donald Trump's in the U.S. election has done nothing to change the Federal Reserve's plans for a rate increase "relatively soon."

But interest rates futures for 2017 are now starting to price in one or more rate hikes next year, a sea change from before the election when they priced in a less than 50 percent chance of a 2017 rate hike, assuming the dovish Yellen would be extremely cautious in raising rates.

The dollar's rising yield attraction is lifting the U.S. currency, which rose to 110.34 yen, its highest level since early June. The euro slumped to \$1.0620, a low last seen almost a year ago. The dollar's index against a basket of six major currencies rose above its "double top" touched in March and December of 2015. The index now stands at its highest level since April 2003.

"Double top" is a technical analysis term describing a currency (or other liquid asset) rising to a high, falling, and then rising again to the same level. Breaking the double top is often seen as a bullish sign by technical analysts. Turkey's benchmark BIST 100 index, meanwhile, declined by 217.91 points to open at 74,918.31. The index fell by 0.29 percent with the banking and holding sector indices losing 0.24 and 0.31 percent, respectively. Among the sector indices, the leasing and factoring sector showed the greatest rise, 1.44 percent. The mining sector index fell hardest with a 0.83 percent decline.

# Turkey runs \$3.7 billion budget deficit in first 10 months of year

Anadolu Agency, 15.11.2016



The Turkish government ran a budget deficit of 104 million Turkish Liras (\$32 million) in October and 12.1 billion liras (\$3.7 billion) in January-October, the Finance Ministry announced.

“Turkish government revenues last month stood at 43.4 billion liras (\$13.2 billion), an 11 percent fall year-on-year, while budget expenditures were 43.5 billion liras (\$13.3 billion), up 18.9 percent from a year earlier,” the ministry stated. According to the ministry, budget revenues reached 447.9 billion liras (\$136.7 billion) in the first 10 months of the year, a 12.5 percent rise over the same period last year.

Tax revenues also rose nearly 9.5 percent during the period to 365.3 billion liras (\$111.5 billion). Budget expenditures in January-October rose to 460 billion liras (\$140.4 billion), marking a 13.8 percent increase year-on-year. Government expenditures for health, pensions, and welfare rose nearly 38 percent in the first 10 months of the year to 89 billion liras (\$27.1 billion) over the same period last year.

Personnel expenditures rose 19.1 percent, reaching almost 126 billion liras (\$38.4 billion) in January-August 2016. Interest expenditures stood at 44.6 billion liras (\$13.6 billion) in that period, a fall of 5.9 percent. The government is aiming for a budget deficit of 29.7 billion liras (nearly \$10 billion) at the end of the year, according to the Finance Ministry.

# Israel nominates Eitan Na'eh as new envoy to Turkey

Hurriyet Daily News, 15.11.2016



The Israeli Foreign Ministry has nominated Eitan Na'eh as the new ambassador to Turkey, although the prospective envoy first needs to pass the Israeli government's security committee in order to be formally appointed to Ankara.

Turkey and Israel are expected to simultaneously announce a mutual exchange of ambassadors as part of a normalization deal following the 2010 Mavi Marmara incident. The prime ministry's adviser for foreign affairs, Kemal Ökem, is likely to be Turkey's new ambassador to Israel, although Turkey has yet to make any official announcement as to its choice for the post.

Na'eh, who is currently serving as the deputy head of the Israel embassy in London, is familiar with Turkey. He was assigned as first and second secretary in Ankara in 1993. In 1997 he served as deputy consul general for press and information in Chicago and the Midwest, and in 1999 as the head of the Turkish-Greek and Cyprus desk in the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem.

Most recently, from 2009, he served as senior director at the diplomatic secretariat of the National Security Council at the office of Israel's prime minister. Na'eh was selected from among seven diplomats who applied for Israel's embassy in Ankara. After nomination by the Foreign Ministry, the Israeli government's security committee will formally appoint him as the country's new ambassador to Turkey.

Diplomatic ties between Turkey and Israel were disrupted in May 2010 when Israeli commandos killed 10 Turkish activists on the Mavi Marmara, a ship bound for Gaza with humanitarian aid. In the aftermath of the attack, Turkey demanded an official apology from Israel, compensation for the families of those killed, and the lifting of Israel's Gaza blockade.

In 2013, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu voiced regret over the incident to Turkey's then-prime minister, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan. In addition to compensation, Israel has agreed to Turkey's humanitarian presence in the Gaza Strip. On Aug. 20, Turkey's parliament approved a deal involving Tel Aviv paying \$20 million to the families of the victims, a sum which was paid on Sept. 30.

## Military: Turkish warplanes strike 15 targets in Syria's Al-Bab area

Reuters, 14.11.2016



Turkish warplanes struck 15 targets in the al-Bab area of northern Syria in an operation with Free Syrian Army (FSA) fighters to drive Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) militants out of the border region, the Turkish military said on Nov. 14.

President Erdogan has said seizing control of al Bab, around 30 km south of the border, is a goal of the operation before targeting Manbij, from which Kurdish-led forces recently drove ISIL, and the ISIL stronghold of Raqqa. Ten ISIL defensive positions, command centers and an ammunition store were destroyed in the strikes, the army said.

Nine FSA fighters were killed and 52 wounded during clashes in the region, it added. The Turkish military launched the operation, dubbed 'Euphrates Shield', on Aug. 24 and the FSA forces have so far seized control of about 1,620 square km (625 square miles) of territory, the military said.

The operation has also targeted the Syrian Kurdish People's Protection Units (YPG) militia in the region and 10 of the group's fighters were 'neutralized' in shelling over the last 24 hours as they tried to seize control of the Tal Jijan area, the statement said. The YPG is an ally of the United States in its fight against ISIL. Ankara denounces the YPG as an affiliate of the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK).



# President Trump and the Iran nuclear deal

Foreign Policy, 16.11.2016



President-elect Trump prepares to take office over coming months, one of the thorniest foreign policy questions he will have to address is what to do about the Iran nuclear deal.

During the campaign, Trump repeatedly criticized the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action for being insufficiently tough and threatened to walk away from the agreement if elected. Trump's critiques of the deal have merit. While the deal has slowed Iran's progress towards a fully realized nuclear program, the front-loaded nature of the sanctions relief means that Iran has enjoyed many of the benefits.

Similarly, the deal's sunset provisions mean that the agreement at best delays Iran's program and, in many ways, provides them with a patient pathway to the bomb. Further, the promised vigorous enforcement of non-nuclear sanctions related to Iran's continued support for terrorism, human rights abuses, and the development of ballistic missiles has yet to materialize, in large part because the Barack Obama administration appears reluctant to threaten the stability of the deal.

And though Obama promised that sanctions could be "snapped back" into place if Iran was found in violation, in truth the triggering of such a mechanism would be politically difficult, particularly because many of our allies may no longer share the same concerns about Iran's malign activities.

Yet, while the JCPOA is imperfect, tearing up the agreement during Trump's first few weeks in office would carry significant consequences. Although the president could walk away from the agreement and re-impose sanctions, Iran has already received approximately \$100 billion.

Walking away would allow Iran to continue its work on the nuclear program while enjoying this significant financial windfall. Likewise, it would be difficult to reconstitute the economic pressure campaign that brought Iran to the bargaining table in the first place.

That campaign, which began in earnest in the mid-2000s, took ten years of legislative and executive action, outreach to foreign governments, and continued Iranian intransigence to have a significant impact.

If the United States walked away from the agreement, our European and Asian partners have made clear that they would be unlikely to rejoin any such years-long campaign in the hopes of striking a better bargain.

In such a situation, Iran would be freed from the constraints on its nuclear program but we would face a daunting — though not impossible — task of trying reconstitute the pressure campaign to help strike a better deal. However, there are still actions Trump can take to strengthen U.S. leverage over Iran, which has become more aggressive since agreeing to the nuclear deal.



On day one of his presidency, Trump can take at least three steps that will make it more difficult for Iran to continue its support of terrorism, engage in human right abuses, test ballistic missiles in contravention of United Nations sanctions, and ensure that, if Iran continues to see economic relief from the nuclear deal, such relief does not end up in the coffers of terrorist organizations like the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC).

First, the Treasury Department could put further pressure on the Iranian economy and nefarious Iranian actors such as the IRGC by limiting foreign companies' willingness to enter Iranian markets. Under U.S. law, foreign companies may be subject to penalties if they do business with an entity that is owned 50 percent or more by the IRGC (or any other designated parties, known as SDNs).

As a matter of course, the IRGC often creates shell companies that fall below this 50 percent ownership threshold, meaning that foreign companies can do business with these IRGC minority-owned companies with limited worry about running afoul of U.S. sanctions.

Given that the IRGC is deeply intertwined with upwards of 35 percent of the Iranian economy, foreign companies doing business with IRGC minority-owned companies are feeding profits, with little fear of sanctions, directly to an organization that is well known to engage in terrorism and support other malign actors like Hezbollah and Syrian President Bashar al-Assad.

On his first day in office, Trump could instruct the Secretary of the Treasury to change this 50 percent threshold in the case of the IRGC, lowering it to 25 percent, for example. Such a move would limit foreign companies' ability to do business with IRGC minority-owned companies, limit the economic benefits the IRGC is seeing from the nuclear deal, and put pressure on Iran to cease supporting destabilizing activities in the region.

Second, the Treasury Department could clarify that — in the case of the Iran sanctions program — offshore dollarized transactions would be subject to U.S. jurisdiction. As part of the debate over the JCPOA last year, the Obama administration made clear that Iran would not be able to process dollars through the U.S. financial system.

The administration asserted that if any Iran-related transactions touched the U.S. financial system, such activity would violate U.S. law. However, the administration also clarified in a recent FAQ its position that offshore transactions in U.S. dollars — such as dollarized transactions between an Iranian company and a European bank that did not clear through the United States — were outside of U.S. jurisdiction and therefore permissible.

While the administration's position is understandable, it also provides Iran with the benefits of — if not direct access to — the U.S. financial system and the dollar. The administration should clarify in new, binding regulations that it will exercise jurisdiction over offshore U.S. dollars when involved in Iran-related transactions.

While jurisdiction over such offshore transactions may not be merited in the case of other countries and sanctions programs, given Iran's habitual abuse of the international financial system for proliferation and terrorism-related activities, it is justified here.



Cutting off Iran's access to the dollar will make it more difficult for the Islamic Republic to finance investment in the country and will put additional pressure on its economy in ways that could be used to bargain for additional concessions.

Third, the new administration could adopt a more aggressive enforcement posture towards foreign companies re-entering Iranian markets in ways that violate U.S. sanctions. During the JCPOA negotiations and since, the Obama administration has been reluctant to pursue enforcement actions against foreign companies for trading with Iran, for fear of upsetting the deal.

To clearly signal that prohibited activity will not be permitted, the Trump administration could aggressively target — including through the use of remaining secondary sanctions authority — foreign companies that we have evidence are doing business with the IRGC and Mahan Air, for example. Likewise, the new administration could designate a range of actors known to operate on behalf of the IRGC and the Iranian Ministry of Defense and Armed Forces Logistics in supporting Iran's terrorism-related activities.

In addition to pushing Iran over its continued support for terrorism, ballistic missile development, and human rights abuses, this added economic pressure would also increase Trump's hand if he were to decide that the United States should push to renegotiate the JCPOA.

While these changes in U.S. sanctions regulations and guidelines would not be in violation of the current nuclear agreement, as they were neither contained nor bargained for in the JCPOA, they could be used in future negotiations as bargaining chips to obtain additional concessions from Iran, either related to its nuclear program or its continued support for terrorism.

While scuttling the nuclear deal carries certain risks, the Trump administration will have many options to bring significant pressure to bear on Iran. In its first few days in office, it should think through how to best use them.



# Brexit Britain and Trump's America can have a special relationship

Time, 17.11.2016



“Shortly before his stunning and largely unexpected victory presidential election, Donald Trump predicted “an amazing day” which would be called “Brexit plus plus plus.”

British PM May was warm and unqualified in her message of congratulation and other politicians are talking up the idea of a new post-Brexit special relationship. What should we in the U.K. make of all this? Some Brexiteers have been busy distancing themselves from the nastier aspects of Trump's campaign. But they and President-elect tapped into the same fears, anxieties and resentments of middle and working class people who felt fearful of the changes going on around them:

The rich were getting richer at their expense, that their views were being ignored and that political elites were out of touch. Both insurgencies played the populist card and made effective use of social media.

Both also drew support from elites of their own; U.S. elites who were unhappy at America's diminishing international role and, whisper it darkly, didn't want America's first black president to be succeeded by its first woman president; and U.K. elites worried by the loss of sovereignty implicit in remaining part of the E.U. Both relished the way their respective victories shocked the establishment as politics caught up with society. It's too soon to know whether these similarities between Brexit and Trump's success will translate into a genuinely common purpose. Contrary to what President Obama said when trying to persuade people in Britain to stick with the E.U., Trump says he expects Britain to be at the front of the queue when it comes to negotiating a free trade deal of its own with the US. Of course there can be no deal until Britain knows whether or not it is staying in the E.U. single market or the Customs Union, but negotiations can probably begin before Brexit takes effect.

There is reason to be hopeful. While the European Commission has found it difficult to reconcile the interests of all 28 member states during the current, tortuous negotiations on the putative E.U.-U.S. free trade agreement (TTIP), the U.K. could make more rapid progress with the U.S. on its own.

It is, after all, the biggest foreign investor in the U.S., does more than twice as much trade with America than with Germany, its next biggest partner, and prides itself at being good at talking to the Americans. But we Brits should not delude ourselves that a favorable deal is there for the taking. Donald Trump promised protectionist measures for the US economy during his campaign, 'Buy America' laws remain in place, and in the TTIP negotiations we have found it hard to reach agreement on financial services regulation – key to ensuring the continuing strength of the City of London in a post-Brexit world.



Republicans will have control of both houses of Congress for at least the next four years. They will have their differences with the President-elect – many Republicans couldn't bring themselves to vote for him – but there is the prospect of progress on such issues as long-overdue tax reform.

If it went beyond tax cuts for the rich and provided incentives to big corporations to repatriate the huge sums they are holding offshore, something might finally be done about America's crumbling infrastructure.

This in turn could offer openings for the U.K.'s unique expertise in putting together public-private partnerships. Beyond the economy, there are plenty of other areas where a Britain preparing to leave the E.U. ought to be able to work closely with Trump's administration.

For starters, our intelligence and security agencies have never been more joined up in response to terrorism, cyber threats and information warfare. If May sticks to commitments made by her predecessor David Cameron on military spending, defense will also remain a key area of cooperation between the two countries.

On the foreign policy front, Trump has said a number of things which worry allies, including the U.K. These include suggested deals with President Putin on Ukraine and Syria, tearing up the nuclear deal with Iran (negotiated not just by the U.S. but also by Russia, China, Britain, France, Germany and the E.U.), giving up on a two-state solution to the Israel-Palestine problem, providing nuclear weapons to Japan and South Korea, keeping Muslims out of the U.S. and reneging on international efforts to counter climate change.

Trump's record during the campaign suggests there is plenty of scope for the President-elect to re-think. It would help reassure America's allies if he and the team he is now putting in place could separate out campaign rhetoric from policy intent. Better still if they chose to consult close allies in the process.

There is much to learn from such a bruising political year, and much we can teach each other. Neither British nor American democracy covered itself in glory during this year's referendum and election campaigns. Secretary of State John Kerry admitted in London recently that it had become embarrassing to make the case to others for the U.S. brand of liberal democracy. So while May's team moves quickly to plug into the Trump transition team, the U.K. might also take a lead in looking at why so many voters here, as in America, feel the system has failed them.

# Russian fighter crashes in Mediterranean, says Defense Ministry

AFP, 15.11.2016



Russia's Defense Ministry said Nov. 14 that a fighter jet crashed while attempting to land on the Admiral Kuznetsov aircraft carrier in the Mediterranean off Syria, but the pilot survived.

In a statement to Russian news agencies, the Defense Ministry said the MiG-29K fighter crashed due to a "technical fault" a few kilometers (miles) from the carrier. The pilot ejected and was recovered and taken aboard the ship. "The pilot's health is in no danger. The pilot is ready to carry out missions," the Defense ministry said, quoted by Interfax news agency.

The Defense Ministry did not say when the incident occurred, but said the plane was taking part in training flights. It stressed that flights were still going ahead from the aircraft carrier despite the accident. "The flights of aircraft from the carrier are continuing in accordance with the set tasks," it said. The ministry released a statement after U.S. broadcaster Fox News reported the crash, citing U.S. officials.

The MiG-29K is a multi-functional plane developed in the Soviet era and is used to strike targets both in the air and on the ground. Russia acquired 24 MiG fighters last year. It also deploys Sukhoi bomber planes in Syria.

The Admiral Kuznetsov aircraft carrier arrived in the eastern Mediterranean off the Syrian coast as part of a flotilla of ships sent to reinforce Russia's military in the area, its commander confirmed on state television on Nov. 12. The ship's commander Sergei Artamonov said in an interview broadcast on Nov. 12 on Rossiya-1 television that planes had been taking off from the ship's deck "practically every day for the last four days" to survey the area.

The flotilla has sparked concern from NATO that it will be used to take part in air strikes on Syria. The fleet cancelled a plan to refuel at a Spanish port after Madrid came under pressure to refuse permission.

Russia has been flying a bombing campaign in Syria for the past year in support of its ally Syrian President Bashar al-Assad and has deployed a naval contingent to back up its operation. Officially, 20 Russians have been killed in combat so far. Russia says it has ceased air strikes on rebel-held east Aleppo since Oct. 18 after international condemnation of its ferocious bombardment of the city and has declared a series of brief cease-fires.

# Paris refugee shelter opens to take migrants off street

AFP, 11.11.2016



A refugee shelter with beds for 400 single men opened in Paris on Nov. 10, part of an ongoing drive to take asylum-seekers off French streets after the demolition of the Calais “Jungle” camp.

The refugee shelter in a disused railway yard near Gare du Nord station will take in 50-80 people a day - the estimated number of migrants who arrive in Paris daily, most of whom end up sleeping rough. They can spend up to 10 days at the site where they will receive medical care and advice on seeking asylum before being transferred to various refugee hostels.

Three Eritreans with backpacks and woolly caps were among the first to arrive at the site, where they were greeted by a “Welcome” sign in French, Arabic, Pashto, Dari and other languages. “It’s nice here,” said Thierno Diallo, a 31-year-old Guinean after he entered the new shelter, adding that he had previously been sleeping on the street. According to the Paris town hall, 60 men were housed in the camp by the evening of Nov. 10. The plan is to process those in the center quickly and move them on elsewhere to free up places for new arrivals.

The center is made up of a giant inflatable white-and-yellow reception hall and a 10,000-square-metre (110,000 square feet) hangar with dormitories, bathrooms, a canteen and a games area. Around 500 people have volunteered to assist the 120 staff.

“The idea is to create a place where every newly arrived migrant can be welcomed and offered dignified, humane shelter,” said Bruno Morel, head of the Emmaus Solidarite housing charity in charge of the center. A separate facility for families and women will open in early 2017 in the southeastern suburb of Ivry-sur-Seine. Unaccompanied minors will be sent to existing children’s shelters around the city.

The opening of the men’s center comes a week after police cleared a camp in northeast Paris where 3,800 people - mostly Afghans, Sudanese and Eritreans - had been living in tents and mattresses under an elevated metro line. Last month, authorities also demolished the notorious “Jungle” shantytown in the northern port of Calais-- the main launchpad for attempts to smuggle across the Channel to Britain.



# Iceland's Left-Green head tasked with forming gov't

AFP, 17.11.2016



The head of Iceland's Left-Green movement was tasked with forming a new government, nearly three weeks after snap elections triggered by the Panama Papers scandal left the country in political deadlock.

“We are looking at forming a multi-party government from the center to the left,” Katrin Jakobsdottir, the head of the country's second largest party, told reporters in Reykjavik after meeting with President Gudni Johannesson. Since its independence in 1944, Iceland has only seen one center-left government, which emerged from the 2009 election after the 2008 financial collapse.

Allied with the anti-establishment Pirate Party, Social Democrats and Bright Future party, the Left-Green faces an uphill task of forging a governing coalition with the center-right Reform party, analysts say. Pirate deputy Asta Helgadóttir poured cold water on the idea, saying such a coalition would be a “jigsaw.”

Led by the largest election winner Independence Party (21 seats), the center-right coalition failed to find common ground over a range of divisive issues - relations with the European Union (EU), institutional reform and fishing. The Oct. 29 snap vote, prompted by a massive tax scandal ensnaring several Icelandic officials, saw the anti-establishment Pirate Party become the third largest party with 10 seats.

Meanwhile, Icelandic authorities said that 108 taxpayers whose names were in the “Panama Papers” had been targeted by an investigation for tax evasion. Directorate of Tax Investigations chief, Bryndis Kristjansdottir, told AFP that of those, 31 had been discovered due to the documents which the Icelandic authorities bought from an anonymous source. Causing a political earthquake in Iceland, the Panama Papers, released in April, fuelled the resignation of Prime Minister Sigmundur David Gunnlaugsson and prompted a snap vote in October.



# Trump softens tone, calls minority harassers to 'stop it'

Hurriyet Daily News, 14.11.2016



U.S. President-elect Donald Trump has vowed to move aggressively on a conservative agenda in filling Supreme Court vacancies, cracking down on immigration and cutting taxes, but also sought to reassure worried Americans they have nothing to fear from his presidency.

Setting aside the strident tone of his campaign, the 70-year-old U.S. President-elect Donald Trump assumed a gentler manner in his first television interview since his shock election, saying he was “saddened” by reports of harassment of Muslims and Hispanics, and telling the perpetrators: “Stop It.”

The interview with CBS’s “60 Minutes,” which was taped on Nov. 11 and aired in full on Nov. 13, offered Trump an opportunity to reintroduce himself after an ugly, name-calling campaign and surprise victory that sparked protests in cities across the United States.

“I just don’t think they know me,” the billionaire real estate mogul said at one point, of the thousands of protesters who have massed in streets below his Trump Tower headquarters. Told that many Americans are scared of his presidency, Trump said: “Don’t be afraid. We are going to bring our country back.”

Trump earlier on Nov. 13 named anti-establishment firebrand Steve Bannon his top strategist and senior Republican Reince Priebus his White House chief of staff, blending pragmatism with a rabble-rousing edge in the first appointments of his new administration.

On the issues, however, Trump made it clear he intends to aggressively push a right-wing agenda, pledging to name justices to the Supreme Court who are against abortion and for gun rights. “The judges will be pro-life,” Trump told CBS. “In terms of the whole gun situation,” he added, “they’re going to be very pro-Second Amendment.”

He will have an immediate opportunity to fill a vacancy on the court left by the death of arch conservative justice Antonin Scalia. U.S. President Barack Obama’s attempt to fill the seat was blocked by the Republican-controlled Senate. On immigration, Trump reaffirmed his signature campaign pledge to build a wall on the border with Mexico, although he conceded parts of it may be just a fence.

And he said as many as three million undocumented immigrants with criminal records would be deported or incarcerated. “What we are going to do is get the people that are criminal and have criminal records, gang members, drug dealers,” he said.



“We have a lot of these people, probably two million, it could be even three million, we are getting them out of our country or we are going to incarcerate,” he said. Trump also said that he will not seek to overturn the legalization of same-sex marriage in the United States. “It’s law. It was settled in the Supreme Court. I mean it’s done,” Trump said.

“And I’m - I’m fine with that,” he added. In a call to Chinese President Xi Jinping, Trump told the leader he believes they will have “one of the strongest relationships for both countries moving forward,” according to a statement released by the president-elect’s team early Nov. 14.

Trump - who frequently savaged China on the campaign trail and threatened to impose a 45-percent tariff on Chinese-made goods - agreed to meet “at an early date” to discuss the relationship, Chinese state broadcaster CCTV said.



# Announcements & Reports

## *An Anatomy of Inclusive Growth in Europe*

**Source** : Bruegel  
**Weblink** : <http://bruegel.org/2016/10/an-anatomy-of-inclusive-growth-in-europe/>

## *A New Comprehensive Strategy for Countering Violent Extremism*

**Source** : CSIS  
**Weblink** : <https://www.csis.org/features/turning-point/?block1>

## *The Future of Financial Reform Under President Trump*

**Source** : Brookings  
**Weblink** : <https://www.brookings.edu/opinions/the-future-of-financial-reform-under-president-trump/>

# Upcoming Events

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

**Date** : 19 November 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** : 19 November 2016  
**Place** : London - UK  
**Website** : <http://www.chathamhouse.org/event/future-capitalist-democracy-uk-japan-perspectives>

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

**Date** : 20 November 2016  
**Place** : Beijing - China  
**Website** : <http://bruegel.org/events/13th-asia-europe-economic-forum/>

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

**Date** : 27 November 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** : 29 November 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** : 29 November 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** : 04 December 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** : 04 December 2016  
**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** : 05 December 2016  
**Place** : Lisbon - Portugal  
**Website** : <http://bruegel.org/events/vision-europe-summit-2016/>