

# EURASIA DIGEST

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### **Russia Ready to Help Mediate U.S.-Iran Nuclear Talks**

On 16 April, Moscow [stated](#) that it is prepared to help diplomatically to resolve the standoff between the United States and Iran over Tehran's nuclear program. Russia has issued multiple appeals for de-escalation in recent weeks after U.S. President Donald Trump appeared to threaten Iran with military action if it refused to negotiate limits on its nuclear program.

### **Russian Supreme Court Removed Taliban from List of Terrorist Organisations**

On 17 April, the Russian Supreme Court [formally](#) removed the Taliban from the country's list of banned terrorist organisations. While the move does not amount to formal diplomatic recognition, it clears a legal obstacle for Russian officials to engage with the Taliban at official events. The Taliban authorities praised the move in a foreign ministry statement as a significant development in relations between Afghanistan and Russia.

### **Oman's Sultan Visits Russia**

Omani Sultan Haitham bin Tarik visited Moscow from 21 to 22 April as part of a state visit. The two Leaders held official talks in the Grand Hall of the Kremlin Palace, characterised by a spirit of friendship and a shared commitment to further enhancing bilateral cooperation across all sectors to serve the mutual interests of the two friendly countries and their peoples. The Leaders discussed various issues of mutual concern. They explored ways to strengthen economic and trade relations across various sectors that were considered vital for development.

### **Russia to Supply Gas to Iran**

Russian Energy Minister Sergei Tsivilev said on 25 April, [following](#) a meeting of the

intergovernmental commission in Moscow, that Russian gas supplies to Iran may begin in 2025. Moscow agreed to supply Tehran with up to 55 billion cubic meters of gas annually. At the first stage, the supply of gas to Iran for the existing infrastructure can reach up to 1.8 billion cubic meters per year in the initial period.

### **First EU-Central Asia Summit Held in Samarkand**

On 3-4 April, the first [summit](#) between leaders of the EU and the five Central Asian countries (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan) took place in Samarkand, Uzbekistan. After the meeting, a joint declaration was issued. It reaffirmed the commitment to deeper cooperation in an evolving global and regional geopolitical landscape. They also decided to upgrade relations between the European Union and Central Asia to a strategic partnership. The EU reconfirmed its commitment to the goals of the EU Strategy on Central Asia of 2019.

### **Uzbek Investment Ministry Officials Visited the United States of America**

On 7 April, the [delegation](#) from the Uzbek Investment Ministry met with companies operating in the mining, hotel, and food industries. Minister L. Kudratov headed the Department of Investment, Industry and Trade delegation. During the meetings, several agreements were made covering the exploration, extraction and processing of minerals in the Central Asian state. The deals also reportedly cover providing innovative US technologies to Tashkent and training Uzbek specialists.

### **Kazakh Delegation to Be Sent to the United States of America**

On 17 April, Deputy Trade Minister Zhanel Kushukova [stated](#) that the government

intended to send a delegation to Washington to discuss various trade issues, including tariffs. The Trump administration initially hit Kazakh goods with a 27 percent tariff rate, but subsequently scaled the rate back provisionally to 10 percent. Kushkova emphasised that Kazakhstan had no intention of imposing reciprocal tariffs on US goods, citing the country's membership in the Russia-led Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) trade bloc as a factor in Astana's policy of restraint.

### **Tajikistan's Prime Minister Visited Moscow**

On 25 April, Tajikistan's Prime Minister Qohir Rasoulzoda [met](#) with his counterpart, Mikhail Mishustin, in Moscow to discuss cooperation between the two countries in economic, cultural and humanitarian areas. The primary focus would be on implementing major joint energy, industry, agriculture, education, and culture projects. Special attention would also be given to Tajikistan's role within the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). In 2025, Tajikistan took over the presidency of the CIS.

### **Hungary Announced Its Withdrawal from the International Criminal Court**

On 3 April, Hungary announced that it [would](#) withdraw from the International Criminal Court. With this withdrawal, Hungary will become the only country in the European Union not a member of the tribunal, which was established in 2002 to prosecute international crimes and crimes against humanity. The decision was announced by the minister of the Hungarian Prime Minister's office, Gergely Gulyás. A spokesperson for the Hungarian government said that the "withdrawal process will begin on Thursday, in line with

Hungary's constitutional and international legal obligations".

### **Lithuanian PM Seeks to Restore Diplomatic Relations with China**

On 18 April, Lithuania's Prime Minister, Gintautas Paluckas, [made](#) clear his intention to restore diplomatic relations with China, offering to resolve the ongoing dispute over the name of Taiwan's representative office in Vilnius. Lithuania's ties with China soured in 2021 after the small European country allowed Taiwan to set up a representative office under the name "Taiwanese Representative Office in Lithuania".

### **India-France Sign Agreement for Rafale Jets for Navy**

On 28 April, the Government of India and the French Republic [signed](#) an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) to procure 26 Dassault Rafale fighter jets for the Indian Navy. The contract comprises 22 single-seater Rafale M aircraft and four twin-seater Rafale D aircraft. The comprehensive agreement includes training, simulators, associated equipment, weapons, and a five-year Performance-Based Logistics (PBL) support package. It further provides additional equipment for the Indian Air Force's existing fleet of Rafale aircraft.

### **German Socialists Approved Coalition Deal**

On 30 April, the German Social Democrats voted to [approve](#) a coalition deal to see them enter government as partners with Friedrich Merz's Christian Democrats. 84% of voting members backed the coalition deal announced earlier this month, following a 15-day online voting period among the SPD's 358,000-strong base.