

MNI POLITICAL RISK ANALYSIS - Week Ahead 7-13 July

by Tom Lake

(MNI) London – All timings are subject to change.

Monday 7 July:

- **BRICS:** The BRICS leaders' summit concludes in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The summit has been notable due to the absence of two of its most high-profile leaders, Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin. A [joint declaration](#) signed over the weekend decried the airstrikes on Iran and the escalation in tariffs, but did not directly criticise either the US or Israel. The summit marked the first for Indonesia as a full member of the BRICS group, while 10 more (Belarus, Bolivia, Kazakhstan, Cuba, Nigeria, Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam, Uganda, and Uzbekistan) attended as partner countries.
- **US-Israel:** Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu visits the White House for a meeting with US President Donald Trump. While acting as something of a 'victory lap' following the '12-Day War' with Iran, the meeting will come as a chance for Trump to press an immediate ceasefire in Gaza on the Israeli PM. Trump has talked about being "very firm" with Netanyahu on halting the conflict. Israel and Hamas [failed to reach](#) an agreement in the first round of indirect talks on 6 July. Newsweek [reports](#) that rather than formal talks in the Oval Office, the meeting will take the form of a dinner at 18:30ET (07:30JST, 23:30BST) that is closed to reporters.
- **United States:** President Trump will sign executive orders in the Oval Office at 16:00ET (21:00BST, 22:00CET). The administration is also set to send out letters to '12-15 countries' at midday outlining their tariff rates of exports should they not reach a skeleton trade agreement with the US.
- **Eurozone:** The Eurogroup meeting of eurozone finance ministers takes place in Brussels, with the election of a Eurogroup president for a two-and-a-half-year term the most notable event. Incumbent Irish Finance Minister Paschal Donohoe is expected to secure a third consecutive term.
- **Denmark-US:** Danish Foreign Minister Lars Løkke Rasmussen arrives in Washington, D.C., for talks with US Secretary of State Marco Rubio. While the war in Ukraine is formally top of the agenda, the US's claims on the Danish territory of Greenland, which has soured relations considerably, will also feature prominently. The conversation around Greenland's sovereignty has quietened down significantly in recent months amid global focus on President Trump's tariff agenda and tensions in the Middle East.
- **Poland:** The government is introducing border controls with Germany and Lithuania in response to policies from the Merz government in Germany, which has seen German border guards push back thousands of migrants into Poland that Berlin claims crossed into Germany illegally. The measures come as another blow to the increasingly strained Schengen zone, which is intended to avoid any checks of travelling across borders within the area.

- **Canada:** Alberta Premier Danielle Smith hosts her counterpart from Ontario, Doug Ford in Calgary at 09:00 local time, to sign “a memorandum of understanding to build new energy and trade infrastructure.” The premiers have touted the deal as setting the stage for exporting Alberta’s hydrocarbons and Ontario’s critical minerals via pipelines, rail and port infrastructure.
- **Turkey:** President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan meets with a delegation from the Kurdish-interest Peoples’ Equality and Democracy Party (DEM Party), led by MP Pervin Buldan, to discuss the peace process and the disarmament of the Kurdistan Workers’ Party (PKK). DEM officials met with PKK leader Abdullah Ocalan in prison on 6 July, with the meetings set to coincide with the militant group beginning to hand over weapons in Iraq during the course of the week.
- **United Kingdom:** King Charles III, PM Sir Keir Starmer and other prominent figures take part in memorial events to mark the 20th anniversary of the 7/7 London bombings that killed 52 and injured over 700.

Tuesday 8 July:

- **ASEAN:** Malaysia hosts the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) foreign ministers’ meeting in Kuala Lumpur. Continues to Friday 11 July. An open plenary session and a closed-door ‘retreat session’ of the foreign ministers from the ASEAN nations (Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam) take place on 9 July
- **UK-France:** French President Emmanuel Macron and his wife Brigitte Macron visit the UK for a three-day state visit. Macron is set to deliver an address to parliament in Westminster and be hosted by the royal family at Windsor Castle. The high-profile visit is intended to act as a sign of Franco-British unity in the context of the war in Ukraine and leading the ‘coalition of the willing’, and looking to put the diplomatic difficulties of the Brexit process aside.
- **European Union:** EU finance and economic affairs ministers meet in Brussels for the ECOFIN meeting. Ministers are due to formally adopt the legislative texts that will set the path for Bulgaria to become a eurozone member from 1 January 2026. Member states will also be invited to activate the ‘national escape clause’ of the Stability and Growth Pact, allowing countries if they wish to raise spending on defence and security without risking censure under the excessive deficit procedure, while the Danish finance minister will present his government’s work programme for its H225 presidency of the Council of the European Union.
- **United States:** US Senate returns from July 4 recess, with the prospect of a bipartisan meeting of senators with Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu believed to be in the works.
- **European Parliament:** Danish PM Mette Frederiksen appears before MEPs at the plenary session in Strasbourg to answer questions on the plans for Denmark’s presidency of the Council of the European Union over the next six months. The war in Ukraine, migration, and the green transition are all likely to feature as key issues.
- **United Kingdom:** Minister for the Armed Forces Luke Jones appears before the House of Commons Defence Select Committee to answer questions on the ‘UK contribution to European security’. Minister likely to face questions both on the UK’s role in the ‘coalition of the willing’ backing Ukraine, the new NATO spending

commitments, and the government's stance on defence spending following the Strategic Defence Review. Session starts at 10:30BST. In the afternoon, Secretary of State at Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office David Lammy appears before the Foreign Affairs Select Committee to answer MPs questions on the conflict in Gaza, UK support for Ukraine, and the impact of the Spending review on the Foreign Office. Session at 13:30BST.

Wednesday 9 July:

- **Global:** US President Donald Trump's 'reciprocal' tariffs are due to come into force from 1 August if countries have not reached at least a skeleton agreement with the US, following the expiry of Trump's initial 90-day negotiating reprieve on 9 July. Comments over the weekend from Trump and his Treasury Secretary, Scott Bessent, have been taken by some to indicate a further delay to the implementation of sizeable levies (including 50% on the EU). However, the Trump administration has sought to indicate it is not a delay, but that 1 August would be the date tariffs "boomerang back" if no deal is reached by 9 July. Nevertheless, the three weeks between the two dates is likely to allow more time for talks to avoid tariffs coming into force.
- **United Kingdom:** MPs are set to vote on the Universal Credit and Personal Independence Payments Bill, a set of welfare reforms that sparked a major rebellion among backbench members from PM Sir Keir Starmer's centre-left Labour party. This saw reforms in the bill weakened to the extent the legislation will make no net savings for the government by 2030, raising the prospect of further tax hikes in the autumn budget.
- **European Parliament:** MEPs will hold a Q&A with Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and Council President António Costa at the plenary session in Strasbourg regarding the Middle East, with the '12-Day War', prospect of a Gaza ceasefire, and EU-Syria relations likely to dominate. Separately, MEPs will hold a debate on US-EU trade relations.
- **Argentina:** Market holiday for Independence Day.

Thursday 10 July:

- **Ukraine:** Two notable multinational gatherings take place regarding the war in Ukraine. On 10-11 July, Rome hosts the Ukraine Recovery Conference 2025, which brings together political and business leaders with the intention of mobilising governments, the private sector and civil society to aid with Ukraine's eventual post-war reconstruction. Italian PM Georgia Meloni, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, German Chancellor Friedrich Merz and Polish PM Donald Tusk are all due to speak at the event. Separately, a summit of the 'coalition of the willing' takes place in London, jointly hosted by UK PM Sir Keir Starmer and French President Emmanuel Macron on the occasion of the latter's state visit (see above). The coalition includes those countries that have pledged continued support for Ukraine in the context of the US' signalled drawdown of its involvement, militarily and financially, in backing Kyiv. Zelenskyy, Merz and Meloni are due to join via videolink from Rome.

- **European Union:** Commission President Ursula von der Leyen is set to face a vote of no confidence in the European Parliament, the first time a Commission leader has faced such a vote since Jean-Claude Juncker in 2014. Proposed by right-wing Romanian MEP Gheorghe Piperea over the [‘Pfizergate’](#) scandal involving texts between von der Leyen and Pfizer CEO Albert Bourla during the COVID-19 pandemic, the motion would require two-thirds of a majority of MEPs to vote against von der Leyen to remove her and the College of Commissioners. With the main centrist political groups backing von der Leyen (for now), the vote is expected to be unsuccessful. The vote takes place in public and will get underway ~12:00CET (06:00ET, 11:00BST).
- **Thailand:** Market holiday for Asalha Bucha.

Friday 11 July:

- **EU-Israel:** European Commission High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Kaja Kallas is set to submit an ‘options paper’ to the member states’ permanent representatives with regard to the prospect of sanctions or other measures imposed on Israel over its conduct in the conflict in Gaza. EU Observer [notes](#) options include, *“proposing to do nothing, to suspend an EU-Israel association agreement, suspend its trade and science parts, or suspend high-level EU-Israel meetings.”* Comes ahead of EU foreign ministers delivering their “political decision” next week.

Sunday 13 July:

- **Australia-United States:** More than 35,000 military personnel, primarily from Australia and the US but also other allied countries, take part in the biennial ‘Talisman Sabre’ exercises running until 4 August. The exercises will take place on land, in the air, and at sea in Australia and Papua New Guinea, with the intention of *“to strengthen relationships and interoperability among key Allies and partners, enhancing our collective capability to respond to a wide array of potential security concerns and maintain a free and open Indo-Pacific”*, [according](#) to the US Army.

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