

MNI POLITICAL RISK ANALYSIS - Week Ahead 1-7 September

by Tom Lake

(MNI) London – All timings are subject to change. *Editor's note: The next Political Risk Week Ahead will be published on Monday, 22 September.*

Monday 1 September:

- **European Union:** European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen is set to hold talks with Romanian President Nicusor Dan and PM Ilie Bolojan following a visit to Lithuania for talks with President Gitanas Nauseda and a visit to the Belarusian border. The trip has garnered significant attention after the EU confirmed that von der Leyen's plane had been subject to an interference attack, with GPS navigation services at a Bulgarian airport disabled as her plane was set to land on 30 August. Russia is suspected to have carried out the operation, but Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov denied this to the [FT](#).
- **United Kingdom:** Parliament returns from its summer recess for a short session ahead of the party conference recess that starts on 16 September. Focus during this session remains on when Chancellor of the Exchequer Rachel Reeves announces a date for the budget, and speculation on what tax increases and/or spending cuts will be included.
- **Europe:** The Bled Strategic Forum annual conference takes place in Slovenia, running to 2 September. [Speakers](#) on day one include European Council President Antonio Costa, European High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Kaja Kallas, Slovenian PM Robert Golob, European Commissioner for Enlargement Marta Kos, Croatian PM Andrej Plenkovic, and IAEA Director General Rafael Grossi.
- **Mexico:** The newly elected Supreme Court justices begin their terms in office. President Claudia Sheinbaum's administration argues that the election of senior judges represents a victory for democracy, while opponents have argued that it risks the politicisation of the judiciary. While judges ran as independents, much election literature made it clear which political alliance the candidates were linked to.
- **European Union:** The EU resumes normal activities after the August break, with member state permanent representatives holding an informal meeting with European Parliament President Roberta Metsola, while the Danish ambassador will debrief other Coreper II members on the activities of the Danish presidency of the Council of the European Union over the summer.
- **Canada, United States:** Market holidays for Labor Day.

Tuesday 2 September:

- **United States:** Congress returns to Washington, D.C., after the Labor Day holiday. Lawmakers face a race to reach a deal on a continuing resolution to avoid a federal government shutdown ahead of the 30 September deadline, when funding is set to expire.

- **Brazil:** The final phase of the trial of former President Jair Bolsonaro for allegedly leading an attempted coup d'état, among other charges, gets underway. The verdict and sentencing could take up to 10 days, with 12 September the final deadline for the five-judge panel of the Federal Supreme Court to deliver its judgment. Justice Cristiano Zanin will open proceedings at 09:00 local time (08:00ET, 13:00BST, 14:00CET). If convicted, Bolsonaro faces many years in prison. Bolsonaro and his co-defendants can appeal to the full Supreme Court if convicted.
- **Europe:** The Bled Strategic Forum annual conference continues in Slovenia. Speakers on day two include US NATO ambassador Matthew Whitaker, and the presidents of Estonia, Czechia, Slovenia, and Montenegro.
- **US-Latin America:** US Secretary of State Marco Rubio begins a three-day visit to Mexico and Ecuador. Starting in Mexico City, Rubio will have a meeting with President Claudia Sheinbaum, with the two set to sign a security pact intended to bolster cooperation in the fight against cartels and efforts to halt the flow of fentanyl into the US. Then, travelling to Quito, Ecuador, Rubio will meet with President Daniel Noboa, who has faced a major security challenge in recent months amid widespread gang and cartel-related violence. Rubio will speak to both leaders about countering illegal immigration into the US from Latin America and countering China's increasingly strong economic and political influence in the region.

Wednesday 3 September:

- **China:** President Xi Jinping hosts a massive military parade in Beijing to mark the 80th anniversary of Japan's unconditional surrender in the Second World War. The event is expected to be a demonstration of China's growing military might, as well as an effort to highlight the increasingly close relations between Chinese-aligned nations, with Russian President Vladimir Putin, Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian and North Korean Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un set to be in attendance.
- **US-Poland:** US President Donald Trump hosts his Polish counterpart, Karol Nawrocki, at the White House. Nawrocki won the June presidential election, having gained the backing of the right-wing populist opposition Law and Justice Party and figures from the Trump administration. The trip will be his first in office, and his second to the White House, having met with Trump in May when Nawrocki was a candidate. In what could prove embarrassing timing for President Trump, Reps. Ro Khanna (D-CA) and Thomas Massie (R-KY) hold a press conference ~30 mins before the Trump-Nawrocki meeting to discuss their Epstein Files Transparency Bill and hear from survivors of Epstein's abuse.
- **United Kingdom:** The House of Commons Treasury select committee holds an evidence session on the Bank of England's latest monetary policy reports. Governor Andrew Bailey, Deputy Governor Clare Lombardelli, and external MPC members Prof. Alan Taylor and Megan Greene will answer questions from MPs from 14:15BST (09:15ET, 15:15CET). Livestream [here](#).
- **European Union:** Politico [reports](#) that the European Commission is set to present the text of two major trade agreements ahead of what is likely to be a bitter and protracted ratification process. The texts of FTAs with Mexico and the Mercosur bloc (Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay, and Bolivia, remain controversial regarding agricultural trade. France in particular is viewed as strongly hostile to the deals, but if

the Commission presents them as “EU-only agreements”, then unanimity would not be required, weakening France’s hand.

- **United States:** The Missouri state legislature holds a session in which congressional district borders will be the issue. Texas and California have already seen high-profile efforts to change borders to assist Republicans and Democrats, respectively, in 2026.
- **US-Europe:** The House Judiciary Committee holds a hearing at 10:00ET (15:00BST, 16:00CET) regarding “Europe’s threat to American speech and innovation”. The committee looks to highlight how the UK’s Online Safety Act and the EU’s Digital Services Act allegedly threatens free speech in the US, and how the UK’s Digital Markets, Competition and Consumers Act and the EU’s Digital Markets Act “target American companies and hurt innovation” according to the [committee](#). Leader of the right-wing populist Reform UK party, Nigel Farage MP, and former European Commissioner for the Internal Market, Thierry Breton, are set to attend as witnesses.

Thursday 4 September:

- **NATO:** NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte delivers the keynote address at the International Institute for Strategic Studies’ second annual Prague Defence Summit. Speech set to get underway at 10:00CET (04:090ET, 09:00BST). The IISS says the summit, running 3-5 September, is intended to, “focus on the development of a roadmap for the defence of Europe, the evolving transatlantic and European defence ecosystems, operational challenges related to deterring Russia, the role of external partners in generating European military capacity, and new approaches to funding defence.” Czech Foreign Minister Jan Lipavský delivers the opening speech at 20:00CET (14:00ET, 19:00BST) on 3 September.
- **United States:** The US Senate Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs holds confirmation hearings for a number of prominent positions, including Stephen Miran to serve on the board of governors of the Federal Reserve and Christopher Pilkerton and Jonathan Burke to sit as Assistant Secretaries at the Department of Treasury. Hearing starts at 10:00ET (15:00BST, 16:00CET). Separately, the US Senate Committee on Finance holds a hearing on “the President’s 2026 health care agenda” at 10:00ET (15:00BST, 16:00CET). Secretary of Health and Human Services Robert F. Kennedy Jr. is due to deliver testimony amid the high-profile firing of the head of the Center for Disease Control following disagreements over Kennedy’s leadership and vaccine policies.
- **UAE:** Market holiday for *Mawlid*.

Friday 5 September:

- **United Kingdom:** The annual conference for the right-wing populist Reform UK gets underway in Birmingham. The two-day event is set to garner more media focus than ever before, with Nigel Farage’s party holding a consistent and sizeable lead in nationwide opinion polling amid rising public anger regarding illegal immigration and cost of living issues.
- **United States:** CBS [reports](#) that as soon as 5 September, US President Donald Trump may seek to launch major immigration enforcement operations in Chicago, IL, that could result in similar mass protests and the deployment of the National Guard

as seen in Los Angeles in the spring. Trump has talked up the prospect of sending the military into major Democrat-controlled cities in an effort to get crime 'under control', in a similar scenario to that seen in the District of Columbia. However, it is unclear if the president has the legal powers to do so.

Sunday 7 September:

- **Argentina:** Elections take place for half of the seats in Buenos Aires Province's regional Chamber of Deputies and Senate. The elections will be closely watched, given that Buenos Aires Province is the most populous of Argentina's 23 provinces and its elections come just weeks before nationwide legislative elections for half the seats in the Chamber of Deputies and one-third of the Senate. An escalating corruption scandal involving family members and close associates of President Javier Milei risks damaging his libertarian *La Libertad Avanza* (LLA) party's prospects in a region that has been a historic stronghold for the left-wing populist Kirchnerite alliance. A poor result for LLA could bode poorly for the chances of Milei's party increasing its representation in Congress.
- **Israel:** There is speculation that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu could visit Argentina for talks with President Javier Milei. Argentina is a signatory to the Rome Treaty, and as such, the government would be ostensibly obliged to enforce the International Criminal Court outstanding arrest warrant against the Israeli PM. Human rights lawyers in Argentina have filed a criminal complaint in federal court looking to enforce Netanyahu's arrest as soon as he lands. The threat of arrest could deter the visit, with the two potentially meeting in New York City in September for the UN General Assembly.

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