

Quarterly Review of International Relations

April-June 2017

CHIARA D'AURIA

April 1st:

According to the President of European Council Donald Tusk the draft for Brexit will take in account all the counts of Great Britain with the EU, in a negotiation which will be «long and difficult».

April 2nd:

In Moscow dozen of people are arrested by police during non authorized demonstrations, 7 days after the anti-government protests made all over Russia which have caused the imprisonment of the liberal leader Alexei Navalni.

April 3rd:

In St. Petersburg 14 people are killed and 47 are injured for an explosion in a train metro tunnel in what authorities call a terrorist attack.

April 4th:

A suspected Syrian government chemical attack kills scores of people, including children, in the Northwestern province of Idlib.

April 5th:

North Korea fires a ballistic missile into the sea off its East coast from the city of Sinpo, home to a North Korean submarine base.

April 6th:

The Pentagon and the White House are in detailed discussions on military options to respond to the poison gas attack in Syria on April 4th that has killed scores of civilians, and which Washington has blamed on the Syrian government.

April 7th:

During the official visit in the US of Chinese President Xi Jinping, US President Donald Trump orders the bombing from Mediterranean US Navy aircraft carriers of Syrian military bases having in storage chemical weapons. In Stockholm a suspected radicalized Muslim clashes a stolen truck on the crowd, causing the death of 3 people.

April 8th:

In Stockholm police arrests the author of the terroristic attack of April 7th, a 39-years old man of Uzbek origins, well known to Swedish intelligence.

April 9th:

In the Egyptian cities of Tanta and Alexandria 45 people are killed and a hundred more wounded in bombings at two Egyptian Coptic churches. Islamic State claims the attack.

April 10th:

In Rome at the G7 on Energy the Italian Minister of Development Carlo Calenda announces that it has not been possible to reach to a common declaration on climate change and the Paris agreement because of the American administration's deep revision of its political line.

April 11th:

North Korea warns of a nuclear attack on the United States at any sign of American aggression as a US Navy strike group is approaching to the Korean Peninsula.

April 12th:

Chinese President Xi Jinping calls for a peaceful resolution of rising tension on the Korean peninsula in a telephone conversation with US President Donald Trump. US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson reaches to Moscow starting talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin on the Syrian crisis.

April 13th:

In an interview to French Presse, cited by international *medias*, Syrian President Bashar al-Assad declares that the chemical attack, which has caused the US raids, «has been deliberately built 100%» because Syrian army do not have chemical weapons anymore.

April 14th:

Chinese Foreign Affairs Minister Wang Li declares that between North Korea and USA «war is able to begin in every moment», as the US are ready to hit North Korean nuclear arsenal and Pyongyang's leader Kim Jong-Un declares to be ready to face every American attack.

April 15th:

Declaring to be ready to answer to USA with nuclear weapons, North Korea apparently displays new long-range and submarine-based missiles on the 105th birth anniversary of its founding father, Kim Il Sung, as the nuclear-powered US aircraft carrier group is approaching the Korean Peninsula.

April 16th:

North Korea fails a rocket launch test as Vice President Mike Pence reaches Seoul. In Turkey the *referendum* on presidentialism ends with the winning of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

April 17th:

North Korean ambassador at UN Kim In Ryong declares that a nuclear war could explode in every moment, as in Seoul US Vice President Mike Pence states that «the time of strategic patience is over».

April 18th-19th:

British Prime Minister Theresa May calls for and obtains an early election on June 8th, saying she needs to strengthen her hand in divorce talks with the European Union by bolstering support for her Brexit plan.

April 20th:

The United Nations Security Council condemns North Korea's last missile test and demands Pyongyang not to conduct any more nuclear tests. In Paris a gunman, identified as Karim Cheurfi, opened fire on a police vehicle parked on the Champs Elysees in Paris, killing one officer and injuring two others before being shot dead. The Islamic State claims the attack.

April 21st:

French investigators are trying to find out whether the man who shot dead a policeman in Paris had accomplices, adding that he has shown no previous signs of radicalization.

April 22nd:

In Rome takes place the summit on the future of Libya between the President of the House of Representatives in Tobruk, Aghila Saleh, and the President of the High State Council in Tripoli, Abdulrahman Swelhi. The meeting is promoted by the Italian Minister of Foreign Affairs Angelino Alfano, who has informed all the European partners about the talks.

April 23rd-24th:

North Korea alerts the United States that is ready to «cancel them from Earth», accusing USA to plan a chemical weapons attack against the country.

April 25th:

North Korea conducts a big live-fire exercise to mark the foundation of its military as the USS Michigan submarine has docked in South Korea.

April 26th:

The top US commander in the Asia-Pacific, Admiral Harry Harris, tells the US Congress the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) system would be operational in few days in South Korea.

April 27th:

German Chancellor Angela Merkel declares to the Bundestag in view of the extraordinary European Council on Brexit expected to be on April 29th that: «a third State, as Great Britain will become, will not have the same rights of a European State».

April 28th:

US President Donald Trump in an interview to Reuters for his first 100 days at the White House, declares that: «a big, big war against North Korea is possible» but he would prefer a diplomatic solution,

which PRC considers to be the only possible way to manage the crisis in the Korean peninsula.

April 29th:

At Brussels' extraordinary European Council on Brexit, European Union *leaders* endorse stiff divorce terms for Britain and warn Britons to have no illusions about swiftly securing a new relationship to keep their access to EU markets.

North Korea fails a new missile test.

April 30th:

British Prime Minister Theresa May expects divorce talks with the European Union to be tough, rejecting the guidelines of the 27 European leaders reunited in Brussels, that May defines to be only «negotiating positions».

May 1st:

According to Bloomberg News, US President Donald Trump declares he is open to meeting North Korean leader Kim Jong-un «under the right circumstances».

May 2nd:

In Abu Dhabi an agreement between Libyan premier Fayez Al Sarraj and General Khalifa Haftar, chief of the army, is reached, establishing free elections in March 2018 and the dissolution of all irregular militias in Libya.

May 3rd:

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan meets Russian President Vladimir Putin in Sochi to talk about bilateral relations between their two countries and the major international problems such as the Syrian crisis.

May 4th:

In Astana, during the summit on the Syrian crisis, Russia, Iran and Turkey approve a *memorandum* to create 4 security areas (or buffer zones), rejected by the delegation of Syrian armed opposition.

May 5th:

Russian Minister of Defense Serghiei Lavrov declares that the agreement for the creation of 4 de-escalation zones in Syria comes into force since midnight.

May 6th:

Japan and China agree to bolster economic and financial cooperation, as US President Donald Trump's protectionist stance and tension over North Korea weigh on Asia's growth outlook.

May 7th:

Emmanuel Macron, leader of the centrist movement *En marche!*, is elected President of France. With a business-friendly vision of European integration, Macron defeats Marine Le Pen, leader of the far-right nationalist front, who has threatened to take France out of the European Union.

May 8th:

At UN negotiations on climate that began on May 7th in the German city of Bonn, many member States urge US President Donald Trump to remain in the global agreement to combat climate change.

May 9th:

Elected French President Emmanuel Macron asks to US President Donald Trump to remain in the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

May 10th:

In Washington Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov meets US President Donald Trump to discuss the Syrian crisis, although Russia backs President Bashar al-Assad.

May 11th:

South Korea's new President Moon Jae-in launches international efforts to defuse tension over North Korea's weapons development, urging both dialogue and sanctions while also aiming to ease Chinese anger about the US anti-missile system installed in his country.

May 12th-13th:

North Korea makes a global appeal in a letter to States to reconsider enforcing UN sanctions on the Asian nation as Washington seeks to step up pressure on Pyongyang to end its nuclear and ballistic

missile proliferation. Choe Son Hui, North Korea's Foreign Ministry director general for US affairs, declares that Pyongyang will have dialogue with the US administration if conditions will be right.

May 14th:

During the International Beijing Conference on the Silk Road, North Korea launches a stronger missile which falls in Japanese Sea.

May 15th:

German Chancellor Angela Merkel meets new French President Emmanuel Macron in Berlin, aiming to reinvigorate the Franco-German relationship and declaring that the two countries are ready to change, if necessary, EU's treaties.

May 16th:

US President Donald Trump receives Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan amid tensions over the US decision to arm Kurdish fighters in Syria that has angered Ankara.

May 17th:

Because of indiscretions revealed by «The Washington Post» on the 'Russiagate', Russian President Vladimir Putin declares that US President Donald Trump had not divulged any State secrets during a meeting in Washington with Russian officials and offers to prove it by supplying Congress with a transcript of the meeting.

May 18th:

In Central Syria, East of Hama, ISIS massacres 52 civilians, among which women and children.

May 19th:

In Iran are held presidential elections, with actual President Hassan Rouhani, who wants to normalize ties with the West, who challenges Ebrahim Raisi, a *protégé* of supreme leader Ali Khamenei.

May 20th:

While in Iran Hassan Rouhani wins the presidential elections, in Riyadh, during his first official travel abroad, US President Donald Trump signs with Saudi King Salman an agreement which leaves Saudi Arabia to buy arms and defense system from the USA for 110 billion dollars.

May 21st:

While North Korea makes a new missile test, US President Donald Trump in a speech in Riyadh declares in front of Arabian leaders that it is necessary to drive out terrorism from the Middle East.

May 22nd:

As the first American President visiting the Wailing Wall, in Jerusalem Donald Trump declares that shares concern about growing Iran's influence in the Middle East and demands that Tehran immediately cease military and financial backing of terrorists and militias.

May 23rd:

British police identifies the suicide bomber who has killed 22 people, including children, in an attack on a crowded concert hall in Manchester in the night of May 22nd: the suspected attacker was named as Salman Abedi, aged 22. Islamic State claims responsibility for the attack.

May 24th:

Pope Francis urges US President Donald Trump to be a peacemaker at their first meeting in the Vatican City. Then Trump has a meeting with Italian President Sergio Mattarella and Italian Prime Minister Paolo Gentiloni to discuss about the next G7 in Taormina to be held on May 26th-27th.

May 25th:

US President Donald Trump tells fellow NATO leaders that the United States will never stop fighting terrorism, accusing low-spending members of the alliance of owing «massive amounts of money» to NATO.

May 26th-27th:

In Taormina at the G7 is signed an agreement on cooperation against international terrorism and a common point of view on immigration and international trade but not on climate changes.

May 28th:

After the outcomes of the ultimate meetings of G7 and NATO, German Chancellor Angela Merkel declares that Europe can no longer completely rely on its allies.

May 29th:

North Korea launches a Scud-class ballistic missile that lands in the sea off its coast.

May 30th:

US President Donald Trump calls Germany's trade and spending policies «very bad», because of the high American commercial deficit with Germany and because this country would pay NATO less of what should do.

May 31st:

In Kabul a car bomb explodes in the diplomatic area of the Afghan capital, causing at least 90 deaths and 400 wounded. The Taliban deny the responsibility of the attack, condemning the action.

June 1st-2nd:

US President Donald Trump announces that the United States leave Paris agreement on climate change and declares that the USA will start the negotiation for a new treaty. European Union, RPC and India confirm to remain in the Paris agreement.

June 3rd:

UN Security Council establishes a new resolution with which, after the last launches of ballistic missiles, to some North Korean citizens and companies is applied the total block of property and the prohibition to travel.

June 4th:

A double terroristic attack is made in London in the night between June 3rd and 4th: the first action was on the London Bridge, where a van has invested pedestrians and from which three killers have come out, killing other people with knives. Than in Borough Market zone the same *commando* has continued its action before being stopped by British police. The toll is of 7 dead people and 48 wounded. The three terrorists are killed by police: they were wearing faked explosive belts and were affiliate to Islamic groups close to ISIS.

June 5th:

Egypt, Arabian Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Yemen and Bahrain break diplomatic relations with Qatar, to contest its support to Islamic groups close to terroristic ones.

June 6th:

In the Cathedral of Notre Dame in Paris a 40-years-old student of Algerian origins attacks with a hammer a policeman shouting: «this is for Syria!». Immediately other policemen shout the man to his chest. The whole area is isolated and at least 900 people are blocked in the Cathedral. The attacker, who was also carrying two knives, is taken away by ambulance.

June 7th:

In Teheran 4 gunmen kill 12 people and wound at least 42. Two kamikaze explode themselves in the Iranian Parliament and in the Khomeini mausoleum. ISIS claims the attack.

June 8th:

North Korea launches some ballistic missile from the city of Wonsan, in its Eastern area. It is the 9th launch of 2017.

June 9th:

In Great Britain Theresa May wins the general elections with few seats and anyway receives the Queen's appointment to form a new government with a weaker majority of the Tories in Parliament.

June 10th:

The DUP, Democratic Unionist Party of North Ireland, accepts an «agreement in principle» with the British Conservative Party to ensure confidence to the new Theresa May's government.

June 11th:

At the G7 on climate changes in Bologna Scott Pruitt, director of the American agency on Environment EPA, takes part only to the first session of the summit, confirming that USA aim to reduce carbon emissions outside the Paris agreements.

June 12th:

In Berlin at the G20 on Africa there is a discussion on the cooperation of the international community on the African countries development.

At the G7 in Bologna the final declaration reaffirms the participation to the Paris agreements with the exception of the USA.

June 13th:

In Paris during the joint press conference of French President Emmanuel Macron and British premier Theresa May she declares that: «time for Brexit is not changed, negotiations will begin on the next week».

June 14th:

The US military High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems (HIMARS) moves a new truck-mounted, long-range rocket launcher from Jordan to a US base in Tanf, Syria, near the Iraqi and Jordanian borders.

June 15th:

Iraqi forces declare they are about to complete the encirclement of Islamic State's stronghold in the Old City of Mosul, after taking control of a neighboring district.

June 16th-17th:

US President Donald Trump orders tighter restrictions on Americans traveling to Cuba and a clampdown on US business dealings with the country, planning to roll back parts of former President Barack Obama's agreement with Cuban counterpart Raoul Castro who defines Trump's declaration «hostile rhetoric».

June 18th:

Outside Mali's capital Bamako a luxury resort popular with Western expatriates comes under attack by gunmen, members of a Jihadist group. The death toll is of 5 attackers killed by the special forces.

June 19th:

In London, in the day in which the negotiations for Brexit start, a man invests with a van some Muslims close to a mosque, causing the death of 1 and injuring 8. In Paris a kamikaze launches himself with a car against police car at Champs Élysées, but he's killed by the police.

June 20th:

The man who voluntary crashed himself with his car on a van of French police, Adan Lofti Djaziri, has sworn to ISIS. The man, of Tunisian origins, was already known by the French intelligence.

June 21st:

In Brussels in the night between June 20th and June 21st is made an attempted attack at the train station of Gare Centrale by a man of Moroccan origins with a *kamikaze* belt who is killed by police.

June 22nd:

In Brussels during the European Council the 28 leaders of EU agree to create cooperation of defense. The President of the Council Donald Tusk declares that: «it is an historic step».

June 23rd:

During the EU-UK negotiations for Brexit British Prime Minister Theresa May offers to let millions of EU citizens stay in Britain after the British divorce from the European Union but the President of the European Commission Jean-Claude Juncker rejects her proposal.

June 24th:

Iraqi forces open exit routes for hundreds of civilians to flee the Old City of Mosul as they battle to retake the quarter from Islamic State militants.

June 25th:

People in the Iraqi city of Mosul celebrate their first Muslim Eid holiday without Islamic State in years after the militants were ejected from much of the city.

June 26th:

Prime Minister Theresa May offers to protect the rights of EU nationals living in Britain with a special *status* after Brexit.

June 27th:

Scottish Prime Minister Nicola Sturgeon declares to the Edinburgh Parliament that for the moment she will not carry forward the legislative process for a second *referendum* on Scottish independence from the United Kingdom.

June 28th:

In Brussels, presenting his paper on European financials after 2020, the European balance commissioner Guenther Oettinger declares that: «after Brexit in the EU balance 10-11 billions of euros will miss because, despite the UK was not in EMU, was a EU net contributor».

June 29th-30th:

In Berlin takes place the summit of the EU member States and is discussed the migrant crisis, at least 12.000 arrived in the last 48 hours on the Italian coasts. The President of the European Commission Jean-Claude Juncker promises more support from the EU to Italy and Greece.