



June Periodical

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Description— This periodical examines three developments that shaped June across Europe and the transatlantic policy landscape. We open with the record-breaking heatwaves that swept Europe from late May to late June, and the adaptation and air-conditioning debate they reignited. We then turn to the U.S. House's passage of a major Ukraine aid and Russia sanctions package, and what its uncertain path through the Senate reveals about the current foreign-policy divide. We close with the resignation of British Prime Minister Keir Starmer and the leadership contest now reshaping UK politics.

Keywords— Europe heatwave, extreme weather, Ukraine aid, foreign policy, UK politics, leadership transition.

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

June 2026 was a month of pressure, literal and political, and of the gap between naming a problem and acting on it. A historic heatwave killed more than 1,300 people across Europe, exposing a continent with adaptation plans but no funding to back them. In Washington, the House passed aid for Ukraine and sanctions on Russia, only for the measure to stall in a Senate unwilling to act without the President. In London, internal pressure toppled Keir Starmer, leaving British politics in transition.

A. POINTED SUMMARY

- *Extreme Weather in Europe:* Two record-breaking heatwaves struck Europe between late May and late June 2026, killing more than 1,300 people and setting record-high national temperatures: France hit 43.8°C, its hottest day ever, while reigniting a continent-wide debate over air conditioning and the gap between cities' adaptation plans and their funding.
- *House Bill on Ukraine:* On June 4th, the House defied President Trump and GOP's leadership to pass an \$8 billion Ukraine aid and Russia sanctions package by a 226-195 vote, though the measure faces long odds in the Senate absent Trump's endorsement.
- *Resignation of the British Prime Minister:* Keir Starmer resigned on June 22 amid mounting pressure from within Labour and the rise of Reform UK, triggering a leadership contest in which Andy Burnham is in favor to become the next Prime Minister.

II. EXTREME WEATHER IN EUROPE

Since late May 2026, Europe has experienced two record-breaking heatwaves. The first began on May 24th, with temperatures 10–15°C above normal, setting spring records across France, the UK, Ireland, Spain, Belgium, and Germany. A second, more severe wave hit in late June, pushing temperatures above 30°C for roughly 269 million people, with the death toll topping 1,300 as heat shifted eastward. This June event shattered records and hit health, ecosystems, agriculture, infrastructure, and labor productivity, with France recording its hottest day ever at 43.8°C and a red alert covering 58 departments¹. Scientists tie the cause directly to human-driven warming: researchers found this was the most severe heatwave ever recorded for the region, with temperatures that would have been virtually impossible in 1976.² Consequences included melted rail tracks, damaged power lines, and record cooling demand straining electricity supplies.³

The crisis has sparked policy debate, especially over air conditioning. The European Commission declined to take a stance, saying it's not their role to dictate consumer choices, even as only about 20% of European households have AC compared to over 90% in the US and Japan.

¹ World Meteorological Organization. "Record-Breaking Heat Spreads through Europe," June 23, 2026. <https://wmo.int/media/news/record-breaking-heat-spreads-through-europe>.

² Worldweatherattribution.org. "Fossil Fuel Emissions Have Rapidly Worsened European Heatwaves in Just a Few Decades – World Weather Attribution," 2026. <https://www.worldweatherattribution.org/fossil-fuel-emissions-have-rapidly-worsened-european-heatwaves-in-just-a-few-decades/>

³ Rommen, Rebecca. "Europe's Record Heatwave Shifts East, Death Toll Tops 1,300." euronews. euronews.com, June 29, 2026. <https://www.euronews.com/health/2026/06/29/europes-record-breaking-heatwave-what-you-need-to-know>.

Critics say AC strains power grids and ignores root causes, while advocates call it necessary for survival and productivity.⁴ Some commentators blame a deeper reluctance to adapt. A Carnegie Endowment piece noted that many post-2003 hospitals and schools were deliberately built without AC to avoid undercutting green transition goals, while others point to funding gaps.⁵ Eurocities found that 85% of European cities have adaptation plans, but only 6% have a dedicated finance strategy.⁶

III. HOUSE BILL ON UKRAINE

On June 4th, the House passed its first major pro-Ukraine action of Trump's second term. The House voted on the pro-Ukraine measure 226–195, signalling approval to provide billions of dollars to Ukraine, along with imposing new sanctions on Russia's oil and natural gas sectors.⁷ The package would authorize \$8 billion to Ukraine and NATO allies, and more than \$1 billion relating to Baltic security and radio station Radio Free Europe.⁸ On the Russian

⁴ Liboreiro, Jorge. "Neither pro nor Con: EU Declines to Take Stand on AC amid Heatwave." euronews. euronews.com, June 29, 2026.

<https://www.euronews.com/my-europe/2026/06/29/neither-pro-nor-con-eu-declines-to-take-stand-on-ac-debate-amid-brutal-heat-wave>.

⁵ Rym Momtaz. "Geopolitical Europe Needs Air-Conditioning." Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, June 30, 2026. <https://carnegieendowment.org/europe/strategic-europe/2026/06/geopolitical-europe-needs-air-conditioning>.

⁶ Eurocities – Home. "Europe's Cities Are Heating Up, and the Bill Is Due Soon – Eurocities," April 30, 2026. <https://eurocities.eu/latest/europes-cities-are-heating-up-and-the-bill-is-coming-due/>.

⁷ Ferris, Sarah, and Alison Main. 2026. "House Approves Ukraine Aid and Russian Sanctions, Defying Trump and GOP Leaders." CNN. June 5, 2026. <https://www.cnn.com/2026/06/04/politics/house-vote-ukraine-russia-bill>.

⁸ 2026 "House Passes Ukraine Aid Bill in Another GOP Rebuke of Trump's Foreign Policy." NBC News. June 5, 2026. <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/congress/house-passes-ukraine>

sanctions side, the bill mandates that the President must determine whether or not Russia or any proxy is waging a war of aggression upon Ukraine, refusing to negotiate peace deals with Ukraine, or violating peace agreements with Ukraine. If any of these are to be determined as true, the President must impose penalties that include raising tariffs on all Russian imports up to a minimum of 500%, as well as property blocking sanctions on Russian oil and mining companies.⁹ Still, the bill needs to pass the Senate to take effect, and consensus among supporters is that it will not unless Trump directly endorses the bill. Representative Brian Fitzpatrick stated that even though the bill is unlikely to pass by receiving the 60 votes, it still forces the Senate to address the issue.¹⁰

IV. RESIGNATION OF BRITISH PRIME MINISTER

On June 22th, 2026, British Prime Minister Keir Starmer announced his resignation outside 10 Downing Street, less than two years after leading Labour to a landslide election victory in 2024. His departure followed months of mounting pressure from Labour MPs and cabinet ministers, driven by the rapid rise of the far-right Reform UK party and devastating local election losses in May.¹¹ Starmer's resignation also followed Cabinet resignations and Andy

[-aid-bill-another-gop-rebuke-trumps-foreign-policy-rcna34won't8589.](#)

⁹ D-NY-5, Gregory W. 2025. "H.R.2913 - 119th Congress (2025-2026): Ukraine Support Act." Congress.gov. 2025. <https://www.congress.gov/bills/119th-congress/house-bill/2913>.

¹⁰ News, PBS. 2026. "House Passes Bill to Provide More Ukraine Aid and Impose New Sanctions on Russia." PBS News. June 5, 2026. <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/politics/house-passes-bill-to-provide-more-ukraine-aid-and-impose-new-sanctions-on-russia>.

¹¹ Magee, Caolán. 2026. "Why Has Keir Starmer Resigned as UK Prime Minister, and Who Will Take Over?." Al Jazeera. June 22, 2026. <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2026/6/22/why-has-keir-starmer-resigned-as-uk-prime-minister-and-who-will-take-over>.

Burnham's commanding win in the June 18th Makerfield by-election, which effectively signaled to the parliamentary party that a viable successor was ready.¹²

Starmer confirmed he would remain as caretaker Prime Minister until a new Labour leader is chosen, with nominations opening July 9th and closing July 16th - meaning a new Prime Minister could be in place as early as mid-July if uncontested, or by September 1 if a full contest unfolds. Burnham is the runaway favorite.¹³ The transition creates short-term political uncertainty, most immediately postponing a UK-EU summit scheduled for July 22nd, though ministers remain confident a reset deal will still conclude this year.¹⁴ The matter is not yet settled, as the leadership contest is ongoing and the political landscape remains fluid.

V. CONCLUSION

July should bring some resolution: the UK could have a new Prime Minister within weeks, while the Ukraine package's fate rests on whether Trump endorses it. For young people the stakes are direct, and so is the opportunity, pressing for climate funding, holding representatives accountable, and staying engaged as leadership shifts. June showed institutions under strain, but the capacity to respond is already in place. Will,

¹² "From Resignation to Renewal: The Latest Shift in UK Leadership." 2026. Mayer_Brown. July 6, 2026. <https://www.mayerbrown.com/en/insights/publications/2026/07/from-resignation-to-renewal-the-latest-shift-in-uk-leadership>.

¹³ Austin, Henry, Nick Duffy, and Freddie Clayton. 2026. "Keir Starmer Resigns as Prime Minister; Andy Burnham Expected to Be next U.K. Leader." NBC News. June 22, 2026. <https://www.nbcnews.com/world/united-kingdom/keir-starmer-resigns-prime-minister-andy-burnham-labour-rcna257534>.

¹⁴ "From Resignation to Renewal: The Latest Shift in UK Leadership." 2026. Mayer_Brown. July 6, 2026. <https://www.mayerbrown.com/en/insights/publications/2026/07/from-resignation-to-renewal-the-latest-shift-in-uk-leadership>.

unlike capacity, can be built, and youth engagement is one of the surest ways to build it.

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