

# Europe hits the polls, Trump is tariff happy and football goes wild

Since the EU elections in 2014, Europe has been rocked by the apex of the refugee crisis, populist revolts and, of course, Brexit. The fact of the UK's leaving (or not) makes this one of the most interesting British EU elections ever (see the rise of the Brexit party, page 13) - but across the continent firebrands such as Matteo Salvini hope to drag the power centre of Europe rightwards. Our reporting team look at the state of play in Italy and France and, on page 15, Jennifer Rankin profiles one of the centre-right figures hoping to stop Salvini et al: Germany's Manfred Weber. **The big story page 10 →**

It will come as no surprise - though it may strike fear into rational economists' hearts - but it's likely that Donald Trump's battle plan for a trade war with China is based on a book he may not have actually read. It also came as no surprise that China reacted to \$200bn worth of new tariffs on its exports by slapping its own on US goods on Monday. Global stock markets reacted despairingly on Tuesday morning and the question for business owners in both countries is - as ever with Trump - who will blink first? Philip Inman looks at the cost of Trump's strategy. **Spotlight page 15 →**

Last week was a miraculous one for English football. Liverpool won 4-0 to knock out Lionel Messi's Barcelona 4-3 on aggregate in the Champions League. Tottenham Hotspur repeated the trick with a last-second winner to knock out Ajax and meet Liverpool in the Madrid final in June. Arsenal and Chelsea also booked a meeting in Baku for the Europa League final. Cue soaring flight and hotel prices. This lesson in market pricing is also one of environmental folly, writes our economics editor Larry Elliott. **Spotlight page 19 →**



**A note to our subscribers** From the next issue (24 May), we will begin to roll out new compostable packaging to around half of our UK subscribers. The process will be completed in the UK by 7 June. Between our 21 June and 5 July editions, the packaging will change for readers outside the UK. The wrap is made of entirely compostable material - derived from potato starch - and can be disposed of on a compost heap or in your garden or food waste bin. We hear regularly from readers about how much they would like us to stop using plastic and we are pleased to make this change.



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