

Trump's "Super Intelligence" Re-Branding of AI

President Trump has escalated his "Super Intelligence" campaign to rename artificial intelligence by announcing a federal task force to coordinate US artificial intelligence policy, days after issuing an executive order mandating the term's replacement across executive agencies. The "Super Intelligence Force" will oversee implementation of the 29 September order requiring federal departments to substitute "AI" with "SI" in all non-statutory communications. The executive order applies only to executive agencies, creating no penalty for private citizens or companies retaining "AI." A parallel "White House Accord on Super Intelligence," signed by tech leaders, explicitly creates no legally enforceable obligations or enforcement mechanism. Trump even declared anyone using "Artificial Intelligence" rather than "Super Intelligence" to be "THE ENEMY," yet OpenAI, Google DeepMind and Anthropic continue using "AI." Elon Musk embraced the rebranding but had not implemented corporate renaming by 6 October.

Navi Pillay's Nobel Collides with Washington's Campaign Against the ICC

Oslo, 11 October 2026. Nobel Peace Prize laureate Navi Pillay has expressed "tension and anxiety" over the future of the International Criminal Court (ICC) after the United States designated the court itself as a sanctions target, escalating beyond previous measures against individual judges and prosecutors. Washington seeks to force the ICC to cancel arrest warrants for 'Israeli' Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and former defence minister Yoav Gallant, end its Afghanistan investigation, and restrict cases involving non-member states. Secretary of State Marco Rubio labelled the court a "rogue" institution, vowing to "cut off their resources and cripple its ability to operate". Pillay said "hundreds of staff feel they are under threat" and called the sanctions "unheard of" and "unacceptable". The US, which has never joined the ICC, now seeks to destroy it. International law applies only when it serves Washington's interests.

Trump–Putin Diesel Agreement Shows that America's Friends Can Burn but the Price of Diesel Is Sacred

On the 13 October 2026, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky endorsed a truce, unilaterally announced energy truce as Moscow confirms talks on the diesel supply agreement are advancing. Trump announced the ceasefire on Sunday, two days after unveiling the diesel deal with President Putin under which Russia would supply fuel to the United States and global markets while declaring a lifted of sanctions on Russian diesel in exchange for Moscow releasing 4.8 million tonnes of fuel over six months, reversing years of pressure over Ukraine. The Office of Foreign Assets Control issued General Licence 135, permitting transactions in Russian-origin diesel until 7 April 2027. Trump promised prices would fall "IN RECORD NUMBERS, AND FAST," but futures initially dropped only about 4% before remaining more than double their level at the year's start. Russia will supply 300,000 tonnes immediately, 500,000 tonnes in November, and one million tonnes "immediately thereafter." The first three tranches equal just 3.2 days of current U.S. distillate consumption. Ukrainian President Zelensky warned that "any easing of pressure on Russia is perceived there as permission to continue the war," while European allies say they will keep their own sanctions in place.

Europe Enters Winter with a Narrower Gas Safety Margin

European Union gas storage sits at approximately 73% capacity, the lowest level recorded for this date since data collection began in 2011, as injection rates slow with falling temperatures. Storage facilities currently hold approximately 79.9 billion cubic metres, 11.6 billion cubic metres less than last year's levels. The Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis estimates storage may supply 7.3 billion cubic metres less gas between November and March than during the previous winter. Combined with the January 2027 ban on Russian LNG, Europe may need approximately 14 billion cubic metres of additional imports or a 7% reduction in demand. Germany controls about 22% of EU storage capacity, followed by Italy, The Netherlands, France, Austria and Hungary, meaning headline EU averages conceal substantial national differences. Landlocked Central and Eastern European states are particularly exposed.

French Students Win a Concession but Broaden Their Campaign

Paris, 13 October 2026: Tens of thousands of young people have taken to the streets across France in a new wave of protests demanding better learning and study conditions, with more than 200 high schools blocked nationwide and numerous universities forced to suspend operations. The movement shows no sign of ending despite government concessions. Protests began in mid-September over missing teachers, overcrowded classrooms and anger over Parcoursup, the university-admissions platform. Education Ministry figures indicate nearly 10% of scheduled teaching hours at state high schools go unstaffed. The government pledged approximately 3,000 reserve teachers, but student unions called it insufficient. Prime Minister Lecornu promised improvements but largely ruled out additional financial support. Police tactics remain a central grievance: a 15-year-old lost a hand in a stun-grenade explosion, and an officer was charged after a close-range grenade-launcher shot shattered a 14-year-old's jaw. Trump claimed the unrest was "about Islam wanting to take over" France, an interpretation with no evidentiary basis. The mobilisation concerns education, austerity and policing, and its spread into universities makes it a broader political threat to Macron's government.

Spain's Housing Revolt Reshapes the Snap Election

Madrid, 9 October 2026: Tens of thousands of Spaniards have marched through Madrid and other cities to mark the death of María del Carmen "Maricarmen" Abascal, the 87-year-old wheelchair user whose eviction from her Retiro apartment ignited protests across the country and led to a snap election. Around 20,000 demonstrators gathered at Puerta del Sol before marching to Abascal's former home. Parliament's rejection of two housing decrees prompted Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez to call the snap election. His government then reissued 21 measures, including extended protection for vulnerable tenants, regulation of seasonal and room rentals, and a €10-billion first-home loan fund. Abascal died only hours before she was expected to sign an eight-year lease permitting her return home. Protesters chanted "Real estate speculators out of our neighborhoods!" and announced a general strike for 11 November to demand affordable housing.