



Your Weekend Wire

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➤ **Twitter is taking another look at Musk takeover bid.**

Twitter could be becoming more receptive to a takeover bid from Elon Musk after the billionaire disclosed, he has secured \$46.5 billion in financing.

The social media company had been expected to shoot down the offer and had adopted a so-called poison pill to fend off a potential hostile takeover.

Twitter's board met Sunday to discuss Musk's financing plan for his proposed bid, a source close to the situation told CNBC. The person said the board is looking for other offers and the company could provide an update by the time it reports its latest financial results Thursday, if not before.

Earlier, The Wall Street Journal reported Twitter executives are re-examining the bid and are more likely than before to try and negotiate. The situation is fast-moving, but the two sides are meeting on Sunday to discuss Musk's \$43 billion proposal, the Journal reported.

A Twitter spokesperson declined to comment on the report.

The newspaper reported the social media giant is still working on estimating its own value. Executives could also insist on guarantees, such as Musk covering breakup protections if the deal fell through, the Journal said.

Musk has reportedly said he will not sway from his initial offer.

➤ **Carlos Ghosn says he would face fair trial in France, suggests timing of arrest warrant suspicious.**

Carlos Ghosn has said he would receive a "fair trial" in France after being issued an arrest warrant in the latest of a string of charges brought against the disgraced former auto executive.

Speaking to CNBC Friday in Beirut, Ghosn said he trusted the French justice system to treat him correctly, even if he did not receive the same treatment from the media and wider society.

"I think yes, I can get a fair trial," he told CNBC's Hadley Gamble.

"I will not get fair treatment, but I will get a fair trial," he said, citing the media's apparently disproportionate coverage of lavish parties and excessive spending during his tenure as an auto CEO.

French authorities on Thursday issued an international arrest warrant for the former Renault-Nissan executive who famously skipped bail in Japan and fled to Lebanon in a box.

The warrant relates to an investigation into allegations of 15 million euros (\$16.2 million) in suspicious payments between Renault and an Omani car dealership during Ghosn's tenure. The allegations involve misappropriation of company assets, corruption and money laundering.

Four others, including current owners or former directors of Suhail Bahwan Automobiles, were also issued with arrest warrants.

It is the latest in a series of accusations brought against the ex-car industry supremo, who was first arrested in Japan in November 2018 and charged with multiple financial misdeeds while running Nissan. Ghosn denies all charges.

Ghosn said Friday that he was not surprised by the arrest warrant, describing it as part of the "natural process" for French investigators. However, he said he was surprised to learn about it, not from authorities, but in a newspaper.

"What surprised me is the fact that I learned about it by reading in an American newspaper," he said, referring to the Wall Street Journal, which broke the news Thursday.

Ghosn added that the timing of the warrant was "suspicious," given the forthcoming French presidential elections this Sunday.

Both President Emmanuel Macron and his far-right rival Marine Le Pen have taken tough stances on CEO pay in the lead up to Sunday's presidential run-off as public scrutiny over the remuneration of France's top bosses intensifies. The French government is also the largest shareholder of Renault.

When asked about the timing of the arrest warrant, he said he could not speculate.

"I don't know. I can't speculate on that. Frankly, the timing is more than suspicious. You know, why do you want to do it today? Why do it Friday? Why can't you do it Monday, I mean? This is something which has been lasting for years," he said.

Spokespersons for the French justice ministry, the French government and the judicial court of Nanterre — which is heading the investigation — were not immediately available when contacted by CNBC for comment.

Nonetheless, Ghosn he said he expects any hearing to be independent, regardless of who wins.



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“Fortunately, in France, justice is somehow independent of the political power, which obviously is not the case in Japan,” he said. Ghosn has repeatedly criticized the Japanese legal system as it continues to pursue him for alleged financial misdemeanors during his time at the helm of Nissan.

Japanese officials, meanwhile, have refuted Ghosn’s claims, defending the country’s justice system as “fair and open.” Japan’s Ministry of Justice published a 3,000-word article in 2020 outlining questions and answers about its treatment of criminals. A spokesperson for the Japanese justice ministry was not immediately available when contacted by CNBC for comment.

Ghosn’s spokesperson said earlier Friday that he would be happy to stand trial in France to clear his name. Still, the feasibility of that remains in doubt.

Ghosn is barred from leaving Lebanon as he is still subject to an extradition request from Japan. Though that request is unlikely to be approved, his passport is currently held by Lebanese authorities.

The Brazil-born auto titan was raised in Beirut and is a citizen of Brazil, France and Lebanon.

As a Lebanese citizen, he’s protected from extradition.

➤ **Why the U.S. is going after yachts and mansions of Russian billionaire oligarchs.**

From chasing down yachts to seizing Italian villas, the global effort to punish Russian oligarchs for their financial ties to Vladimir Putin’s invasion of Ukraine has been unprecedented. For its part, the U.S. has arranged its own special task force — known as Task Force “KleptoCapture” — within the Department of Justice to seize the assets of the Russian elite who try to evade sanctions.

“This time around, the effort to track down their assets is much greater,” Timothy Frye, professor of post-Soviet foreign policy at Columbia University, told CNBC. “It’ll take a long time to dig through a lot of the dodgy real estate purchases and the like, but there does seem some commitment to make that happen.”

It’s unclear, however, whether the oligarchs hold enough sway over Putin to prompt an end to Russia’s ongoing barrage against Ukraine, experts say. Imposing the sanctions against the Russian oligarchs may also prove difficult given the U.S.’ strong protections over property rights, Douglas Rediker, a nonresident senior fellow at the Brookings Institution, told CNBC.

“I’m not privy to intelligence that is not public, but it is hard to point to the specific connection between at least some of the financial oligarchs and what is going on in Ukraine right now at the behest of President Putin,” Rediker explained.

“That does not mean that their behavior has been squeaky clean or is defensible, or they are not guilty of a variety of alleged sins,” Rediker said.

➤ **Macron has won France’s presidential election. But the far-right is upping its game.**

French President Emmanuel Macron may have just won a second term in office, but political analysts believe the continued rise of the far-right will cause him significant headaches over the coming years.

“The actual closeness, relative closeness of the vote and the fact that [Marine] Le Pen got over 40%, I think that’s a damning indictment on the state of French politics and perhaps actually the state of inequality and living standards across Europe,” Julian Howard, head of multi-asset solutions at asset management firm GAM, told CNBC’s “Squawk Box Europe” Monday.

Centrist Macron obtained 58.54% of the votes on Sunday, whereas his nationalist and far-right rival Le Pen got 41.46%. Back in 2017, when the two politicians also disputed the second round of the French presidential vote, Macron won with 66.1% versus Le Pen’s 33.9%.

Addressing her supporters in Paris Sunday night, Le Pen conceded defeat but said: “We have nevertheless been victorious.”

“The ideas we represent are reaching a peak,” she added, while mentioning that in upcoming legislative elections in June, her party — National Rally — will be a “true opposition” to Macron and France’s political establishment.

In France, the president is the highest figure of the state, but the upcoming parliamentary elections for the National Assembly will show whether Macron will be able to easily pass new laws or face tough roadblocks to get his pro-business and pro-EU agenda through.

One of the challenges for his second term, as stated by Macron on Sunday, is unifying France.

Le Pen’s results “including a majority of working class voters and victories in many rural and suburban districts, illustrates the profound divisions in French society which will make Macron’s second term as troubled as the first,” Mujtaba Rahman, managing director at consultancy Eurasia Group, said in a note Sunday.

Le Pen's performance in the 2022 election benefited from a change in tone from the far-right leader. Political analysts have noted how she became more moderate this time around, avoiding a focus on immigration or rallying against European integration. Instead, Le Pen chose to talk about soaring inflation and the weaker purchasing power of French citizens.

"We should not dismiss the increase in her vote share; it shows that her efforts to normalize her party and her policies are working," Jessica Hinds, an economist at Capital Economics, told CNBC via email Monday.

Sunday's vote represented the third consecutive time that Le Pen has failed to become France's president.

Having taken the reins of the party from her father in 2011, then called National Front, she ran for top office in 2012, 2017 and now 2022. She reached the second and final round of the French presidential vote both in 2017 and this year.

Her father, Jean-Marie Le Pen, shocked many when he made it to the second round of France's presidential election in 2002; but was defeated by incumbent Jacques Chirac in a landslide vote. Jean-Marie Le Pen received 17.8% of the votes that year.

"Le Pen will have difficulty, nonetheless, in surviving the next five years as the principle standard-bearer of the French far right. She and her party, National Rally, will now face a renewed challenge from Eric Zemmour and her own niece, Marion Maréchal," Rahman said in the same note.

Eric Zemmour, also an anti-immigration and far-right politician, was one of the many new names in the French political scene in the runup to this year's election. His performance in the first round of the 2022 vote was weaker than pollsters had initially estimated, with some analysts pointing to his more aggressive stance — notably toward Ukrainian refugees — as one of the reasons.

Marion Maréchal, Le Pen's niece, spoke out in support of Zemmour during this campaign.

"With regards to [the next presidential election in] 2027, the rules say that Macron won't be able to run again, and Le Pen may not either, though she has refused to rule out a fourth attempt," Hinds said.

"So, there is a lot that could be different about the next election, five years is a long time," she added.

➤ **Elon Musk's deal to buy Twitter leaves many key questions unanswered.**

The Twitter board has agreed to a \$44 billion buyout offer from billionaire Tesla CEO Elon Musk. Beyond that, little is known about what the world's richest person plans to do with his preferred social media platform.

Under the terms of the deal, Musk is paying \$54.20 per share in cash for Twitter. The announcement ended a weeklong saga Musk kicked off when he bid to buy the company at that price, which he called his "best and final offer."

In Monday's statement, Twitter said Musk is providing about \$21 billion and has secured \$25.5 billion of debt and "margin loan financing," adding "there are no financing conditions to the closing of the transaction."

So, Musk is taking over. But just about every other key question regarding the future of the popular social media platform remains unanswered. Users, employees, investors and politicians are eagerly waiting to hear more on the following topics:

Who will lead the company?

One of the biggest questions facing Twitter is who Musk will appoint as the new CEO.

Current CEO Parag Agrawal has led the company for just five months after succeeding co-founder Jack Dorsey. Agrawal was quickly forced to deal with an aggressive Musk, who snapped up about 9% of the stock and briefly agreed to join the board.

Then Musk scrapped that agreement and chose instead to go after the whole company, while Agrawal warned of "distractions ahead."

He got his distraction on Monday, and now it seems unlikely that the pair will forge a future together. "Twitter has a purpose and relevance that impacts the entire world," Agrawal said in his lone comment in the company statement. "Deeply proud of our teams and inspired by the work that has never been more important."

Who will be on the board?

The board of directors, led by Salesforce co-CEO Bret Taylor, adopted a "poison pill" to try and fend off a potential hostile takeover from Musk. That came after Musk reneged on his agreement to join the board.

Musk gets his chance to wipe the slate clean, and the list of potential candidates to help him in the journey is long. He and Dorsey have appeared chummy of late. Could he choose to join forces with his fellow tech billionaire founder?

How much control will Musk exert?

Twitter said the company is being acquired by “an entity wholly owned by Elon Musk.” That says nothing about how much control the mega-billionaire will exert.

Musk is currently CEO of Tesla, which has a market cap of \$1 trillion, and SpaceX, which is valued in the private market at \$100 billion. He’s also got his start-ups Neuralink and The Boring Company.

Will he take the Jeff Bezos approach with the Washington Post and allow an independent management team to run the operations? Or will be a hands-on owner? The answer will go a long way to knowing what to expect from content moderation and whether the many high-profile people who have been kicked off the site will soon return.

What will Twitter look like?

Musk has attempted to crowdsource opinions on Twitter features, asking his 83 million-plus followers to weigh in on whether they want certain changes like an edit button. Will he make decisions based on what his followers want?

Here’s what he said in the release:

“Free speech is the bedrock of a functioning democracy, and Twitter is the digital town square where matters vital to the future of humanity are debated. I also want to make Twitter better than ever by enhancing the product with new features, making the algorithms open source to increase trust, defeating the spam bots, and authenticating all humans. Twitter has tremendous potential — I look forward to working with the company and the community of users to unlock it.”

What does Musk mean by free speech? In a tweet on Monday, he wrote, “I hope that even my worst critics remain on Twitter, because that is what free speech means.”

Will he let everyone stay? Content moderation is important in keeping a social network from becoming a dumpster fire. Free speech for a private corporation doesn’t have to mean what it does in the First Amendment.

Is Trump coming back?

Former President Donald Trump was banned by Twitter last year for violating its rules — a move that drew ire from Trump and many conservative politicians. Musk has made clear he doesn’t like what he views as the company’s policies of censorship. So will Trump come back? Will users leave as a result? Will open sourcing the algorithm help us understand who comes, who goes and why?

Trump told CNBC on Monday he wouldn’t return to Twitter even if Musk reversed the former president’s ban, saying that he’ll be on his own service, Truth Social, “within a week.”

“We did a lot for Twitter when I was in the White House.” Trump said. “I was disappointed by the way I was treated by Twitter. I won’t be going back on Twitter.”

What will happen to the workforce?

By taking the company private, Musk has to figure out a whole new structure for employee pay. Existing stock grants and rewards are no longer meaningful. Will they be replaced with equity in the new version of Twitter, giving employees potential upside should the company go public a second time?

The tech industry is dealing with a tightening and highly competitive market for talent. Employers are under more pressure than ever to retain what they’ve got. Under these circumstances, why would workers stay at Twitter and why would they go there from somewhere else? And who does Musk keep? If he removes content-moderation practices, a lot of employees are suddenly deemed irrelevant. Does the Musk army become Twitter’s workforce?

What about Tesla investors?

If you’re betting on Tesla at \$1 trillion, you’re likely betting on Musk to continue working his magic. He has plenty of distractions already. Is this latest one too big for some investors to stomach? Tesla shares fell slightly on Monday and are down 2.3% since Musk’s bid on April 14. But the Nasdaq Composite has fallen further.

➤ **Credit Suisse reports quarterly loss, reshuffles management team as litigation costs bite.**

Credit Suisse on Wednesday reported a net loss for the first quarter of 2022 and announced a management reshuffle, as the Swiss lender struggles with litigation costs and the fallout from the Russia-Ukraine war.

The net loss came in at 273 million Swiss francs (\$283.5 million) for the quarter, after it sent out a profit warning to the markets last week. On Wednesday, the Swiss bank confirmed that Russia-related losses amounted to 206 million Swiss francs. There was also a hit of 155 million Swiss francs related to the Archegos scandal.

Speaking to CNBC's Geoff Cutmore, Thomas Gottstein, chief executive officer of Credit Suisse, said it was a "tough quarter."

"We had certain one-offs like the legal provisions which was part of our legacy work and dealing with some of the old legacy cases, we obviously also had some headwinds with respect to Russia; so obviously we cannot be happy with a 0.4 billion pre-tax loss," he said.

One of the biggest challenges for Credit Suisse this quarter was litigation costs, reporting that operating expenses were up 26% from a year ago.

"Our operating expenses were higher year on year, driven in particular by higher previously reported litigation expenses of 703 million Swiss francs for the quarter as we continued our proactive approach to resolving litigation matters," Gottstein said in a statement.

Gottstein added to CNBC that "no large bank in the world can say we are done with legal cases ... we have made tremendous progress, as I said, especially with our U.S. cases."

Wednesday's earnings come after steep losses at the end of 2021 amid an array of scandals. Its chairman, Antonio Horta-Osorio, resigned earlier this year after repeatedly violating Covid-19 quarantine rules.

Horta-Osorio had come in with the intention of cleaning up the bank's corporate culture after its investment banking division suffered considerable hits in 2021 due to its involvement with collapsed investment firm Archegos Capital and insolvent supply chain finance company Greensill.

For the whole of 2021, it posted a net loss of 1.57 billion Swiss francs, well below market expectations. The stock is down 20.6% since the start of the year.

The bank also announced changes to its executive board Wednesday. David Mathers, who has been chief financial officer since 2010, is leaving the bank. However, he will remain in his current position until a replacement is found.

In addition, Helman Sitohang is stepping down as CEO of the Asia-Pacific region and Romeo Cerutti is retiring from his group general counsel role. Francesca McDonagh is taking over as CEO of the Europe, Middle East and Africa in October.

Other highlights for the quarter, included:

- Revenues dropped 42% from a year ago to 4.4 billion Swiss francs.
- Return on tangible equity, a measure of bank profitability, was 2.6% — unchanged from a year ago.
- CET 1 ratio, a measure of bank solvency, was 13.8% versus 12.2% a year ago.

➤ **China's central bank steps in to slow its rapidly weakening currency, as yuan hits one-year lows.**

The Chinese yuan strengthened slightly against the U.S. dollar on Wednesday, reversing a sharp weakening trend after the People's Bank of China signaled support for its currency.

The yuan has tumbled by about 3% this month as the U.S. dollar strengthened, according to Wind Information. Prolonged Covid controls and worries about Chinese economic growth have also weakened sentiment on the yuan.

On Monday, the PBOC announced it would cut the deposits by 1 percentage point to 8%, effective May 15. The move reduces the amount of foreign currency that banks need to hold, theoretically reducing the amount of weakening pressure on the yuan.

"This move serves as a strong policy signal [the] PBOC is getting uncomfortable with the rapid depreciation of the currency," Goldman Sachs analyst Maggie Wei and a team said in a report Monday.

The analysts pointed out that last year, the Chinese central bank increased the same foreign currency reserve ratio twice to slow rapid strengthening in the yuan.



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“Looking forward, we expect this RRR cut to slow down CNY depreciation in the near term, though it would also depend on the broad USD path and overall sentiment toward Chinese growth,” the analysts said. “Uncertainties are still high with Shanghai facing protracted lockdown and new local Covid cases rising in Beijing.”

On Wednesday, the PBOC set the yuan midpoint at 6.5598 versus the dollar, the weakest fix since April 2021, according to FactSet data. The U.S. dollar has strengthened since the Federal Reserve embarked on a cycle of monetary policy tightening and interest rates hikes. The U.S. 10-year Treasury yield has climbed to over three-year highs, erasing a premium the Chinese 10-year government bond yield once held. The Fed-related market moves have made U.S. dollar-denominated assets relatively attractive to investors, while there’s general unease about the stance of economic policy in China, Schelling Xie, senior analyst at Stansberry China, said Tuesday. He expects the yuan to be on a weakening trajectory but said the pace will likely slow.

The Chinese yuan is traded onshore — on the mainland — and offshore, primarily in Hong Kong. The yuan can trade within a 2% range above or below a midpoint set daily by the PBOC based on recent market action.

The offshore-traded yuan topped a psychologically key level of 6.60 yuan versus the dollar late Monday — the weakest since the fall of 2020, according to Wind data.

As of Wednesday afternoon, the offshore yuan held slightly stronger, near 6.58 versus the greenback. The onshore yuan was near 6.55 yuan versus the U.S. dollar.

Morgan Stanley economists expect the onshore yuan to trade near 6.48 against the U.S. dollar by the end of June.

“Overall, we believe that the PBOC would tolerate some orderly weakness in CNY, as long as it is driven by the fundamentals,” the bank’s emerging markets strategists said in a report Monday. “But USD/CNY could overshoot [the target] in the short term given the market volatility.”

Mainland China’s primary Shanghai and Shenzhen stock indexes plunged Monday in their worst day since Feb. 3, 2020 — in the early days of the pandemic’s initial shock.

The capital city of Beijing began mass testing in the main business district on Monday and ordered people in a smaller hard-hit area to stay home.

Shanghai, China’s largest city, has remained under prolonged lockdown for about a month with no clear end date in sight.

Despite a better-than-expected first quarter GDP report last week, several investment banks cut their forecast for China’s full-year GDP considering the latest virus outbreaks and Covid controls.

Policymakers have expressed support for growth in recent weeks, but markets remained more pessimistic.

“China’s policy response has been mild and geared towards fiscal front-loading,” Citi analysts said in a report late last week. “The authorities are clearly not resorting to old pump-priming ways of unleashing indiscriminate leverage to stimulate the economy.”

Separate from the forex deposit reserve cut, the central bank also cut the overall reserve requirement ratio — the amount of cash banks need to hold — on Monday. But the 25-basis point reduction was below many analysts’ expectations.

Premier Li Keqiang said Monday at a meeting of the State Council, the top executive body, that the government must attach great importance to the economic impact from unexpected domestic and foreign situations.

The PBOC said Tuesday it was aware of recent financial market volatility and would increase support for the economy with prudent monetary policy. But the announcement did not boost market sentiment much.

Mainland China stocks were higher on Wednesday, after a volatile day of trade a day earlier, which saw the main indexes close lower.

➤ **Russia accused of ‘blackmail’ after halting gas supplies to two European countries.**

Russia’s gas supplies to eastern Europe are looking highly uncertain after the country’s state-run gas giant Gazprom told Poland and Bulgaria that it would halt supplies.

The move comes after both countries refused Moscow’s recent demand to pay for gas supplies in rubles, but also coincides with a sharp rise in tensions between Western allies and Russia as the war in Ukraine continues into a third month.

Early Wednesday morning, Gazprom released a statement saying it had halted supplies to both Poland and Bulgaria — both heavy consumers of Russian gas — due to payments not being made in the Russian currency. It said supplies would resume once these payments were made.

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In the statement, Gazprom warned both countries against any “unauthorized withdrawal” of gas supplies flowing through their territories. “Bulgaria and Poland are transit states. In case of unauthorized withdrawal of Russian gas from transit volumes to third countries, supplies for transit will be reduced by this volume.”

Poland’s state-owned oil and gas company PGNiG said Gazprom had informed it on Tuesday that it would halt supplies that are delivered to the country via the Yamal pipeline, starting Wednesday morning.

But after dropping to zero earlier Wednesday, physical gas supplies appeared to edge up again, data from the European Union network of gas transmission operators showed, according to Reuters. Poland, however, said the supplies had indeed been halted.

Bulgaria has not confirmed that its supplies have been stopped but its prime minister, Kiril Petkov, described the move as “blackmail” and said any halt in supplies would be a breach of contract. Bulgaria’s Energy Minister Alexander Nikolov said supplies to customers were guaranteed for at least a month ahead, Reuters reported.

Other business leaders and government officials have slammed the move by Russia.

The U.K.’s Deputy Prime Minister Dominic Raab said the move would add to Russia’s status as an “economic pariah” while James von Moltke, chief financial officer of Deutsche Bank, told CNBC Wednesday that it was a “worrying sign” and that while it won’t have an immediate economic impact, “it remains a risk for the overall outlook.”

Even before the invasion of Ukraine, gas supplies had become a point of tension between Russia and its European neighbors with the Kremlin accused of using energy supplies, with any restrictions impacting dramatically on market prices, as a geopolitical weapon.

Russia vehemently denied this, with Russian President Vladimir Putin calling the accusations “blather” and saying the U.S. had contributed to a global energy crisis last fall.

But Russia’s latest toying with its European energy customers comes, ostensibly, after its demand to be paid in rubles for its gas was largely refused by importers in the region, including Poland and Bulgaria. They said the demand is a breach of contract while analysts said the move was a way for Russia to try to boost the ruble as international sanctions imposed, because of its unprovoked invasion of Ukraine, hit its economy and currency.

In the meantime, eastern Europe’s gas supplies appear to be in flux, and under threat, as Western support for Ukraine — and pressure on Russia — only increases.

Poland’s gas company PGNiG said in a statement Tuesday that the company is monitoring the situation “and is prepared for various scenarios,” and to receive gas from other sources. It said that the country currently has enough gas in storage, however, and is meeting demand.

Bulgaria imported almost 73% of its natural gas from Russia in 2020, EU data showed, while Poland imported around 45% of its natural gas from Russia in the same year, just above the EU-wide average of around 40%, showing the bloc’s significant dependence on Russian gas imports.

Moscow’s invasion of Ukraine has prompted the EU to hasten a reduction in Russian energy imports and has caused the already-controversial Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline between Russia and Germany, another country heavily reliant on Russian gas, to be abandoned.

Not all countries have refused Russia’s demand to pay for gas in rubles.

Hungary — whose strongman leader Viktor Orbán has friendlier ties with President Vladimir Putin — has broken ranks with its EU partners by agreeing to pay for Russian gas in rubles.

Its foreign minister said Wednesday that the country is receiving Russian gas according to its contract with Gazprom via Bulgaria and Serbia. “I want to assure everyone that the non-delivery of gas shipments to Bulgaria does not mean a halt in transit shipments via Bulgaria,” Foreign Minister Peter Szijjarto said on his Facebook page in comments translated by Reuters.

He said Hungary’s next payment obligation for Russian gas is due in mid-May, and the country will transfer its payment in euros to Gazprombank, where the amount will be converted into rubles.

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➤ **Euro sinks to five-year low on energy supply, slowdown fears.**

The euro tumbled against the U.S. dollar Wednesday morning as investors grew increasingly concerned with energy supply and a potential recession in the region.

The euro dipped below \$1.06 for the first time since 2017. It was almost 0.4% lower for the session before paring back some losses. The dollar has surged in recent weeks on its safe-haven appeal, as traders fear a growth slowdown or even a recession.

The market moves come as Russian state energy firm Gazprom decided to halt natural gas supplies to Poland and Bulgaria — two members of the European Union — with Moscow demanding payment in rubles. Tensions continue to rise between Moscow and the West following Russia's unprovoked invasion of Ukraine on Feb. 24.

On Wednesday, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen accused Russia of blackmail for its decision to cut supplies. The EU is highly dependent on Russian gas, with about 40% of its imports coming from the country, and there are wider concerns about a deeper economic slowdown in the region.

"It is a worrying sign," James von Moltke, chief financial officer of Deutsche Bank, told CNBC Wednesday about Gazprom's decision. "I don't think it has an immediate impact on the economy ... but it remains a risk for the overall outlook," he added.

The International Monetary Fund projected earlier this month that the euro area will grow 2.8% this year. This is more than 1 percentage point lower than a previous forecast made before Russia invaded Ukraine.

"The main channel through which the war in Ukraine and sanctions on Russia affect the euro area economy is rising global energy prices and energy security. Because they are net energy importers, higher global prices represent a negative terms-of-trade shock for most European countries, translating to lower output and higher inflation," the IMF said at the time.

Europe's dependence on Russian energy is clearly a widespread economic concern. The EU has already decided to stop imports of Russian coal and it is discussing banning oil imports. However, natural gas, which is the commodity that the EU imports the most from Russia, is what investors are sharply focused on.

When asked if oil and natural gas sanctions on Russia could pose an economic risk for Europe, UBS CEO Ralph Hamers told CNBC Tuesday: "Of Russian oil not so much, of Russian gas that's a different — a much bigger challenge and that is really because large part[s] of industries are dependent on gas as their base commodity to make their product ... so that's what could cause the second order effect, specifically in the European economy."

➤ **Archegos owner Bill Hwang, former CFO Patrick Halligan charged with fraud.**

Archegos Capital Management's owner, Bill Hwang, and its former chief financial officer, Patrick Halligan, were arrested Wednesday in connection with the implosion of the family office last year.

The men are expected to appear in Manhattan federal court later Wednesday and are being charged with racketeering conspiracy, securities fraud and wire fraud, according to a statement from the U.S. district court.

In a 59-page indictment, federal prosecutors allege Hwang used his personal fortune to manipulate markets and commit fraud in a scheme that had far-reaching consequences. Over the course of about a year, Hwang's wealth rose from about \$1.5 billion to more than \$35 billion, the documents said.

The family office's collapse resulted in billions of dollars of losses for banks and Archegos' own employees. It also shed light on potential risks at family offices, which operate under less regulatory oversight than hedge funds.

The charging documents say that the men used leverage to inflate their market positions, which swelled to as much as \$160 billion. Hwang allegedly used derivative securities that had no public disclosure requirements, which helped to shield the size of Archegos' positions in the market. As a result, investors were unaware that Archegos was dominating the trading of a few select companies.

The family office focused on a handful of companies that included ViacomCBS, Discovery Communications and Chinese education technology company GSX Techedu, among others.

The scheme fell apart in late March 2021 when the prices of these stocks declined and Archegos was unable to continue to prop up its positions, according to the documents. After Archegos was unable to meet its margin calls, the firms counterparties suffered significant losses.

Credit Suisse suffered the most, tallying some \$5 billion in losses, when the family office collapsed. But Nomura, Morgan Stanley and UBS also lost money.

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In addition to the action by the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York, the Securities and Exchange Commission has filed civil charges.

"The collapse of Archegos last spring demonstrated how activities by one firm can have far-reaching implications for investors and market participants," said SEC Chair Gary Gensler, in a press release.

The complaints also name William Tomita, Archegos' head trader, and Scott Becker, its chief risk officer, for their alleged involvement.

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Date	Time	Country	Indicator Name	Period	Reuters Poll	Prior	SmartEstimate®	Predicted Surprise
02.05.2022	02:30	Japan	JibunBK Mfg PMI Final SA	Apr		53.4		
02.05.2022	08:00	Germany	Industrial Orders MM	Mar		-2.2%		
02.05.2022	08:00	Germany	Retail Sales MM Real	Mar		0.3%		
02.05.2022	08:00	Germany	Retail Sales YY Real	Mar		7.0%		
02.05.2022	08:30	Sweden	PMI Manufacturing Sect	Apr		57.3		
02.05.2022	09:00	Netherlands	PMI - Manufacturing	Apr		58.4		
02.05.2022	09:30	Switzerland	Manufacturing PMI	Apr		64.0		
02.05.2022	09:45	Italy	S&P Global Mfg PMI	Apr		55.8		
02.05.2022	09:50	France	S&P Global Mfg PMI	Apr		55.4		
02.05.2022	09:55	Germany	S&P Global/BME Mfg PMI	Apr		54.1		
02.05.2022	10:00	Italy	Unemployment Rate	Mar		8.5%		
02.05.2022	15:30	Canada	S&P Global Mfg PMI SA	Apr		58.9		
02.05.2022	15:45	United States	S&P Global Mfg PMI Final	Apr		59.7		
02.05.2022	16:00	United States	Construction Spending MM	Mar	0.8%	0.5%	0.84%	0.04%
02.05.2022	16:00	United States	ISM Manufacturing PMI	Apr	57.8	57.1	57.67	-0.13
02.05.2022	16:00	United States	ISM Mfg Prices Paid	Apr		87.1		

Date	Time	Country	Indicator Name	Period	Reuters Poll	Prior	SmartEstimate®	Predicted Surprise
03.05.2022	09:55	Germany	Unemployment Chg SA	Apr		-18k		
03.05.2022	09:55	Germany	Unemployment Rate SA	Apr		5.0%		
03.05.2022	10:30	United Kingdom	S&P GLBL/CIPS Mfg PMI FNL	Apr		55.3		
03.05.2022	16:00	United States	Factory Orders MM	Mar		-0.5%		
03.05.2022	16:00	United States	JOLTS Job Openings	Mar		11.266M		

Date	Time	Country	Indicator Name	Period	Reuters Poll	Prior	SmartEstimate®	Predicted Surprise
04.05.2022	09:45	Italy	S&P Global Svcs PMI	Apr		52.1		
04.05.2022	09:50	France	S&P Global Serv PMI	Apr		58.8		
04.05.2022	09:50	France	S&P Global Comp PMI	Apr		57.5		
04.05.2022	09:55	Germany	S&P Global Services PMI	Apr		57.9		
04.05.2022	09:55	Germany	S&P Global Comp Final PMI	Apr		54.5		
04.05.2022	10:30	United Kingdom	BOE Consumer Credit	Mar		1.876B		
04.05.2022	10:30	United Kingdom	Mortgage Lending	Mar		4.673B		
04.05.2022	14:15	United States	ADP National Employment	Apr		455k		
04.05.2022	15:45	United States	S&P Global Comp Final PMI	Apr		55.1		
04.05.2022	15:45	United States	S&P Global Svcs PMI Final	Apr		54.7		
04.05.2022	16:00	United States	ISM N-Mfg PMI	Apr		58.3		
04.05.2022	20:00	United States	Fed Funds Tgt Rate	4 May	0.75-1	0.25-0.5	0.7083-0.9583	-0.0417%
04.05.2022	20:00	United States	Fed Int On Excess Reserves	4 May		0.40%		

Source: Refinitiv

Your Weekend Wire

The week ahead

Date	Time	Country	Indicator Name	Period	Reuters Poll	Prior	SmartEstimate®	Predicted Surprise
05.05.2022	08:00	United Kingdom	Halifax House Prices MM	Apr		1.4%		
05.05.2022	08:30	Switzerland	CPI MM	Apr		0.6%		
05.05.2022	08:30	Switzerland	CPI YY	Apr		2.4%		
05.05.2022	08:45	France	Industrial Output MM	Mar		-0.9%		
05.05.2022	10:30	United Kingdom	S&P GLBL/CIPS SVC PMI FNL	Apr		58.3		
05.05.2022	10:30	United Kingdom	Reserve Assets Total	Apr		200 329.33M		
05.05.2022	13:00	United Kingdom	BOE Bank Rate	May		0.75%		
05.05.2022	13:00	United Kingdom	GB BOE QE Corp	May		0B		
05.05.2022	14:30	United States	Initial Jobless Clm	25 Apr, w/e				
05.05.2022	14:30	United States	Cont Jobless Clm	18 Apr, w/e				
05.05.2022	14:30	United States	Labor Costs Prelim	Q1		0.9%		
05.05.2022	14:30	United States	Productivity Prelim	Q1		6.6%		

Date	Time	Country	Indicator Name	Period	Reuters Poll	Prior	SmartEstimate®	Predicted Surprise
06.05.2022	01:30	Japan	CPI Tokyo Ex fresh food YY	Apr		0.8%		
06.05.2022	01:30	Japan	CPI, Overall Tokyo	Apr		1.3%		
06.05.2022	07:45	Switzerland	Unemployment Rate Adj	Apr		2.2%		
06.05.2022	08:00	Germany	Industrial Output MM	Mar		0.2%		
06.05.2022	08:00	Sweden	Private Production YY	Mar		3.5%		
06.05.2022	08:00	Sweden	Private Production MM	Mar		-0.9%		
06.05.2022	08:00	Sweden	Ind Production Val YY	Mar		2.3%		
06.05.2022	08:00	Sweden	Ind Production Val MM	Mar		0.5%		
06.05.2022	08:45	France	Reserve Assets Total	Apr		235 521M		
06.05.2022	09:00	Switzerland	Forex Reserves CHF	Apr		910 538.00M		
06.05.2022	10:30	United Kingdom	S&P Global/CIPS Cons PMI	Apr		59.1		
06.05.2022	14:30	United States	Non-Farm Payrolls	Apr	398k	431k	459.8k	61.8k
06.05.2022	14:30	United States	Private Payrolls	Apr	400k	426k	461.9k	61.9k
06.05.2022	14:30	United States	Unemployment Rate	Apr	3.6%	3.6%	3.58%	-0.02%
06.05.2022	14:30	United States	Average Earnings MM	Apr	0.4%	0.4%	0.35%	-0.05%
06.05.2022	14:30	United States	Average Earnings YY	Apr		5.6%		
06.05.2022	14:30	United States	Average Workweek Hrs	Apr	34.7	34.6	34.64	-0.06
06.05.2022	14:30	Canada	Employment Change	Apr		72.5k		
06.05.2022	14:30	Canada	Unemployment Rate	Apr		5.3%		
06.05.2022	16:00	Canada	Ivey PMI	Apr		68.4		
06.05.2022	16:00	Canada	Ivey PMI SA	Apr		74.2		
06.05.2022	21:00	United States	Consumer Credit	Mar		41.82B		

Source: Refinitiv

Your Weekend Wire Figures

World Currencies/PM & World Bonds

World Currencies	Last	5D Change	YTD Change
<u>EURUSD</u>	1.0529	-2.42%	-7.40%
<u>EURCHF</u>	1.0240	0.95%	1.32%
<u>EURGBP</u>	0.8393	0.22%	0.25%
<u>EURJPY</u>	0.9725	-1.54%	-6.13%
<u>USDCHF</u>	130.12	-1.25%	-11.56%
<u>USDJPY</u>	1.2724	-0.11%	-0.68%
<u>USDCAD</u>	14.8475	-0.71%	-10.40%
<u>USDTRY</u>	1.2546	-2.28%	-7.29%
<u>GBPUSD</u>	0.7166	-1.08%	-1.34%
<u>AUDUSD</u>	0.6532	-1.61%	-4.31%
<u>NZDUSD</u>	0.6532	-1.61%	-4.31%

Precious Metals	Last	5D Change	YTD Change
<u>Gold</u>	1 912.73	-0.98%	4.57%
<u>Silver</u>	23.21	-3.86%	-0.42%
<u>Platinum</u>	933.13	0.19%	-3.68%
<u>Palladium</u>	2 308.67	-2.95%	21.20%

World Bonds	Last	5D Change	YTD Change
<u>US 10Y</u>	2.89	-0.27%	91.43%
<u>EUR 10Y</u>	0.91	-6.07%	615.82%
<u>Swiss 10Y</u>	0.87	-3.98%	742.96%
<u>UK 10Y</u>	1.88	-4.23%	93.62%

Indices & Commodities

World Indices	Last	5D Change	YTD Change
<u>Dow Jones</u>	33 916.39	-2.52%	-6.66%
<u>S&P 500</u>	4 287.50	-2.42%	-10.04%
<u>Nasdaq</u>	12 871.53	-2.30%	-17.73%
<u>Eurostoxx 50</u>	3 815.90	-0.63%	-11.23%
<u>FTSE 100</u>	7 551.57	0.40%	2.26%
<u>CAC 40</u>	6 556.49	-0.38%	-8.34%
<u>DAX</u>	14 134.87	-0.05%	-11.02%
<u>SMI</u>	12 198.37	-0.49%	-5.26%
<u>Nikkei</u>	26 847.90	-2.56%	-6.75%
<u>Hang Seng</u>	21 089.39	2.18%	-9.87%
<u>CSI 300</u>	4 016.24	0.07%	-18.71%

World Commodities	Last	5D Change	YTD Change
<u>WTI Crude</u>	106.27	0.86%	41.30%
<u>Brent Crude</u>	109.52	1.79%	40.81%
<u>Copper</u>	442.25	0.20%	-0.92%
<u>Nat Gas (HH)</u>	6.986	1.42%	87.29%
<u>Corn</u>	817.25	0.15%	37.76%
<u>Wheat</u>	1074	0.00%	37.76%
<u>Soybean</u>	1718.25	0.69%	39.34%
<u>Coffee</u>	217.9	0.90%	29.31%
<u>Cotton</u>	153.08	4.79%	-3.63%
<u>Sugar</u>	19.43	0.05%	35.95%

Sources: Bloomberg



Your CRYPTO Weekend Wire

Crypto Market Cap: \$1,783,815,090,954

Dominance*: BTC: 41.6% ETH: 19.4%

*: Split of crypto usage within the global crypto market cap.

News Flow

➤ **Crypto exchange Kraken is set to launch in UAE as regional competition heats up.**

U.S. cryptocurrency exchange Kraken is expanding into the Middle East and will open its regional headquarters in Abu Dhabi after receiving a full license to operate a regulated trading platform in the UAE.

“We’re incredibly excited to be able to set up our operations right in the ADGM [Abu Dhabi Global Market] itself to operate a virtual asset platform that finally offers Dirham pairs for investors in the region,” Curtis Ting, Kraken’s managing director for Europe, the Middle East and Africa, told CNBC’s Dan Murphy.

Kraken will become the first cryptocurrency exchange to offer direct funding and trading in UAE dirhams against bitcoin, ether and a range of other virtual assets, after gaining regulatory approval from the ADGM and Financial Services Regulatory Authority for its local launch.

“For us, it’s really important to facilitate access to global markets and global liquidity by making sure that investors and traders in the region have access to local currencies,” Ting said.

Kraken, which launched in 2011 and operates in over 60 countries, said the UAE launch marks a wider play into an increasingly lucrative region. The Middle East is one of the fastest-growing cryptocurrency markets in the world, making up 7% of global trading volumes, according to Chainalysis.

The UAE transacts approximately \$25 billion worth of cryptocurrency each year. It ranks third by volume in the region, behind Lebanon (about \$26 billion) and Turkey (\$132.4 billion), according to Chainalysis data studied between July 2020 and June 2021.

“One of the reasons we see an influx of entrepreneurs, builders, operators and developers coming into Abu Dhabi and Dubai ... is because there is a sense of greater regulatory clarity at ADGM, in Dubai, and at a federal level,” Ronit Ghose, global head of fintech and digital at Citi, told CNBC’s “Capital Connection” on Thursday.

“It’s frankly amazing some of the talent the UAE has attracted in the last 12 to 24 months during COVID,” Ghose said. “Is it really beginning to establish itself as both a crypto hub and a Web3 hub.”

Binance, the world’s largest crypto exchange by trading volume, is among those also considering a bigger presence in the Middle East, where cryptocurrency trading is becoming increasingly mainstream.

Binance was given approval to operate in Abu Dhabi in recent weeks and will recruit for over 100 positions in the country. Fellow exchange Bybit was also given approval to open a headquarters in Dubai last month, while FTX also received a virtual-asset license in Dubai and will set up a regional headquarters soon.

Rival financial centers in Singapore and Hong Kong are also hoping to create fully regulated environments for cryptocurrency trading, seeking to deepen regulatory mechanisms to attract investment and trading volumes in an increasingly competitive landscape.

But while the Emirates might be winning over some of the world’s largest crypto companies, it’s also coming under increasing international scrutiny for not doing enough to crack down on so-called dirty money flows. Recent reports claim that crypto firms in the UAE have been deluged with requests to liquidate billions of dollars of virtual currency, as Russians seek a safe haven for their fortunes, including within Dubai’s property market, amid the war in Ukraine.

Last month, the world’s main anti-money laundering watchdog, the Financial Action Task Force, also placed the UAE on its “gray list” of countries that need extra monitoring. The UAE joins Syria, Turkey and Panama in a list of countries which, according to the FATF, need to address money-laundering threats.

“It is important for us to pay attention to AML (anti money laundering) to KYC (know-your-customer) and other important compliance matters,” Ting told CNBC.

“I think trust needs to be placed in the controls that regulators are putting in place to make sure that if a consumer is going to be exposed and have access to platforms that offer cryptocurrencies, they’re doing so in a way that there’s some accountability.”



Your CRYPTO Weekend Wire

News Flow

➤ **Fintech giant Stripe jumps into crypto with a feature that lets Twitter users get paid in stablecoin.**

Stripe will allow businesses to pay their users via cryptocurrencies, starting with Twitter, in the latest sign of how large financial firms are warming to digital assets.

The \$95 billion online payments company said Friday it will start offering merchants the ability to make payouts in crypto through the stablecoin USDC, which is issued by crypto firm Circle. Stablecoins are tokens that are pegged to fiat currencies to maintain a stable price. In USDC's case, as the name suggests, the cryptocurrency is backed by the U.S. dollar.

Twitter will be the first company to integrate the new payment method. Starting Friday, the social media platform — which has been the subject of much talk lately over a potential takeover by Tesla CEO Elon Musk — will let a certain number of creators receive their earnings from its paid Ticketed Spaces and Super Follows features in USDC.

It's Stripe's first significant push into crypto since dropping support for bitcoin four years ago. The San Francisco-based start-up stopped accepting payments via bitcoin in January 2018, citing the digital coin's notoriety for volatile price swings and a lack of efficiency in making everyday transactions.

But the firm has since warmed to crypto amid hype over "Web3," a movement in tech that calls for the creation of a decentralized version of the internet based on blockchain technology. Stripe last year formed a team dedicated to exploring crypto and Web3. In November, Stripe co-founder John Collison hinted the firm may soon offer crypto support again.

"While the 'store of value' aspects of cryptocurrencies typically receive the most attention, we view the prospect of 'open-access global financial rails' as being at least equally compelling," Karan Sharma, product manager at Stripe's crypto unit, said in a blogpost Friday. "As a result, we've been exploring ways to use cryptocurrency-based platforms to unlock broader access."

The company's crypto payouts feature will run on the Polygon network, a so-called "Layer 2" solution that sits on top of the Ethereum network to handle transactions faster and at a lower cost. Bitcoin, ether and other cryptocurrencies have faced criticism over sluggish transaction times and high fees.

"We plan to add support for additional rails and payout currencies over time," Sharma said.

Stripe isn't the only company opening up its platform to digital currencies — in fact, the company is arguably late to the party. Visa, Mastercard and PayPal and other major payment processors have all announced moves of their own in the space. That was back when digital currency prices were still rising.

More recently, several major cryptocurrencies have slumped sharply from record highs, with bitcoin, the world's largest, down more than 40% from a November peak of nearly \$69,000. Bitcoin was trading at around \$39,724 on Friday, according to Coin Metrics data, off by about 6% in the last 24 hours.

➤ **Grayscale Eyeing Expansion Into European Crypto Fund Market.**

Grayscale Investments, which runs the \$30 billion Grayscale Bitcoin Trust (GBTC), is looking at expanding into the European market for crypto funds, Bloomberg reported Tuesday.

Grayscale is meeting with local partners to discuss entering the European market, CEO Michael Sonnenshein said.

No decisions have been made about which countries or exchanges will be targeted, said Sonnenshein, who is scheduled to speak at Consensus 2022 in June.

The European crypto fund market has become more competitive in recent months, with exchange-traded products (ETP) listed in Switzerland, Germany and elsewhere by firms such as 21Shares.

As of March, 73 crypto ETPs had been approved in Europe, with a total of \$7 billion in assets.

Aside from plotting a way into this market, Grayscale is also seeking to convert its bitcoin (BTC) trust into an exchange-traded fund (ETF) in the U.S. but has been frustrated by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). The U.S. markets regulator has approved four bitcoin futures ETFs but none that invest in the crypto directly.

Sonnenshein remains optimistic however saying recently that it is a "matter of when and not if" the SEC approves a bitcoin spot ETF.

Grayscale Investments is a subsidiary of Digital Currency Group, also the parent company of CoinDesk.

➤ **New York State Assembly passes ban on new BTC mines that don't use green power.**

The New York State Assembly passed a bill late on Tuesday April 26 that would place a two-year ban on all new proof-of-work (PoW) cryptocurrency mining facilities in the state that use a carbon-based fuel to power their operations.

The bill sponsored by Anna Kelles would not only impose a two-year hold on approval of any new Bitcoin mines, but the proposed moratorium would also prevent the renewal of permits issued to existing PoW cryptocurrency miners using carbon sourced energy if they seek to increase the amount of electricity consumed.

The bill gathered the support it needed to pass, with 95 in favor, 52 against and will now be carried by Senator Kevin Parker for a vote in the Senate. If successful it will then be delivered to Governor Kathy Hochul who can veto the bill or sign it into law.

The Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) would be tasked by the bill with preparing a “generic environmental impact statement” to number, locate and assess the energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions of PoW miners and their impact on the public health.

Cryptocurrency industry advocacy group the Blockchain Association had previously called on “pro-tech, pro-innovation, pro-crypto” residents of New York to mount an opposition to the bill, which they claim resulted in thousands of messages to legislators.

The association said that around three hours of debate took place over the bill, demonstrating what they believe is a “greater opposition to the mining ban than proponents believed.” In a tweet today the team said it will direct its energy to the New York Senate to defeat what it calls the “anti-technology bill”.

Proposed bans on proof-of-work cryptocurrencies on environmental grounds are becoming more common. A similar proposal called the Markets in Crypto Assets (MiCA) bill was narrowly defeated in the European Parliament in late March, with legislators there even considering a ban on Bitcoin trading to enforce the proposed ban on mining.

➤ **Brazil's Senate approves 'Bitcoin law' to regulate cryptocurrencies.**

Brazil's Senate has passed the country's first bill governing cryptocurrencies in a plenary session, which will set the stage for the creation of a regulatory framework for the country's crypto industry.

The bill must be approved by the Chamber of Deputies and then signed off by President Jair Bolsonaro to become law in the country. This is expected to occur by the end of 2022, according to experts who spoke with Cointelegraph Brazil.

Federal Deputy Aureo Ribeiro first proposed the bill in 2015.

The bill was then approved in the Senate following lengthy deliberation on April 26, combining Senator Ribeiro's bill with Senator Arns's bill PL 3825/2019 for which Senator Irajá Abreu was rapporteur.

During the session, the Senate confirmed that the country's executive branch would be responsible for formulating rules for crypto-assets and could either create a new regulator or delegate its power to the Securities and Exchange Commission (CVM) or the Central Bank of Brazil (BC).

The session also saw several senators including the bill's author, Senator Arns focusing discussion on appropriate penalties for crypto crimes, especially fraud.

According to Senator Arns, the penalties for this type of crime should be scaled according to the amount of fraud, money laundering, and other white-collar crimes committed.

Senator Arns's proposal was backed by Senator Rose de Freitas, who called for greater punishments for crimes involving cryptocurrencies and said that the Brazilian market already moves more than \$40 billion in Brazil.

Senators also discussed incentivizing crypto miners to open shop in Brazil since there will be a complete tax exemption for the import of ASIC mining devices into the country.

Bernardo Schucman, senior vice president of the digital currencies division of the American mining company CleanSpark, pointed out that the cryptocurrency market needs specific regulation so that institutional investors who are averse to risk feel encouraged and protected by investing in crypto mining in South America's largest country.

The bill does not appear to face many challenges in the Chamber of Deputies, where it must be approved in a plenary session before being sent to President Bolsonaro before becoming law.

➤ **Europe's Lawmakers Set to Advance Discussion of Controversial Crypto AML Rules.**

Talks involving the European Union's parliament, commission and council begin Thursday on controversial anti-money laundering rules for crypto transactions, the last stage towards the passage into law of measures that some have said could kill privacy and stifle innovation. Many in the industry question the premise that tough new rules are needed against a tide of criminal behavior, but more pragmatic voices are looking at the legislative details that could prove crucial – such as how the law will treat small payments and unhosted wallets, as well as when the new law would take effect.

The draft legislation would require crypto providers to verify customer details and report suspicious transactions to the authorities – but the industry has complained it could prove burdensome to implement and would end digital anonymity.

A last-minute protest led by Coinbase (COIN) and similar companies largely fell on deaf ears, and on March 31 European Parliament lawmakers voted to apply tough money-laundering rules to the sector, arguing the rules were needed to curb crime. Now, attention turns to what the final form of the law will be – where talks are reaching the closing stage.

Both lawmakers at the European Parliament and national government meeting in the EU's Council have said they want to see tighter monitoring of which parties take part in crypto transactions. They say that should apply even for the smallest payments – unlike for conventional bank transfers where customer identity only needs to be verified for transactions over 1,000 euros (\$1,066) – as it's easier to circumvent by chopping up digital payments into small chunks.

In practical terms that may not make much difference, according to a recent blog by Oldrich Peslar, head of legal at the Rockaway Blockchain Fund.

"I do not think that this is some tragedy" to apply checks to small crypto payments, Peslar said, because it is "all information any compliant service provider could already have," and gathering it "is not an administrative burden nor any invasion of privacy."

But from a legal point of view, it could constitute an unfair intrusion into personal affairs that could invite a legal challenge, blockchain law expert Thibault Schrepel told CoinDesk.

"You are putting [on] more obligations if it's crypto-related than if it's not," Schrepel, an associate professor of law at the Free University of Amsterdam, said in an interview.

"That would be the worst outcome," he added, potentially infringing EU human rights law – not the least because money laundering is more widespread using other, more traditional means of payment.

Lawmakers could be swayed by the risk of a legal challenge, Schrepel believes – but in practice it may be difficult to get them to retreat from a position they share with the Council. In other areas there is less consensus on the right approach – and, for the law to become final, lawmakers and governments will have to thrash out their differences in a series of closed-door meetings, beginning Thursday.

Read more: I'm Not Anti-Crypto, Says Architect of Controversial EU Money Laundering Proposal

That includes the parliament's proposals to make checks apply to unhosted wallets, and to have a central blacklist of dodgy providers. Those are issues that concern Peslar, warning they could spell the end of privacy-enhancing features such as mixers or currencies like monero (XMR).

Extending bank-style know-your-customer checks to self-guarded crypto holders – such as a wallet not hosted by a central exchange – "isn't aligned with my values," and is out of line with how cash is treated, he told CoinDesk. "We should protect [the] privacy of people, not destroy it."

Governments may come riding to the rescue. If the final text edges towards the position of the Council of the EU, representing national ministries, that would mean a better outcome for unhosted wallets, Blockchain for Europe has said.

Yet, the lobby group's Secretary-General Robert Kopitsch told us, it's not so much about what the law does, as when.

The Council says the new rules should wait for crypto licensing legislation to take effect and apply only two years after the separate Markets in Crypto Assets Regulation is finalized. The MiCA legislation, which could allow crypto operators to work across the EU if they meet financial-stability and investor protection norms, is also currently in its closing stages of negotiation.

Lawmakers, however, want to see a phasing in of between nine and 18 months, while French central banker François Villeroy de Galhau on Tuesday said the rules should be implemented by "at the latest early 2024."

That matters a lot, Kopitsch believes – because crypto providers might decide to drop services altogether rather than face the legal risk of a rushed job.



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The timeline for implementing is “actually the biggest problem” of the forthcoming negotiations, Kopitsch said, noting the importance of coordinating with other jurisdictions such as the U.S. “In nine months, you cannot do anything.”

Some would rather take a step back from the fine print of negotiations and remind lawmakers that crypto is not the bogeyman of illicit finance

For criminal behavior “it’s not bitcoin these people are going to use, because it’s traceable,” Pascal Gauthier told CoinDesk, saying that cash and conventional finance would be far more attractive to those seeking to hide than transparent blockchains.

Gauthier, CEO of Ledger, a French company that produces hardware that can be used as unhosted wallets, cited data that suggests trades with illicit addresses represented just 0.15% of transactions last year. (Chainalysis, which carried out the research, also suggests that figure could be as much as double as new dubious activities come to light.)

Claims of widespread illicit behavior “are false arguments that have been debunked,” Gauthier said, adding that lawmakers who want to ban crypto all together were using financial crime concerns as a fig leaf.

But there are also plenty of voices urging the EU to press on with strong constraints on the sector – including global standard setters the Financial Action Task Force, officials who warn crypto is implicated in child porn and terrorism, and the European Central Bank’s Fabio Panetta, who likens crypto to a lawless Wild West.

Even if the industry sees those views as a wild mischaracterization of crypto risks, they are bound to color the result. The final version of EU anti-money laundering laws won’t be admired by everyone, but optimists within the sector are hoping lawmakers will at least make the best of a bad job.

➤ **Gibraltar became a hub for crypto — now it wants to tackle attempts to manipulate the market.**

Gibraltar has unveiled new regulations for the cryptocurrency industry, taking aim at potential market manipulation and insider trading in the fast-evolving space.

The overseas British territory, located on the southern tip of Spain, published an amendment to existing regulations Wednesday requiring firms dealing in bitcoin and other digital currencies to respect the integrity of markets in which they operate.

In a guidance note for regulated crypto companies, the Gibraltar Financial Services Commission says firms must combat “manipulation or improper influencing of prices, liquidity or market information, or any other behavior which is inimical to market integrity.”

“We were the first jurisdiction in 2018 to launch the legal and regulatory framework, and we’re now the first jurisdiction to launch a framework for market integrity,” Albert Isola, Gibraltar’s minister for digital and financial services, told CNBC.

“The more there is around the world in terms of international standards for this space, the more trust, the more usage, and the more adoption we will have around the world,” he added.

While perhaps better known as a seaport and popular vacation spot, Gibraltar is a hub for several other industries, including financial services and gambling. Its latest move forms part of an ongoing bid to lead the way in regulation of the digital currency industry.

Despite its small size, Gibraltar has a track record of developing rules for the crypto market. The region, which borders Spain but is under British control, first introduced a licensing regime for blockchain firms back in 2018.

Some large names have set up shop in Gibraltar and obtained licenses from local regulators, including FTX, Huobi and Bullish, which is backed by PayPal co-founder Peter Thiel.

Executives from Binance, the world’s biggest crypto exchange, also visited Gibraltar “some months back,” but does not have a license, Isola said. The company is seeking to become a friend rather than foe to regulators after facing crackdowns in numerous countries last year.

The Gibraltar Stock Exchange recently agreed to be acquired by Valereum, a blockchain firm, in a bid to become the world’s first regulated bourse for share and crypto trading. It’s an aim Switzerland’s SIX Swiss Exchange is also seeking to achieve with the creation of an exchange for trading blockchain-based securities.

The latest rules arrive as various major world economies, including the U.S. and U.K., are now introducing new rules to bring crypto into the regulatory fold.

Source: [Click on the link on each article title to be redirected to the original website.](#)



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News Flow

"I think it's a sign that more and more jurisdictions are recognizing the need to do it," Isola said. "And the need to do it is because there's more and more adoption."

However, Isola insisted Gibraltar is "not doing this to market ourselves," adding: "We want a very small but quality number of firms within our jurisdiction."

Gibraltar has previously been criticized for being a "tax haven." Several major U.K. gambling firms, including Entain and 888, set up shop in the rocky peninsula, in part due to its favorable taxation regime. More recently, however, Gibraltar has sought to distance itself from such a reputation.

The region is "fully compliant with all transparency and exchange of information standards applicable in the U.K.," Isola said, adding this was at odds with descriptions of Gibraltar as a tax haven. Such transparency standards also apply to crypto, Isola added, meaning "the bar to entry is high."

Spain last year agreed to take Gibraltar off its list of tax havens after coming to a tax cooperation deal with the U.K. The issue has been a sticking point in London's negotiations with Madrid following Britain's withdrawal from the EU.

➤ **Goldman Sachs Says It Is Exploring the Tokenization of Real Assets.**

Goldman Sachs said it is examining non-fungible tokens (NFTs) and particularly the "tokenization of real assets," as the investment bank dives deeper into the crypto space.

The metaverse where real world assets like real estate are bought and sold as NFTs has been garnering the attention of big names in financial services and a range of other industries.

"We are actually exploring NFTs in the context of financial instruments, and actually there the power is actually quite powerful. So, we work on several things," Mathew McDermott, global head of digital assets at Goldman Sachs, said at the Financial Times Crypto and Digital Assets Summit on Wednesday.

The bank has dived into crypto. It started offering bitcoin derivatives to investors in 2021 and conducted its first over the counter crypto trade with the digital-asset financial company Galaxy Digital in March this year.

➤ **Bitcoin adopted as legal tender by African country — the second to do so after El Salvador.**

The Central African Republic has become the second country in the world to adopt bitcoin as official currency, after El Salvador took the same step last year.

Lawmakers in the CAR's parliament voted unanimously to pass a bill legalizing bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies, according to a statement from the presidency.

Bitcoin will be considered legal tender alongside the regional Central African CFA franc.

Obed Namsio, chief of staff to President Faustin-Archange Touadera, called the move "a decisive step toward opening up new opportunities for our country," according to Reuters.

The CAR is rich in diamonds, gold and other valuable minerals, but ranks as one of the world's poorest and least-developed countries.

Roughly 71% of CAR's 5.4 million inhabitants were living below the international poverty line in 2020, according to the World Bank. And just 11% of the CAR's population have access to the internet.

The country, which is landlocked in the heart of Africa, has been gripped by political instability and violence for years.

The move to consider bitcoin legal tender received praise from the crypto community and was hailed as another step toward mainstream adoption of cryptocurrencies.

But it can also be viewed as controversial. There were protests in El Salvador after the country introduced the Bitcoin Law, and the country faced criticism from the International Monetary Fund.

The IMF has urged El Salvador to drop bitcoin as legal tender, raising concerns over the risks it poses to financial stability and consumer protection.

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Bitcoin is a notoriously volatile asset, which raises questions about its role as a standard method of payment. It was last trading at around \$39,686 Thursday, down 6% in the last 24 hours. The cryptocurrency has lost around 42% of its value since an all-time peak above \$68,000 in November.

Many Western governments have raised the alarm about the potential use of cryptocurrencies by Russia to evade sanctions amid the country's invasion of Ukraine.

CAR is a close ally of Russia, with Russian mercenaries having provided direct assistance to the government, according to the UN.

Experts suggested the move could help small countries like the CAR reduce their dependence on the U.S. dollar for global trade.

Ransu Salovaara, CEO of crypto platform Likvidi, noted that the dollar has been the global oil currency since the 1950s.

"Oil dependence is a major issue now, because of the Ukraine and the SWIFT banking ban, so global, unstoppable cryptocurrencies like bitcoin can really shine," he added.

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Figures and Charts



Crypto	Last	5D Change	YTD Change
Bitcoin	38 941.22	-1.45%	-15.95%
Ethereum	2 861.49	-2.71%	-22.42%



Sources: Bloomberg / Trading View



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A

- ❖ **Address (Crypto Address):** An address is comparable to a bank account number. It is a unique collection of numbers and letters. This identification code is required to carry out a blockchain transaction and is unique for each owner. (ie: 1GyWgXtkVG5gsm9Ym1rkHoJHAftmPnTHQj)
- ❖ **Airdrop:** An airdrop is a way to distribute coins. End users can generally get coins for free or in exchange for a small task, such as subscribing to a newsletter, sending a tweet or inviting other people via a personal affiliate link.
- ❖ **Algorithm:** The 'algorithm' is a way to solve a task using data processing and calculations. There are different types of algorithms in use by blockchains.
- ❖ **Altcoin:** An altcoin is any cryptocurrency or token created after the Bitcoin was developed.
- ❖ **Anti-Money Laundering (AML):** AML is the abbreviation for 'anti-money laundering'. AML stands for policy and legislation on money laundering. This prevents illegally acquired funds from being converted into a legal variant. Within the crypto world, it is no longer unusual for AML techniques to be used by exchanges and wallets. This term is often used as AML/KYC, where KYC stands for 'Know your customer'.
- ❖ **APY:** APY is short for 'annual percentage yield', which is the total return rate that is earned on an interest-bearing asset or savings account. The compounding interest should be considered when the APY percentage is projected. An APY of 5% will turn \$100 into \$105 after exactly one year.
- ❖ **ATH:** ATH is the abbreviation of 'All-Time High' and means the highest price ever paid for a particular coin. ATH is also often used to indicate that someone's total portfolio has reached the highest value ever.
- ❖ **ATL:** ATL stands for 'all-time-low' and is the opposite of ATH, or 'all-time-high'. ATL is used to indicate that the price of a coin or the entire wallet of a person is at the lowest level ever in terms of value.

B

- ❖ **Bitcoin (BTC):** Bitcoin is the very first, best known and currently the most valuable digital coin.
- ❖ **Bitcoin (unit of Currency):** The bitcoin is the very first cryptocurrency invented in 2008 by an anonymous developer named Satoshi Nakamoto. It can be divided up to 8 digits after the comma. The smallest one is called a satoshi (0.00000001 BTC).
- ❖ **Blockchain:** The blockchain is a technique that makes it possible to safely store data in a decentralized way. This data can be money, but it could be other data as well.



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❖ **Bot:** A 'bot' is an autonomous program on a network, such as the Internet, that can interact with systems or users. It is often designed to automate certain manual tasks. Bots are often used in Telegram chat groups to prevent spam.

C

❖ **CBDC:** CBDC stands for 'Central bank digital currency' and is the fully digital form of fiat money. Unlike at Bitcoin, this type of currency would be created by a centralized authority like a central bank or a monetary authority. It might or might not have a distributed ledger. Each central bank in the world can have a custom implementation. Currently, it is still in test phase or just a concept on paper.

❖ **Centralized:** Centralized means that one organization has control. For example, governments and companies are centralized. The opposite of centralized is decentralized, such as the Internet and the blockchain.

❖ **Coin:** A Coin is the umbrella term for cryptocurrencies and tokens.

❖ **Cold Storage:** Cold storage refers to storing cryptocurrency on a place where the private key cannot be accessed via the internet. This can be done on a hardware wallet, paper wallet or software wallet in an offline environment.

❖ **Cold Wallet:** A cold wallet is a wallet for storing cryptocurrency where the private key is not exposed to the Internet.

❖ **Cryptocurrency:** A cryptocurrency, also known as 'crypto', is a type of currency that is transferred via a blockchain. It uses strong cryptography to secure the transactions, that usually have value. While traditional fiat currencies are subject to counterfeiting, this is not possible in a cryptocurrency. Bitcoin is still the most valuable cryptocurrency.

D

❖ **DAO:** DAO is an abbreviation of 'Decentralized Autonomous Organization'. This is an organization that runs automatically on itself without any human interventions. The work is automatically executed through Smart contracts.

❖ **DeFi:** DeFi is the abbreviation of 'Decentralized Finance'. It can be defined as a new financial ecosystem consisting of various financial tools, apps and services utilizing blockchain technology. It's an umbrella term for all these projects combined and is growing daily. Examples of DeFi functionality are banking services in the form of stablecoins, decentralized exchanges, derivatives, prediction markets, or lending and borrowing systems. The last one can be either peer-to-peer or with a pool. It is a combination of replicating products and services in the traditional finance industry as well as innovative new ones only possible with blockchain technology.



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❖ **DEX:** A DEX is short for Decentralized Exchange. This is an exchange where people can trade cryptocurrencies and tokens without the need of a middleman. It is usually run by code in a 'smart contract'. The transactions are generally written to the blockchain, which makes a DEX by default slower than a centralized exchange that uses fast databases. The main benefit of a DEX is that nobody, but yourself, holds the private key to the funds. Even though a DEX will not have a middleman regarding the trades, the exchange and the website are centrally managed. Therefore, it's not 100% decentralized in fact. The level of decentralization differs per DEX. Use the filters in this list with exchanges to find each DEX.

E

- ❖ **ERC-20:** ERC20 coins are all tokens on the Ethereum blockchain. These coins are also supported by most Ethereum wallets.
- ❖ **ETF:** ETF is an abbreviation for 'Exchange-Traded-Fund' or a listed fund on a stock exchange. This is a tradable product (security) that follows the price of an underlying asset. Examples are an equity index, a basket of certain securities, bonds and commodities. There are several applications for a Bitcoin ETF, but none of these has yet been approved by the SEC in the United States of America.
- ❖ **Ethereum:** Ethereum (ETH) consists of one blockchain where both its own transactions (Ether) and those of numerous other coins (tokens) are recorded. Ethereum distinctive feature is the so-called "smart contract". The programming language of Ethereum is written in such a way that programmers can write their own programs based on the Ethereum blockchain.

F

- ❖ **Fiat Currency:** Fiat currency or also simply called fiat is money issued by a government or organizations that can issue it, like banks for example. It doesn't have any value by itself and is for decades not backed by gold anymore either. It instead remains value based on the trust of the people. Once the trust goes away it will decrease in value and could eventually cause hyperinflation.
- ❖ **Fully Diluted:** Fully Diluted in crypto refers to fully diluted market cap. This is the market cap of a coin based on its total supply instead of the circulating supply. This is an important metric for investors to compare coins and help with the decision if it's overvalued or undervalued.

H

- ❖ **HODL:** HODL is the wrong spelling of 'hold'. This spelling mistake was once made by someone accidentally or intentionally on a forum. Since then, this term has been used to indicate that you keep or should be holding your position.



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I

- ❖ **ICO:** An 'initial coin offering' (ICO) can be compared a bit with an IPO. Investors get an opportunity to invest in a certain coin for the first time. The difference with the stock market however is that a company must meet all kinds of requirements before the IPO can take place. The market of ICO's is much less regulated. Therefore, it happens more often that an ICO is fraudulent.
- ❖ **Interoperability:** The term interoperability in crypto refers to blockchain interoperability. In short, this means the ability to share information between different blockchains. Since the launch of Bitcoin, a lot of new blockchains have emerged of which the most well known Ethereum. All these new blockchains are in a way competing to get adoption by developers and users and results in a lot of silos. Since each blockchain usually has its own speciality, it would make sense for developers to utilize more than one blockchain. For this to work there is a need for the interoperability and several projects are working on this.

K

- ❖ **Key Pairs:** A key pair is the combination of a public and private key together. During the process of creating a wallet, a pair of keys is generated. The private key is the most important one and should be backed up safely and not shared with anyone.
- ❖ **KYC:** KYC is an abbreviation for 'Know Your Customer' and was created to combat money laundering via cryptocurrencies. At almost every ICO it is mandatory to prove that you are who you say you are. This is also regularly requested at crypto exchanges.

M

- ❖ **Masternode:** A masternode is a server, ran from home or in a data center, that has an essential role in a decentralized network. It usually performs specific tasks, like storing files or data and keeping it accessible in the network. It could also function to validate the transaction or for consensus purposes like voting on proposals. The technical (memory, CPU, etc.) and financial criteria (number of coins needed) are different for each coin. If the masternode you set up does not perform well it's possible to lose your coins if those are meant as collateral. The rewards could also just stop and then you can just start over again. A masternode usually gives a high reward that's paid out in the coin itself.
- ❖ **Maximum Supply:** This is the maximum number of coins that will exist for a token or cryptocurrency. If there is a max supply defined, no more coins can be created. 'Burned' coins are part of this supply, so therefore it is always larger than or equal to the total supply.
For Bitcoin, the maximum is set to 21 million.
- ❖ **Mining:** Mining is also known as 'Cryptocurrency mining' or 'Cryptomining'. It is a process where blocks are added to a blockchain by solving a mathematical puzzle. The block can also contain transactions on that blockchain and will then become verified and immutable. Depending on the blockchain, mining can be done with a CPU, GPU, specialized hardware or a combination of all.



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N

- ❖ **NFT:** NFT is the abbreviation of non-fungible token. This is a type of token representing a unique asset. These can be either digital or represent real-world assets. Examples are a sword in a game or ownership of a piece of land. NFT's are generally scarce, unique and indivisible. The Ethereum blockchain makes it easy to create NFT's with it's ERC-721 and ERC-1155 standards.

O

- ❖ **ODN:** ODN is the abbreviation of 'OriginTrail Decentralized Network'. This is an open-source and permissionless network that relies on an off-chain technology stack consisting of several inter-related layers. It is a decentralized network of data providers, data creators, data holders, and data viewers. The glue between all entities is the ERC-20 based Trace Token (TRAC). This is used as a collateral stake to keep data holders honest and for payments to compensate the data holders for providing their resources.

P

- ❖ **Paper Wallet:** A paper wallet is an alternative to a hardware or software wallet. It is a piece of paper or a PDF containing the information to access the cryptocurrency in that wallet. It normally consists of a 'public key' and a 'private key'.
- ❖ **Permissioned Blockchain/ledger:** Anyone can mine Bitcoins because it is a public blockchain. This is not the case with a permissioned blockchain. There is a layer above it that determines which entity can write transactions in a block. The XRP coin from the company Ripple Labs is an example of such a blockchain and has CGI, MIT and Microsoft as approved entities for example. These are called "transaction validators".
- ❖ **PoA (Proof of Authority):** PoA stands for 'Proof of Authority'. This is a validation method to process transactions and blocks in a blockchain only by approved accounts. These are known as 'validators' and run specific software to store the transactions in blocks. Since the identity is linked to the system, it can contribute to more trust.
- ❖ **Private Key:** A private key in the crypto space can be defined as the combination of letters and numbers that corresponds to a specific public key. The private key can be used to gain access to the assets on that public key, also known as the wallet address. Once you share your private key with somebody, store it on your computer in plain text or type it in a website or app, you risk losing all your funds stored on its a corresponding public address.
- ❖ **Public Key:** A public key in the crypto space can be defined as a combination of letters and numbers and forms the address to which the cryptocurrencies or tokens can be sent to. Everybody who knows the public key of somebody can see the assets stored on that address. Only the owner of the corresponding private key can send those assets out.



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Q

- ❖ **QR Code:** A QR code is a type of barcode in the form of a square. The letters QR stand for 'Quick Response'. The code contains many dots, a few small squares and sometimes a small logo in the middle. This is different from most other barcode types, which are rectangular with lines. A QR code can therefore contain much more information. Within the crypto world, it is often used to make a 'wallet' address scannable. This speeds up the process of transferring crypto and prevents errors.

S

- ❖ **Satoshi Nakamoto:** Satoshi Nakamoto is the alias of the creator of Bitcoin, who wants to remain anonymous. Nobody knows who it is. It could be a person, a group, a company or even a government. It is quite likely that it is a person because there are people who have communicated with him or her via e-mail.
- ❖ **SEC:** SEC is the abbreviation of 'Securities and Exchange Commission'. This is an independent government organization of the United States of America. The SEC holds the primary responsibility regarding the financial markets. They enforce the federal securities laws, propose new rules and regulate the US financial markets.
- ❖ **Stablecoin:** Stablecoins are tokens or cryptocurrencies attempting to have a minimized volatility of its price. It usually tries to keep a stable price of a related asset like USD for example. It can be backed by the related asset or replicated using smart contracts. Stablecoins are usually pegged to fiat money, but it's also possible to be pegged to precious metals like gold or silver, or even other assets. It enables an easily accessible way to store crypto wealth, temporarily, in a more stable asset during market volatility instead of using the traditional financial ecosystem. Fiat withdrawals can take a few days and could be costly as well.

T

- ❖ **Tether:** The Tether is often abbreviated as USDT on exchanges. This is a non-government regulated 'stablecoin' with a value of around 1 US dollar. The company behind this coin claims that every Tether in circulation is covered with real dollars on their bank account.
- ❖ **Total Supply:** The 'total supply' indicates the number of coins already in circulation, supplemented with the coins that are not tradable yet. So, it only applies to coins already in existence. This is different from the 'max supply', in which future coins are included. The total supply is greater than or equal to the 'circulating' supply. It can consist of tradable and non-tradable coins, such as reserved or not yet released coins for the team or investors.
- ❖ **Transaction Fee:** The 'transaction fee' is the amount that must be paid to execute transactions on the Blockchain. This fee is usually paid to the 'Miners', but sometimes they are burned. There are also several cryptocurrencies, where you don't have to pay a fee.



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W

- ❖ **Wallet:** A 'wallet' is a place to store cryptocurrencies encrypted. There are several variants, such as a paper wallet, hardware wallet or software wallet. Each coin has one or more supported wallets.
- ❖ **Whale:** A 'whale' is someone with a very large position in a coin.
- ❖ **Whitepaper:** A 'whitepaper' is a document that is almost always written for the launch of a new coin through an ICO. All aspects of a coin should be explained here: how it is used, for what and sometimes also the price expectation. After the ICO new versions can be released if the situation changes.

Y

- ❖ **Yield Farming:** Yield farming is the process of generating the most returns possible on your crypto assets by putting them to work. Within the crypto space, DeFi has taken on a big role and services inside this space are making yield farming possible. There are nowadays ways to move your crypto assets to pools to gain interest on those assets giving it an annual percentage yield (APY). Just buying crypto-assets and holding them in your wallet, won't generate any yield, but lending them out with DeFi services like, Compound, for example, does make this possible. A term closely related to yield farming is liquidity mining.

Sources: blockspot.io/crypto-dictionary

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