



**Our sincere condolences on the injuries and loss of life in the recent train collision near Tempe in northern Greece. We extend our thoughts and prayers to those affected and to their families. Taiwan grieves with Greece at this time of sadness**



### **MOFA Minister Joseph Wu was interviewed by The Economist**

Minister Wu stated that in the face of Chinese economic coercion, Lithuania has continued to engage with Taiwan and Czech President Petr Pavel has expressed the will to meet with President Tsai Ing-wen. This, Minister Wu said, is evidence that for most people, Beijing's displeasure is not something to be alarmed about and just shows the irrationality and vengeful nature of China's behavior towards countries that wish to build ties with Taiwan. On the PLA military exercises in the wake of Representative Nancy Pelosi's visit to Taiwan in her capacity as US House Speaker last year, Minister Wu stated that Beijing cannot dictate how we make friends with the international community and that such visits show the Taiwanese people that they are not alone. He added that

Taiwan will continue to strengthen its asymmetric warfare and defensive capabilities and rally international opposition to any possible Chinese invasion of Taiwan.

### **The UK-France expressed concerns for developments across the Taiwan Strait**

In the UK's Integrated Review Refresh 2023, the document laid out the UK's long-standing position that the Taiwan issue should be settled peacefully by people on both sides of the Taiwan Strait through dialogue and not through any unilateral attempt to change the status quo. The document also states that the UK will support all parties to work together to ensure that heightened tensions do not lead to escalation. The mention of the importance of peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait included in the UK-France Joint Leaders' Declaration, issued after the President of France Emmanuel Macron and UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak met in Paris on March 10. The declaration also calls for the peaceful resolution of cross-strait ties and expresses concerns regarding China's challenge to the rules-based international order and human rights violations and abuses in the country.

### **The Kosovo-Taiwan Parliamentary Friendship Group visited Taiwan**

The cross-party group of MPs arrived in Taiwan on March 11 and, as well as being invited to take part in the "Parliamentary Openness and Monitoring Forum," by the National Democratic Institute from March 14-15, were granted an audience with President Tsai Ing-wen. Among the

delegation is former prime minister and IPAC Co-Chair Avdullah Hoti and the joint chairs of the parliamentary friendship group Artan Abrashi and Blerta Deliu-kodra. This marks the first cross-party delegation of MPs to visit Taiwan since the country's independence in 2008.

### **Taipei-Prague direct flights to launch in July**

The launch of direct flights between Taipei and Prague set to commence July 18. The route, which will fly every Tuesday and Saturday, is anticipated to boost people-to-people exchanges and tourism between Taiwan, the Czech Republic and neighboring countries, as well as strengthen trade, education and cultural links. Why not come and visit Taiwan this summer and explore all we have to offer, from the foodie paradise of the cities to amazing hiking trails in nature.

