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## European Stocks Decline as Tech Sector Struggles

### Description

Europe-listed shares witnessed a significant decline on Thursday, 9 October 2025, as anxieties about the intensification of the U.S.-Iran conflict unsettled global markets. The pan-European Stoxx 600 index fell by 1.1% shortly after 12:15 a.m. in London, recovering slightly from even greater losses earlier in the session. Most sectors and major regional stock exchanges remained firmly in negative territory.

The technology sector faced the steepest losses, with the Stoxx Europe Technology index down by 3.1%, marking its worst performance since 3 February. U.S. President Donald Trump, in a recent address, indicated that he anticipates the conflict to prolong for another two to three weeks, during which U.S. forces will "hit" Iran "extremely hard."

As Trump's speech concluded, U.S. stock futures plummeted, reversing gains made during Wall Street's Wednesday session. Furthermore, data indicated a notably lower opening for New York-listed stocks on Thursday morning. Asian markets also recorded declines as investors processed Trump's statements.

Oil prices surged following the president's address, with global benchmark Brent crude rising over 8% to reach \$109.10. The escalation in oil prices has been pronounced since the U.S. and Israel initiated strikes on Iran on 28 February, which provoked retaliatory actions throughout the Gulf region. In March alone, Brent crude oil prices escalated by more than 60%, representing the most substantial monthly increase since records began in the 1980s.

On Wednesday, prior to Trump's address, European stocks had risen after he suggested that the war might conclude within weeks. Investors are also responding to reports that the Trump administration is preparing new tariffs on pharmaceutical companies that have not agreed to ensure low drug prices in the U.S. Additionally, British oil major Shell is reportedly negotiating with the Venezuelan government to develop large offshore natural gas fields. Ryanair's CEO, Michael O'Leary, cautioned that the U.K. could face jet fuel shortages due to its dependence on supplies from Kuwait amid the ongoing conflict.

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### Vocabulary List:

1. **intensification** //ɪn,tensɪfɪ'keɪʃən// (noun): an increase in strength or activity
2. **unsettled** //ʌn'setəld// (verb): made people or things feel worried or uncertain
3. **plummeted** //'plʌmɪtɪd// (verb): fell quickly and by a large amount
4. **surged** //sɜːdʒd// (verb): rose very quickly to a much higher level
5. **retaliatory** //rɪ'tæli,tɔːri// (adjective): done to punish someone for a previous action
6. **tariffs** //'tærɪfs// (noun): taxes added to goods coming into a country



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## Comprehension Questions

### Multiple Choice

1. What was the percentage decline of the pan-European Stoxx 600 index on 9 October 2025?  
Option: 1.1%  
Option: 2.5%  
Option: 3.5%  
Option: 4.0%
2. Which sector faced the steepest losses on 9 October 2025?  
Option: Financial  
Option: Technology  
Option: Healthcare  
Option: Energy
3. By how much did Brent crude oil prices rise following Trump's address?  
Option: 5%  
Option: 8%  
Option: 10%  
Option: 12%
4. What was the closing price of Brent crude after the rise?  
Option: \$100.20  
Option: \$102.50  
Option: \$109.10  
Option: \$115.00
5. What did Donald Trump predict regarding the U.S.-Iran conflict?  
Option: It would last for a month  
Option: It would end shortly  
Option: It would prolong for another two to three weeks  
Option: It would escalate significantly
6. Which major oil company is negotiating with the Venezuelan government according to the report?  
Option: ExxonMobil



- Option: BP
- Option: Shell
- Option: Chevron

### True-False

7. The technology sector experienced the best performance among sectors on 9 October 2025.
8. Asian markets recorded gains as investors reacted positively to Trump's statements.
9. Oil prices surged following Trump's speech, with Brent crude rising over 8%.
10. U.S. stock futures rose immediately after Trump's address.
11. Before Trump's address, European stocks had declined due to negative market sentiment.
12. Michael O'Leary is the CEO of Ryanair.

### Gap-Fill

13. The pan-European Stoxx 600 index declined by \_\_\_\_\_ on 9 October 2025.
14. Brent crude oil prices rose over \_\_\_\_\_ after Trump's address.
15. The technology sector was down by \_\_\_\_\_ on the day of the decline.
16. Trump indicated that the conflict might prolong for another \_\_\_\_\_ weeks.
17. Investors are responding to new tariffs on pharmaceutical companies that have not ensured \_\_\_\_\_ drug prices.
18. Ryanair's CEO cautioned about potential fuel shortages due to dependence on supplies from \_\_\_\_\_ amid the conflict.

### Answer

- Multiple Choice:** 1. 1.1% 2. Technology 3. 8% 4. \$109.10 5. It would prolong for another two to three weeks  
6. Shell



**True-False:** 7. False 8. False 9. True 10. False 11. False 12. True

**Gap-Fill:** 13. 1.1% 14. 8% 15. 3.1% 16. two to three 17. low 18. Kuwait

## Vocabulary quizzes

### Multiple Choice ( Select the Correct answer for each question. )

1. What term describes the degree of variation of a trading price series over time?

- Option: Stability
- Option: Volatility
- Option: Consistency
- Option: Uniformity

2. What is the term for a decline of 10% or more in the price of a security from its most recent peak?

- Option: Adjustment
- Option: Correction
- Option: Contraction
- Option: Recession

3. What word describes an event that radically changes an industry or market?

- Option: Stability
- Option: Innovation
- Option: Disruption
- Option: Integration

4. What term is used to describe conditions that lead to a general increase in prices?

- Option: Deflationary
- Option: Inflationary
- Option: Stagnant
- Option: Static

5. What is the term for critical observation or examination?

- Option: Surveillance
- Option: Scrutiny
- Option: Neglect
- Option: Disregard

6. What term refers to the income generated from normal business operations?

- Option: Expenses
- Option: Profits



- Option: Losses
- Option: Revenue

7. What term refers to a loan used to purchase real estate, secured by the property itself?

- Option: Lease
- Option: Mortgage
- Option: Bond
- Option: Equity

8. What term refers to the goods and materials that a business holds for the purpose of resale?

- Option: Inventory
- Option: Assets
- Option: Liabilities
- Option: Resources

9. What term describes the extent to which something is affordable to consumers?

- Option: Accessibility
- Option: Affordability
- Option: Costliness
- Option: Exclusivity

10. What is the term for taxes imposed by a government on imported goods?

- Option: Subsidies
- Option: Duties
- Option: Tariffs
- Option: Fees

**Gap-Fill ( Fill in the blanks with the correct word from the vocabulary list. )**

11. The crisis was \_\_\_\_\_ by the lack of timely government intervention.
12. New \_\_\_\_\_ was introduced to improve environmental protection.
13. The terms of the agreement were \_\_\_\_\_ between both parties.
14. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the conflict led to a humanitarian crisis.
15. Demand for housing \_\_\_\_\_ in the last quarter, leading to higher prices.
16. The sudden news left the market feeling \_\_\_\_\_ and uncertain.



17. The team is focused on \_\_\_\_\_ the risks associated with investing.
18. The company's growth gained \_\_\_\_\_ after launching its new product line.
19. Regulations can vary significantly across different \_\_\_\_\_.
20. The initiative aims to address issues on a \_\_\_\_\_ level to ensure uniformity.

**Matching Sentences ( Match each definition to the correct word from the vocabulary list. )**

21. The stock market experienced significant volatility this year due to unforeseen events.
22. Housing affordability remains a major concern for many families in urban areas.
23. The new legislation aims to improve healthcare access for all citizens.
24. The company reported a substantial increase in revenue over the last quarter.
25. Corporate practices are often under intense scrutiny from regulatory agencies.
26. Maintaining a proper inventory is crucial for effective supply chain management.
27. Many families rely on mortgage loans to purchase their homes.
28. Technological disruption has transformed many traditional industries.
29. Rising inflation can lead to increased costs of living for consumers.
30. The government imposed tariffs on imported goods to protect local businesses.

**Answer**

- Multiple Choice:** 1. Volatility 2. Correction 3. Disruption 4. Inflationary 5. Scrutiny 6. Revenue 7. Mortgage 8. Inventory 9. Affordability 10. Tariffs
- Gap-Fill:** 11. exacerbated 12. legislation 13. negotiated 14. intensification 15. surged 16. unsettled 17. mitigating 18. momentum 19. jurisdictions 20. statewide
- Matching sentence:** 1. volatility 2. affordability 3. legislation 4. revenue 5. scrutiny 6. inventory 7. mortgage 8. disruption 9. inflation 10. tariffs

**CATEGORY**

1. Business - LEVEL6



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