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# USA OUTLOOK

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Foto: Energy Connects

## UAE, Israel Pressure U.S. for Iran Security Guarantees

The United Arab Emirates and Israel are lobbying the U.S. to formulate a security strategy for the Middle East should the Iran nuclear deal be revived, with the war in Ukraine and surging oil prices providing leverage to obtain guarantees they failed to secure in 2015.

The erstwhile foes, which established diplomatic relations in 2020, are demanding a coherent approach that includes boosting missile defense and intelligence sharing, five people familiar with the matter said, asking not to be identified because the discussions are private.

Israel and the UAE have approached Biden administration officials separately but are coordinating amid concern that Iran would use an oil windfall to channel more funds to armed proxy groups around the Middle East, three of the people said.

A State Department official said the U.S. was committed to a region where its partners are secure from "external aggression" and was working with them to confront threats from Iran.

## American Express CEO says the shift to remote work made a new segment of business travelers

American Express expects remote workers to create new demand for business travel, CEO Steve Squeri told CNBC's Jim Cramer on Wednesday.

"You're going to have, I believe, a lot more internal travel where colleagues and employees will come into the headquarters to be with their team for a few days. And they may do that multiple times a year. So I think that part of business travel will be a new piece," Squeri said in an interview on "Mad Money."

Travel has recovered faster than expected this year, which major airlines expect will help offset higher costs in things like jet fuel. Travelers spent \$6.6 billion on airline tickets last month on carriers' websites, according to Adobe.

Squeri said that American Express has seen growth in leisure travel over the last few months. "We're at 80% overall [travel and expenses] in the fourth quarter with consumer over 100% from 2019 levels. When we look at our travel bookings, our travel bookings were up in December ... and that has sequentially grown in January and in February," he said, adding that the numbers only encompass consumer travel. Squeri said Russia's invasion of Ukraine has "not really" affected travel volumes for American Express.

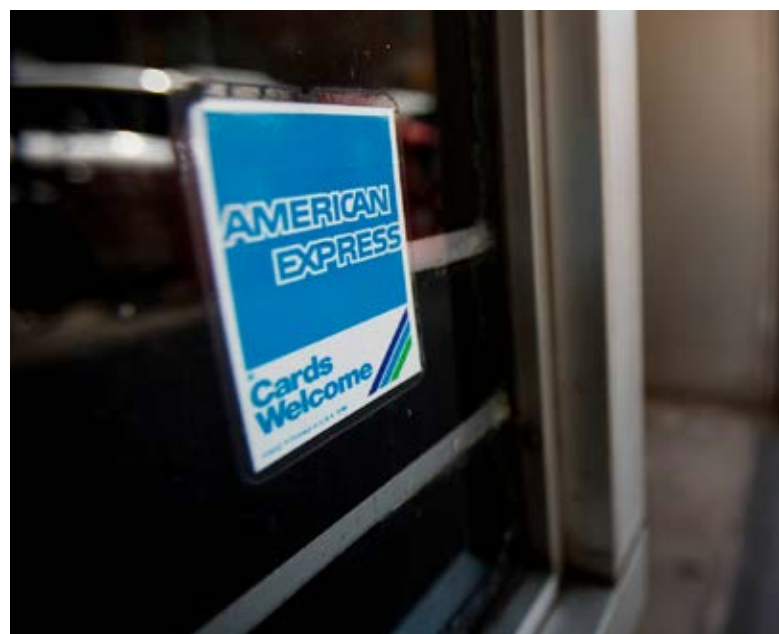


Foto: CNBC





Foto: CNN

## Biden administration prepares for potential mass migration at US-Mexico border

The Biden administration is preparing for the potential of mass migration to the US-Mexico border when a Trump-era pandemic emergency rule ends, according to three sources familiar with discussions.

Border authorities have been relying on a public health order, known as Title 42, to turn away migrants at the US-Mexico border since March 2020, but as the pandemic landscape evolves, discussions about terminating that order have picked up speed, the sources said.

Internal documents have shown estimations of how many people are within hours or days of the US-Mexico border who might plan to migrate to the United States, according to one of the sources. Those estimates, first reported by Axios, include potentially around 170,000 people coming to the US southern border and some 25,000 migrants already in shelters in Mexico, the source said.

The Department of Homeland Security has also set up a "Southwest Border Coordination Center" at its headquarters to coordinate across multiple agencies. DHS Deputy Secretary John Tien has also asked department personnel to volunteer at the US-Mexico border in an email sent to the workforce, another source said.

## New York City's St Patrick's Day parade returns after COVID hiatus

After a two-year absence due to the COVID-19 pandemic, New York City's annual St. Patrick's Day parade returned in person on Thursday, with crowds decked out in emerald green cheering marchers in kilts as they made their way down Manhattan's Fifth Avenue.

Rain and grey skies did not keep revelers away.

"It's the best thing for New York," said local resident Patrick Delaney. "It's just what we need, a shot in the arm to take off the focus, lift our spirits."

Marching bands playing bagpipes, performers and politicians all walked to celebrate Irish heritage, along with members of the New York City Fire Department and Police Department.

The parade halted at noon and turned south towards Ground Zero for a moment of silence to mark the 20th anniversary of the September 11 World Trade Center attacks.

"It's a great day," said New York Attorney General Letitia James, adding that she was pleased "to be an honorary Irish person."



Foto: USNews.com



Foto: businessinsider.com

## What are the environmental impacts of cryptocurrencies?

Like the mining industry, the cryptocurrency mining industry has serious environmental ramifications as a result of the energy-intensive process through which coins are created. But unlike the mining industry, the cryptocurrency industry may start changing the way it operates. Here's what you need to know about why cryptocurrency mining is unsustainable and the new developments that might change that.

What's the environmental impact of cryptocurrency?

To understand the environmental impacts of cryptocurrency, we must first understand how new coins in a cryptocurrency are created. Because cryptocurrencies aren't regulated by a

central authority, the blockchain relies on users to validate transactions and update the blockchain with new blocks of information.

To protect against bad actors attempting to manipulate this new information, these blockchains need to be very difficult and costly to verify. Thus proof of work was implemented into most cryptocurrencies. Proof of work is a consensus mechanism that allows users to validate cryptocurrency transactions by solving a complicated mathematical problem. The first person that solves the puzzle validates the transaction and is awarded a fixed amount of cryptocurrency. Then the cycle starts again. It's the most widely used consensus mechanism.