



THINK TANK REVIEW

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Dear Readers,

Welcome to issue 27 of the Think Tank Review compiled by the EU Council Library* ([click to share on Twitter](#)). It references papers published in July and August 2015. As usual, we provide the link to the full text and a short abstract.

Released in July, the "Five Presidents' report" triggered some papers which can be found in [Section 2](#) of this review. Its implementation was the occasion of a recent exchange of views at the [European Parliament](#).

Despite the crisis in the eurozone, and all things considered, Polski Instytut Spraw Międzynarodowych (Polish Institute of International Affairs) publishes a paper explaining how its accession is [still an attractive offer for Central Europe](#).

The preparations for [COP 21](#), "the" environment event taking place in Paris later this year, are in full swing. The "preparations for COP 21 in Paris" was a last minute addition on the agenda of the September mini-plenary, and the subject of the [Council conclusions](#) adopted on 18 September. Our readers will find a selection of articles under the [Environment](#) chapter of this Review.

As it is difficult to separate environment from energy, the old adage "*l'union fait la force*" rings a bell when reading [The energy union: views from France, Germany, Poland and the United Kingdom](#).

The end of sanctions in [Iran](#) triggered some articles about the nuclear agreement and the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

About the importance of a "new generation" namely the seniors, and the challenge they represent for all political parties due to their role in the electoral process, find out about [Seniors in the 2014 European Parliament elections: turnout, voting intentions and representation](#).

With regards to reading and reporting, be it on paper or digital, we are very much curious and biased. According to Gareth Price from Chatham House, while the digital age poses a variety of serious challenges to the forms and finances of journalistic reporting, there is much potential for enhanced collaboration between Asian and European media organizations. Access to his paper "Opportunities and Challenges for Journalism in the Digital Age: Asian and European Perspectives" [here](#).

"GSC" stands for General Secretariat of the Council. However, we found another meaning for this acronym given by the Österreichische Institut für Internationale Politik: [Global strategy choices \(GSC\): prognosis and strategic planning for European foreign and security policy](#).

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The next Review will be out in October 2015, with papers published in September.

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SECTION 1 - EU POLITICS AND INSTITUTIONS

Centre for European Policy Studies

Latvia's EU Presidency: less is more

by Gerta Lezi [@gerta_lezi](#) and Steven Blockmans [@steve_blockman](#)

3 July 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (4 p.)

This CEPS Commentary examines the performance of Latvia over the past six months in its first-ever rotating presidency of the Council of the EU. The authors find that the Baltic state proved that a small administration can achieve concrete results in a short time span.

Centre for European Reform

The undiplomats: right-wing populists and their foreign policies

by Yehuda Ben-Hur Levy

21 August 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (13 p.)

Populist radical-right parties (hereafter referred to as populist parties) are important political forces in Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Denmark, France, the Netherlands, Sweden and Switzerland. Even in the UK, the influence of the United Kingdom Independence Party (UKIP) on the policies of mainstream parties has grown with its share of the popular vote. There are also populist parties on the left, in particular Syriza. But in most of Europe, it is the right-wing populist parties which are more significant, and this policy brief focuses on them.

Centrum für Europäische Politik (Centre for European Policy)

Das neue Konzept für eine "bessere Rechtsetzung"

by Klaus-Dieter Sohn and Matthias Dauner

24 August 2015

Link to the article in [German](#) (16 p.)

The European Commission is convinced that the EU acts can be improved. Therefore, with the Better Regulation package it has taken measures to improve the quality of legislation. This article conveys concerns, especially with regard to the division of powers, respect for subsidiarity and proportionality as well as the loss of parliamentary control by delegated acts and implementing acts.

demosEUROPA - Centrum Strategii Europejskiej (Centre for European Strategy)

From chasing game to symbiotic relationship. The position of eurozone and non-eurozone countries within the EU institutional framework

by Paweł Świeboda [@pswieboda](#)

2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (48 p.)

This report examines the impact of the on-going reconstruction of the eurozone on the non-eurozone countries. It observes that during the crisis period, the relationship was shaped in an ad hoc fashion with no agreed master plan. In order to define the framework for the relationship, the report argues for a "Code of Conduct" to be agreed between the eurozone and non-eurozone countries. It would enable mutual trust to return and contribute to a symbiotic relationship.

German Marshall Fund of the United States

Europe's patchwork foreign policy needs more than a few new stitches

by Rosa Balfour [@RosaBalfour](#)

July 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (7 p.)

The EU has been trying to develop a foreign and security policy in the midst of calls for Brussels to step up its international engagement. Now European leaders have asked their high representative for foreign and security policy to devise a strategy. The political challenge for the high representative will be to keep the Member States deeply involved while avoiding a consensus-focused process that produces yet another meaningless document.

Institut d'Études de Sécurité de l'Union européenne (coll. Cahiers de Chaillot)

EU home affairs diplomacy: why, what, where – and how

by Hugo Brady [@hugobradu](#) and Roderick Parkes [@RoderickParkes](#)

July 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (69 p.)

This Chaillot Paper explores the genesis of "home affairs diplomacy" and how it has taken shape, and highlights the challenges as well as the opportunities that bringing together different policy communities (at both national and EU level) generates for a more confident and more 'strategic' European approach to an outside world that has become more connected and more complex than ever before.

Institut français des relations internationales / Deutsche Gesellschaft für Auswärtige Politik (German Council on Foreign Relations)

Repenser la géométrie franco-allemande : des triangles au service de l'intégration européenne

by Hans Stark and Claire Demesmay (eds.)

July 2015

Link to the article in [French](#) (79 p.) ([English](#) version previously included in [TTR 26](#).)

This paper is devoted to ten case studies, focused on areas in which it is urgent to conduct a common policy: economy; Foreign and security policy; energy; migration. In this context of unprecedented crises, the Franco-German dialogue must be both strengthened and open to new partners.

Jacques Delors Institute - Berlin

Differentiated view of differentiated integration

by Nicole Koenig [@Nic_Koenig](#)

23 July 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (13 p.)

We are living in a highly differentiated EU. Despite this reality, differentiated integration remains subject to political controversy. In recent weeks and months, speculations on a potential "Grexit" or "Brexit" have fuelled this controversy. While some advocate a two-speed Europe built on a core of eurozone members, others are wary of being left out or behind and reject the notion of multiple speeds. This policy paper aims to clarify the conceptual and empirical boundaries of differentiated integration.

Find out more about 'differentiated integration' from our [library collection](#).

Polski Instytut Spraw Międzynarodowych (Polish Institute of International Affairs)

The best of both worlds: the unexploited potential of inter-parliamentary cooperation in the EU

by Karolina Borońska-Hryniewiecka [@K_Boronska](#)

August 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (6 p.)

During his first visit to Warsaw after re-election, David Cameron allied with Polish government for reforming the EU. Minister for Europe Rafał Trzaskowski, speaking on behalf of the Polish government, endorsed the British position to strengthen national parliaments in EU policymaking. The paper claimed much more could be achieved by enhancing the mechanisms of inter-parliamentary cooperation as the one assessed between UK and Poland. However, it maintained this requires a genuine political will on the side of EU institutions and Member States, which seems to be the missing link.

Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies

Inside the mind of a permanent representative in Brussels: personal reflections

by Bobby McDonagh

6 July 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (17 p.)

This paper is a personal reflection of the role of a Permanent Representative in Brussels. It offers insights into the thought processes of an individual member of COREPER which plays a central role in the EU's negotiating system. Permanent Representatives are 'boundary managers' between the domestic and the EU. The complex thought processes of an EU ambassador are analysed by focussing on seven different dimensions of this complex role.

SECTION 2 - ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

Bertelsmann Stiftung

Money or democracy? Greece and the euro dilemma

by Katharina Gnath and Isabell Hoffmann [@ur_echo](#)

August 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (8 p.) and in [German](#) (8 p.)

The negotiations on the third bailout package for Greece are still going on, but the euro area has already paid a high price for it. The compromise on which it is based is clearly very controversial. Some of its critics believe that it does not make sense in economic terms, whereas others point out that it may have an adverse political effect. But what in fact is Greece actually supposed to be doing, and what does all this mean with regard to sovereignty and democracy?

The impact of income inequality on economic growth

by Thieß Petersen and Ulrich Schoof

August 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (12 p.)

Increases in income inequality, at a moderate level of income inequality, have a positive effect on economic growth. However, if a certain degree of income inequality is exceeded, income inequality has a negative impact on economic growth. The fact that a significant majority of recent studies conclude that an unequal distribution in the long run has perceptibly negative effects on economic growth suggests that an increasing number of economies have reached a level of inequality at which the wealth-dampening effects of inequality have begun to predominate. In this case, there is no fundamental contradiction between a state redistribution of income and economic growth.

Bruegel

The grand divergence: global and European current account surpluses

by Zsolt Darvas [@ZsoltDarvas](#)

13 August 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (39 p.)

From the mid-1990s to the global economic and financial crisis, global current account imbalances widened significantly, while there has been a major correction since then. The adjustment of European current account deficits has been in line with global developments (though they were more forceful), but European current account surpluses defied global trends and continued to increase to over 7% of GDP. Thus, from a broadly balanced current account position before the global crisis the EU became a major contributor to global current account imbalances.

The vulnerability of Europe's small and medium-sized banks

by Ashoka Mody [@AshokaMody](#) and Guntram B. Wolff [@GuntramWolff](#)

16 July 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (32 p.)

We study the vulnerability of 130 banks directly supervised by the European Central Bank's Single Supervisory Mechanism. Illustrative stress tests using banks' balance sheet data reveal that significant stress prevails in the euro area's smaller and medium-sized banks, many of them located in southern Europe. The banks we identify as stressed also have performed substantially worse on the stock market. The vulnerable banks are typically hobbled by non-performing loans to European businesses.

The political economy of financial crisis policy

by Mícheál O'Keefe and Alessio Terzi [@terzibus](#)

8 July 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (39 p.)

In this paper the authors attempted to quantitatively estimate the impact that select political variables have on policy choice and hence the fiscal costs of banking crises. Both single-party and multiparty governments in presidential systems are associated with lower fiscal costs of crisis management. These governments are less likely to use guarantees that would expose the state to significant contingent and direct fiscal liabilities and less likely to use bank recapitalisations in their crisis management strategy. Also, presidential systems with multiparty governments are more likely to impose losses on depositors.

Case - Centrum Analiz Społeczno-Ekonomicznych (Center for Social and Economic Research)

Sovereign bond purchases and risk-sharing arrangements – Implications for monetary policy

by Monika Blaszkiwicz

24 July 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (26 p.)

The design of the euro area Quantitative Easing (QE) programme raises the question of whether insufficient liquidity in the bond markets will reduce the impact of the programme and lead to market volatility. While estimates suggest that scarcity of around €102 billion may arise over the life of the programme, to date the QE programme has met its monthly targets and bond market volatility has been managed. Partial risk sharing raises the spectre of defaulting central banks exiting the euro system, and existing members being unwilling to bear associated costs, and thus the future of the euro area. However, estimations suggest that all national central banks should be able to bare losses stemming from sovereign debt purchases under the current round of QE.

Centrum für Europäische Politik (Centre for European Policy)

A sovereign default regime for the euro area

by Lüder Gerken, Matthias Kullas and Bert Van Roosebeke

31 August 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (41 p.) and in [German](#) (42 p.)

As a consequence of the financial and euro crisis, the EU is carrying out a thorough overhaul of the regulation of financial markets. This applies equally to banks and insurance companies as well as to other stakeholders. The focus is on more intensive regulation and the partial communitisation of the risks. The emphasis is on risk management by financial markets participants, the cooperation and integration of the supervisory authorities as well as investor protection. CEP continuously monitors these proposals.

CEPII - Centre d'études prospectives et d'informations internationales

Currency turmoil in an unbalanced world economy

by Michel Aglietta and Virginie Coudert

July 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (10 p.)

In the present state of the world economy, the prospect of a new dollar cycle is particularly worrisome since most countries have massively increased their debt relative to GDP in the non-financial sectors. Because US monetary policy is not bound by any international rules, it has supplied liquidity on its own terms, flooding the world with cheap money in order to revive domestic consumption in the US. If the market expectations are right, this means that the US recovery will

be hurt by the dollar turning from being cheap to expensive. If the US recovery stalls, this will mean that secular stagnation will be with us for an indefinite time.

Deutsches Institut für Wirtschaftsforschung (German Institute for Economic Research)

A stronger union through crisis? 25 years of monetary integration in Europe

by Ferdinand Fichtner and Philipp König

July 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (10 p.)

In the initial years following the introduction of the single currency, the compromise as set down in the Maastricht Treaty—the speedy introduction of the single currency, on the one hand, and better cooperation in fiscal policy matters on the other—neither strengthened the institutional foundations of the monetary union nor advanced the political integration process. To advance the European project, it is imperative that governments do not rely on the momentum inherent in crisis situations, but instead press ahead with the next stages of integration and take an active approach to bolstering the institutional foundations of the currency union.

A critical retrospective: German monetary union

by Karl Brenke

July 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (11 p.)

In July 1990, with the adoption of the deutschmark as its currency, East Germany's few productive factories and businesses were suddenly exposed to free market competition; industrial production collapsed in a way unparalleled in history. Given the insecure foreign policy situation, the aim was to seize the chance of reunification and push through monetary union to create an irreversible fait accompli. It also buttressed the illusion among the East German population that a strong currency would facilitate fast-track income parity on West German levels. This, however, also encouraged excessive wage hikes which only served to intensify the shock of alignment in summer 1990, complicate economic renewal in eastern Germany, and increase the financial costs.

Lessons for Europe from German monetary union

by Marcel Fratzscher [@MFratzscher](#)

July 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (5 p.)

In July 1990, German monetary union came into force. On the same day, capital controls in Europe were abolished, creating the basis for EMU and the euro. These two historical events fundamentally changed Germany and the rest of Europe. Both German and European monetary union were and still are being heavily criticized and debated. Was the design of German monetary union wrong? Was it a mistake to adopt the euro? Particularly in terms of finding a solution to the current European crisis, it is important to understand what lessons Europe can take from German monetary union.

Elinkeinoelämän tutkimuslaitos (Research Institute of the Finnish Economy)

Structural reforms and stabilization policies in the euro area

by Kari E.O. Alho

24 August 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (26 p.)

Specifying a structurally built NKM model for EMU, and identifying in it the determinants of the potential output and the short-run cyclical factors, we consider structural reforms and monetary and fiscal policies in the euro area. We find that in a recession the reform policy is typically curtailed,

while in a boom it initially exceeds the long-run equilibrium of reform activity. Proper fiscal policy can alleviate this problematic feature in structural reform policies.

Foundation for European Progressive Studies

Addressing the pressing need to reduce global and European imbalances

by Giovanni Cozzi and Terry McKinley

July 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (11 p.)

This paper focuses on projected trends over the next ten years in two key economic variables: GDP growth rates and current-account balances as a ratio to GDP. At the global level, it examines these two variables for the four most economically important countries/blocs: the USA, Japan, the People's Republic of China and the EU. Within the EU, it focuses on the same variables for the core eurozone (Austria, Germany and the Netherlands), the eurozone periphery (Greece, Italy, Portugal and Spain) and the two major countries of France and the UK.

Saving the eurozone: modelling an alternative vision of Europe

by Jo Michell

July 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (14 p.)

This Policy Brief is the second in a series of three in which future macroeconomic scenarios for Europe are analysed using projections generated by the Cambridge-Alphametrics Model (CAM). It explores a scenario in which austerity is reversed and eurozone countries experience a period of sustained capital investment. An increase in the European Federal Budget allows fiscal flows to offset the imbalances that inevitably occur within a heterogeneous monetary union. Under such a scenario, model simulations project sustained growth and containment of debt-to-GDP ratios.

Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (Friedrich Ebert Foundation)

Gute Ordnungspolitik für das 21. Jahrhundert : langfristige Trends und Szenarien der internationalen Wirtschaftsentwicklung

by Christian Kastrop

July 2015

Link to the article in [German](#) (24 p.)

This paper claims that education, research and development, migration and innovation are key factors for coping with challenges economy will carry on in the future. "Old" advanced countries must develop them for securing current living standards. The author's view is that this task requires a wide and well-structured transnational governance which can control advanced economic and financial systems and can distribute scarce resources fairly and competently.

Institut der deutschen Wirtschaft Köln (Cologne Institute for Economic Research)

A Capital Markets Union for Europe: the relevance of banks and markets

by Markus Demary, Matthias Diermeier and Heide Haas

July 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (37 p.)

The establishment of a Capital Markets Union (CMU) should foster additional non-bank sources of finance, mobilize private savings more efficiently and enhance capital market integration. The Commission's proposal misses the role of three systemic functions in a CMU. The authors recommend an integrated financial supervision for the CMU. In order to mobilize private savings while coping with the CMU's complexity, the EU should foster financial literacy.

Istituto Affari Internazionali

Il Piano Juncker per gli investimenti: potenzialità e problemi dell'implementazione [Juncker's investment plan: opportunities and pitfalls in implementation]

by Umberto Marengo [@UmbeMarengo](#)

2 July 2015

Link to the article in [Italian](#) (14 p.)

To boost economic growth, the Juncker Commission launched a plan to mobilize 315 billion Euro towards productive investments through a system of financial leverages managed by the European Investment Bank (EIB). The success of the plan will ultimately depend on the capacity of the EIB and the Member States to implement the financial instruments that have been introduced (in particular on equity financing and SMEs) within a short time-frame, creating synergies with the National Promotion Banks and "additionality" vis-à-vis private investors.

The report of the Five Presidents: a missed opportunity

by Fabrizio Saccomanni

24 July 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (7 p.)

The [report presented by Presidents of the five EU institutions](#) identifies all the essential challenges the EU is facing and acknowledges the need for "a new convergence process" to root out the imbalances that triggered the economic and financial crisis. However, it misses an opportunity to send a clearer signal about what a stronger federalist approach could accomplish, especially from a multi-decade standpoint.

Jacques Delors Institute - Berlin

A smart move: why the Five Presidents' Report is cautious on substance and ambitious on process

by Henrik Enderlein [@henrikenderlein](#) and Jörg Haas [@jorg_haas](#)

3 July 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (10 p.)

The recently published "[Five Presidents' Report](#)" proposes a reform of the EMU along four dimensions: economic, financial, fiscal and political. This policy paper summarises the authors' assessment of the proposals. In view of the political circumstances, it is a smart report. Compared to the 2012 Four Presidents' Report, the document contains few entirely new insights but offers a clear timeline and sufficiently ambitious proposals for the near term.

LUISS School of European Political Economy

What future for the eurozone?

by Stefano Micossi

5 August 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (11 p.)

When the financial crisis struck, the absence of risk sharing arrangements to cushion the shock brought the common currency close to breaking point. The poisonous cocktail of mistrust between the Member States and lack of effective common instruments to meet the shock led not only to excessively tight monetary and fiscal policies, but to a meltdown of confidence that swell massively the real economic costs of the crisis. In the process, it has become apparent that the construction does not have an exit door – as once again confirmed by the unfolding Greek drama.

Trade (dis)integration and imbalances in the EMU

by Piero Esposito

13 July 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (35 p.)

The aim of this paper is to assess the role of competitiveness and financial integration on trade flows for countries belonging to the EMU. We argue that these two factors contributed both to the dynamics of trade imbalances and to the reduction of intra-EMU share in total trade. The latter effect adds to the physiological reduction of intra-EMU trade due to lower than average growth and competitiveness losses. We use a gravity-type bilateral trade model in order to estimate the impact on both imports and exports, providing a more detailed explanation for the developments of total and net trade. The results indicate that both competitiveness and financial opening significantly increased trade imbalances, particularly within the EMU.

Notre Europe - Jacques Delors Institute

After the Greek deal: why it is urgent to complete EMU

by Jacques Delors, Gerhard Cromme, Henrik Enderlein [@henrikenderlein](#), Pascal Lamy and António Vitorino

22 July 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (4 p.)

Following what seems to be the end of hostile negotiations, the authors analyse the dangers and opportunities resulting from the agreement for a strengthening of the EMU and call for greater Franco-German cooperation in order to realize the historic goal of completing the EMU. They identify notably the risks of complacency, the start of a blaming game, and of "fiddling about" in the absence of a long-term strategy and a political vision of the EMU. However, this agreement could also prove to be a basis for intelligent reforms that push to revisit European fiscal policy, and to reinforce investment and integration.

Peterson Institute for International Economics

From populist destabilization to reform and possible debt relief in Greece

by William R. Cline

August 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (17 p.)

Using his European Debt Simulation Model, Cline examines whether and to what extent additional debt relief is needed in Greece: the debt burden is significantly lower than implied by the ratio of its gross debt to GDP, because of concessional interest rates on debt owed predominantly to the euro area official sector. Euro area creditors might be well advised to provide two types of interest relief: an earmarked portion of interest otherwise due to finance a public works employment program; and additional interest relief to compensate for budget shortfalls.

Polski Instytut Spraw Międzynarodowych (Polish Institute of International Affairs)

A post-crisis eurozone: still an attractive offer for Central Europe

by Patryk Toporowski

10 July 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (6 p.)

The economic crisis led the eurozone to become a more deeply integrated area. The redesign of its institutional architecture significantly changes the perception of the costs and benefits of the membership of the zone. In this regard, the Central and Eastern European countries (CEE) are reassessing the effects of eurozone accession, by reviewing the set of arguments for and against

further integration. The overall result of this review is still in favour of further integration, but successful accession requires comprehensive preparations from the candidates.

SAFE - Sustainable Architecture for Finance in Europe

Towards a fiscal union? On the acceptability of a fiscal transfer system in the eurozone

by Alfons J. Weichenrieder [@AlfonsJ64](#) and Shafik Hebous

31 July 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (25 p.)

This paper reviews the potential trade-offs between effectiveness, moral hazard problems, and permanent redistribution. In particular, it questions how Member States may be willing to enter into a stronger fiscal union if its evolution may imply large redistribution under incomplete contracting. About clawback mechanisms, we conclude that they are undesirable as they would essentially destroy the insurance value of a fiscal union. Instead, we propose that a clearly defined exit option as a guarantee against involuntary redistribution can make entry into a stronger fiscal union less risky and hence more attractive for Member States.

On deficits and symmetries in a fiscal capacity

by Shafik Hebous and Alfons J. Weichenrieder [@AlfonsJ64](#)

30 July 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (14 p.)

There is a growing debate about complementing the EMU by a more comprehensive fiscal union. Against this background, this paper emphasizes that there is a trade-off in designing a system of fiscal transfers ("fiscal capacity") in a union between members of different size. A system cannot guarantee symmetric treatment of members and simultaneously ensure a balanced budget. We compute hypothetical transfers for the eurozone members from 2001 to 2012 to illustrate this trade-off. A symmetric system that treats shocks in small and large countries symmetrically would have produced large budgetary surpluses in 2009, the worst year of the financial crisis.

Are tax havens good? Implications of the crackdown on secrecy

by Alfons J. Weichenrieder [@AlfonsJ64](#) and Fangying Xu

July 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (19 p.)

The pressure on tax haven countries to engage in tax information exchange shows first effects on capital markets. Empirical research suggests that investors do react to information exchange and partially withdraw from previous secrecy jurisdictions that open up to information exchange. While some of the economic literature emphasizes possible positive effects of tax havens, the present paper argues that proponents of positive effects may have started from questionable premises, in particular when it comes to the effects that tax havens have for emerging markets like China and India.

SECTION 3 - EU MEMBER STATES

AUSTRIA

Wiener Institut für Internationale Wirtschaftsvergleiche (The Vienna Institute for International Economic Studies)

Aufwind im Westen Mittel-, Ost- und Südosteuropas: Wichtige Wachstumsimpulse für Österreich. Wirtschaftsanalyse und Ausblick für Mittel-, Ost- und Südosteuropa und dessen Wirtschaftsbeziehungen mit Österreich

by Mario Holzner

July 2015

Link to the article in [German](#) (90 p.)

The outlook for GDP growth in the Central, East and Southeast Europe (CESEE) remains divergent. EU's new Member States (NMS) might grow by 3% on average, 0.2 percentage points more than last year. In Western Balkans growth prospects are also positive, though slightly less dynamically than NMS. The paper maintains CESEE growth will act as a demand stimulus for the Austrian economy because of their increasing relevance in Austrian export balance.

BULGARIA

Център за изследване на демокрацията (Center for the Study of Democracy)

Динамика на конвенционалната престъпност 2014 – 2015 г. [Dynamics of conventional crime in Bulgaria 2014 – 2015]

July 2015

Link to the article in [Bulgarian](#) (8 p.)

In Bulgaria, crime rates in 2014 decreased compared to the record high levels of 2012. Nevertheless, the conventional crime rate remained one of the highest since 2004. Over the past year, more victims reported crimes - a sign of relative increase of confidence in the police. At the same time, there is a continuing discrepancy between data of the victimisation surveys and official police statistics. These are some of the results of the National Crime Survey for 2014, presented in the current publication.

The competitiveness of the Bulgarian economy 2015

July 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (4 p.)

In 2015 Bulgaria has regained one position compared to the previous year in the economic competitiveness ranking of the World Competitiveness Yearbook, published by the Institute for Management Development. The country is ranked 55th out of 61 economies. This is only a marginal improvement and remains significantly lower compared to its highest achievement in 2009 – 38th place.

Supporting vulnerable groups before the State: the role of civil society organisations

July 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (58 p.)

This study analyses the mechanisms for interaction between public institutions and NGOs in supporting four vulnerable groups. Furthermore, it identifies trends in the cooperation between institutions and NGOs in assisting these communities. The report sums up the profile of the bodies and organisations involved and identifies problems in their interaction. In conclusion,

recommendations are made to involve civil society in providing comprehensive support, in particular legal, social and administrative assistance, to vulnerable persons.

DENMARK

Centre for European Policy Studies

Evolving patterns of euroscepticism in the Danish political landscape

by Catharina Sørensen

15 July 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (4 p.)

The author observes in this paper that the most significant result of the Danish elections in June was not the change of government from centre-left to centre-right, but rather the possibility that the anti-immigration, anti-European integration Danish People's Party would also enter the government. While its leadership elected not to do so, but rather to exercise influence from outside, the author further notes that one positive outcome of a new pro-European government that is dependent on a largely eurosceptic supporting party could be that EU issues will finally get the prominence they deserve in Danish politics.

Tænketanken EUROPA

Norsk model vil være en hæmsko for dansk politi

by Catharina Sørensen

27 August 2015

Link to the article in [Danish](#) (9 p.)

Eurosceptical politicians often claims Denmark must limit its engagement in the EU; Danish government must adopt Norwegian strategy and be enrolled only in the Europol program. This paper shows the problematic issues such a strategy would let emerge. First, Denmark is already a EU Member State and it could be impossible to revise its position. Second, Norway has agreed to more EU actions than just Europol for training its national police effectively.

"Ja tak" til EU-borgere – når erhvervslivet efterspørger dem ["Yes" to EU citizens - when business ask them]

by Catharina Sørensen

1 July 2015

Link to the article in [Danish](#) (9 p.)

Danish People Party's outstanding results and the right-wing coalition victory seem to indicate that the next Danish government will endorse Cameron's proposal to revise Schengen treaty. However, a recent poll shows that the Danes are far more likely to support the freedom of movement and, as such, the Schengen treaty, if they notice it make national economy grow faster.

FRANCE

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Auswärtige Politik (German Council on Foreign Relations)

The French identity crisis: debate intensifies after the attacks

by Claire Demesmay

July 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (6 p.) and in [German](#) (6 p.)

This analysis examines the three fundamental questions that have shaped discussion since the January 2015 attacks on the satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo and a kosher supermarket in Paris: What makes France French – and does French national identity have a future? What can and

should be the role of religion in French society? And does France need new rules for a peaceful community life?

GERMANY

Institut français des relations internationales

Augmentation du nombre d'actes d'extrême droite et xénophobes en Allemagne – un nouveau Rostock-Lichtenhagen ?

by Nele Katharina Wissmann

July 2015

Link to the article in [French](#) (5 p.)

The number of racist attacks against centers for asylum seekers has risen sharply in recent months in Germany. According to the federal government, 67 offenses motivated by extreme right ideas were registered at the federal level in the last quarter in 2014 - more than for all of 2013.

Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung

Asylum seekers and refugees - What makes the average German tick?

by Nico Lange

27 August 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (4 p.)

TV and online news all over the world recently pictured how German chancellor Angela Merkel was booed by a small group of right-wing interferers while visiting a shelter for refugees in Heidenau, Saxony. The refugee centre near Dresden was the scene of two days of rioting by right-wing extremists before. This paper briefly examines the current public opinion in Germany based on the representative polls of the "Forschungsgruppe Wahlen". A random sample of 1,251 Germans has been polled between 18-20 August 2015.

GREECE

A selection of articles published during the summer on the crisis affecting Greece.

Bruegel

Reform momentum and its impact on Greek growth

by Alessio Terzi [@terzibus](#)

29 July 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (14 p.)

Centre for European Policy Studies

Addressing the immediate needs of the Greek banks

by Willem Pieter De Groen and Daniel Gros

31 July 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (4 p.)

Poor Greeks or lazy Greeks?

by Ilaria Maselli [@IlariaInBxl](#)

13 July 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (8 p.)

SAFE - Sustainable Architecture for Finance in Europe

Escalating crisis in the eurozone: the case for conditional debt relief for Greece

by Reinhard H. Schmidt

6 July 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (6 p.)

Three theses on the Greek crisis

by Jan Pieter Krahn

2 July 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (8 p.) and in [German](#) (9 p.)

HUNGARY

Peterson Institute for International Economics

Hungary under Orbán: can central planning revive its economy?

by Simeon Djankov

July 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (9 p.)

Since the promising start of its transition from a centrally planned economy to capitalism, Hungary has failed to join Western Europe in terms of living standards and democracy. Prime Minister Viktor Orbán shares many features with Russian president Vladimir Putin. Both view the increasing role of the state as economically beneficial, and both consider the Western European economic model to be flawed. Hungary is headed towards centrally planned capitalism. Plagued by the most persistent budget deficit of any post-communist country, Hungary's greatest challenge is to establish a fiscally sustainable growth path.

ITALY

Istituto per gli Studi di Politica Internazionale

La rete jihadista albanese e le ripercussioni italiane [Albanian Jihadi network and its spillover in Italy]

by Giovanni Giacalone

21 July 2015

Link to the article in [Italian](#) (10 p.)

Carried out in March and July 2015, operations "Balkan Connection" and "Martese" found out that small jihadist groups are recruiting in Italy. However, these Italy-located groups are only a little part of a wide Albanian jihadist network. In the authors' view, investigations give a pivotal insight into the ever-growing Albanian jihadism.

NETHERLANDS

International Centre for Counter-Terrorism - The Hague

Motives and considerations of potential foreign fighters from the Netherlands

by Edwin Bakker and Peter Grol

July 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (19 p.)

This paper is limited to highlighting a number of observations identified among several potential foreign fighters and the visions of professionals interviewed, including confidential advisers,

lecturers and imams. These observations and visions form the basis of a number of policy suggestions that could contribute to the prevention policy within the framework of the "Comprehensive Action Programme to Combat Jihadism" of the Dutch government.

Nederlands Instituut voor Internationale Betrekkingen - Clingendael (Netherlands Institute of International Relations)

Europees Lobbyen voor Nederlandse Agro-kennis

by Louise van Schaik [@LouiseVanSchaik](#), Floor Geerling-Eiff, Minke Meijnders [@Minke_M](#), Jan Rood and Krijn Poppe [@Krijn_J_Poppe](#)

13 July 2015

Link to the article in [Dutch](#) (49 p.)

This report aims to gain more insight into how the Dutch Directie Agro- en Natuurkennis could further influence the course and direction of European research in the field of agriculture.

Wiardi Beckman Stichting

Een academie van nomaden

by Marijtje Jongsma

31 August 2015

Link to the article in [Dutch](#) (6 p.)

This paper analyses the working conditions of scientists in Dutch universities, obliged to work like nomads from one temporary contract to another, and compares the situation with that of neighboring countries, where the traditional academic functions of a university lecturer, associate professor and professor are predominantly performed in a permanent employment basis.

POLAND

Case - Centrum Analiz Społeczno-Ekonomicznych (Center for Social and Economic Research)

High growth enterprises in Poland

by Ewa Balcerowicz, Andrzej Kondratowicz, Jan Teresiński and Bartosz Radzikowski

10 August 2015

Link to the article in [Polish](#) (151 p.)

Prepared for the Polish Agency for Enterprise Development, this report is dedicated to high growth enterprises. Although these companies are only a few percent of total number of firms, they are main contributors to employment-rise and turnover growth in the economy. They also support competitiveness and innovativeness, which results in faster economic growth. This report provides the reader with comprehensive knowledge about this group of firms and indicates how their development can be stimulated.

An assessment of direct and indirect liabilities of Polish banks AD 2015

by Mieczysław Groszek and Marek Radzikowski

11 August 2015

Link to the article in [English/Polish](#) (50 p.)

This document is an attempt at a comprehensive analysis of direct and indirect burdens imposed upon banks in 2015. The idea to present such factors in a single study was born out of the fact that these factors are often considered separately, on the basis of various criteria, which causes them to be split into different groups. This approach results in a fairly common tendency for fragmentary assessment of their impact and, more importantly, in the adoption of piecemeal regulations which fail to take into account the full impact of the actions taken in different areas. This applies in equal

measures to supervisory authorities, regulators, analysts, policymakers and the media, which means that, in a somewhat oversimplified sense, the above statement is applicable to the public at large.

SPAIN

Barcelona Centre for International Affairs / Centre for European Policy Studies

Scenarios of macro-economic development for Catalonia on horizon 2030

by Rym Ayadi, Leonidas Paroussos, Kostas Fragkiadakis, Stella Tsani, Pantelis Capros, Carlo Sessa, Riccardo Enei and Marc Gafarot [@MarcGafarot](#)
July 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (134 p.)

The interest in the study of secession processes and their consequences for the EU and international relations has motivated this research. The debate on the feasibility of a new state fruit of secession goes beyond the political debate and requires rigorous contributions on its consequences. This study aims to identify the scenarios of Catalonia's future developments with regards to the rest of Spain and of its cooperation with the entire EU.

UNITED KINGDOM

Institute for Fiscal Studies

Living standards, poverty and inequality in the UK: 2015

by Chris Belfield, Jonathan Cribb, Andrew Hood and Robert Joyce
July 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (113 p.)

How have household incomes evolved since the onset of the financial crisis? How has the gap between rich and poor changed? How have living standards changed over time for different parts of the population? How many people are in poverty and which groups are most likely to face poverty? This report is the fourteenth in an annual series published by the Institute for Fiscal Studies. It analyses the UK 'Households Below Average Incomes' statistics and digs deeper to explore the driving forces behind key trends in living standards, inequality and poverty.

Institute for Public Policy Research

The missing pieces: solving the UK's productivity puzzle

by Tony Dolphin and Izzy Hatfield
10 August 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (54 p.)

The UK has a productivity gap of between 23% and 32% between it and the otherwise comparable economies of Germany, France, the Netherlands and Belgium. It also has a gap of 17% between its current level of productivity and what it would have been if trends in the 25 years to 2007 had continued during and after the 2007–2008 financial crash. This report presents new evidence on these two aspects of the UK's 'productivity puzzle', providing a comprehensive review of previous analysis on the topic and systematically examining every factor that may have contributed towards this poor performance.

RAND Europe

Scoping the impact of UK membership of the EU on UK health research

by Daniel Brooker and Siobhan Ni Chonail

August 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (66 p.)

The objective of this study was to examine evidence about the effect of EU membership on health research in the UK and to develop a conceptual approach for assessing the costs and benefits of membership. UK health research benefits from EU support through funding (the UK is a net recipient of support relative to population size), 'softer' elements such as skills and labour, and access to collaborative networks, and wider strategic value from European engagement. The impact of the UK withdrawing from EU membership is difficult to assess as it would depend greatly upon the terms and conditions of any such change.

Royal United Services Institute

UK ballistic-missile defence: drivers and options

by Peter Roberts

August 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (31 p.)

Ballistic missiles can be a major threat to a country's armed forces and civilian population. As a result, many states have become interested in ballistic-missile defence (BMD) as a way to safeguard their national interests from current and potential adversaries. This paper examines the BMD options for the UK, taking into account the country's geography and its military's overseas role. Missile proliferation and technology transfers are adding new dimensions to the threat the UK faces – this is particularly the case in relation to non-state actors. Accordingly, the author argues that BMD should be recognised as an important capability which receives appropriate investment.

Svenska institutet för europapolitiska studier (Swedish Institute for European Policy Studies)

Could it be 'Brexpulsion' rather than 'Brexit'?

by Iain Begg

3 July 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (8 p.)

On the path towards the upcoming in-out referendum, the UK faces three dilemmas: first, they seek shallower integration at a time when their peers want to deepen it; second, the antagonism to deepening may obstruct what is considered to be necessary changes for the EU and the eurozone to function effectively; and third, the UK's demands may spur similar initiatives from other Member States who are discontent with aspects of their membership. The author warns that too far-reaching demands may cause other members to conclude they are better off without the UK. The forthcoming referendum on Brexit is therefore not exclusively a choice for the British voters alone.

VISEGRAD COUNTRIES

**MTA Közgazdaság- és Regionális Tudományi Kutatóközpont - Világgazdasági Intézet
(Centre for Economic and Regional Studies HAS - Institute of World Economics)**

Prospects of the Visegrad cooperation: identifying converging and diverging factors

by Túry Gábor

July 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (365 p.)

This document presents the results of research supported by the International Visegrad Fund in an attempt to summarize the political, social and economic challenges that can influence the future of Visegrad cooperation.

Polski Instytut Spraw Międzynarodowych (Polish Institute of International Affairs)

The limits and achievements of regional governance in security: NORDEFECO and the V4

by Pernille Rieker and Marcina Terlikowskiego

17 August 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (10 p.)

The paper compares Polish engagement in the Visegrad Group regional security project with the Norwegian one in the NORDEFECO. Such initiatives can reinforce military capabilities in a time of deep cuts in defence budgets among the EU Member States. The record of NORDEFECO and the V4 remains, though, rather modest when compared to the ambitious declarations made at their beginnings. Yet, this failures has helped to identify factors that may make success more likely, and this result is shared by both NORDEFECO and the V4, despite the structural differences between these two mechanisms of security governance.

SECTION 4 - EU POLICIES

JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS

Barcelona Centre for International Affairs

Tragedies in the Mediterranean: analyzing the causes and addressing the solutions from the roots to the boats

by Jonathan Zaragoza Cristiani

July 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (5 p.)

This article reassesses the tragedies in the Mediterranean in terms of two key elements. First, the need to analyse the push-factors of flows of irregular migration and asylum-seekers in the Mediterranean from a global and international perspective. Second, the analysis of the repeated tragedies has mainly focused on immigration and EU migration policies, but not from the perspective of international relations and EU foreign policy. The article argues that an approach based on a foreign policy perspective is needed in order to consider possible measures to prevent continued tragedies in the Mediterranean.

Foundation for European Progressive Studies

European migration agenda: Quo Vadis?

by Sönke Schmidt

July 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (18 p.)

The presentation of the European Migration Agenda was followed closely by all stakeholders and by the European media. However, while producing a moderate contribution to the current issues concerning the Mediterranean migration flows, the Council conclusions undermine the EU's ability to match up to global challenges which may require more permanent solidarity and burden sharing commitments inside the EU, and an increased ability to support, shape and encourage multilateral responses. This policy brief analyses the European Commission's Communication and the European Council Conclusions, and sheds light on their positive and negative points, as well as their underlying objectives.

Institut français des relations internationales

La cyberguerre des gangs aura-t-elle lieu?

by Daniel Ventre

August 2015

Link to the article in [French](#) (37 p.)

Gangs have taken support on cyberspace to evolve. The new information technologies have enabled them to gain speed and to facilitate their internationalization. Gang members use many social networks, especially Facebook and Twitter. However, this data, available online, do not escape the attention of security forces who are using innovative software to fight against crime.

Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies - European University Institute

Applying dignity, respect, honor and human rights to a pluralistic, multicultural universe

by Orit Kamir

July 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (30 p.)

In recent decades, the concept of human dignity has been vastly over-extended, gradually becoming a vague, nearly meaningless "catch-all" phrase. In the 21st century's pluralistic and multicultural world, this development has played into two worrisome trends. One is the formulation of any cultural-specific identity-based claim as involving a human dignity-based human right; such over-extension of human dignity and human dignity-based rights breeds growing scepticism regarding the usefulness of the whole human rights discourse. The second trend is the erroneous portrayal of cultural specific honour-based claims as involving dignity-based human rights. Attempting to address these troubling trends, this paper defines a tightly knit human dignity, which marks the absolute value/ worth of the common denominator of humanness in all human beings.

SIEPS - Svenska institutet för europapolitiska studier

Union regulatory criminal law competence: scope, limits and judicial review

by Jacob Öberg

August 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (122 p.)

This article focuses on the critical debate raised among scholars by EU's newly gained power to enact criminal legislation. The author supports critiques against how the EU gained its power in the area of criminal law and proposes ideas on how the EU's mandate may be better controlled.

AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES

Centre for European Policy Studies

The political economy of the 2014-2020 Common Agricultural Policy: an imperfect storm

by Johan Swinnen (ed.)

17 August 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (596 p.)

After five years of debates, consultations and negotiations, the European institutions reached an agreement in 2013 on the Common Agricultural Policy for the 2014-2020 period. The outcome has major implications for the EU's budget and farmers' incomes but also for Europe's environment, its contribution to global climate change and to food security in the EU and in the world. This book discusses this outcome and the factors that influenced the policy choices and decisions. It brings together contributions from leading academics from various disciplines and policy-makers, and key participants in the process from the Commission and the Parliament.

COMPETITIVENESS (INTERNAL MARKET, INDUSTRY, RESEARCH AND SPACE)

Bruegel

Antitrust, regulatory capture and economic integration

by Mario Mariniello [@BruegelMario](#), Damien Neven and Jorge Padilla

23 July 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (13 p.)

There is growing worldwide concern about bias in the enforcement of competition law in favour of domestic firms. Even seemingly neutral, antitrust laws can lead discrimination if they are enforced

selectively. The authors investigate the distortions that national competition authorities generate when they pursue non-competition goals in favour of domestic firms, and discuss ways to address this negative policy development in a globalised world.

Centre for European Reform

Offline? How Europe can catch up with US technology

by John Springford [@JohnSpringford](#)

26 July 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (10 p.)

The EU should not fret about the power of US internet giants. The take-up of digital technology across the services sector is more important than a 'European Google'.

Deutsches Institut für Wirtschaftsforschung (German Institute for Economic Research)

Growth through research and development

by Heike Belitz, Simon Junker, Max Podstawski and Alexander Schiersch

26 August 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (12 p.)

DIW Berlin has examined the effects of investment in research and development on economic growth in Germany and other OECD countries.

Institut der deutschen Wirtschaft Köln (Cologne Institute for Economic Research)

Competition in the sharing economy

by Vera Demary [@V_Demary](#)

July 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (27 p.)

This paper examines the organization of the Sharing Economy and the functioning of markets and competition in it. Europe is lagging behind the US with respect to the diffusion of Sharing Economy businesses and the number of successful companies. Therefore this paper also offers policy advice from a European perspective to level the playing field between traditional and Sharing Economy companies and to promote the formation of the latter in Europe.

World Economic Forum

Collaborative innovations: transforming business, driving growth

by Philipp Rösler

August 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (44 p.)

To support the development of high-growth, innovation-driven economies across Europe, the Forum has focused for two years on fostering links between young, dynamic firms and large, established businesses. This report highlights approaches and strategies that business leaders and policy makers can take to create sustainable, pioneering and innovation-focused collaborations that benefit all parties involved.

TRANSPORT/TELECOMMUNICATIONS/ENERGY

Bruegel

Addressing fragmentation in EU mobile telecom markets

by Mario Mariniello [@BruegelMario](#) and Francesco Salemi

31 July 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (16 p.)

Further integration towards a 'single mobile telecoms market' in the EU is certainly desirable. However, integration is not an end in itself; rather, it is important to clarify the goals that integration is meant to achieve. For example, unless income levels converge in the long term, the emergence of mobile tariff plans so that users are charged the same price everywhere in Europe is neither obvious nor necessarily desirable.

Centre for European Policy Studies

Access to electronic data by third-country law enforcement authorities: challenges to EU rule of law and fundamental rights

by Sergio Carrera, Gloria González Fuster, Elspeth Guild and Valsamis Mitsilegas

8 July 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (97 p.)

This study examines the challenges to European law posed by third-country access to data held by private companies for purposes of law-enforcement investigations in criminal proceedings. The proliferation of electronic communications is putting cloud-computing companies under severe strain from multiple demands from the authorities to acquire access to such data. Special focus is given in this study to the practical issues emerging in EU-US relations covering mutual legal assistance and evidence-gathering for law enforcement purposes in criminal proceedings.

Reforming the market design of EU electricity markets: addressing the challenges of a low-carbon power sector

by Fabio Genoese [@FabioGenoese](#) and Christian Egenhofer [@CEgenhofer](#)

27 July 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (43 p.)

This report is based on discussions in the CEPS Task Force on Reforming the Market Design of EU Electricity Markets. It reflects the general tone and direction of the discussion, but its recommendations do not necessarily reflect a full common position among Task Force members, nor do they necessarily represent the views of the institutions with which the members are associated.

Centrum für Europäische Politik (Centre for European Policy)

Digital Single Market Strategy - Pillar 2: digital networks and services

by Philipp Eckhardt, Anne-Kathrin Baran and Bert Van Roosebeke

3 August 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (4 p.) and in [German](#) (4 p.)

In the last few decades, the EU has successfully deregulated the market for telecommunications and the internet. The "Digital Agenda for Europe" and the regulation of roaming prices and network neutrality indicate the formative role which the EU intends to play in the future. Centrum für Europäische Politik actively monitors the substantive regulation of the IT markets and efforts to further Europeanise regulatory competence.

Redesigning the energy market

by Moritz Bonn and Götz Reichert
17 August 2015
Link to the article in [English](#) (4 p.)

In the area of energy policy, the EU faces the challenges of safeguarding energy supply, creating a competition-based internal energy market and at the same time reducing greenhouse gas emissions caused by the use of fossil fuels. This paper examines EU proposals for the deregulation of the internal energy market, the diversification of energy supply, increasing energy efficiency, promoting renewable energy sources and establishing trans-European energy networks (TEN-E).

Kapazitätsmechanismen

by Moritz Bonn and Götz Reichert
July 2015
Link to the article in [English](#) (24 p.) and in [German](#) (24 p.)

Many of the power plants still in the market will be shut down in the medium term due to their age. In addition, as the incentive to invest in new secure power-plant capacity is low, due to low wholesale electricity prices, more and more Member States are starting to develop "capacity mechanisms" which provide extra remuneration for the provision of secure capacity.

European Union Centre in Singapore

The European and Southeast Asian single aviation markets

by Dexter Lee
July 2015
Link to the article in [English](#) (20 p.)

This paper chronicles the changes made in the aviation sector in Europe through regional integration and examines how these changes have affected policymaking in Member States, the airline industry and consumers. The brief also examines ASEAN's own effort in the integration of its own aviation sector and, taking into account the EU's strong interest in cooperating with ASEAN on transport and civil aviation policy, whether the changes in the EU are applicable in the ASEAN context.

German Marshall Fund of the United States

Financing gas projects in the Eastern Mediterranean

by Anastasios Giamouridis and Nikos Tsafos [@ntsafos](#)
July 2015
Link to the article in [English](#) (20 p.)

In this paper, the authors provide a detailed assessment of the factors that influence investment in gas and related infrastructure projects worldwide with a focus on the Eastern Mediterranean. Their paper concludes with a number of recommendations to governments and economic operators on the principles that should govern their financing strategies in the Eastern Mediterranean. The paper clarifies the complex issues involved in decisions concerning the financing of offshore gas projects and will be of value to those in the industry, financial institutions, government, and the wider policy community.

Egypt: a market for natural gas from Cyprus and Israel?

by Nikos Tsafos [@ntsafos](#)

July 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (19 p.)

This paper is a path-breaking analysis of the opportunities and risks associated with the possible export of natural gas from Israel and Cyprus to Egypt. Its analysis establishes clearly that there will be significant shortfalls in gas supplies to the Egyptian market in the decade ahead despite major new investments, efforts at energy saving, and the reduction of subsidies. The author also points out that exports of liquefied natural gas (LNG) from Egypt to markets in Asia and Europe from the two under-utilized LNG plants in the country could greatly add to the commercial attractiveness of gas imports from Israel. He provides a detailed analysis of the technical and financial conditions that would need to be satisfied to make such imports commercially viable.

Institut Spraw Publicznych (Institute of Public Affairs)

The energy union: views from France, Germany, Poland and The United Kingdom

by Agnieszka Łada [@AgnieszkaLada](#), Magdalena Skłodowska [@KozmaSkłodowska](#),
Melchior Szczepanik and Łukasz Wenerski [@LWenerski](#)

July 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (161 p.)

The revival of the debate around the energy-related problems of the EU, provoked by the Polish proposal of 2014 to create an Energy Union, demonstrates that the subject is widely considered to be significant. This conclusion is supported by opinions of experts and stakeholders gathered by the Institute of Public Affairs in four countries: France, Germany, Poland, and the UK. The functioning of the internal energy market does not meet expectations and it seems that it is only through concerted efforts of Member States that the most pressing problems can be addressed effectively. An overview of reactions and expectations in Member States suggests that the Framework Strategy published by the European Commission in February 2015 reflects rather well the dominant opinions on the most pressing challenges.

Oxford Institute for Energy Studies

The scissors effect: how structural trends and government intervention are damaging major European electricity companies and affecting consumers

by David Robinson

24 August 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (37 p.)

The major electricity companies in Europe have not recovered from a significant decline in their combined market value that began in early 2008. Although the situation obviously differs by company, the difficulties faced by the majors as a group raise questions about whether the causes are temporary or structural, whether they reflect fundamental flaws in market design, regulation and corporate strategy, and what the prospects are. If the problems are structural, as argued here, these companies may be unable or unwilling to finance the investments required to meet the EU policy goals of energy security, environmental sustainability, and acceptable costs (economic efficiency).

The impact of lower gas and oil prices on global gas and LNG markets

by Howard V Rogers

6 July 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (60 p.)

This paper was originally conceived as a response to the question: what has been the impact on gas and LNG of the fall in crude oil prices? However, the fact that (spot) market-based gas prices

in both Europe and Asia fell significantly in advance of the crude oil price collapse, was another demonstration of an important trend documented in this research, that the dynamics of gas and oil markets and prices have increasingly diverged. Unlike Europe where more than 60% of gas sold in wholesale markets is now based on hub prices, the majority of long term Asian LNG contracts remain based on and indexed to crude oil, and those prices therefore continue to exercise significant price influence on the gas market.

Polski Instytut Spraw Międzynarodowych (Polish Institute of International Affairs)

Report: gas in the EU, it's time for changing rules? The case of Russia and Norway. Lessons for the EU, Norway and Polish

by Aleksandra Gawlinowska-Fyk, Zuzanna Nowak and Lidia Puka

31 August 2015

Link to the article in [Polish](#) (37 p.)

This report analyses the EU energy relations with Norway and Russia. It highlights the implementation of one of the EU competition law regarding Statoil and Gazprom, Norway and Russian leading industry in their sector. The aim is to detect potential differences in the approach of the EU to both countries.

Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies - European University Institute

Proposal for the reform of the regulation of digital services

by Luisa Rossi

July 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (28 p.)

Digital services increasingly compete against legacy services in markets where only legacy services are regulated. This paper recommends reforming the current European legal framework adopting a comprehensive horizontal new vision to the digital single market. Based on the creation of a digital services category and the reclassification of traditional communication services, this paper sketches up how current regulatory principles could be applied to these reorganized categories granting the application of similar rules to similar services.

EMPLOYMENT/SOCIAL POLICY/HEALTH/CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Cato Institute

The work versus welfare trade-off: Europe

by Michael D. Tanner and Charles Hughes [@CharlesHHughes](#)

24 August 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (72 p.)

If welfare benefits become too generous, they can create a significant incentive that encourages recipients to remain "on the dole" rather than to seek employment. Benefits in EU countries vary widely, but in many of them, benefits are high relative to what an individual could expect to earn from a low-wage or entry-level job. Many European countries have recognized the problem and have begun to reform their welfare systems to create a better transition from welfare to work. Countries should examine the level of benefits available and the effective marginal tax rates their welfare systems create, with an eye toward reducing disincentives and encouraging work.

Eläketurvakeskus (Finnish Centre for Pensions)

International comparison of the regulation of pension asset investments

by Mika Vidlund [@VidMika](#) , Maria Rissanen, Antti Mielonen and Ilkka Geitlin

4 August 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (62 p.)

This publication is an abbreviation of the original 2014 publication in Finnish written together with the Finnish Pension Alliance TELA. It reviews the main rules and principles of investment operations and compares the investment allocations and returns of the selected actors in recent years in six European countries.

Wiener Institut für Internationale Wirtschaftsvergleiche (The Vienna Institute for International Economic Studies)

Migrants and natives in EU labour markets: mobility and job-skill mismatch patterns

by Stefan Jestl, Michael Landesmann and Sandra M. Leitner

July 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (58 p.)

This paper presents a descriptive account of labour mobility across the EU economies. The focus of the paper is on different patterns between migrants ('foreign born') and natives with regard to mobility, exploring in particular the potential of migrants to 'grease the wheels' (Borjas, 2001) of labour markets by either themselves showing higher mobility rates or impacting on the mobility patterns of natives or existing migrants themselves.

ENVIRONMENT

Bruegel

Making low-carbon technology support smarter

by Georg Zachmann

18 August 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (8 p.)

Combating climate change on the global level will be much easier when abundant low-carbon technologies that are competitive in their cost and capabilities are available. But private companies underinvest in low-carbon innovation because they cannot capture the climate benefits. There are three policies to address this issue: pricing carbon, supporting deployment of as-yet uncompetitive technologies and supporting research and development.

Centre for European Policy Studies

EU climate and energy governance: there's more to it than meets the eye

by Christian Egenhofer, Andrei Marcu, Jorge Núñez-Ferrer, Fabio Genoese and Milan Elkerbout

14 July 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (5 p.)

In this paper, a team of climate and energy specialists argue that a reliable system of climate and energy governance in the EU would certainly need to go beyond the issues that are identified in the 2030 framework for climate and energy and the Energy Union. In their view, such a system would consist of no less than seven complex areas, which they proceed to outline and discuss their interrelationships. To ensure that these areas are dealt with in an integrated manner, they recommend that the European Commission creates a roadmap that would indicate the direction, interactions and a timeline for their adoption.

Effective regional energy policy cooperation in South East Europe: a proposal

by Christian Egenhofer [@CEgenhofer](#), Anna Dimitrova and Julian Popov [@julianpopov](#)
2 July 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (8 p.)

The implementation of regional energy policy cooperation initiatives is a priority of both the Energy Union and the so-called 2030 Energy and Climate Framework. The Energy Union proposal has singled out south east Europe as one area in which to act. This report identifies the seven key elements that need to be addressed to bring existing and planned regional energy policy cooperation initiatives in south east Europe to life.

Centrum für Europäische Politik (Centre for European Policy)

Mehr Kohärenz beim Klimaschutz - Ziele und Mittel in der EU und in Deutschland besser abstimmen

by Moritz Bonn and Jan S. Voßwinkel
10 August 2015

Link to the article in [German](#) (16 p.)

By 2020, in order to protect climate the EU wants to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 20% compared with 1990. And by 2050, the economy is expected to be largely decarbonised to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 90%. To achieve these objectives, the EU has put in place projects such as the EU Emissions Trading Scheme, the limitation of CO₂ emissions of vehicles, specifications for energy efficiency and environmentally sound product design, as well as the promotion of renewable energies.

Reform des Emissionshandels - Vier Kernanforderungen

by Nima Nader and Götz Reichert
July 2015

Link to the article in [German](#) (8 p.)

The European Commission has announced plans to revise the directive on the EU Emissions Trading System. The EU should also award after 2020 free allowances to churn businesses to prevent the risk of a relocation of CO₂ emissions in non-EU countries.

Institute for European Environmental Policy

Low carbon transport fuel policy for Europe post 2020. How can a post 2020 low carbon transport fuel policy be designed that is effective and addresses the political pitfalls of the pre 2020 policies?

by Catherine Bowyer, Ian Skinner, Chris Malins, Silvia Nanni and David Baldock
July 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (78 p.)

How should EU policy support the transition to low carbon transport fuels post 2020? This report argues that future policies should be differentiated to tailor support towards specific objectives and technologies that offer the greatest potential for a low carbon future. It analyses a range of policy tools and mechanisms that could be employed to deliver GHG emission reductions. It takes as its starting point an analysis of the need to decarbonise transport fuels and promote low carbon alternatives.

Measuring the benefits of marine protected areas in the context of EU's Natura 2000 network - scoping the methodology

by Patrick ten Brink [@PtenBrinkIEEP](#), Konar Mutafoğlu [@KonarMutafoğlu](#), Stephanie Newman, Marianne Kettunen and Daniela Russi

July 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (28 p.)

This report offers a overview of the published estimates of the ecosystem services provided by European MPAs, both in physical and monetary terms. The report shows how local communities and visitors to marine sites already benefit from protected areas. It also highlights that there still is need for better local data on the types and magnitude of these different benefits. The report proposes a step-wise methodology to assess the overall benefits provided by the EU's marine Natura 2000 network. This methodology builds on the understanding of benefits at the level of individual sites and using that information to further explore possibilities for scaling up.

Institut für Weltwirtschaft Kiel (Kiel Institute for the World Economy)

Clash between national and EU climate policies – the German climate levy as a remedy?

by Sonja Peterson

August 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (14 p.)

This policy brief explores the potential scope and optimal design of national climate policies in the European climate policy context. It argues that the recent German proposal of a climate levy for electricity generators (BMW 2015) has the potential to reconcile EU and national policies.

EDUCATION/YOUTH/CULTURE/SPORT

Centre for European Policy Studies

How returns from tertiary education differ by field of study: implications for policy-makers and students

by Miroslav Beblavý [@beblavy](#), Sophie Lehouelleur [@sophielehou](#) and Ilaria Maselli [@IlariaInBxl](#)

31 July 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (19 p.)

With the huge growth in enrolment in higher education, the key question facing young people today is not so much "what to study" as "whether to study". Taking a methodologically innovative approach, this paper measures the net present value of university education and compares returns from studying a range of different subjects. Results suggest that enrolling in science, technology, engineering and mathematics courses is often not the best investment for students, especially female students. In choosing what to study, therefore, students are taking decisions that are consistent with their own private returns. This suggests that policy-makers should consider changing the incentives offered if they wish to change students' behaviour.

Students in work and their impact on the labour market

by Miroslav Beblavý [@beblavy](#) and Brian Fabo [@BrianosaurRex](#)

17 July 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (31 p.) and to the main findings in [English](#) (6 p.)

The purpose of this study is to evaluate the size and composition of the student labour force in order to consider its potential impact on labour markets in the EU. The paper is based on an analysis of EU Labour Force Survey data from 2011, supplemented by the findings of the EUROSTUDENT project.

Extending working lives - A comparative analysis of how governments influence lifelong learning

by Miroslav Beblavý [@beblavy](#) and Elisa Martellucci

9 July 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (28 p.)

This report offers a comparative policy study on adult learning within the scope of complementary research conducted by Beblavý et al. (2013) on how people upgrade their skills during their adult lifetimes. To achieve their objectives, the authors identified regulatory policies and financial support in 11 countries for two main categories of learning: formal higher education and employer-based training.

Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (Friedrich Ebert Foundation)

Lost in democratic transition?: political challenges and perspectives for young people in South East Europe; results of representative surveys in eight countries

by Klaus Hurrelmann and Michael Weichert (eds.)

July 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (152 p.), and to the main findings in [English](#) (7 p.) and in [German](#) (8 p.)

This publication provides empirical data and analytical insights into a new generation about which little is known, but which will determine the fate of their societies and of the wider region in the near future. It points to the enormous challenges that young people face and which represent an urgent task for the societies and for politics within the countries of SEE as well as for the wider European neighbourhood.

Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung (Heinrich Böll Foundation)

The EU and the commons: a commons approach to European knowledge policy

by Sophie Bloemen [@sbloemen](#) and David Hammerstein [@DaHammerstein](#)

July 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (39 p.)

This paper describes how the [commons](#) perspective, as a new framework for understanding knowledge, can contribute to some important, long-overdue EU policy discussions. The commons embraces knowledge as a shared resource and its management a joint responsibility. It points towards policies that facilitate equitable access to and the sustainable management of knowledge. Rather than a narrow focus on intellectual property or economic value alone, the commons approach requires us to attempt a more comprehensive understanding of value and policies that serve the common good. Commons thinking takes a community and ecosystem perspective, placing issues of stewardship, social equity and long-term stability at the forefront of policy.

Rahvusvaheline Kaitseuringute Keskus (International Centre for Defence Studies)

Motivation through personal values: the Estonian Defence League, the Estonian Defence Forces and the Danish Home Guard

by Silva Kiili

July 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (15 p.)

This analysis is part of a larger study and provides answers to the following: 1) What values are espoused by people who serve as professional Defence Forces members or contribute as volunteers to the activities of military organizations? Do they prioritize values differently? 2) To what extent do personal values align with the organization's values and mission? 3) In what ways can an organization increase employees' motivation in light of their personal values?

SECTION 5 - FOREIGN AFFAIRS

FOREIGN AND SECURITY POLICY

College of Europe

Prospects for security on the European continent

by Rannvá Clementsen [@RannvaC](#), Tim Gemers [@timgemers](#), Raphaël Lemahieu, Andrea Saviolo [@asaviolo](#) and Mark Sheetz

August 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (42 p.)

This collective EU Diplomacy Paper on relations between the NATO and the EU seeks to provide a blueprint of what the near future of the transatlantic alliance and of the European security framework might look like. Special attention will be given to the possible effects of Finland joining NATO, Swedish-NATO relations, the question whether NATO should continue to exist at all, and finally the use of the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) and the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) in relation with the transatlantic military alliance.

European Council on Foreign Relations

The road back to European power

by Susi Dennison [@sd270](#), François Godement [@FGodement](#), Richard Gowan [@RichardGowan1](#), Daniel Levy, Kadri Liik [@KadriLiik](#), Jeremy Shapiro [@JyShapiro](#) and Nick Witney

July 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (8 p.)

This paper is published after the European Council's green-light for stage two of Federica Mogherini's global strategy reviewer. The paper claims the EU needs to set limited goals behind which Member States can show sustainable unity. Besides, it recommends a prioritisation of the challenges Mogherini highlights in her report, i.e. Russia, the Ukraine conflict and crises in the Middle East and North Africa. To deal with the potential weaknesses of Europe's internal dynamics, the paper recommends the creation of a group of member state representatives, who can act as an 'intergovernmental convention' to map Member State interests over the coming year.

Nederlands Instituut voor Internationale Betrekkingen - Clingendael (Netherlands Institute of International Relations)

New threats, new EU and NATO responses

by Margriet Drent [@Margriet_Drent](#), Rob Hendriks and Dick Zandee

13 July 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (60 p.)

The paper maintained EU is facing instability and conflict in the East and in the South. New threats require new responses from the EU and NATO. It claimed that, whilst NATO needs more flexible responses to deal with Russian hybrid threats, the EU's neighbourhood policy, both to the East and to the South, is outdated. Finally, the new threats also raise fundamental questions about the EU-NATO relationship, which urgently needs reform.

Diplomacy in the digital age

by Brian Hocking and Jan Melissen [@JanMDiplo](#)

13 July 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (58 p.)

Digitalization is here to stay – and so is diplomacy. For governments, reconciling the implications of digitalization with the functional performance of diplomacy is essential to achieving global and national needs. The authors argue that digital diplomacy is more than the application of social media to familiar diplomatic functions, even though the challenge of their use in diplomacy should not be underestimated. Governments need to take a more nuanced look: digitalization will put fundamental norms and rules of diplomacy to the test. They should not treat digital resources as another form of top-down communication, and define their objectives clearly.

Österreichische Institut für Internationale Politik (Austrian Institute for International Affairs)

Global strategy choices (GSC): prognosis and strategic planning for European foreign and security policy

by Andrej Zwitter [@Andrej_Zwitter](#) and Lawrence Kettle

1 July 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (34 p.)

This paper analyses the European Security Strategy (ESS) ability to cope with contemporary security challenges and it claims compulsory to adopt a new methodology for the construction of global strategies. Only by systematically understanding security threats in a multilevel and multi-sectoral manner, will the EU be able to construct comprehensive strategies in order to adequately reform the ESS.

Polski Instytut Spraw Międzynarodowych (Polish Institute of International Affairs)

The labours of HR Federica Mogherini: her pursuit of a strategy and effectiveness

by Elżbieta Kaca

24 July 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (6 p.)

High Representative Federica Mogherini seems to be struggling with her role. With limited scope to be involved in major EU policy dossiers, she has focused on improving the institutional and strategic basis for fulfilling her tasks. Nevertheless, if she does not manage to contribute to any of the most urgent political questions of EU foreign policy and capitalise on Member State support for relevant actions, her term may diminish the significance of the High Representative.

Avoiding war in Europe: how to reduce the risk of a military encounter between Russia and NATO

by Adam Daniel Rotfeld

July 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (10 p.) and in [Polish](#) (10 p.)

Throughout the last 18 months the relationship between Russia and the West has deteriorated considerably. The paper proposes the NATO-Russia Council should be convened urgently to discuss a possible Memorandum of Understanding between NATO and the Russian Federation on the Rules of Behaviour for the Safety of Air and Maritime Encounters between the two sides.

U.S. military presence in Central and Eastern Europe: consequences for NATO strategic adaptation, deterrence and allied solidarity

by Artur Kacprzyk [@ArturKacprzyk](#)

August 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (23 p.)

The paper maintained in the wake of the Ukraine conflict, the US has proven to be the most resolute and capable Ally of the CEE states. For Poland and the Baltic States, the permanent basing of Allied combat forces is a priority. From the US perspective, however, the permanent basing of troops is impeded by the fear of escalating tensions too much, budgetary constraints and the growing demand for US forces in other regions. The Author claims CEE should strive stronger for US leadership in shaping a new consensus within NATO.

Real Instituto Elcano (Elcano Royal Institute)

Europe beyond aid: Europe's commitment to international security

by Félix Arteaga and Aitor Pérez

10 July 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (20 p.)

The paper focuses on the Commitment to Development Index (CDI), which assesses the policies of wealthy nations from development perspective and monitors their commitment to security and development as it claims security and development are interlinked as war and political violence also harm civilians and affect all the economic and social institutions. Even though the Commitment does not cover the whole range of possible actions in support of security and development, for the paper indicates that can facilitate comparison among countries and years.

S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies

Counter terrorist trends and analysis (CTTA)

by Mekki Uludag, Jennifer Ogbogu, Abu Amin, Paul Lushenko and Aida Arosoaie [@amarosoaie](#)

17 August 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (38 p.)

The articles in this issue provide a survey of post-Arab Spring events and developments and projections for the future from a range of perspectives. It claims Arab Spring protests have radically reshaped MENA social, political and economic environments. Furthermore, they prompted radicalisation and extremism, which have enhanced terrorist violence at a worldwide scale.

Ústav mezinárodních vztahů (Institute of International Relations Prague)

A looming crisis of the intermediate-range nuclear force treaty: sources and consequences

by Yury Fedorov [@fyuretsky](#)

August 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (9 p.)

The paper argues the countries of Central-Eastern Europe have to support deployment of new US nuclear weapons in EU since it could be the only way to prevent a dangerous deterioration of the security landscape in the region. In its opinion, Russia's violation of the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Force Treaty (INF) confirms that Moscow sees nuclear weapons as a tool preventing NATO from militarily opposing the Russian military expansion in the strategic rim stretching from the Baltic to the Black Sea.

GEOPOLITICS AND STRATEGY

Centre for European Policy Studies

The OSCE marks 40 years since the Helsinki Final Act: its principles are more valid than ever

by Erwan Fouéré

24 July 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (12 p.)

The author considers the historic significance of the agreement that laid the foundations for today's Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe. The author concludes with a number of recommendations that recall the principles of the Helsinki Final Act of 1975 and argues that, if participating states are willing to uphold them, these principles have even greater relevance today for the resolution of Europe's complex and protracted conflicts.

Institute of International Relations and Political Science of Vilnius University / Norwegian Institute of International Affairs

Energy security in the Baltic Sea region: regional coordination and management of interdependencies

by Jakub M. Godzimirski [@imgnupi](#), Ramūnas Vilpišauskas and Romas Švedas

5 August 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (88 p.)

The study maps changing energy relations in the Baltic Sea region in the aftermath of two events – the 2004 EU enlargement and the outbreak of the armed conflict in Ukraine that has put the issue of energy security – and security in more general terms. It discusses how the regional distribution of energy resources and energy policies have contributed to alter the level of energy security in the whole region and how EU cooperative policies have contributed to solve a few concerns about energy policy.

Külügyi és Külgazdasági Intézet (Institute for Foreign Affairs and Trade)

What the proposed extension of the Nord Stream would mean to Central Europe?

by Márton Ugrósdý

10 July 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (8 p.)

The paper focuses on the outcomes the proposed extension of the Nord Stream gas pipeline will mean for Central Europe. If the planned extension will be realized, together with the planned Turkish Stream the Nord Stream will re-route Russian natural gas exports to Europe in order to circumvent Ukraine, which will significantly decrease the leverage of Kyiv vis-à-vis Russia, accomplishing one longstanding goal of the Kremlin.

Pew Research Center

Climate change seen as top global threat: Americans, Europeans, Middle Easterners focus on ISIS as greatest danger

by Jill Carle

14 July 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (18 p.)

This report examines public opinion on international threats facing the world today, including global climate change, economic instability, ISIS, tensions between Russia and its neighbours, cyberattacks, and territorial disputes with China. It is based on 45,435 face-to-face and telephone interviews in 40 countries with adults 18 and older.

TRADE

Bruegel

Europe's exports superstar - It's the organisation!

by Dalia Marin, Jan Schymik [@janschymik](#) and Jan Tschke [@qjatsch](#)

15 July 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (39 p.)

What explains Germany's superb export performance? Is Germany's export behaviour very distinct compared to the one achieved by other European countries? The Authors explore the organisational responses to competition of 14,000 exporting firms in seven European countries. The paper examines the export business model of the median exporter and of the top one percent exporters in each country, accounting for 20% to 55% of total exports.

Case - Centrum Analiz Społeczno-Ekonomicznych (Center for Social and Economic Research)

Cross-cutting effects of the EU's Preferential Trade Agreements (PTAs) on developing economies

by Christopher Hartwell [@InstEconomist](#)

July 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (59 p.)

The rapid growth of preferential trade and investment agreements (PTAs) which goes beyond the existing WTO obligations brings the danger of incompatible obligations as these PTAs overlap within a country. This study examines the sources of overlap in various PTAs and the compliance costs that PTAs may create for a developing country, with a special focus on the agricultural realm. It concludes that better-targeted "Aid for Trade" and regulatory streamlining within the EU can help to mitigate compliance costs in developing countries..

Consejo Uruguayo para las Relaciones Internacionales

La FED en su laberinto: las implicancias

by Luis Mosca

2 July 2015

Link to the article in [Spanish](#) (10 p.)

This paper focuses on how US FED copes with normalization of its monetary policy. It estimates the impact US FED's normalization of its monetary policy will have on rates and on implications in funding EU economies.

New Zealand: the EU's Asia-Pacific partnership and the case for a next generation FTA

by Hosuk Lee-Makiyama [@leemakiyama](#)

July 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (15 p.)

The paper is focusing on the perspective of an FTA between EU and New Zealand. The plan already enjoys the support of key EU Member States. New Zealand is consistently ranked number one on economic and personal freedom indices, and despite accounting for only 0.2% of EU external trade, its economy is still on par with previous EU FTA partners like Peru and Vietnam. Besides, consumption in New Zealand is larger than Chile, Malaysia and Singapore.

Centre for European Policy Studies

TTIP's Hard Core - Technical barriers to trade and standards (TBT)

by Michelle Egan [@MichelleEgan14](#) and Jacques Pelkmans

4 August 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (28 p.)

The authors provide an overview of the TBT chapter in TTIP and the various issues between the US and the EU in this area. TBTs can be caused by divergent (voluntary) standards, technical regulations and conformity assessment. The US and European standardisation traditions differ and this paper explains why it is so hard, also economically, to realise convergence. However, the authors reject the unproductive 'stand-off' between US and EU negotiators on standardisation and suggest to build a solution from the enormous economic 'installed base' of prominent US standards.

Centre for European Policy Studies / Center for Transatlantic Relations

The selection of articles from the above think tank is part of a series produced in the context of the "[TTIP in the balance](#)" project, jointly organised by CEPS and the Center for Transatlantic Relations.

Quantifying non-tariff measures for TTIP

by Koen Berden [@koenberden](#) and Joseph Francois

30 July 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (32 p.)

This paper provides an overview of methods employed to quantify non-tariff measures (NTMs) and then analyses their differences and looks at what these mean for the TTIP negotiations. Because all the studies conclude that NTMs matter, policy-makers focus on 'regulatory cooperation' in TTIP. Given the significant differences in NTMs across sectors, policy-makers should dive deep into sector-specific elements of NTMs and focus on those sectors where the largest potential gains can be made.

The Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership: challenges and opportunities for consumer protection

by Stephen Woolcock, Barbara Holzer and Petros Kusmu

29 July 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (26 p.)

This paper examines options for regulatory cooperation in the TTIP and assesses the challenges and opportunities posed by regulatory cooperation for consumer protection. In the Authors' views, TTIP must set the significant challenges of reconciling the different regulatory philosophies of the US and the EU as well as some differences in approaches to cooperation. Regulatory powers will not be affected by the TTIP, but suggests that European and American legislators will need to ensure that their priorities shape the TTIP regulatory cooperation agenda.

Greater TTIP ambition in chemicals: why and how

by E. Donald Elliott and Jacques Pelkmans

28 July 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (44 p.)

The question is whether TTIP can be any more ambitious in the area of chemicals? The paper finds that the European Parliament's Resolution on TTIP lacks a rationale and argues that both TSCA and REACH ought to be improved. Furthermore, it advocates significant improvement of market access where equivalence of health and environmental objectives is agreed and, finally,

proposes to lower the costs for companies selling in both markets by allowing them to opt into the other party's more stringent rules, thereby avoiding duplication while racing-to-the-top.

Energising the TTIP: political economy of the trade policy rationale

by Paolo Natali, Christian Egenhofer [@CEgenhofer](#) and Gergely Molnar
24 July 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (24 p.)

Despite accounting for a significant share of global trade, there is no global framework or agreement defining the rules of energy trade. This paper discusses the opportunities to include a chapter dedicated to trade and cooperation in the sphere of energy in the TTIP. The shale revolution in the US, the interconnectedness of energy markets and the EU's quest to diversify its energy supplies sets favourable conditions to reinforce energy relations between the EU and the US. The question, as is often the case, is whether there is sufficient political will to tighten relations in a strategic sphere with connotations for national security and sovereignty.

Telecommunications and internet services: the digital side of the TTIP

by Andrea Renda [@arenda111](#) and Christopher Yoo
17 July 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (39 p.)

In the negotiations on TTIP, the digital chapter appears to be growing in importance. This is due to the recent Datagate scandal as well as the debate ongoing in both legal systems on broadband infrastructure deployment, network neutrality policies and the competition policy in cyberspace. This paper explores the current divergences between the two legal systems on these issues and discusses possible scenarios for the ultimate agreement to be reached in the TTIP: from a minimal agreement to more ambitious scenarios.

Centrum für Europäische Politik (Centre for European Policy)

Does TTIP need investment protection provisions?

by Oliver Sauer and Matthias Kullas
July 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (24 p.) and in [German](#) (24 p.)

Investment protection is the subject of heated debate among TTIP negotiations. The paper takes a closer look at what kind of investment protection is really needed. It claims that TTIP should not contain protection against expropriation without compensation. Laying down national treatment and most favoured nation treatment is sufficient. Moreover, arbitral tribunals as a means of enforcing investment protection should be rejected. A judicial settlement of investment disputes by an international court should be advocated.

Corporate Europe Observatory

The revolving door: greasing the wheels of the TTIP lobby

July 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (18 p.)

The paper claims the revolving door is spinning smoothly and is helping to grease the wheels of the TTIP lobby. It concludes that the rules on revolving doors, lobby transparency and freedom of information need to be further tightened.

Institut der deutschen Wirtschaft Köln (Cologne Institute for Economic Research)

The Transatlantic Trade and investment Partnership (TTIP): challenges and opportunities for the Internal Market and consumer protection in the area of motor vehicles

by Galina Kolev and Jürgen Matthes

July 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (47 p.)

The expected effects of TTIP on the European automotive industry will be significant, but depend on the scope of trade liberalisation. In the field of motor vehicles TTIP should go far beyond the degree of trade liberalization reached in previous ones. Tariffs should be eliminated and also non-tariff barriers (NTBs) reduced. However, the challenge is twofold: identifying unnecessarily trade distorting NTBs while at the same time respecting EU regulatory sovereignty, democratic legitimacy, and the high level of EU standards in passenger and environmental safety.

European Union Institute for Security Studies

A series of short papers on different aspects of EU and international sanctions.

EU sanctions in context: three types

by Clara Portela [@DrClaraPortela](#) and Thomas Biersteker

July 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (4 p.)

Sanctions against Iran: the role of pivotal rising powers

by José Luengo-Cabrera [@J_LuengoCabrera](#) and Erica Moret

July 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (4 p.)

Sanctions against North Korea: a tricky dilemma

by Bernt Berger [@bernt_berger](#)

July 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (4 p.)

Lisbon Council for Economic Competitiveness and Social Renewal / Progressive Policy Institute

Uncovering the hidden value of digital trade: towards a 21st century agenda of transatlantic prosperity

by Paul Hofheinz [@PaulHofheinz](#) and Michael Mandel [@MichaelMandel](#)

July 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (12 p.)

The paper maintained nowadays, Europe and the US compete to offer advanced products and services, many of which will be delivered digitally. It requires knowledge-intensive work and skills in using data. Such a capability is the essential element whose mastery will determine which regions succeed. The way we use data, the speed and effectiveness with which we collect it, analyse it – and ultimately share it – will set the winners from the losers in this modern world of cheap computing power, increasingly irrelevant national boundaries and additional-marginal-cost-free global interconnection.

**MTA Közgazdaság- és Regionális Tudományi Kutatóközpont - Világgazdasági Intézet
(Centre for Economic and Regional Studies HAS - Institute of World Economics)**

Ties of Visegrád countries with East Asia – trade and investment

by Andrea Éltető and Ágnes Szunomár
August 2015
Link to the article in [English](#) (33 p.)

As a consequence of the European recession, Central European firms got interested in Asian markets. Trade and investment relations seem to have intensified between the four Visegrád countries and East Asia. This paper aims to analyse trends of foreign direct investment and the geographical development of the mutual trade. It also briefly outlines the economic policy of the Central European countries for the further development of Visegrád-Asian relations.

Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies - European University Institute

EU anti-circumvention rules: do they beat the alternative?

by Edwin Vermulst
July 2015
Link to the article in [English](#) (27 p.)

This article discusses EU law and practice with regard to tackle circumvention of trade defence instruments, notably anti-dumping measures. The author considers that transparent and predictable anti-circumvention rules are to be preferred over vague and multi-interpretable non-preferential origin rules that vary from country to country. Furthermore, the findings of transshipment in EU anti-circumvention investigations show that circumvention may constitute a problem. Therefore, the article suggests that the way forward is to agree on detailed anti-circumvention rules within the WTO with focus on further improvements in transparency and predictability.

Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik (German Institute for International and Security Affairs)

Trade and investment agreements for sustainable development? Lessons from the EU's economic partnership agreement with the Caribbean

by Evita Schmieg
6 July 2015
Link to the article in [English](#) (31 p.)

The EU-CARIFORUM Economic Partnership Agreement signed in 2007 liberalised trade and pursued broader political goals: economic growth, poverty-reduction, closer regional integration in the Caribbean and environmental concerns. Now, after a number of years of experience with implementation, it is possible to review whether the agreement has succeeded in achieving its ambitious objectives, and whether it could serve as a model for further agreements between unequal trading partners.

DEVELOPMENT

Bertelsmann Stiftung

Developing successful sustainability strategies for a sustainable future in Germany, Europe and worldwide

by Henrik Riedel
July 2015
Link to the article in [English](#) (47 p.)

This publication presents in a summarized form the results of an investigation of sustainability strategies in Germany and at the EU level as well as those of an investigation of sustainability

strategies at the international level. In addition, we outline possible processes by which sustainability strategies can be developed on the basis of best practices from other contexts.

Deutsches Institut für Wirtschaftsforschung (German Institute for Economic Research)

Global food security

by Isabel Teichmann

3 August 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (12 p.)

The challenges to global food security and their solutions reveal a interconnectedness of future developments in the agriculture and food sector with the provision of bioenergy and climate change. Moreover, consumer preferences and poverty play an important role. For this reason, progress towards global food security cannot be achieved only by the consideration of all possible solutions. Furthermore, the improvement of global food security is a responsibility of all countries, both developed and developing. Ultimately, the challenges to food security cannot be solved in isolation, but need to be tackled together with the fight against poverty and climate change.

World Economic Forum

A Primer for development - Finance and philanthropic funders: an overview of the strategic use of development finance and philanthropic funds to mobilize private capital for development

by Richard Samans and Erik Solheim

July 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (28 p.)

This paper outlines the significant opportunity that Blended Finance presents for public-private cooperation to support international development efforts. There is a huge, and largely untapped, potential for public, philanthropic and private actors to work together towards win-win solutions: wins for private investors, as they make an attractive return on their capital; wins for public and philanthropic providers, as they make their limited dollars go further; and most importantly, wins for people in developing countries as more funds are channelled to emerging and frontier markets, in the right way, to help transform economies, societies, and lives.

ENLARGEMENT PROCESS

Centar za međunarodne i bezbednosne poslove (International and Security Affairs Centre)

Serbian-Romanian relations and the status of the Vlach minority in Serbia

by Igor Novaković and Nenad Đurđević

July 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (89 p.)

The study is the result of a research project supported by the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Serbia. Its aim was examining all relevant aspects of the bilateral relations between Serbia and Romania concerning the position and status of the Vlach minority in Serbia. It also aims to promote and further deepen the Serbian-Romanian relations and partnership on Serbia's path towards the EU.

European Policy Centre

EU member states and enlargement towards the Balkans

by Rosa Balfour [@RosaBalfour](#) and Corina Stratulat (eds.)

July 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (272 p.)

Although the region has a clear European perspective, progress on the dossier has been marred not just by outstanding challenges in individual Balkan countries but often also by hurdles which develop within the Union – more specifically in the Member States. In 17 case studies and two theoretical chapters, this paper investigates whether the dossier has shifted more under the control of the Member States, and looks at the kind of considerations and potential 'roadblocks' that influence the positions of key national actors on enlargement.

Group for Legal and Political Studies

Voter abstention in Kosovo – Empirical evidence on the micro-level

by Julia Schulte-Cloos

July 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (23 p.)

This paper contributes to understanding micro-level patterns of voting behaviour in Kosovo, which was characterized by low voter turnout in the last two national elections. The report highlights the fact that higher education fosters political participation and voter turnout. It claims the need to improve the political integration of all socio-economic groups and communities and, thereby, strengthen political awareness and feelings of political efficacy.

An assessment of the new VAT policy in Kosovo: its potential impact on consumers and businesses

by Albana Rexha [@albanarexha](#)

July 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (19 p.)

Characterized by the lowest GDP per capita in Europe, Kosovo's main challenges remains the lack of economic development and the presence of a large informal economy. As Kosovo has no monetary policy, fiscal policy is the only economic instrument available for policymakers in order to influence the economy. However, according to the Policy Analysis these fiscal reforms will not necessarily have a positive impact for Kosovo citizens, on contrary there is a higher risk that they will have a negative impact by increasing living costs.

International Crisis Group

Macedonia: defusing the bombs

9 July 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (20 p.)

Macedonia is reeling from two shocks. Amid a scandal over leaked wiretaps revealing a state apparatus corrupted by the leading party, a battle in ethnically mixed Kumanovo between police and ethnic-Albanian gunmen, many from Kosovo, caused the region's worst loss of life in a decade. The double crisis carry the risk that could extend to violent confrontation. The paper maintained the EU must press for a comprehensive agreement addressing corruption, whilst Macedonia and Kosovo, also with aid, should jointly investigate on disorders in Kumanovo.

Ośrodek Studiów Wschodnich (Centre for Eastern Studies)

The challenge of freedom in the Southeastern Europe

by Adam Balcer, Spasimir Domaradzki and Marta Szpala

28 July 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (59 p.)

The paper argues that over the past few decades substantial progress has been achieved in the democratisation and modernisation of the countries of South Eastern Europe, but the transformation process is far from over. In the past years the achievements of the political and economic transformation have been rolled back and the quality of governance has declined in many countries. To avoid a further deterioration of the situation a new impulse for institutional transformation and a change of the development model are needed.

Real Instituto Elcano (Elcano Royal Institute)

EULEX: a mission in need of reform and with no end in sight

by Salvador Llaudes [@sllaudes](#) and Francisco Sánchez Andrada

27 July 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (12 p.)

The EU's EULEX in Kosovo started in 2008. Its aims were to improve the quality of Kosovo's institutions, to strengthen the Rule of Law, and to fight against corruption. Some progress has been made but there have also been some notable failures, which make it necessary to reform the Mission. In any case, there is no clear end in sight for EULEX's presence in Kosovo.

EASTERN PARTNERSHIP

Istituto Affari Internazionali

#ElectricYerevan: why Armenia's future is in Europe

by Nona Mikhelidze

13 July 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (12 p.)

The paper focuses on protests in Yerevan triggered by national deteriorating economic circumstances and by the growing dependence Armenia showed towards Russia have triggered mass protests in Yerevan. Moscow used the alliance to ensure Armenia's full-fledged political and economic dependence on the Kremlin, but this is clashing with a burgeoning civil society, which is mature enough to stand up in defence of democratic values. The paper concludes a value system clash between Armenia and Russia is in the making, exacerbating the ongoing clash in EU-Russia relations.

Transparency International

The state of corruption: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine

July 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (31 p.)

Transparency International conducted in-depth research on the strengths and weaknesses of more than 60 institutions responsible for preventing and fighting corruption across Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine. While some progress has been made in all the five countries thanks to anti-corruption laws, the capture of important institutions by powerful interests is undermining their enforcement. This report presents the results of this research, identifies trends and issues of common concern across the region, highlights promising developments in the field of anti-corruption and makes proposals for reform.

EUROPEAN NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICY

Egmont – Royal Institute for International Relations

From survival to revival: the Riga Summit 2015 and the revised ENP

by Suzana Carp and Tobias Schumacher

July 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (6 p.)

With the EP's July report on the revision of the ENP calling on the Commission to 'go back to basics', this article argues that such a move would be counter-productive and that instead, the ENP needs to break away with the historical elusiveness of this policy. The Riga Summit serves as an illustration of what will not suffice if the EU want to strengthen or even maintain its role in its neighbourhoods.

European Centre for Development Policy Management

ECDPM contribution to the EU consultation: "Towards a new European Neighbourhood Policy"

by Alfonso Medinilla, Andrew Sherriff [@AndrewSherriff](#), Anna Knoll [@anna_katharinak](#), Damien Helly [@DamienHelly](#), Faten Aggad, Greta Galeazzi [@greta_gale](#) and Isabelle Ramdoo [@ir_ramdoo](#)

July 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (10 p.)

Drawing on previous research and analysis, this contribution by the European Centre for Development Policy Management (ECDPM) replies to the official consultation on the ENP launched by High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice-President of the Commission Federica Mogherini and Commissioner for European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations Johannes Hahn at a press conference on March 4th 2015. This contribution chiefly concerns North Africa, the Mediterranean and the Middle East.

German Marshall Fund of the United States

Reviewing the European Neighbourhood Policy: Eastern perspectives

by Alina Inayeh [@ainayeh](#) and Joerg Forbrig [@JoergForbrig](#) (eds.)

July 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (47 p.)

The ENP is in tatters. In acknowledgment of the serious challenges presented by the European neighbourhood, and the inadequacy of its own policy, the EU launched a review process. which, includes a consultation with a broad range of stakeholders both in the neighbourhood and the EU itself. The paper maintains a revised policy for Europe's East has to have EU values at its core, with an adamant projection of the EU's normative model. Serious and direct EU engagement is needed to solve existing frozen conflicts, and to address political, economic and societal vulnerabilities of individual countries.

ALBANIA

Instituti për Demokraci dhe Ndërmjetësim (Institute for Democracy and Mediation)

Religious radicalism and violent extremism in Albania

July 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (246 p.) and in [Albanian](#) (248 p.)

This study has collected, generated, and analysed data on the phenomenon of religious radicalization and violent extremism with the aim of informing policy-making and stakeholders

involved in addressing this phenomenon and the challenges interrelated with it. The research methodology approaches the identification and comprehensive analysis of the context by employing a variety of sources to understand the extent and relevance of several factors that enable or fuel religious radicalization and forms of violent extremism.

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Centar za društvena istraživanja Analitika (Center for Social Research Analitika)

Analiza pravne zaštite u postupcima javne nabave u Bosni i Hercegovini [Analysis of legal protection in public procurement procedures in Bosnia and Herzegovina]

by Stanka Pejaković

29 July 2015

Link to the article in [Bosnian](#) (64 p.)

The aim of this study is to find answers to the question whether the existing legal framework in BiH meets the requirements of efficient legal protection in public procurement procedures from the perspective of the relevant EU legal standards. In this sense, the study suggests the direction of a possible legal intervention which could improve the legal protection rules in public procurement procedures in BiH with regard to the relevant European and comparative law.

CAUCASUS

Istituto per gli Studi di Politica Internazionale

Patterns for cooperation in the Southern Caucasus area. Azerbaijan, Georgia, and Turkey - Triangular diplomacy in the shadow of energy strategy

by Carlo Frappi and Marco Valigi

5 July 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (30 p.)

The Caucasus has been defined as a "broken region" by both practitioners and scholars. Although the regional "protracted" conflicts clearly represent a stumbling block to the development of inclusive cooperation schemes, nevertheless the "broken region" interpretation seems to hide a Western prejudice – i.e. a tendency to label as inefficient or ruinous any political relations regulated by values and interests different from the Western ones.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Global Witness

Blood timber - How Europe played a significant role in funding war in the Central African Republic

15 July 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (32 p.) and in [French](#) (32 p.)

The report reveals how Europe's significant role in funding the Central African Republic's (CAR) conflict, which has killed more than 5,000 people and displaced over a million. It also details Europe's complicity on three counts: trade, illegal imports and donor aid.

DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA

Egmont – Royal Institute for International Relations

Considering DPRK regime collapse: its probability and possible geopolitical and security consequences

by Mason Richey

27 August 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (6 p.)

Both the EU and its Member States are in a period of rethinking security strategy to adapt to contemporary challenges both in the European region and beyond, including Northeast Asia. In this Security Policy Brief, the author discusses what difficulties and risks a North Korean regime collapse would pose, the likelihood that it will occur sooner rather than later, and how Europe will be affected by such a scenario.

EASTERN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

Beogradski centar za bezbednosnu politiku (Belgrade Centre for Security Policy)

Police integrity in Serbia

by Saša Djordjević

August 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (36 p.)

This paper carries a public opinion survey on the issue of police integrity in Serbia. Field research was conducted by the Ipsos Strategic Marketing polling agency on a representative sample of 1205 adult citizens of Serbia in June 2015.

Police cooperation between Kosovo and Serbia

by Shpend Kursani

July 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (12 p.)

The author analyses the institutional architecture in Kosovo that enables the current mode of cooperation. Second, it examines the mode of both formal and informal, and direct and indirect police cooperation between Kosovo and Serbia. Third, it outlines the existing challenges of the current institutional set-up and mode of cooperation in policing matters, followed by some recommendations.

College of Europe

A differentiated, balanced and patient approach to conflict resolution? The EU's involvement with Georgia's secessionist conflicts beyond the August 2008 war

by Emilia Jeppsson [@emilia_jeppsson](#)

August 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (37 p.)

This paper aims to explore to what extent the EU has impacted on the conflict resolution process of Georgia's secessionist conflicts in 2008-2015. It argues that the EU's policies have only to a limited extent impacted on this conflict resolution process. The EU's efforts have contributed to the conflict prevention, but the profile of the EU in the field of international conflict management weakened its position in the area of conflict transformation, where the lack of progress limited the EU's impact in the areas of international conflict management. In order to have a true impact, the EU needs to undertake a differentiated, balanced and patient approach to conflict resolution.

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Auswärtige Politik (German Council on Foreign Relations)

The value of alternatives: why the EU is indispensable to Central Asian security

by Luba von Hauff

5 August 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (9 p.)

Central Asia's security risks concern many international actors due to the potential for radical ideologies to gain a foothold in the region's communities. The author highlights how EU's can cope with this danger and it reflects on how European policy can further build up its impact on the local security situation for the time to come.

ICELAND

College of Europe

Brussels and Reykjavík: drifting further apart? Explaining the Icelandic public opposition towards EU membership

by Tim Gemers [@timgemers](#)

August 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (36 p.)

In the aftermath of its 2008 banking crisis, in July 2009 Iceland applied for membership of the EU. Yet public support for this move has always been marginal and in March 2015 Iceland's government requested that the country should no longer be regarded as a candidate country. This paper seeks to find out what the main reasons are behind the anti-EU stance in the Icelandic population. It could be confirmed that the protection of the Icelandic fishing and agriculture sectors worries the Icelanders most, followed by the perception that Iceland is too small to influence decision-making in Brussels.

IRAN

Chatham House - The Royal Institute of International Affairs

Iran and nuclear restraint: lessons from elsewhere

by Patricia Lewis

July 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (12 p.)

The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), agreed between the E3/EU+3 and Iran in July 2015, allows for Iran to exercise its right to develop a full fuel-cycle capability for peaceful purposes. This 'freeze and rollback' period will be followed by a period of nuclear restraint. Allowing for some restrained nuclear hedging during the rollback period provides the cover that politicians often need to demonstrate that they are playing their cards well and that they will not be made to look naive or foolish. The lesson from the examples of South Africa and Brazil and Iran's chemical weapons programme in the 1980s is that rollback and restraint is possible and realistic.

European Council on Foreign Relations

Engaging with Iran: a European agenda

by Ellie Geranmayeh [@EllieGeranmayeh](#)

July 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (12 p.)

Europe should use the JCPOA as a catalyst to end a decade-long stand off with Tehran and endorse high-level engagement on regional security objectives, according to this report. It

highlights Iran's increasing strategic significance in a conflict riven Middle East. The author points that despite years of sanctions, Iranian capabilities and influence in the region has grown in strength – bearing this in mind, Europe should explore the possibilities created by the JCPOA for make the most of Tehran's role.

Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik

Two papers issued by Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik maintains JCPOA will pave the way for a long-term solution in the conflict over Iran's nuclear program. One article explores the implications the agreement will exert on EU-Iran relationship both in the short term and in the long term. The other article explains how the JCPOA was perceived by public opinion in several ways in Iran: whilst the majority of it advocated the proposal, it was rejected by political opponents and encourages EU countries to make the most of its role for preventing a failure of the agreement and for strengthening cooperation.

Die Atomvereinbarung mit Iran

by Azadeh Zamirad

August 2015

Link to the article in [German](#) (8 p.)

Iran nach der Atomvereinbarung

by Oliver Meier, [@meier_oliver](#) and Azadeh Zamirad

August 2015

Link to the article in [German](#) (8 p.)

Center for Strategic and International Studies

The Iran nuclear agreement and Iranian energy exports, the Iranian economy, and World energy markets

by Anthony H. Cordesman

17 August 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (91 p.)

Much of the examination of the Iran nuclear agreement has focused on the funds that would be released once Iran complied with the terms of the agreement. Some estimates of the near term cash benefit that Iran will receive have gone as high as \$150 billion – although U.S.

Institute for National Security Studies

The nuclear agreement with Iran: reflections and forecasts

by Avner Golov and Owen Alterman (eds.)

July 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (27 p.)

The JCPOA has been heralded as an historic event by both its advocates and detractors. This collection brings together thoughts from the researchers at the Institute for National Security Studies on different aspects of the agreement. Furthermore, it examines its strategic consequences for Israel, regional security in the Middle East and global order.

ISRAEL

European Council on Foreign Relations

EU differentiation and Israeli settlements

by Hugh Lovatt [@h_lovatt](#) and Mattia Toaldo [@mattiatoaldo](#)

July 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (12 p.)

The paper argues that differentiating between Israel and settlement activities within the EU's bilateral relations is one of EU's most powerful tools for challenging the incentive structure that underpins Israeli support for the status quo. Hence, a policy of differentiation must be more implemented across the EU and the EC must task its directorates general with reviewing their existing interactions with Israel to assess whether differentiate between Israel proper and the settlements.

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Nederlands Instituut voor Internationale Betrekkingen - Clingendael (Netherlands Institute of International Relations)

EU and Colombia: climate partnership beyond aid and trade

by Eva Maas, Louise van Schaik [@LouiseVanSchaik](#) and Ries Kamphof

13 August 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (6 p.)

In the international climate negotiations, the EU and Colombia are seen as good friends. This policy brief discusses the reasons why the EU cooperates on climate change with fossil-rich and post-conflict Colombia. It is posed the question of whether this cooperation stretches beyond diplomatic cooperation in the context of climate negotiations. To what extent do EU trade and aid policies and the EU's climate agenda contribute to a coherent partnership with Colombia?

MIDDLE EAST / NORTH AFRICA

SWP - Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik

Backbone of the Syrian revolt inclusion of rural Sunnis key for international efforts to end conflict

by Khaled Yacoub Oweis

August 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (8 p.)

Syria's descent into civil war has thrust the country's rural Sunnis to the forefront. The countryside became the recruiting reservoir for rival jihadist factions after the demise of the Arab- and Western-backed Free Syrian Army. Divisions within the Syrian political opposition based in Istanbul also delayed the formation of a provisional government. Yet on the ground, the jihadists have largely failed at administering the areas they have captured. In the Author's view, the disenchantment with the militants and lack of appetite for a return to Assad's rule offers an opportunity to reactivate the dormant opposition government, which Germany initially backed but then let drift.

Transatlantic Academy

US and EU engagement with Islamists in the MENA region

by Sarah Wolff [@drsarahwolff](#)

25 August 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (21 p.)

As the Arab uprisings have reminded US and EU diplomats that they need to communicate with Islamist actors in the MENA, western diplomacy has undergone a "religious turn" as a result, acknowledging the relevance of religion in foreign policy, particularly in this key region. This paper investigates the origins, evolution, and prospects of this new approach.

Ulkopoliittinen instituutti (Finnish Institute of International Affairs)

Egypt's botched revolution: absolutism and the infelicitous role of external actors

by Wolfgang Mühlberger

August 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (8 p.)

This article highlights the role played by Foreign Institutions and countries in encouraging Egypt's political transition. It focuses on US, Gulf Monarchy and EU. As the latter concerns, the paper claims that emerging threat perceptions play a pivotal role for making EU to support Egyptian regime. Furthermore, the EU's stance was also affected by lack of influence and reluctance to use existing leverage, while for the pro-authoritarian Gulf countries it was a matter of principle.

MOLDOVA

Expert-Grup

Risks of freezing foreign financial assistance to Moldova and policy priorities: analysis and assessment of potential consequences

by Veaceslav Negruța

July 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (10 p.)

This study examines the potential threats following the decision made by the development partners on the suspension of funding to Moldova. The scope of the study is to identify the key risks and vulnerabilities that may affect public finances, functionality of state institutions, public debt and the impact on economic growth, relationships with the development partners including the exposure to withdrawal of foreign direct investment.

MIDDLE EAST/NORTH AFRICA (MENA)

Euro-Mediterranean Study Commission / European Institute of the Mediterranean

Les transformations géopolitiques dans la région MENA : les dynamiques structurantes

by Fouad M. Ammor

July 2015

Link to the article in [French](#) (42 p.)

This paper analyses the geopolitical transformations in the MENA region through a multidimensional approach, by calling on its recent history and geostrategic challenges. The paper is divided into four parts: oil wealth in the MENA region; the role of Israel in the Euro-Mediterranean area; modernisation crisis; human security in the light of the Arab present.

The Tunisian transition: torn between democratic consolidation and neo-conservatism in an insecure regional context

by Isabel Schäfer

July 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (52 p.)

This paper assesses the different phases and achievements of the transition process in Tunisia before looking at the challenges, difficulties and future perspectives. Compared to other states in the MENA region, it is the only country with a comprehensive process of democratic consolidation. This success results from different factors, suggesting that long-term perspectives look positive but the challenges remain multifaceted.

Fundación para las relaciones internacionales y el diálogo exterior (Foundation for International Relations and Foreign Dialogue)

Geopolitics and democracy in the Middle East

by Kristina Kausch (ed.) [@kristinakausch](#)

July 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (189 p.)

This paper maps the geopolitical profiles and activities of six key regional powers (Egypt, Iran, Israel, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Turkey) and seven influential external actors (China, the EU, France, Germany, Russia, the UK and the US) - and assesses how their pursuit of their geopolitical interests is affecting the prospects for democracy across the Middle East.

Istituto Affari Internazionali

La crisi libica e il ruolo dell'Europa

by Silvia Colombo [@silvius20](#)

30 July 2015

Link to the article in [Italian](#) (15 p.)

As Libya has been faced with countering Islamic terrorism and managing the influx of migrants and asylum seekers attempting to reach Europe. the Libyan crisis should be at the heart of the EU's external action, with the objective of stabilising the country. Hence, the EU should take charge of the Libyan crisis and not just worry about relieving the pressure at its borders through a review of its migration policy.

RUSSIA

Center for Strategic and International Studies

The new Ice Curtain - Russia's strategic reach to the Arctic

by Heather A. Conley and Caroline Rohloff

27 August 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (138 p.)

This report examines Russia's strategic ambitions for its Arctic region—an understudied and underappreciated area that encompasses nearly the entire northern coast of Eurasia. It identifies possible areas to preserve and protect Arctic cooperation in an increasingly tenuous Arctic ecosystem and international environment.

Istituto per gli Studi di Politica Internazionale

Going regional the Russian way: the Eurasian Economic Union between instrumentalism and global social appropriateness

by Diana Shendrikova [@DShendrikova](#)

3 July 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (21 p.)

In his "A Russian idea" (1946), the philosopher Nikolay Berdyaev divided Russia's history in five major epochs: "There is Kiev Russia, Russia during the Tatar invasion, Moscow Russia, Russia of Peter the Great, Soviet Russia. It is possible that there will be some other new Russia. Russia's historical development has been catastrophic".

Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung

One year on from the annexation of Crimea

by Claudia Crawford

8 July 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (15 p.)

One year on from the Annexation of Crimea, Russians' attitude toward the West has deteriorated. The Russian government uses the situation to fuel patriotism and isolate critics. Besides, the Ukraine conflict shows that Russia follows its own cost-benefit ratio, neglecting its economic interests.

Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik (German Institute for International and Security Affairs)

Russische Direktinvestitionen in Eurasien - Machtpolitik mit anderen Mitteln?

by Alexander Libman

15 July 2015

Link to the article in [German](#) (35 p.)

Civil war in Ukraine has questioned EU opinion that Russian integration into the world economy would have prompted peaceful cooperation. In this context, Russian FDI, which have risen massively over the past decade, might play a pivotal role in EU-Russian relations. Its investment could be made Russian investors to influence political decisions in EU countries. However, although Russian investors control some critical infrastructures, this study shows that fears are unjustified.

Dagestan: Russia's most troublesome republic

by Uwe Halbach and Manarsha Isaeva

August 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (26 p.)

Since 2014 the Ukraine conflict has overshadowed Russia's issues about the Caucasian republic of Dagestan, which has become a flashpoint between security forces and the armed insurgency during the past five years. Furthermore, changes in Islamist leadership have made it the ideological and logistical centre of North Caucasian jihadism. The study addresses this question, exploring the problems that make Dagestan stand out as Russia's most troublesome republic.

Ulkopoliittinen instituutti (Finnish Institute of International Affairs)

Managed nationalism: contemporary Russian nationalistic movements and their relationship to the government

by Veera Laine

August 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (41 p.)

This paper argues that nationalist movements in Russia can play a role to play in the Kremlin's management of nationalism in the country, despite the fact that they might promote a very different form of nationalism than the state leadership itself. The aim is to show with the help of regime management theories that the existing nationalist movements are beneficial for the regime either by promoting values favourable to the regime or by forming a certain outlet for dissent, which is then easier for the regime to monitor.

TURKEY

Bruegel

Designing a new EU-Turkey strategic gas partnership

by Simone Tagliapietra [@TagliapietraBxl](#) and Georg Zachmann [@GeorgZachmann](#)

2 July 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (13 p.)

This Policy Contribution discusses what the EU and Turkey can expect from the establishment of a new strategic energy partnership. The authors focus on the Southern Gas Corridor, but also assess the impact of the Turkish Stream project.

Istituto Affari Internazionali

On the KRG, the Turkish-Kurdish peace process, and the future of the Kurds

by Henri J. Barkey [@hbarkey](#)

24 July 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (8 p.)

While the Kurdish areas of the Middle East are increasingly interacting with each other, the relative influence of the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG), the first and most important Kurdish entity, has declined. It occurs because of the emergence of the Islamic State (ISIS) as well as the Syrian Kurds' successes against ISIS. The KRG also finds itself at a disadvantage as the Turkish-Kurdish peace process has increasingly gained an independent life of its own as the AKP which had built a close relationship with the KRG leadership, for the first time suffered significant electoral losses.

Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik

The return of the Kurdish question - on the situation of the Kurds in Iraq, Syria and Turkey

by Günter Seufert

August 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (7 p.)

For decades, the roughly twenty-nine million Kurds living in Turkey, Iran, Iraq and Syria were regarded primarily as a threat to the territorial integrity of those states and thus to the stability of the Middle East. Today the region is marked by state collapse, rampant terrorism, and signs of unravelling in the established system of states. These developments have brought about fundamental changes in the position of the Kurds and the role they play in regional politics.

UKRAINE

Central European Policy Institute

Ukrainian crisis: the most frequent myths and lies

19 August 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (11 p.)

Disinformation, falsehoods and facts taken out of context thwart Czech and Slovak debates on the Ukrainian crisis and the Russian aggressive involvement. The public is exposed to unprecedented volume of propaganda distorting the truth, and having pathological effects on our societies and political systems. A group of prominent Czech and Slovak experts came up with a document refuting the most frequent myths and falsehoods about Ukraine and set the record straight.

Міжнародний центр перспективних досліджень (International Centre for Policy Studies)

The Iran nuclear deal: implications for Ukraine

29 July 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (7 p.)

Following the Iran nuclear deal, the evolving international situation has given an opportunity for cooperation between Kiev and Teheran, although its prospect remains conditional. Besides energy, the end of Iran's isolation will enable closer bilateral economic cooperation. Ukrainian producers who lost the Russian market but are not competitive enough in the EU may diversify their exports by virtue of third countries. However, Ukraine can hardly compete with European, American, Russian and Chinese companies in Iran without replacing Soviet-style management and technologies.

Istituto Affari Internazionali

La politica europea di vicinato e la crisi in Ucraina

by Serena Giusti

30 July 2015

Link to the article in [Italian](#) (14 p.)

Since the outbreak of the crisis in Ukraine, EU-Russia relations have been characterised by constant tension. This paper consider the advantages and implications of the Association Agreement which, in the case of Ukraine, triggered a long and unexpected crisis as the Kremlin responded to the regime change by annexing Crimea and fomenting a separatist movement in eastern Ukraine. The measures taken by Brussels in response to Russia are assessed from both a political and an economic point of view, highlighting also the implications for Italy.

A people's army: civil society as a security actor in post-Maidan Ukraine

by Rosaria Puglisi

24 July 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (25 p.)

The paper argues the large-scale mobilisation of Ukrainian society is the most legacy of Euromaidan and its tragic aftermath. Civil society intervened to fill the gap created by the state's failure turning de facto into a security actor. Hence, post-Maidan civil society has displayed the potential to act as a "change agent" determined to induce substantial reforms in Ukraine.

Polski Instytut Spraw Międzynarodowych (Polish Institute of International Affairs)

Nuclear-backed "Little Green Men": nuclear messaging in the Ukraine crisis

by Jacek Durkalec [@JacekDurkalec](#)

29 July 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (43 p.)

The paper claims during the Ukraine crisis Russia has deliberately sent nuclear messages to NATO as Russia's nuclear muscle-flexing has been an integral part of Moscow's approach to conflict. Meanwhile, the Ukraine crisis has exposed NATO's communication gaps and corresponding challenges to the effectiveness of NATO's nuclear deterrence and assurance. The paper maintains NATO should rebalance their thinking towards nuclear deterrence, checks their nuclear crisis-management tools and re-designs their nuclear communication strategy.

Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies

Caught in the act: proof of Russian military intervention in Ukraine

by Adam Čech and Jakub Janda [@_JakubJanda](#)

July 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (22 p.)

The conflict in the Donbass has provoked a debate on the involvement of the Russian Armed Forces. Some people reject accusations of Russian military involvement and deem this conflict to be simply a civil war. Others claim that Russia has been providing military equipment to the Donbass separatists and even that the Russian army has been directly involved. This paper argues that Russia has provided weapons to Ukrainian separatists and intervened in Ukraine.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Istituto Affari Internazionali

Managing disorder. A stronger transatlantic bond for more sustainable governance

by Riccardo Alcaro

15 July 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (19 p.)

The emergence of new protagonists on the world stage, tensions between great powers, regional crises, and non-state actors such as jihadist groups makes difficult for US and EU to shape governance structures. Nevertheless, the US-European partnership remains indispensable. Hence, US and EU should leverage stronger transatlantic ties to engage other countries, including those who behave like rivals.

Polski Instytut Spraw Międzynarodowych (Polish Institute of International Affairs)

The evolution of U.S. immigration policy: implications for Poland

by Piotr Plewa

22 July 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (7 p.)

As legal and unauthorised migration from Latin America has been increasing and the European one has been waxing, Poland has lost the potential to affect US migration policymaking. Hence, it is worthwhile to assess whether the limited benefits stemming from visa-free travel to the US would justify the increase in invested political capital required to secure one of Poland's traditional foreign policy goals.

REGARDS CROISÉS

Polski Instytut Spraw Międzynarodowych (Polish Institute of International Affairs)

Time to put Hungary on the EU's refugee agenda

by Anita Sobják [@AnitaSobjak](#)

31 July 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (6 p.)

The paper maintains that if EU debate continues to be limited only to Italy and Greece, the EU will allow the situation along the Balkans route to worsen, with consequences for the whole Union. Despite in Hungary government's police campaign is mistakenly targeted at all immigrants, without regard to asylum seekers, in Hungary a real refugees' crisis is occurring. EU's lack in interest not only limits efforts for increasing effective crisis-management measures but also produces long-term harm in social attitudes towards foreigners.
