



THINK TANK REVIEW

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Dear Readers,

Welcome to issue 33 of the Think Tank Review compiled by the EU Council Library* ([click to share on Twitter](#)). It references papers published in February 2016. As usual, we provide the link to the full text and a short abstract.

In the first section dealing with 'EU politics and institutions', our readers will find three papers: the first on the challenges of and options for democracy and legitimacy in the European Union; the second on the last European Parliament elections and a third paper on the Delors Commission's legendary success by Pascal Lamy, former chef de cabinet for Jacques Delors and former Trade Commissioner.

Issues covering 'Economic and financial affairs' (section two) feature prominently in this review, with insights into the European Central Bank's quantitative easing programme, European banking union, as well as on how to pursue a more efficient and legitimate European economic governance. Among the contributions harvested, we have found a paper on state transformation, the European integration project and the lessons learnt from the financial crisis and the Greek paradigm by Evangelos Venizelos, former Deputy Prime Minister and former Minister for Foreign Affairs and Minister for Finance of Greece.

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Think tanks looking at political developments in Member States (section three) focused, in particular, on Denmark, France, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Portugal, Slovakia, Spain and the United Kingdom. On Portugal, a study on Portuguese emigration since the turn of the millenium by David Justino, former Minister for Education. On Spain, we noted papers on the legacy of the crisis and the Spanish labour market, inequalities and poverty, social mobilisation and protest, as well as a paper looking beyond the crisis, including to the challenges ahead taking into account the new political situation with the erosion of the two parties that have alternated in power since 1982 and the emergence of two new parties, the anti-austerity party, *Podemos*, and the centrist party *Ciudadanos*. The papers on Greece cover issues related to the financial assistance given to the country and the role played by the 'Russia factor' in Greece. Two articles on France and Hungary look at the role played by the 'Russia factor' in those two countries. The two papers on Slovakia and Ireland review the general elections recently held in those countries. The UK relationship with the EU has also continued to attract a lot of attention from the think tank community. Finally, we believe it is worth taking a look at a post from Carnegie Europe where a selection of experts are invited to answer the question ['Will populist parties run Europe?'](#).

In the 'EU policies' section (section four), think tanks continued to focus on the refugee crisis. We found a joint reflection by António Vitorino, currently President of Notre Europe and former Commissioner for Justice and Internal Affairs and Yves Bertoin, Director of Notre Europe on the

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challenges facing the Schengen area. Think tanks also paid particular attention to issues related to Competitiveness, in particular to research and innovation, as well as to Energy and the Energy Union. On Employment and Social Policy, a substantial report focuses on 'why' a new start for Social Europe is necessary and on 'how' a new start for Social Europe is feasible. This report includes a foreword by Jacques Delors, former Commission President, a preface by Nicolas Schmit, Minister of Labour, Employment and the Social and Solidarity Economy of Luxembourg and a contribution by Marianne Thyssen, Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility.

In the section on 'Foreign Affairs' (section five), we present papers with general reviews on terrorism, human rights as a foreign policy instrument, NATO, the US and Baltic Sea security, nuclear disarmament and on the Arab Spring five years after the uprisings. The Eastern Partnership has also attracted some interest from think tanks. We spotlight a contribution aiming to show how popular perceptions of the West have changed in the South Caucasus over the past 25 years. On China, a report analyses the evolution of Chinese emigration since the end of the 1970s to the present day; it emphasises that concerns about the 'brain drain' in the late 1980s have now given way to a variety of government efforts to connect with China's diaspora members without expecting their permanent return.

Last but not least, the Library celebrates the March 2016 Women's Day by showcasing publications on women and the labour market.

The Review can be downloaded from our [informal blog](#). As always, feedback is welcome at central.library@consilium.europa.eu.

The next Review will be out in April 2016, with papers published in March 2016.

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SECTION 1 - EU POLITICS AND INSTITUTIONS

Istituto Affari Internazionali

Democracy and legitimacy in the EU: challenges and options

by John Erik Fossum

February 2016

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

It is widely held that the EU suffers from a democratic deficit, but there is no agreement on the specific nature of this deficit. In this paper, the author starts by specifying the nature of the democratic legitimacy problem facing the multilevel EU. Two dimensions, the institutional-constitutional, and the socio-cultural, are highlighted. Next, he discusses how the context of crisis has transformed the EU. The many crises have not only exacerbated but to a considerable degree also altered the democratic-legitimacy problems facing the EU. In the last part, specific reform options and what they may imply for the Union's democratic deficit are discussed.

Istanbul Policy Center

European Parliament elections of May 2014: driven by national politics or EU policy making?

by Hermann Schmitt and İlkeToyğür [@ilketoygur](#)

February 2016

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

The 2014 EP elections took place in a very particular political context of economic crisis, bailout packages, and austerity measures. At the same time, the nomination of “Spitzenkandidaten” was introduced to establish a new linkage between European Parliament elections and the (s)election of the president of the Commission. This paper deals with the question whether this has changed the very nature of EP elections as second-order national elections. It is concluded that the ongoing politicisation of EU politics had little impact on the second-order nature of EP elections.

Notre Europe - Jacques Delors Institute

The Delors Commissions and their trade secrets

by Pascal Lamy [@PascalLamyEU](#)

10 February 2016

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

An expert [seminar](#) attended by practitioners and analysts from the Delors Commissions, experts in European governance and researchers whose work has focused on the specific features of the Delors Commissions was held on 8 December 2015 in Brussels. At this seminar, Pascal Lamy was invited to deliver the keynote speech. In his speech Lamy reflected on the ingredients for success of the Jacques Delors in his function as the President of the European Commission. According to Lamy, Delors success was based upon his sense of innovation, the care he put into preparations, the team, his friends, the College, the DGs, the European Parliament, the media and lastly, timing.

SECTION 2 - ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

Bruegel

Which fiscal union for the euro area?

by Agnès Bénassy-Quéré, Xavier Ragot and Guntram B. Wolff

18 February 2016

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

This paper addresses the debate on fiscal union that re-emerged in 2010 after the economic and fiscal crisis in several Member States. The paper discusses what type of fiscal instrument in addition to existing tools would best improve the functioning of the monetary union. The authors make three recommendations that would lead national fiscal policies to be more stabilising with respect to the economic cycle, while achieving long-term sustainability. They also recommend a move towards a European unemployment insurance scheme targeted at 'large' shocks, and a minimum set of labour-market harmonisation criteria.

Should the 'outs' join the European banking union?

by Pia Hüttl and Dirk Schoenmaker

4 February 2016

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

This paper analyses the banking linkages between the nine 'outs' and 19 'ins' of the banking union. It finds that the out countries could profit from joining banking union, because it would provide a stable arrangement for managing financial stability.

The European Central Bank's quantitative easing programme: limits and risks

by Grégory Claeys [@gregclaeys](#) and Álvaro Leandro

15 February 2016

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

This paper examines the ECB's quantitative easing (QE) programme and the series of changes that have been made since its introduction in January 2015. The authors discuss the possible financial stability risks and negative impact for inequality of a prolonged and large-scale QE programme, and conclude that the benefits of large-scale asset purchases outweigh their potential risks in terms of financial stability. Furthermore it is suggested that the ECB could further alter the composition of its purchases, to increase the programme's flexibility.

Kiel Institute for the World Economy

Limits in terms of eligible collateral and policy risks of an extension of the ECB's quantitative easing programme

by Jens Boysen-Hogrefe, Salomon Fiedler, Nils Jannsen, Stefan Kooths and Stefan Reitz

February 2016

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

In this research the authors explore the limits and policy risks of an extension of the ECB's QE programme. The authors inspect the availability of eligible assets in euro area securities markets under the adjusted criteria and analyse the effectiveness of QE policies in the current economic environment. They also explore whether the effectiveness of monetary policy interventions could be enhanced. It is concluded that while the effectiveness of QE currently seems to be rather limited, the policy risks of QE are increasing; these risks include risks for the independence and credibility of the ECB, increasing systemic risks, and risks to lower incentives for structural reforms.

LUISS School of European Political Economy

How can it work? On the impact of quantitative easing in the Eurozone

by Francesco Saraceno and Roberto Tamborini

2 February 2016

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

In this paper the authors deal with questions like: how can the QE program launched in March 2015 by the ECB be successful in the eurozone (EZ)? What will be its impact on the member countries? And how will it relate to countries' fiscal policies? To address these questions, the authors use an extension of the three-equation New Keynesian model. Based on this model, the authors conclude that QE, if large enough, can succeed for the EZ as a whole.

Inequality, financialisation and credit booms: a model of two crises

by Alberto Cardaci and Francesco Saraceno

19 February 2016

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

The authors introduce a macroeconomic model with an agent-based household sector and a stock-flow consistent structure, in order to analyse the impact of rising income inequality on the likelihood of a debt crisis for different institutional settings. Their simulations show the relevance of the degree of financialisation of an economy. In fact, when inequality grows, a Scylla and Charybdis kind of dilemma seems to arise: on the one hand, low credit availability implies a drop in aggregate demand and output; on the other hand, a higher willingness to lend and lower perceptions of system risk result in greater instability and a debt-driven boom and bust cycle. They replicate the credit-led consumption booms models that paved the way for both the crisis of 1929 and the recent financial crisis. Finally, the authors think about the appropriate policy reaction.

Zentrum für Europäische Wirtschaftsforschung (Centre for European Economic Research)

Lender of last resort versus buyer of last resort – The impact of the European Central Bank actions on the bank-sovereign nexus

by Viral Acharya, Diane Pierret and Sascha Steffen [@sascha_steffen](#)

29 February 2016

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

In summer 2011, elevated sovereign risk in eurozone peripheral countries increased the solvency risk of eurozone banks, precipitating a run on their short-term debt. This paper assesses the effectiveness of different ECB interventions that followed in stabilizing the European financial sector. The authors conclude that by being lender of last resort to banks via the long-term refinancing operations, ECB temporarily reduced funding pressure for banks, but did not help to contain sovereign risk. In contrast, ECB's announcement of being a potential buyer of last resort via the Outright Monetary Transaction program (OMT) significantly reduced the bank-sovereign nexus. The OMT increased the market prices of sovereign bonds, leading to a permanent reversal of private funding flows to eurozone banks holding these bonds.

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

Interaction between monetary policy and bank regulation: lessons for the ECB

by Marek Dąbrowski

February 2016

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

The purpose of this report is to answer some of those questions in the context of the ECB institutional mandate and activity. The paper discusses the pros and cons of central banks' involvement in macro- and micro-prudential regulation and supervision.

European Capital Markets Institute / Centre for European Policy Studies

Which union for Europe's capital markets?

by Karel Lannoo [@karel_tannoo](#)

13 February 2016

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

The call for a Capital Markets Union has been a useful device to raise awareness about the need for more integration in Europe's capital markets. Despite years of harmonising regulation and a single currency, Europe's capital markets remain fragmented. This paper calls for targeted measures to overcome fragmentation, through enhanced enforcement, strengthening of the European supervisory authorities, enhanced disclosure and comparability of financial information and the mobilisation savings in EU-wide investment funds.

Centre for European Policy Studies

Europe's untapped capital market - Rethinking financial integration after the crisis

by Diego Valiante [@diegovaliante](#)

3 February 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (285 p.)

This study offers a comprehensive overview of financial integration in Europe and a thorough assessment of the barriers that still hinder its realisation. It builds on the material collected in meetings of a dedicated group of experts. The report also draws from an extensive literature review and data analysis assessing the benefits and risks of advancing a Capital Markets Union to boost a still imperfect single market for goods and services.

State transformation and the European integration project: lessons from the financial crisis and the Greek paradigm

by Evangelos Venizelos [@EVenizelos](#)

4 February 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (45 p.)

In this article the author argues that the financial crisis that erupted in the eurozone not only affected the EU's financial governance mechanisms, but also the very nature of state sovereignty and balances in the relations of Member States. The author examines the impact of the fiscal crisis on the very concept of sovereignty, by studying the way that the Greek courts have dealt with the gradual waves of fiscal austerity measures and structural reforms from 2010 to 2015.

Istituto Affari Internazionali

How to pursue a more efficient and legitimate European economic governance

by Gian Luigi Tosato

25 February 2016

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

This paper is addressed to the questions on the legitimacy and efficiency of European economic governance. Many commentators take a pessimistic view on this subject. In their opinion the current constitutional structure of the EMU suffers from a fatal flaw, namely the absence of a centralised economic government. This view is not shared by the author. Based upon an analysis of the structure and functioning of the EU the author concludes that significant improvements to EMU are possible on the basis of the existing legal framework, making European economic governance more legitimate.

The Institute of International and European Affairs

European recovery project

by Dan O'Brien [@danobrien20](#)

February 2016

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

Economic growth in the developed world has been slowing for decades. The Great Recession and the euro crisis have further depressed Europe's performance. In this paper, the author explores trends in the continent's economic performance and suggests possible remedies. Despite the considerable uncertainties that exist around all policy options, he proposes a "Grand Bargain" to include a range of measures favoured across the political spectrum. Such a radical and wide-ranging response could push the European economy onto a higher growth trajectory.

Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (Friedrich Ebert Foundation)

Wachstumsstrategien für Südeuropa: Italien, Spanien, Portugal, Griechenland

by Michael Dauderstädt

February 2016

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

This paper is a short study based on the country studies by Giancarlo Dente (Italy), Domenech Devesa (Spain), Ricardo Mamede (Portugal) and Jens Bastian (Greece). It analyses the reasons of the financial and economic crisis that started in 2009 as well as the response to the European debt crisis in the respective countries. The article foresees the possible ways to reinstate growth.

Peterson Institute for International Economics

The case for growth-indexed bonds in advanced economies today

by Olivier Blanchard, Paolo Mauro and Julien Acalin

February 2016

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

One of the legacies of the global financial crisis is a high ratio of public debt to GDP. While current levels may be sustainable, another series of bad shocks could easily tip the balance and lead to unsustainable debt ratios and to default. This paper offers quantitative exercises that show that growth-indexed bonds can play an important role in that context. It is argued that the introduction of growth-indexed bonds will benefit highly indebted advanced economies and, in the euro area, might provide a partial market-based solution to attain valuable insurance benefits well ahead of a formal fiscal union.

Istituto per gli studi di politica internazionale

RAstaNEWS (Macro-risk assessment and stabilization policies with new early warning signals) : green book

12 February 2016

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

This publication is the final report of the [RAstaNEWS](#) project. The project is based upon the premise that rethinking the future of macroeconomic and monetary integration in Europe requires a substantial revision and integration of underlying macroeconomic models, and a new vision about what markets and policymakers can accomplish. In this paper the authors present a multi-pronged strategy to reform EMU macroeconomic policies and avoid the fate of recurring crises. The strategy includes elements like closer coordination of national fiscal policies at the supranational level, a shift from fiscal to full macroeconomic surveillance, creation of a proper euro-area fiscal capacity and more.

SECTION 3 - EU MEMBER STATES

DENMARK

Center for Politiske Studier (Center for political Studies)

Danmark har høj grad af økonomisk frihed - på niveau med USA

by Mads Lundby Hansen

26 February 2016

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

Published by the renowned American think tank Heritage Foundation, the index measures the basics, the level of economic freedom exercised by citizens and businesses. This latest CEPOS analysis on the economic freedom in Denmark was done in comparison with 177 countries. Denmark is no. 12, thus among the countries in the world with the most economic freedom, only one position worse than the US.

FRANCE

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

"There are always two sides to the truth" - French susceptibility to Russian propaganda

by Claire Demesmay

15 February 2016

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

This article analyses the French susceptibility to Russian propaganda. According to the author, there are a number of reasons why France has become a key target of Moscow's soft power over the course of the last years. These include the French elite's traditionally pro-Russian stance, the country's diplomatic weight (its military bases, deployments abroad, strong foreign policy tradition, and permanent seat on the UN Security Council), and its influence on European politics.

German Marshall Fund of the United States

After the terror attacks of 2015: a French activist foreign policy here to stay?

by Alexandra de Hoop Scheffer, Martin Michelot [@polyesterfreak](#) and Martin Quencez

February 2016

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

This paper analyses the shaping and the implementation of France's recent diplomatic and military actions in light of shifts in the strategic environment and blurring lines between domestic and foreign policies. It highlights the main geopolitical developments influencing France's foreign policy and also focuses on the interests behind current French engagement in the MENA region, the French ability to exercise credible leadership in foreign and security affairs in Europe and beyond and the implications for France's "special" role in the transatlantic security partnership.

Terra nova

Le marché du travail dans les grandes aires urbaines en 2015

by Thomas Allaire, Jérémie Bureau, Anne-Julie Le Serviget and Thierry Pech

10 February 2016

Link to the article in [French](#) (71 p.)

This paper presents the results of a study which relied on samples of considerable size collected in 2015 in the 15 largest French urban areas. It shows a striking picture of the concentration of activity in the heart of the metropolis. These data were used to bring out, in some cases, significant

differences between the geographical dispersion of bids and that of research. They also allowed to precisely map the concentration of offers and the research in each urban area, highlighting areas of overlap and mismatch.

GREECE

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

In search of alternatives - Greece between European frustration and Russian temptation

by Julian Rappold [@JulianRappold](#)

7 February 2016

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

According to this paper, tensions with the Eurogroup over a solution to the debt crisis have led to a loss of respect for the EU in Greece. As a result, the Greek public debate has increasingly revolved around Russia as an alternative to the 'austerity directive' coming from Brussels. This analysis explores the predominating image of Russia within Greek society and the Greek political parties.

European Policy Centre

Financial assistance to Greece: three programmes

by Fabio Colasanti

February 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (98 p.)

This paper debunks some of those myths surrounding the bailout money that was given to Greece, by taking stock of the numbers behind the financial support given to Greece by the countries of the euro-area and the IMF. Examining the three bailout programmes in detail, the paper discusses the reasons for and against a restructuring of the Greek public debt in 2010, its implementation in 2012, the degree in which the Greek debt towards the euro area countries has already been cut, and the scope for further cuts. Finally, the paper explains how both issues were and are still dominated by internal political considerations, both in the creditor countries and in Greece.

LUISS School of European Political Economy

Greece: a bumpy road to salvation

by Lorenzo Codogno

10 February 2016

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

The first review of the third Greek bailout programme for €86bn started at the beginning of February in Athens. Negotiations between the Greek government and Greece's international creditors should lay the groundwork for an agreement at staff level, which should then open the way for debt relief negotiations. It is with a déjà-déjà-vu feeling and lots of mistrust that negotiations started with the usual noises, with the Greek government trying to put forward its red lines and creditors making tough. The impression is that without the usual drama we are not going anywhere, but time plays in favour of an agreement.

HUNGARY

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

The Kremlin's influence in Hungary - Are Russian vested interests wearing Hungarian national colors?

by Dániel Hegedüs

23 February 2016

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

This paper undertakes a comprehensive review of several heretofore overlooked dimensions of the Russian penetration of Hungarian politics and concludes that the pro-Russian stance is spearheaded by the political and business elite. As such, according to the author, this stance lacks fundamental popular support and runs at least partially counter to public opinion.

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

The FDI-led development model revisited? The case of Hungary

Miklós Szanyi

February 2016

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

The main question of this paper is if the criticism towards the advantages of the FDI-led development at large is reflected in discriminating policies of the Hungarian state towards foreign companies. The main finding of the paper is that the main aim of changing FDI-related policies is not a decisive break with the model, but rather to split the strong networks of multinational business in order to increase the room of selective and arbitrary advantage and disadvantage measures of the government.

IRELAND

Fondation Robert Schuman

Fine Gael tops in the Irish general election but the next government might be difficult to form

by Corinne Deloy

26 February 2016

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

Ante and post analysis of the recent election in Ireland.

PORTUGAL

Migration Policy Institute

Emigration from Portugal: old wine in new bottles?

by David Justino

February 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (33 p.)

This report explores the scale, drivers, and impact of emigration from Portugal since the turn of the millennium. It outlines the characteristics of Portuguese emigrant populations in top destination countries, including Germany, Spain, Switzerland, and the UK, and examines how the country can stem emigration and promote the return of emigrants.

SLOVAKIA

Fondation Robert Schuman

Outgoing Prime Minister Robert Fico comes out ahead but without a majority in the Slovakian general elections

by Corinne Deloy

8 March 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (3 p.) and in [French](#) (3 p.)

The party of outgoing Prime Minister Robert Fico running favourite in the general elections on 5th March in Slovakia

by Corinne Deloy

9 February 2016

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

Ante and post analysis of the recent election in Slovakia.

SPAIN

Fundación de Estudios de Economía Aplicada

The legacy of the crisis: the Spanish labour market in the aftermath of the great recession

by Marcel Jansen, Sergi Jiménez-Martín and Lucía Sergi Gorjón

February 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (54 p.) and in [Spanish](#) (58 p.)

This report focus its attention on the employment prospects of the jobless in Spain. It analyses the profiles of the unemployed and evaluates their job finding probabilities using basic econometric techniques. Its main objective is to identify the most vulnerable groups and to call for effective measures to minimize the risk of social and economic exclusion.

Real Instituto Elcano (Elcano Royal Institute)

A new course for Spain: beyond the crisis

by William Chislett [@WilliamChislet3](#)

February 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (204 p.)

This paper seeks to explain how Spain moved from crisis to incipient recovery by looking at the reforms and the main. It also looks at the challenges ahead including the new political situation with the erosion of the two-party that has alternated in power since 1982 and the emergence of two new parties, the anti-austerity Podemos and centrist Ciudadanos.

Fundación Alternativas

¿Qué ha pasado con la movilización social? Continuidad y cambios en la protesta social en España.

by Kerman Calvo [@KermanCalvo](#) and Hugo Garciamarín [@HugoGarciamarin](#)

February 2016

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

This document analyses the state of social protest in Spain since 2008. Both the data of individual participation in demonstrations and statistics on protest events draw a similar profile of social protest in Spain in recent years, characterized by a dramatic acceleration from 2010, reaching its peak in 2013. From this moment, the social protest begins to fade quickly, to put ourselves today in

2007/2008 protest levels. Political protest, however, shows an upward trend linked both with the political agenda of the 15-M movement, and, above all, with the struggle for independence in Catalonia.

Fundación para el análisis y los estudios sociales (Foundation for Social Studies and Analysis)

Desigualdad, pobreza y oportunidades

by Miguel Marín and Elisa Rodríguez

16 February 2016

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

Inequality is not a good approximation to absolute poverty: among the most egalitarian countries in Europe, some have poverty rates significantly higher than others with more unequal distribution of income. If we measure inequalities through wealth, Spain would be among countries with smaller inequalities in the EU. If we consider income inequality, it would occupy the top positions. Inequality and poverty are different concepts and their use as synonyms or as mere statistical approach creates confusion among citizens and among policy makers themselves, say the authors.

UNITED KINGDOM

Polski Instytut Spraw Międzynarodowych (Polish Institute of International Affairs)

A win-win situation? What to make of the EU-UK deal

by Karolina Borońska-Hryniewiecka

February 2016

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

After over three months of intense multilateral negotiations, an agreement on a new settlement for the UK within the EU was successfully concluded at last week's European Council. The deal allows the British government to deliver on its plans for a referendum on EU membership to be held in June 2016. While Prime Minister David Cameron will now need to convince British voters that he has negotiated a strong and credible package for the UK, other EU leaders also will seek to explain to their publics that they have secured their national and European interests. The contents of the deal actually allow for both claims, according to the author.

Centre for European Policy Studies

The EU deal to avoid Brexit: take it or leave

by Stefani Weiss [@WeissStefani](#) and Steven Blockmans

23 February 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (63 p.)

The authors analyse the substance of the 'Decision of the Heads of State or Government, meeting within the European Council, concerning a New Settlement for the UK within the EU' reached at the European Council on 18-19 February 2016 and shed light on its legal character. They do so by contextualising this EU deal to avoid Brexit, and draw on the conclusions reached in a simulation of European Council negotiations between representatives of think tanks in the European Policy Institutes Network, conducted by CEPS and the Bertelsmann Stiftung in October 2015.

The final Brexit question: the known plan A to remain or the unknown plan B to leave

by Michael Emerson [@Michael1254O](#)

23 February 2016

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

The terms for the UK to remain in the EU are now known. However, there is no known Plan B developed either by the British government or the secessionists. This paper therefore attempts to sketch three alternative Plan Bs, and to evaluate their qualities in relation to the Plan A.

Centre for European Reform

Brexit and EU regulation: a bonfire of the vanities?

by John Springford [@JohnSpringford](#)

February 2016

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

In order to understand whether an EU exit would liberate the supply side of the British economy, this paper assesses why regulations exist in the first place and the extent to which the EU has a legitimate interest in regulation; then it elaborates on the effects of EU regulation on British economic performance; and finally it considers whether the UK would escape all the regulatory costs attributed to membership if the country chose to leave the EU.

Bertelsmann Stiftung

The impact of Brexit - Views from the German and British business communities

by Thieß Petersen, Fritz Putzhammer and Ulrich Schoof

February 2016

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

Four out of five business leaders in the UK and Germany have clearly expressed their opposition to the hotly debated idea that the UK should withdraw from the EU. If the withdrawal were to go ahead, the business leaders predict numerous negative effects for national labour markets as well as for revenues and investments within their own sectors and businesses.

Fondation Robert Schuman

E(M)U and the United Kingdom: one or several Europe(s)?

by Thierry Chopin, Claire Darmé and Sébastien Richard

15 February 2016

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

The question that the British will be asked in a few months' time has the merit of being clear: "Do you think that the UK should stay in or leave the EU?" It is very difficult to foresee the result of this referendum. Faced with the euro sceptics in his own party as well as those of UKIP, on the right, David Cameron is attempting to bring British public opinion around to choosing to stay in the EU, after renegotiating the UK's status with its partners. The negotiation taking place with regard to the Brexit is not therefore merely British, it concerns the whole of the EU.

LSE IDEAS

A European Union without the United Kingdom: the geopolitics of a British exit from the EU

by Tim Oliver

February 2016

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

This paper examines how likely a Brexit is and explores what it could mean for the EU, European integration, and Europe's economics and security.

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

Brexit: strategic consequences for Europe - A scenario study

by Peter van Ham

12 February 2016

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

This report identifies and elaborates three different scenarios describing how Brexit might impact upon European security and defence, with a specific emphasis on the role of the EU. The report considers the three most probable scenarios. The report will adopt the Flexit option as its default scenario, assuming that once Brexit has become political reality, pragmatism will prevail over resentment.

Real Instituto Elcano (Elcano Royal Institute)

La interdependencia de la economía británica: una contribución al debate sobre Brexit

by Alfredo Arahetes and Federico Steinberg [@SteinbergF](#)

12 February 2016

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

This article analyses the interdependence of the British economy, both in terms of trade and direct investment to assess the economic justification of a hypothetical Brexit. It concludes that it is difficult to justify UK's departure from the EU based on economic arguments. The British economy has very close economic ties with other EU countries, which could be adversely affected in the event of that Brexit.

Los dilemas del Reino Unido y de la UE: ¿salir o cambiar la Unión?

by Araceli Mangas Martín

25 February 2016

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

The relationship between the EU and the UK has always been quite stormy. The UK joined late and reluctantly to the European project. Being an essential EU Member State, the UK has always tried to achieve special and privileged conditions, trying to force other European Member States to review the treaties according to the British interests. This has led to unique problems and sometimes other Member States have perceived him as a Trojan horse.

Oxford Institute for Energy Studies

The UK in the EU – Stay or leave? The balance sheet on energy and climate policy

by David Buchan and Malcolm Keay

February 2016

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

Energy and climate policy is scarcely the major issue in the UK's impending referendum on EU membership. This paper provides a brief overview of the main issues and arguments for the debate. It is concluded that EU constraints on UK energy policy are minimal and that withdrawal from the EU could pose practical problems.

Adam Smith Institute

The UK and the World in 2050

by Sam Bowman [@s8mb](#)

15 February 2016

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

Many of the big things, the big number projections for long term trends, show a remarkable consistency. There are several human, economic, and personal trends that are quite steady over the long term. There might be spikes up and down, but standing back and looking at the big picture, distinct patterns emerge. People worry that current or recent events mean that the world has changed forever, and that new rules and new paradigms make the future unrecognizable from the past. The reality is that the long-term numbers often reassert themselves, reducing what appeared to be a world threatening crisis into a statistical blip.

The Institute for Fiscal Studies

Adjusting Scotland's block grant – The options on the table

by David Bell [@DavidNFBell](#), David Eiser [@david_eiser](#) and David Phillips

February 2016

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

The UK and Scottish Governments have so far failed to agree the new 'fiscal framework' that must accompany the transfer of tax and welfare powers recommended by the Smith Commission and set out in the Scotland Bill. Perhaps the biggest bone of contention is how to adjust Scotland's block grant to reflect the associated transfer of tax revenues and welfare spending to the Scottish Government. With another 'deadline' for an agreement looming, this paper aims to analyse the proposals put forward by each government, including a recent 'compromise' put forward by the UK government.

Female labour supply, human capital and welfare reform

by Richard Blundell, Monica Costa Dias, Costas Meghir and Jonathan Shaw

February 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (80 p.)

The authors estimate a dynamic model of employment, human capital accumulation - including education, and savings for women in the UK, exploiting tax and benefit reforms, and use it to analyse the effects of welfare policy.

College of Europe

Great hatred, little room - Northern Ireland and the European Union: attitudes, perspectives and the role of religion

by Patrick Jacques

February 2016

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

According to the author, little academic attention has been given to the study of Northern Irish Euroscepticism, that can be defined as the divergence in attitudes towards European integration between Catholics and Protestants. The author concludes that membership in the EU has not had a significant political impact on Northern Ireland, with citizens' attitudes being largely characterised by a clear lack of interest in the project.

VISEGRAD GROUP

Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung

Diverging voices, converging policies : the Visegrad States' reactions to the Russia-Ukraine conflict

by Jacek Kucharczyk and Grigorij Mesežniko (eds.)

February 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (220 p.)

The annexation of Crimea in March 2014 and the launch of a hybrid war against Ukraine was Russia's answer to the revolution triggered by Euromaidan. Although the EU has reacted to the conflict in a unified manner by imposing sanctions on Russia, statements made by some European political leaders have undermined the public perception of European unanimity. In order to explain the differing reactions of individual Visegrad countries, this paper analyses how these countries have dealt with the Russia-Ukraine conflict. Particular consideration was to be given to the differing historical experiences, public opinions, economic relations, and energy- and foreign policy of the Visegrad countries.

Central European Policy Institute

DAV4 five years later: success or a missed opportunity?

by Jaroslav Nad', Milan Šuplata and Marian Majer [@MajerMarian](#)

1 February 2016

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

In 2010, at the beginning of the Slovak presidency of the Visegrad Group (V4), the Slovak Atlantic Commission asked several experts from the V4 countries, to discuss possibilities of defence and security cooperation between the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia. The result of the effort was a paper named '[DAV4 full report: towards a deeper Visegrad defence partnership](#)'. Today, after the completion of the full circle of four V4 presidencies, and after the completion of Hungary's and Poland's EU Council presidencies as well as after two NATO summits held in Chicago and Wales, this paper intends to evaluate how the DAV4's recommendations have been implemented.

SECTION 4 - EU POLICIES

MIGRATION AND REFUGEE CRISIS

Bertelsmann Stiftung

Border protection and freedom of movement - What people expect of European asylum and migration policies

by Catherine de Vries and Isabell Hoffmann [@ur_echo](#)

February 2016

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

How can a Union of 28 states with a population of over half a billion be reformed to weather future economic crises and political challenges? Finding an answer to this question is extremely difficult not only because current reform proposals are so varied, but even more so because we lack insights into the preferences for reform amongst national elites and publics. Although EU support has interested scholars for over three decades now, we virtually know nothing about public support for EU reform. Current research focuses almost exclusively on the causes of support for the current project and fails to provide a sufficient basis for effective reform decisions. The findings here presented will aid policy makers to craft EU reform proposals that can secure widespread public support.

Euro-Mediterranean Study Commission

Reconceptualising sustainable responses to the refugee crisis

by Timothy G. Hammond

24 February 2016

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

This paper explores the ongoing refugee crisis, analyses the conventional response framework, and identifies several key issues that are inhibiting EU Member States from addressing the crisis in a comprehensive, organized, and collective manner. Several recommendations are offered to prepare states to better understand and respond to the complex realities of forced displacement and migration in the 21st century.

Polski Instytut Spraw Międzynarodowych (Polish Institute of International Affairs)

Schengen's future in light of the refugee crisis

by Elżbieta Kaca

February 2016

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

The EU actions to secure the border between Greece and Turkey in order to restrain the flow of migrants face several limitations. In this light, the increased and uncontrolled flow of immigrants into the EU has prompted some Member States to call for restoring EU internal borders up to two years. This solution does not mean dismantling the Schengen zone, but modification of Schengen for security reasons, which would not threaten the European project.

Notre Europe - Jacques Delors Institute

Schengen's stress test: political issues and perspectives

by Yves Bertoncini [@ybertoncini](#) and António Vitorino

16 February 2016

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

The authors analyse the civic and diplomatic roots of the crisis in the Schengen area in order to diagnose its scale and to identify a potential way out over the coming months. They conclude their policy paper by underlining that it is way too soon to announce the death of "Schengen", just as it proved way too soon to announce the "Grexit" in 2015 - and that it is even possible that the crisis in the Schengen area may have a similar outcome to the crisis in the euro area, then leading to more European solidarity and control.

Centre for European Policy Studies

Irregular migration, trafficking and smuggling of human beings - Policy dilemmas in the EU

by Sergio Carrera and Elspeth Guild (ed.)

22 February 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (112 p.)

The paper examines the issue of irregular migration in the EU and provides new perspectives and policy directions with the aim of assisting policy-makers who seek to address this complex and politically charged field.

Overseas Development Institute

Journeys to Europe. The role of policy in migrant decision-making

by Jessica Hagen-Zanker and Richard Mallett

16 February 2016

Link to the report in [English](#) (50 p.) and to the policy briefing in [English](#) (8 p.)

This report and policy briefing aim to increase understanding of the journeys made by migrants. Based on in-depth interviews with more than 50 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers who have recently arrived in four European cities (Berlin, London, Madrid and Manchester), it explores: the journeys migrants take; the factors that drive them; and the capacity of destination country migration policies to influence people's decisions, both before their journey begins and along the way. Based on these findings, the authors make policy recommendations that could lead to the better management of, and a more effective and positive response to, the current migration crisis in Europe.

Migration Policy Institute

Getting the balance right: strengthening asylum reception capacity at national and EU levels

by Michael Kegels

February 2016

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

This report seeks to understand the reception capacity challenges faced by EU Member States with the increase of arrivals of asylum seekers to the EU. It reflects on divergent national approaches to reception management, and seeks to understand why certain strategies are adopted, and with what consequences for Member States and the Common European Asylum System at large.

The Germany-Turkey migration corridor: refitting policies for a transnational age

by Yaşar Aydın

February 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (29 p.)

This report describes how German-Turkish migration has developed over recent decades; examines the economic, social, and political factors behind this development; and discusses the policy implications and lessons that can be drawn.

Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies - European University Institute

Tariq al-Euroba : displacement trends of Syrian asylum seekers to the EU

by Luigi Achilli

11 February 2016

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

This research report seeks to shed more light on the current flow of Syrian asylum seekers to Europe. It aims at filling the information gap through systematic and participatory data collection exercises. It reports data and information from Syrian refugees in Jordan and Lebanon about push and pull factors, protection risks and threats, and the availability of information before and during their journey across the Balkans.

European Policy Centre

Europe's refugee/migrant crisis: can 'illiberal' Turkey save 'liberal Europe' while helping Syrian refugees?

by Kemal Kirişçi [@kemalkirisci](#)

19 February 2016

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

This paper discusses the ways in which Turkey, Germany and the EU in general could all benefit from closer cooperation on the refugee crisis issue: "with the right frame of mind and will, the current 'illiberal Turkey' could indeed help 'liberal Europe'. In the long run this would be a 'win-win' for Germany, Turkey, and the EU – but most importantly, for the Syrian refugees."

Adam Smith Institute

Migration and development

by Ben Southwood [@bswud](#)

10 February 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (140 p.)

Migration is among the most fiercely debated areas of policy, and the human cost of the status quo is vast. 20,000 people have drowned in the Mediterranean in the last two decades trying to cross borders to a better life. Yet, often ignored in the debate is the contribution migration can bring to development. A programme of temporary work permits and restrictions on access to welfare benefits for migrants might make such an increase in migration more politically palatable, while still delivering significant benefits to migrants and their home countries.

Center for Politiske Studier (Center for political Studies)

Kommunefordeling af nye flygtninge koster beskæftigelse og integration

by Otto Brøns-Petersen [@OttoBrons](#)

9 february 2016

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

This paper analyses how refugees who are granted asylum in Denmark are distributed geographically across the country.

AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES

Institute for European Environmental Policy

Land suitability assessments for bioenergy feedstocks in the EU – a review of data sources

by Ben Allen, Anne Maréchal, Silvia Nanni, Jaroslav Pražan David Baldock and Kaley Hart

January 2016

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

Focusing on the EU and three selected Member States (France, Italy and the Czech Republic), this scoping study provides a brief review of the availability and utility of data that can be used to assess the potential areas of land that could be suitable for producing biomass for energy supply in an agricultural context. The study concerns itself primarily with understanding the extent of land that is either not currently used or has only temporary or limited use for agricultural production.

COMPETITIVENESS (INTERNAL MARKET, INDUSTRY, RESEARCH AND SPACE)

European Centre for International Political Economy

What is wrong with the single market?

by Fredrik Erixon [@FrederikErixon](#) and Rositsa Georgieva

February 2016

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

In this paper the authors explore what they mean by a Single Market, and what the possible reasons for its failure to meet its goals are. While the nature and profile of the Single Market, and its regulations, have changed over the years, they often have focused on the wrong issues, or on factors that would not change the nature of markets as such. The piecemeal approach to reform, followed until now, has created a complex web of regulations, administrative rules, national discretion, and partial freedoms. Fractional and incomplete liberalization have reduced the potential gains.

Centrum für Europäische Politik (Centre for European Policy)

Competition challenges in the consumer Internet industry - How to ensure fair competition in the EU

by Anne-Kathrin Baran, Philipp Eckhardt, Iris Hohmann, Matthias Kullas and Bert Van Roosebeke

February 2016

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

This study covers competition challenges in the Consumer Internet Industry. It discusses four scenarios of competition challenges which are likely to occur and sets out ways to deal with them.

Forum for research on Eastern Europe and Emerging Economies

The issue of repeat cartel offences

by Catarina Marvão [@CatarinaMarvao](#)

February 2016

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

Leniency policies have become an important antitrust tool but it is not clear whether they have effectively prevented recidivism or whether firms have learned to collude under, and even make strategic use of them. This paper discusses the recidivism question as one about post-cartel behaviour, i.e. the set of policies required to assure that effective competition emerges post-cartel breakup.

Bruegel

The dynamics of leniency application and the knock-on effect of cartel enforcement

by Jun Zhou

29 February 2016

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

This paper shows that antitrust investigation in a market increases leniency applications in related markets. The authors used a novel application of multi-spell discrete-time survival analysis for a sample of cartels prosecuted by the EC between 1996 and 2014.

Getting the most from public R&D spending in times of budgetary austerity

by Reinhilde Veugelers [@R_Veugelers](#)

24 February 2016

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

The dangerous cocktail of high debt and low growth in Europe calls for smart public investment that fosters growth without being a burden for public finances. Can public spending in R&D sustain innovation and growth, and does it qualify as a smart investment?

Centre for European Policy Studies

Is Horizon 2020 really more SME friendly?

by Felice Simonelli [@simonellifelice](#)

17 February 2016

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

The author considers that the failure to enable the highest-quality participation by SMEs remains the Achilles' heel of the current system. Quality aspects are expected to be central in the mid-term review of Horizon 2020 that is planned for the third quarter of 2016, and some strategic changes in the programme might be necessary.

College of Europe

The Israeli lobby for research and innovation in the European Union - An example of efficient cooperation in the European neighbourhood?

by Benedict J.A. Göbel

February 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (67 p.)

Israel figures among the world-leaders in R&D expenditure and has a high-performing scientific community. Since the 1990s it has been associated with the Scientific Policy of the EU via the European Research Framework Programmes and currently via the Horizon 2020. The cooperation

between Israel and the EU in this area has gradually increased and benefits the scientific communities on both sides. These channels offer Israel the opportunity to act within the Research Policy system.

TRANSPORT/TELECOMMUNICATIONS/ENERGY

Zentrum für Europäische Wirtschaftsforschung (Centre for European Economic Research)

Europe's digital future: focus on key priorities

by Irene Bertschek and Jörg Ohnemus

February 2016

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

Customised products and services, flexible working arrangements, productivity growth, and increasing prosperity – these are just some of the advantages promised by a digitised and connected economy. Business managers and politicians are keen to reap the potential benefits of the digital transformation. Such a transformation of the economy, however, is a complex task which goes hand in hand with a significant number of challenges. Digital transformation brings about changes in production and innovation processes, in markets and working environments, and also has societal implications. In particular, there are widespread fears that the increased use of machines and robots for tasks previously completed by humans shall result in job losses.

Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (Friedrich Ebert Foundation)

Perspektiven einer europäischen Energieunion für Verbraucherinnen und Verbraucher

by Julius Ecke and Nicolai Herrmann

February 2016

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

Although the Energy Union comprises many sections already known, nevertheless many significant initiatives that constitute Energy Union are at downstream level. The value of these initiatives will be seen in the course of implementation. Against this background, a review of the policy elements of the Energy Union from a consumer perspective is undertaken in order to derive an overall assessment from a consumer perspective in the present study.

New and ambitious or just more of the same? The Energy Union at a crossroads.

by Michel Derdevet [@MDerdevet](#), Philipp Fink, Antoine Guillou [@antoineguillou](#), Instytut Spraw Publicznych [@ISPThinkTank](#), Robert Schachtschneider, Daniel Scholten, Christophe Schramm
February 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (12 p.), in [German](#) (12 p.) and in [French](#) (12 p.)

The situation in which Europe's energy policy finds itself today could be described as a crisis. Started about 30 years ago, the so-called internal energy market has run out of steam. The article sums up the problems faced by the Energy Union.

Energiewirtschaftliches Institut an der Universität zu Köln (Institute of Energy Economics at the University of Cologne)

Innovation in green energy technologies and the economic performance of firms

by Jürgen Kruse [@juergen_kruse](#)

February 2016

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

In this article, the author empirically analyses and compares the impact of innovation in green and non-green energy technologies on the economic performance of firms. His analysis is conducted

on a panel of 8,619 patenting firms including 968 green energy patentees from 22 European countries over the period 2003 to 2010.

Innovation in clean coal technologies: empirical evidence from firm-level patent data

by Jürgen Kruse [@juergen_kruse](#) and Heike Wetzel

February 2016

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

This article empirically analyses supply-side and demand-side factors expected to affect innovation in clean coal technologies. Patent data from 93 national and international patent offices is used to construct new firm-level panel data on 3,648 clean coal innovators over the time period 1978 to 2009.

Institut français des relations internationales

L'Union de la dernière chance : trois questions pour trois constats sur l'union de l'énergie

by Cécile Maisonneuve [@CcilMaisonneuve](#)

1 February 2016

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

Nearly a year after the presentation of the union of energy, while 2016 promises to be a crucial year for its implementation, how is the project of the Juncker Commission progressing? As the paper shows it, the analysis of each of the three dimensions of the proposed Energy Union - strategic, political and economic - could let us sceptical regarding its ability to rebuild a climate and energy policy works.

LUISS School of European Political Economy

The State of the "Energy Union": new tools for EU integration, awaiting political steps

by Valeria Termini [@valeriatermi2](#)

12 February 2016

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

Following the Banking Union, the Energy Union may be the second pillar in which EU leaders should invest so as to ensure that common policies may follow common rules. Despite some prominent exceptions, there has been a gradual but relevant evolution from a European intergovernmental approach to a supranational approach. The time has come for the leaders of Europe to show their political willingness to develop consistent and shared energy policy strategies, according to the author.

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

Central and East European diversification under new gas market conditions

by Csaba Weiner

23 February 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (79 p.)

The Russo–Ukrainian gas crisis of January 2009 encouraged Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) to diversify away from Russian gas supplies and new gas market conditions have afforded some opportunities for doing so. This paper assesses these achievements, as well as factors preventing CEE countries from benefiting therefrom. The paper addresses four main areas of CEE diversification: gas demand, domestic gas production, transit, as well as gas supply and physical infrastructure for source diversification.

Norsk Utenrikspolitisk Institutt (The Norwegian Institute of International Affairs)

Nord Stream 2: policy dilemmas and the future of EU gas market

by Agata Loskot-Strachota

February 2016

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

This paper sheds light on the current state of the debate on the Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline project and examines the possible short-, mid- and long-term implications.

Oxford Institute for Energy Studies

Russian gas transit across Ukraine Post-2019: pipeline scenarios, gas flow consequences, and regulatory constraints

by Simon Pirani and Katja Yafimava

February 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (81 p.)

The paper discusses the ways in which Russian gas is likely to be transported to Europe, and in particular the role of Ukraine in transit, after 2019. The paper assesses Gazprom's transit diversification strategy, and attitudes to it in the EU and in Ukraine. Furthermore, it surveys political, regulatory, and contractual factors, and assesses the degree to which Gazprom could reduce transit across Ukraine by 2020.

EMPLOYMENT/SOCIAL POLICY/HEALTH/CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Foundation for European Progressive Studies

Policies for wage-led growth in Europe

by Özlem Onaran and Engelbert Stockhammer

22 February 2016

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

The European Commission has long encouraged wage moderation, and it has explicitly recommended real wage growth below productivity growth to increase the international competitiveness of the EU. This policy has resulted in three decades of increasing inequality, declining share of wages in national income, and the emergence of a new class of super rich without generating a sustainable growth model for Europe. Full employment has not been achieved in any of the EU countries, even before the crisis.

Fondation Robert Schuman

The implementing directive on posted workers: and what now?

by Sébastien Richard

29 February 2016

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

On 15th May 2014, the EU adopted an implementing directive that meant to define the rules for the application of directive 96/71 concerning posted workers. This text is supposed to prevent the risk of fraud in a context that is marked by an increasing use of this arrangement. The new text is notably being completed by national initiatives in Germany and France. The European Commission is drafting a new text to be published on 8th March, a further reform of the 1996 directive.

Poverty Reduction in Europe: Social Policy and Innovation (ImPRovE)

Has the potential for compensating poverty by women's employment growth been depleted?

by Rense Nieuwenhuis [@RNieuwenhuis](#), Wim Van Lancker [@wvlancker](#),
Diego Collado [@diegocollado](#) and Bea Cantillon
4 February 2016
Link to the article in [English](#) (36 p.)

[ImPRovE](#) is an international research project, that brings together ten outstanding research institutes. This study presents novel estimates of the impact of macro-level trends in female labour force participation on trends in poverty, across 15 OECD countries from 1971 to 2013. The increase in women's employment has had a significant impact on poverty trends. In countries that showed marked increases in women's employment, the initial increases were typically followed by a period in which these trends levelled off.

European Trade Union Institute

Digitalisation of the economy and its impact on labour markets

by Christophe Degryse
February 2016
Link to the article in [English](#) (81 p.) and in [French](#) (86 p.)

This working paper gives an overview of the new possibilities opened up by the 4th industrial revolution and tackles some specific questions in relation to its effects on the labour market, including on the status of employees, on working conditions and on training. It examines the role that trade unions can play in the digital economy and the main initiatives already proposed at European trade union level in this context.

Center for Strategic and International Studies

Managing risk for the Internet of things

by James Andrew Lewis
17 February 2016
Link to the article in [English](#) (32 p.)

The term Internet of Things (IoT) describes networked devices with computing power and Internet addresses. By 2008, machines outnumbered people as Internet "users." These machines connect wirelessly, take action, and create data. IoT devices will perform progressively more functions, more efficiently and cheaper than non-networked devices. This new application of digital network technology raises many policy challenges, ranging from spectrum management to privacy, data localization, and employment. It will take years to develop the policy frameworks necessary to safely maximize IoT's benefits. This report looks at risk and how to measure it, as a way to guide the development of policy.

Centre for European Policy Studies

Measuring ageing and the need for longer working lives in the EU

by Mikkel Barslund [@mBarslund](#) and Marten von Werder
24 February 2016
Link to the article in [English](#) (27 p.)

This study provides a comprehensive overview of different measures of ageing societies available to quantify the challenges stemming from population ageing. In particular focus is on prospective measures of ageing, which are designed to take increases in longevity into account. The study applies these metrics to broad country groupings of the EU28 countries.

Social investment and state capacity

by Miroslav Beblavý [@beblavy](#) and Alžbeta Hájková

29 February 2016

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

The paper looks at the difference between the levels and nature of social policy expenditure in northern and northwest European countries and the countries of southern, central, and eastern Europe, and examines the relationship between social investment and state capacity in these country groupings.

Notre Europe - Jacques Delors Institute

A new start for social Europe

by Jacques Delors, David Rinaldi [@Rinaldi_David](#), Nicolas Schmit and Marianne Thyssen

4 February 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (116 p.) and in [French](#) (124 p.)

This report, commissioned by the Ministry of Labour, Employment and the Social and Solidarity Economy of Luxembourg, focuses on 'Why' a new start for Social Europe is necessary, and on 'How' a new start for Social Europe is feasible. The publication aims at fostering debate on making progress toward Social Europe and building up a policy agenda for the coordination of social policies in Europe. It highlights some policy areas where concrete improvements are feasible or more urgent and presents concrete policy recommendations.

Bertelsmann Stiftung

Video consultations: an effective tool for outpatient care – Acceptance among doctors is key to leveraging usage

by Timo Thranberend, Florian Hartge and Christian Fink

February 2016

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

Video consultation represents a useful additional communication channel in many situations and for many occasions. Demand for such services is clearly evident among the broader population. However, acceptance among physicians is still lacking.

Fondazione ISMU – Iniziative e Studi sulla Multiethnicità (Initiatives and Studies on Multi-ethnicity)

Reproductive health of migrant women in Italy and Europe

by Lia Lombardi

15 February 2016

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

The about 17 million migrant women in the EU countries have significantly higher fertility and abortion rates than their native counterparts, but access to reproductive health services is not always available to them. The elective abortion of migrant women has fuelled a heated debate in several European countries: the most controversial issues concern the high abortion rates (for example in Norway, Spain and Italy); the access to abortion for foreign non-residents or undocumented women. Starting from these issues the paper analyses three aspects of induced abortion: a) abortion rates among migrant women and their related social conditions; b) health and social policies for migrant women; c) access to safe and legal abortion in the EU.

Fundación de Estudios de Economía Aplicada

Copagos sanitarios. Revisión de experiencias internacionales y propuestas de diseño

by Beatriz Gonzalez Lopez-Valcarcel, Jaume Puig-Junoy and Santiago Rodriguez Feijóo

February 2016

Link to the article in [Spanish](#) (71 p.)

This paper reviews the different practices of patient participation in the financing of health systems in both private insurance and universal national health systems

ENVIRONMENT

La Vie des Idées

Dans les coulisses de la COP21

by Jean Foyer

23 February 2016

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

Climate has become a major issue of international cooperation. Observer of COP21 at Paris in December 2015, the sociologist Jean Foyer discusses the trends and highlights of the climate negotiations.

NewClimate Institute for Climate Policy and Global Sustainability

Conditionality of intended nationally determined contributions (INDCs)

by Thomas Day, Frauke Röser [@fraukeroe](#) and Marie Kurdziel

February 2016

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

Of the 156 Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) submitted to the UNFCCC by the closure of COP 21 and the adoption of the Paris Agreement in December 2015, at least 78% of these INDCs included conditions. This briefing paper offers an overview of the variety of forms of conditional contributions and of the types of conditions. In addition, the paper examines the implications of conditionality for the effort by the international community to address climate change collectively, with particular focus on climate change mitigation ambition levels, procedural and legal implications, as well as the international finance and support streams.

EDUCATION/YOUTH/CULTURE/SPORT

RAND Europe

Using evidence to strengthen policies for investing in children

by Rebecca Kilburn and Teryn Mattox

22 February 2016

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

This evidence guide provides a starting point for policymakers who seek more information on how to use evidence to strengthen policies for investing in children. The guide will familiarize users with the basics of some approaches to using evidence to inform policies related to children including conducting needs assessments, selecting practices that have shown promise in previous implementation, developing a logic model to help plan a practice and determine if it has achieved its objectives, and conducting or overseeing various types of evaluation including theory-based evaluations and counterfactual impact evaluations. This guide provides an overview of ways of using evidence that would best strengthen these decisions and points' users to additional resources if they want more detailed information.

SECTION 5 - FOREIGN AFFAIRS

FOREIGN AND SECURITY POLICY / DEFENCE

Leuven Centre for Global Governance Studies

The EU and the Antarctic: strange bedfellows?

by Nils Vanstappen and Jan Wouters

February 2016

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

This paper identifies the Union's main policies towards the Antarctic as well as its capacities, agencies, and processes. After providing some legal background on the EU's role in global governance, it explains the legal and factual bases for possible involvement in Antarctic governance. Despite being legally able to occupy a more prominent role within the Antarctic Treaty System, political motives have prevented the EU from fulfilling this role.

Center for Strategic and International Studies

Key trends in the uncertain metrics of terrorism

by Anthony H. Cordesman

8 February 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (117 p.)

It is now some 15 years since 9/11, the US has not only conducted a constant campaign against terrorism since that time, but has been at war with violent Islamist extremists in Afghanistan, then Iraq, and then Syria. It has gone from counterterrorism to a mix of counterterrorism and counterinsurgency in these three states where no meaningful boundaries exist between them while it increasingly is a partner in counterterrorism with nations in Europe, Africa, and Asia and throughout much of the Islamic world. This paper presents a graphic survey of reporting from different officials, media, and research centres on the recent trends in terrorism and key related factors.

International Centre for Counter-Terrorism - The Hague

Lone-actor terrorism. Policy paper 1: personal characteristics of lone-actor terrorists

by Edwin Bakker and Jeanine de Roy van Zuijdewijn

29 February 2016

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

This report analyses personal variables of 120 perpetrators of lone actor terrorism, resulting in a number of policy recommendations. The authors emphasise the importance of focusing on different subgroups and of benchmarking in order to accurately interpret results. Likewise, they underline the necessity of lowering barriers to mental health services, as well as multi-agency cooperation. Taken together, these factors would contribute to formulating an effective response to the challenge of lone-actor terrorism. More articles from this series are to be found [here](#).

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

The future of police missions

by Franca van der Laan, Luc van de Goor, Rob Hendriks, Jaïr van der Lijn, Minke Meijnders [@Minke_M](#) and Dick Zandee

February 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (141 p.)

The central objective of this study is to assess how the Netherlands can optimally adapt the police tools which it can make available for deployment in crisis situations abroad to the expected future demand from international organisations, and, secondly, to its own (security) policy goals.

Accelerating global nuclear disarmament: a menu of 16 policy options

by Sico van der Meer [@SicovanderMeer](#)

15 February 2016

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

This policy brief addresses the growing discontent among states and civil societies concerning the very slow pace of nuclear disarmament efforts. It presents a menu of choice identifying 16 potential policy steps that could be considered to accelerate nuclear disarmament to any extent, varying from radical to less drastic options.

Fondation Robert Schuman

The annexation of Crimea: lessons for European security

by Anna Dolya [@dolya_anna](#)

22 February 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (7 p.) and in [French](#) (8 p.)

The question of Crimea, illegally annexed by Russia in March 2014, re-emerged in world political news in the autumn of 2015 following the massive blockading of Crimea by Tatar militants and members of volunteer battalions. Particularly because, since the end of November, the peninsula has been subject to electricity cuts, firstly total and then partial, which are the consequences of the destruction of the four lines that were supplying electricity to Crimea from Ukraine.

Vrije Universiteit Brussel - Institute for European Studies

Identifying disinformation: an ABC

by Ben Nimmo [@benimmo](#)

February 2016

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

This paper argues that the essence of disinformation is the intent to deceive. While such an intent is difficult to prove, it can be inferred by reference to three key criteria, termed the "ABC approach". These criteria are: the accuracy of factual statements, balance in reporting and the credibility of the sources chosen. This ABC approach is intended to give academics, analysts and policy-makers an operational method to determine whether disinformation has been committed in a given sense.

Utrikespolitiska Institutet (Swedish Institute of International Affairs)

NATO, the US and Baltic Sea security

by Anna Wieslander [@AnnwieAnna](#)

February 2016

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

The overall purpose of this report is twofold; first it describes and analyses how the developments of NATO, and the US within NATO, affect the security of the Baltic Sea region. Secondly, the report seeks to provide a deeper understanding of respective roles and the dynamics between NATO and the US as different sovereign bodies, still interlinked and dependent upon each other in providing security.

Ett förändrat säkerhetspolitiskt perspektiv? USA:s syn på Östersjöområdet, Sverige och Finland

by Mikael Blomdahl

February 2016

Link to the article in [Swedish](#) (40 p.)

The overall aim of this report is to describe and analyse the US military and political views from a security policy perspective on both the traditional neighbourhood Baltic region and also countries of Sweden and Finland.

Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung

Ensuring deterrence against Russia: the view from NATO's front-line States

by Miles Pomper [@MilesPomper](#)

February 2016

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

At the beginning of February NATO announced its plan to deploy troops to six NATO members in Central Europe to strengthen collective defence. Security guarantees for the front-line states have been discussed since Russia's intervention in Crimea. This publication analyses the perceptions of governmental and nongovernmental experts in six NATO front-line states.

Ústav mezinárodních vztahů (Institute of International Relations Prague)

Lost hopes: where to go after the Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons?

by Miroslav Tůma

January 2016

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

The 9th Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons was held from 27 April to 22 May 2015 at the UN Headquarters in New York, but it failed. The Czech Republic should engage in urging other countries to achieve progress in nuclear disarmament through a compromise approach known as "the building blocks". In parallel, it should also actively support the process of emphasizing the humanitarian consequences of the use of nuclear weapons. Also, the Czech Republic's good relations with Israel should focus on the support for holding a Middle East conference on the creation of a zone free of weapons of mass destruction, a project enjoying long-term EU support.

Leuven Centre for Global Governance Studies

EU guidelines on human rights as a foreign policy instrument: an assessment

by Jan Wouters and Marta Hermez

February 2016

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

The present contribution aims to provide a comparative analysis and assessment of human rights guidelines as an instrument of EU foreign policy. What objectives and functions do they perform? How are these guidelines developed and decided upon? To which (universal/regional) human rights instruments and norms do they refer? To what extent do they represent priorities for the EU in the area of human rights?

Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (Friedrich Ebert Foundation)

From hybrid peace to human security: rethinking EU strategy towards conflict

24 February 2016

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

The report argues that the EU is a new type of 21st century political institution in contrast to 20th century nation-states. In today's complex, contested and connected world, outside instruments do not work; they backfire and make things worse. This report proposes that the EU adopts a second generation human security approach to conflicts, as an alternative to Geo-Politics or the War on Terror.

Bertelsmann Stiftung

BTI 2016 executive summary - Increasing political and social tensions

February 2016

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

Increasing refugee numbers are not the only way in which the European public is feeling the direct impact of international crises. Yet solutions to the world's conflicts remain elusive. In fact, political and social tensions are growing around the globe and are testing Europe in profound ways – as the Bertelsmann Stiftung's 2016 Transformation Index shows.

TRADE

Cato Institute

Reign of terroir: how to resist Europe's efforts to control common food names as geographical indications

by K. William Watson [@kw_watson](#)

16 February 2016

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

The protection of Geographical Indications (GIs) beyond what is needed to prevent consumer confusion does not serve the public interest. Europe's strong GI regime works to reduce innovation and economic growth while insulating traditional producers from competition among themselves and with the rest of the world. US policymakers should avoid adopting the European model for any industry or product group. Multilateral, regional, and bilateral trade agreements are fronts in a battle that pits protection of traditional production patterns against competitive innovation and consumer choice.

Corporate Europe Observatory

The zombie ISDS - Rebranded as ICS, rights for corporations to sue states refuse to die

by Pia Eberhardt [@pia_eberhardt](#)

17 February 2016

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

The analysis in this report shows that the proposed Investment Court System does not put an end to ISDS. Quite the opposite. According to the article, it would empower thousands of companies to circumvent national legal systems and sue governments in parallel tribunals if laws and regulations undercut their ability to make money. It would pave the way for billions in taxpayer money being paid out to big business. It could curtail desirable policymaking to protect people and the planet. And it threatens to lock EU Member States forever into the injustices of the ISDS regime.

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

European Union data protection and external trade

by Annegret Bendiek and Evita Schmieg

February 2016

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

The trade in digital technology and services has become an absolutely central element of international economic relations. A substantial part of this trade is associated with the transfer of data, some of it personal, and many of the new products and services emerging in connection with the internet exhibit new characteristics of relevance for data protection. A significant need for regulation has thus arisen, requiring closer cooperation between experts for trade law, data protection, and information and communication technology. This applies above all to the current negotiations on the TTIP and to the new agreement on transatlantic data transfer.

Foundation for European Progressive Studies

The "tug war" about the inclusion of financial services in TTIP

by Lucia Quaglia

23 February 2016

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

The US and the EU have the largest financial sectors worldwide and are the main trading partners in financial services. Their combined level of bank assets is about 50% of the world total and so is the combined level of stock market capitalisation. The combined level of debt securities markets in the US and the EU exceeds 60% of the world total. Thus, financial services, which include banking, securities markets, insurance, are an important and controversial issue in the negotiations of the TTIP.

Peterson Institute for International Economics

Assessing the Trans-Pacific Partnership, volume 1: market access and sectoral issues

by Kimberly Ann Elliott [@KimAElliott](#), Caroline Freund [@CarolineFreund](#), Anna Gelpern [@AGelpern](#), Cullen S. Hendrix [@cullenhendrix](#), Gary Clyde Hufbauer, Barbara Kotschwar [@BRKotschwar](#), Theodore H. Moran, Tyler Moran, Lindsay Oldenski, Sarah Oliver, Peter A. Petri and Michael G. Plummer

February 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (119 p.)

In this collection of papers, the authors examine several major market access and sectoral issues in the Trans-Pacific Partnership. They find that the trade deal delivers significant benefits but falls

short in some areas of earlier ambitions for a sweeping liberalization of barriers on trade and investment.

DEVELOPMENT

European Centre for Development Policy Management

Post-Cotonou: preliminary positions of EU Member States

by Tina Tindemans and Dirk Brems

February 2016

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

Negotiations about the Cotonou Partnership Agreement after 2020 started before the summer of 2015. This paper explores the preliminary positions of EU Member States at the very start of the negotiation process, which is now well on its way. The study is based on informal discussions with 18 Representatives of the ACP working group at the Council of the EU at the start of the negotiation process in mid 2015 for what comes after the Cotonou Partnership Agreement that expires in 2020.

ENLARGEMENT PROCESS

Institut pro evropskou politiku EUROPEUM (EUROPEUM Institute for European Policy)

EU enlargement to the Western Balkans: out of sight, out of mind?

by Marko Stojić

February 2016

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

The aim of the policy paper is to assess the current state of play in the process of EU enlargement to the Western Balkans. It examines ways of accelerating the process, asking the question whether the EU and the Commission in particular possess appropriate tools to deal with the 'complicated' candidate countries in a complex international reality. The paper argues that, although the recent changes in the Commission's approach to candidate countries are positive, there is more to be done to re-energise the process and encourage domestic reforms in these countries.

Популари (Populari)

To serve and protect: a story about security sector in Bosnia and Herzegovina

February 2016

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

This report is a result of a research study conducted in BiH, consulting strategic documents, strategies, working documents, and supported by interviews with the key security experts, government officials, police officers, and international community representatives. It offers a somewhat different perspective on where BiH stands almost 20 years since the reforms in security sector started, having thousands of international experts taking part in it and millions of euros being invested.

EASTERN PARTNERSHIP

Institute for European Politics

Civil society and the fight against corruption: promoting effective anti-corruption policies by reforming the public sector and law enforcement authorities

by Ruslan Codreanu, Mathias Jopp, Victor Lutenco, Eremei Priseajniuc and Martin Sieg
2 February 2016

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

This paper provides a state of play analysis of corruption and anti-corruption policies within the public sector and law enforcement institutions in the Republic of Moldova. It reflects on the role and potentials of civil society actors in the fight against corruption and highlights concrete recommendations for a civil society driven anti-corruption reform agenda. The paper draws on the results of a series of workshops with Moldovan civil society representatives and anti-corruption experts that aimed at identifying successful anti-corruption measures for combatting systemic corruption in the Republic of Moldova.

Chatham House - The Royal Institute of International Affairs

Changing perceptions of the West in the South Caucasus: adoration no more

by George Mchedlishvili
12 February 2016

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

This paper shows how popular perceptions of the West have changed in the South Caucasus over the past 25 years. The reasons are unique to each country. The domestic and foreign policies of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia respectively - as well as those of Russia and major Western actors - have all contributed to the trajectories that attitudes have followed. However, according to the author, even in the less pro-Western states of Armenia and Azerbaijan, attitudes towards the West remain fairly favourable. This leaves Western leaders with the chance to re-engage more successfully with the region.

Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (Friedrich Ebert Foundation)

The European Union and Belarus: time for a new policy

by Felix Hett [@felixhett](#) and Stephan Meuser [@goldenekuppel](#)
February 2016

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

Belarus today is neither looking to the West nor seeking accession to the EU. This sets it clearly apart from Ukraine, Moldova and Georgia. Belarusian society shows scant enthusiasm for throwing itself into "European experiments" of uncertain outcome. Nonetheless, the latest developments in the region and Belarusian foreign policy's traditional focus on the economic offer starting points for the EU to pursue a policy of incrementalism.

European Union Institute for Security Studies

Belarus: time for a 'principled' re-engagement

by Anaïs Marin
25 February 2016

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

On 15 February 2016, the Council of the EU lifted the bulk of its sanctions against Belarus. Only an embargo on arms deliveries and restrictive measures against four people involved in the disappearance of dissidents in the 1990s remain in place. The decision comes three months after

the EU revised its European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP). For the sake of building 'more effective partnerships', the revised ENP calls for 'enhanced differentiation' and 'greater mutual ownership' of the policy. Hence the aspirations and interests of partners, including so called unwilling ones, should be better reflected in the EU's partnership offer.

Barcelona Centre for International Affairs

Far-right movements and ideology in contemporary Ukraine: formidable image vs. weak essence

by Alla Hurska [@alla_hurska](#)

February 2016

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

Who wants Ukraine to look radical? Ukrainian nationalism should be perceived as a complex phenomenon the roots of which need to be discovered back in the times of imperial Russia and the interwar period. Over the past decade since 2004 Russia has invested handsomely in the creation of the image of a "fascist Ukraine" ruled by weak and strongly anti-Russian elites as the antagonist to a staunchly anti-fascist, conservative, Christian Rus. In some sense Ukrainian political elites significantly facilitated Russian efforts by committing strategic blunders.

International Crisis Group

Russia and the separatists in Eastern Ukraine

February 2016

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

Despite repeated expressions of support for the Minsk process and recognition of Ukraine's sovereignty over the separatist Donetsk and Luhansk People's Republics, Moscow's policy in Ukraine's east looks more likely to strengthen those entities than prepare for the dismantlement the Minsk agreement envisages. The Kremlin views Ukraine's European choice as a major security threat and the 2014 overthrow of President Viktor Yanukovich as Western-backed and aimed at isolating Russia. It wants to keep Ukraine under its pro-Western leadership unstable, embroiled in open-ended military confrontation it cannot afford, so as to return it eventually to its sphere of influence.

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

The rule of law in contemporary Ukraine

by Susan Stewart

29 February 2016

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

Ukraine's Euromaidan protest movement, which brought about the fall of President Yanukovich in 2014, has led to a comprehensive process of reforms. However, this process is being hampered and delayed by a large number of internal and external hurdles. It is important to examine the progress that has been made and the hurdles that have been encountered in establishing the rule of law. Such an analysis can help German and European actors to take well-founded decisions on how to support Ukraine's moves towards rule-of-law structures more effectively than they have in the past.

MIDDLE EAST/NORTH AFRICA (MENA)

Center for Strategic and International Studies

The changing patterns of arms imports in the Middle East and North Africa

by Anthony H. Cordesman

16 February 2016

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

The conventional arms race remains all too real. It has changed strikingly in important ways, but it still has a major impact on national resources, military budgets, the competition between states in the region, and the role of key arms suppliers. This is clear from a [recent report](#) by the Congressional Research Service which uses declassified intelligence estimates to address the global patterns in arms sales by buyer and supplier and by region, and which breaks down the arms sales in the MENA region by country.

The human cost of war in the Middle East: a graphic overview

by Anthony H. Cordesman

3 February 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (136 p.)

The report examines the direct humanitarian impacts of the war. It examines the longer term impacts on the quality of governance, the economy, and the geographic areas where the war has its maximum impact. It also compares casualty estimates, key areas affected by the fighting, and other impacts of conflict as well as illustrates the difference in reporting by country, and major problems in the data now available.

Euro-Mediterranean Study Commission / European Institute of the Mediterranean / Istituto Affari Internazionali

Youth activism in the South and East Mediterranean countries since the Arab uprisings: challenges and policy options

by Silvia Colombo [@silvius20](#) (ed.), Nadine Abdalla [@Nadozz](#), Omar Shaban and Isabel Schäfer
February 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (76 p.)

Dealing with the youth in the MENA region entails acknowledging that this is a diverse category. The first part of this study offers a background analysis to understand this complexity and the different claims, forms and strategies of activism around socio-economic issues. The following chapters analyse the Egyptian and the Palestinian experiences respectively, highlighting thereby specific aspects of youth activism in the SEM region. The final contribution, with a focus on Tunisia, analyses the potential contribution of EU's policies in fostering a youth-sensitive approach.

International Crisis Group

Arsal in the crosshairs: the predicament of a small Lebanese border town

February 2016

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

Arsal reveals the depth of the Syria-Lebanon interconnection. Developments on the Syrian side of the border have been detrimental to the town and are likely to continue to have a profound impact there. Arsal's security situation remains highly volatile because of fighting on its outskirts and in the Syrian Qalamoun Mountains. The war and resulting refugee influx have, moreover, strained residents' economic resources to the limit, and it is legitimate to ask how long the current situation can be sustained from their perspective. It might sound optimistic to say that Arsal's future could

still turn for the better, but even a few small steps might significantly improve the living conditions of both residents and refugees, so should be urgently considered.

Yemen: is peace possible?

9 February 2016

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

In the Middle East's convulsions, the Yemen war is relatively unnoticed, but over 2,800 civilians have been killed, the majority from airstrikes, and the country is suffering an acute humanitarian crisis that could trigger catastrophic famine and refugee flows that would further destabilise the region. International pressure has been muted at best. Even if major combat ends, Yemen will not return to the status quo ante. The combatants are digging in for a fight that is likely to feed a thriving war economy, multiple internal power struggles and regional instability for years.

European Council on Foreign Relations

Five years on. A new European agenda for North Africa

by Anthony Dworkin [@AnthonyDworkin](#)

18 February 2016

Link to the article in [English](#)

The article contains assessments of the social, economic and political situations in Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya and Egypt. It argues that despite the European turn towards a stability-first approach, the lesson of the 2011 uprisings is that authoritarian stability is illusory. In all these countries, the report acknowledges that the EU must recognise the limits of its influence and the necessity of immediate steps to create stability, either on counterterrorism or to reduce migration to Europe.

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

The Egyptian interregnum - The high cost of suppressing change

by Ibrahim El-Houdaiby

16 February 2016

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

The paper starts with a quotation from Gramsci: 'The old is dying and the new cannot be born; in this interregnum a great variety of morbid symptoms appears'. It considers that the crisis Gramsci refers to is palpable in Egypt. Then, the article passes in review aspects such as the military-led government, the fragmentation under Mubarak or the state of the Feifdoms.

Istituto Affari Internazionali

Gulf and EU migration policies after the Arab uprisings: Arab and Turkish youth as a security issue

by Françoise De Bel-Air

17 February 2016

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

The paper seeks to explore the reasons behind the persistent exclusion of young migrants from South and East Mediterranean (SEM) countries in their two main areas of destination, the Gulf States and the EU. It focuses on youth from Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt, Palestine, Lebanon and Turkey, during the key period of the Arab uprisings and their aftermath. The paper covers the period until June 2015.

Overseas Development Institute

Enhancing aid architecture in the regional response to the Syria crisis

by Victoria Metcalfe-Hough, Marcus Manuel [@marcus_manuel](#) and Alastair McKechnie [@Alastairmk](#)

February 2016

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

As the conflict in Syria continues, its political, security, economic and social spill-over effects have intensified across the Middle East and beyond. This policy note outlines a simplified but strategic approach to enhancing the aid architecture for the region, enabling flexibility in country-level implementation and responsiveness to conditions on the ground. It emphasises the need for focused and timely action for refugees, while recognising the need to maintain a simultaneous focus on both acute needs and medium term livelihood support for the foreseeable future.

Bertelsmann Stiftung

Facts on the European dimension of displacement and asylum: Libya

by Christian-Peter Hanelt, Mirco Keilberth [@docuandreport](#) and Tim Lewis Poppenborg

February 2016

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

Libya is a country of six million people, comprised of seven major tribes, which spread across three large regions. Since Libya is primarily desert, most people live on the Mediterranean coast. Overall, 70% of Libyans receive government salaries which are financed by oil revenues.

EASTERN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

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

A common energy market in the Eurasian Economic Union

by Maria Pastukhova and Kirsten Westphal

3 February 2016

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

To the east of the EU a regional energy market is taking shape under the auspices of the Eurasian Economic Union. Even if the interests of the participating states diverge and the ultimate shape of the market remains unclear, the development is likely to be substantial. On the one hand, it threatens to deepen the fragmentation of energy markets in Europe and Asia, on the other the process could generate new opportunities for cooperation and larger spheres of integration. It is thus worth exploring at this early stage the extent to which the emerging energy market is compatible with the EU and the European Energy Community. It is especially important to track the effects in the common neighbourhood, above all Ukraine, in order to avoid renewed geopolitical disruption.

International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance

The role of the European Union in democracy-building in Central Asia and the South Caucasus

by Nicklas Norling and Svante Cornell [@SvanteCornell](#)

28 February 2016

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

This paper examines the European Union's democracy assistance to Central Asia and the South Caucasus, focusing on Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. These countries are among the most fragile and conflict-affected in the post-Soviet space, but they are distinct in that they have made varying degrees of progress towards democratic governance.

AFRICA

International Crisis Group

Zimbabwe: stranded in stasis

February 2016

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

Zimbabwe has been trapped in a political and economic crisis of varying intensity for over fifteen years. Political dynamics, compounded by massive debt, policy incoherence and low domestic and international confidence, frustrate economic recovery. External support, from both West and East, as well as regionally, is essential to aid recovery but can be of only limited benefit if promised political and economic reforms are not implemented.

Ethiopia: governing the faithful

February 2016

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

Religion and religious tensions in Ethiopia reflect broader regional and global trends. While episodes of faith-based communal violence and anti-government protests have been contained, they have not necessarily been resolved. Regional and global experience cautions that successful compromise through political accommodation becomes less likely if believers feel political reform is frustrated and their aspirations are thwarted, and they retreat into faith-based radicalism as an attractive and powerful alternative to secular, dominant-party rule.

Instituto Português de Relações Internacionais e Segurança (Portuguese Institute of International Relations and Security)

Gâmbia: fazer novos amigos, mas com riscos?

by Gustavo Plácido dos Santos [@placidogustavo](#)

23 February 2016

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

On 11 December 2015, the President of Gambia, Yahya Jammeh, proclaimed the country as an 'Islamic Republic', since 'Muslims are the majority' representing 90% to 95% of the population. In order to reflect this new status, a bill will be submitted to the Parliament and the flag will be changed. This article analyses the motivations behind Jammeh's announcement. With this announcement Gambia ceases to be a secular state to join the small but relevant, club of Islamic Republics, formed by Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Iran, Pakistan and Mauritania.

European Union Institute for Security Studies

The EU and Africa: a changing security partnership

by Thierry Tardy [@thierrytardy](#)

17 February 2016

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

One objective of the 2007 Joint Africa-EU Strategy was to take the partnership between the two continents to a new strategic level, based on a Euro-African consensus on values, interests and strategic objectives. Almost ten years later, and with discussions starting on the post-Cotonou landscape, much has been achieved between the two institutions: they have become increasingly interdependent while in the security domain, the AU has reached a level of activity that now makes it an essential player on the African continent. But has the partnership become truly strategic?

ASIA-OCEANIA

Polski Instytut Spraw Międzynarodowych (Polish Institute of International Affairs)

How ASEAN's transformation can play out well for Europe

by Damian Wnukowski [@wnukowskidamian](#)

February 2016

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

The ASEAN project, formally launched at the beginning of 2016, aims at creation of a single market of more than 620 million people, loosens the flow of goods, services and investment, which should underpin regional economic growth and catch the attention of foreign businesses. However, obstacles to economic cooperation remain which shows that the integration process is not yet complete. The EU, which can benefit from a well-functioning market in this region, should share its own experience to support the ASEAN integration process.

Many belts and many roads: the proliferation of infrastructure initiatives in Asia

by Justyna Szczudlik

February 2016

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

Asia could be described as the world's great construction site, and is already the focus of a scramble for infrastructure projects with many Asian countries competing for investments. There is also the risk that fierce competition may result in unprofitable projects, and economic slowdown could cause a decline in funding. For Europe these initiatives create opportunities to take part in new projects, but the EU should be aware that the projects will be implemented mainly in Asia and by Asian countries.

Chatham House - The Royal Institute of International Affairs

ASEAN's regional role and relations with Japan: the challenges of deeper integration

by Masahiro Kawai, Moe Thuzar [@moemoethuzar](#) and Bill Hayton [@bill_hayton](#)

18 February 2016

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

This paper brings together essays by several participants from the conference 'ASEAN's Regional Role and Relations with Japan', held at Chatham House on 22 February 2016. The conference explored the role of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) as a critical actor in Southeast Asia, and the nature of its contemporary relations with Japan. In particular, it focused on ASEAN's unique institutional identity, its potential future trajectories and ways to engage with Japan.

Transatlantic rifts: Asia-Pacific scenario case study

by Xenia Wickett [@xeniawickett](#) and Jacob Parakilas [@Jparakilas](#)

February 2016

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

The scenario explored in this paper consists of a hypothetical maritime territorial crisis breaking out in the Asia-Pacific region. Drawing on the observations of participants in a two-day crisis simulation workshop at Chatham House on 2-3 November 2015, the paper lays out potential European and US responses to such a crisis. It also offers possible explanations for divergent diplomatic and/or military actions, with an eye to designing strategies to mitigate rising tensions.

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Bertelsmann Stiftung

A chain reaction? Effects of mega-trade agreements on Latin America

by Cornelius Fleischhaker, Samuel George [@SamuelGeorge76](#), Gabriel Felbermayr and Rahel Aichele

February 2016

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

The Bertelsmann Stiftung and the IFO Institute analysed the potential effects that a series of mega-trade deals, which are currently under negotiation, could have on Latin America. Specifically, they considered the Trans-Pacific Partnership, the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership, the Free Trade Area of Asia Pacific and the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership. This paper presents the results of their multi-sector trade model, and offer explanations for the numbers.

CHINA

Egmont – Royal Institute for International Relations

The EU-China bilateral investment agreement: between high hopes and real challenges

by Insa Ewert [@insa_e](#)

February 2016

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

In 2012, negotiations over an EU-China bilateral investment agreement were launched to fully tap into the potential of bilateral investments. This policy brief gives an overview of the current negotiation process and argues that the high hopes advanced politically and economically in the agreement must be weighed against the many challenges and obstacles the negotiations face, regarding current events in EU-China relations, in global trade and investment regimes, and the limits of EU competencies.

Migration Policy Institute

Emigration trends and policies in China: movement of the wealthy and highly skilled

by Biao Xiang

February 2016

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

This report analyses the evolution of Chinese emigration since the end of the 1970s to the present day. Concerns about "brain drain" in the late 1980s have now given way to a variety of government efforts to connect with China's diaspora members without necessarily expecting their permanent return. These include targeted recruitment programs for skilled diaspora members in academia and the science and technology sectors, online portals to engage with overseas experts, and temporary exchange programs and special visas for second-generation diaspora members.

IRAN

Center for Strategic and International Studies

The strategic impact of Iran's rising petroleum exports after sanctions

by Anthony H. Cordesman

15 February 2016

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

The lifting of sanctions on Iran will allow it to increase its petroleum exports if the levels of tension with its Gulf neighbours do not escalate to the point of conflict. Iran has limited petroleum export capability and also faces serious price pressure because of production by both Gulf states and other exporters, along with limited global demand. There are no certainties in making even short-term predictions of the increases Iran can make in petroleum exports, the export revenues it will receive, or the impact it will have on its economy.

JAPAN

Cato Institute

Japan's security evolution

by Jennifer Lind [@proflind](#)

25 February 2016

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

In 2015, Japan passed landmark reforms of its national security laws, including a reinterpretation of its constitutional prohibition against collective security activities. Now Japan can legally cooperate with the US in defensive military operations. The author believes that the recent security reforms represent continuity, rather than change, in a pattern in which Japan relies upon the US for its security but contributes more to the alliance when its security environment worsens. From Washington's standpoint, Japan's greater burden-sharing within the alliance is welcome news.

RUSSIA

Utrikespolitiska Institutet (Swedish Institute of International Affairs)

Is Russia a status quo power?

by Ingmar Oldberg

February 2016

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

This paper examines the issue whether Russian foreign policy since 1991 largely has aimed at preserving status quo in selected regions in the world or rather at revising the existing order. It is concluded by the author that thanks to growing nationalism, coupled with stronger economy and military force, Russia in the late 2000s became more revisionist, especially vis-à-vis the post-Soviet states and Ukraine in particular.

Ośrodek Studiów Wschodnich (Centre for Eastern Studies)

"Naftowa przyjaźń": stan i perspektywy rosyjsko-chińskiej współpracy energetycznej

by Marcin Kaczmarek [@M_Kaczmarek](#), Szymon Kardaś [@szymonkardas](#), and Jakub Jakóbowski [@J_Jakobowski](#)

17 February 2016

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

Energy cooperation is and will remain the most important component of Russian-Chinese economic relations. In its present form mainly Russia plays the role of oil supplier for China. The rate of investment by Chinese companies in oil production in Russia is lower - most of the agreements are still a framework. In the medium term, however, you can expect a qualitative change in the current model. The entry of Chinese companies into the Russian upstream sector is highly unlikely, especially if we take into account the financial condition of the Russian energy sector and Chinese interest in direct access to deposits.

Transatlantic Academy

Russia's long war on Ukraine

by Marek Menkiszak [@MarekMenkiszak](#)

1 February 2016

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

This paper argues that the US and EU, rather than accommodating Russia, should pursue a three-fold strategy of "smart containment": continuing to pressure Russia, including by sanctions, while engaging Russians; offering targeted support for Ukraine and other Eastern neighbours; and increasing Europe's resilience against negative Russian influence.

TURKEY

Istanbul Policy Center

Urban refugees: the experiences of Syrians in Istanbul

by Auveen Woods [@auveenwoods](#)

February 2016

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

This paper has chosen to highlight the specific challenges of Syrian communities in Turkey though many of these same issues are faced by other refugee groups. The absence of legal recognition translates into multiple limitations in the lives of urban refugees. This creates the fundamental problem of temporality versus permanency that defines the insecure experiences of many Syrians in Turkey and leads them to risk their lives in the dangerous journey to Europe.

Ośrodek Studiów Wschodnich (Centre for Eastern Studies)

Wróg moich wrogów – Turcja wobec Państwa Islamskiego

by Mateusz Chudziak

24 February 2016

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

In connection with the ongoing civil war in Syria, Turkey is accused of cooperation with the Islamic State. These accusations have long been raised by the West, the Turkish opposition, and the Turkish Kurds. Recently, these accusations have also been made by the Russian authorities. According to the narrative of the Kremlin, Turkey would not only support the organization, but also trade oil with them on an "industrial scale". Ankara, which categorically denies such allegations, nevertheless shows ambivalence towards the Islamic State.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Center for American Progress

Hate and guns - A terrifying combination

by Chelsea Parsons [@ChelseaCParsons](#), Eugenio Weigend Vargas [@eugenioweigend](#) and Jordan Jones

24 February 2016

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

This report explores the history of hate crime laws in the US, the gaps in those laws that contribute to sporadic and inconsistent reporting, and the challenges involved in successfully prosecuting these cases. It then considers the nexus between guns and hate crimes and the frequency with which criminals motivated by bias and hate use guns to threaten and harm their victims. Finally, it proposes a new measure to help keep guns out of the hands of violent extremists: state and federal legislation that prohibits individuals convicted of misdemeanour hate crimes from buying or possessing guns.

A critical year for humanitarianism

by John Norris and Carolyn Kenney

9 February 2016

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

This issue brief spells out the timeline of major upcoming events related to the humanitarian agenda in 2016 and discusses the scope of the major challenges the international community faces, including a lack of resources, repeated patterns of deliberate attacks on civilians, and a caseload that continues to expand rapidly. It also explores some of the issues that will likely prove most difficult to resolve given the current approach to reform, in which major structural changes are largely off the table.

Center for Strategic and International Studies

Saudi Arabia and the United States: common interests and continuing sources of tension

by Anthony H. Cordesman

29 February 2016

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

The US and Saudi Arabia have been strategic partners during most of the post war era. In broad terms, the US and Saudi Arabia have cooperated closely in shaping Gulf and regional security for most of the years since 1945. This partnership is even more important today than in the past, given the complex mix of threats posed by Iran, ISIS, civil war, and political upheavals. At the same time, it faces significant issues, and both sides need to make significant adjustments to make it more effective.

Evaluating future US Army force posture in Europe

by Kathleen H. Hicks [@kath_hicks](#) and Heather A. Conley

4 February 2014

Link to the article in [English](#) (40 p.)

This report offers a re-examination of US Army force posture in Europe amid heightened tensions between the US and Russia over the geopolitical orientation of Ukraine. This study reviews Russian military capabilities; considers alternative US force posture arrangements; assesses how to determine whether assurance and deterrence goals are being met; and offers concrete recommendations in order to optimize the US Army's presence in Europe to deter Russian aggression against the most vulnerable NATO members.

REGARDS CROISÉS

Fundación de Estudios de Economía Aplicada

Regional financing in Germany and Spain: comparative reform perspectives

by Angel de la Fuente, Michael Thöne and Christian Kastrop

February 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (63 p.)

Reforms of regional financing are due soon, or even overdue, in both Spain and in Germany. This paper compares the systems of regional financing in both countries, describes their financial outcomes, benchmarks them against criteria taken from the modern theory of fiscal federalism and extracts some lessons for reform from this endeavour. These lessons may also prove interesting from a broader European and OECD perspective as other Member States face comparable challenges.

Hanns Seidel Foundation

Föderalismus : Zwischen Einheit und Vielfalt

by Susanne Luther (ed.)

February 2016

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

The present paper summarises the state of play in selected developing countries and newly industrialising countries in terms of application of their respective constitution's already existing provisions on federalism. The countries analysed are Indonesia, India, Pakistan, Myanmar, Kenya, Egypt and Argentina.

Friends of Europe

Shifting geopolitics of energy. Winners & losers: India

by Danuta Slusarska and Fabio Orlando

February 2016

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

The aim of this analysis is to assess the ongoing shifts in geostrategic power balances, track energy sector transformations and highlight best practices. The paper draws on data from the International Energy Agency, the US Energy Information, the World Bank and Bloomberg New Energy Finance. This is the first paper from a planned series which will examine energy politics in India, Iran, China, Japan, Saudi Arabia, the US, Brazil, Russia, South Africa and Mexico.

MISCELLANEOUS

Barcelona Graduate School of Economics

Globalization and political structure

by Gino Gancia, Giacomo A.M. Ponzetto and Jaume Ventura

February 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (40 p.)

This paper develops a theoretical framework to study the interaction between globalization and political structure. The authors argue that political structure adapts to expanding trade opportunities in a non-monotonic way and that borders hamper trade.

Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin für Sozialforschung (Social Science Research Center Berlin)

Homo moralis: personal characteristics, institutions, and moral decision-making

by Thomas Deckers, Armin Falk, Fabian Kosse and Nora Szech

February 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (33 p.)

This paper studies how individual characteristics, institutions, and their interaction influence moral decisions. The authors validate a moral paradigm focusing on the willingness to accept harming third parties. They then explore how moral behaviour varies with individual characteristics and how these characteristics interact with market institutions compared to situations of individual decision-making.

Chatham House - The Royal Institute of International Affairs

The future of capitalist democracy: UK - Japan perspectives

by Bill Emmott [@bill_emmott](#) and Masayuki Tadokoro

February 2016

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

This paper brings together a summary of the discussions at the third UK–Japan Global Seminar Series, held at Chatham House in London on 21-22 September 2015, with the title 'The Future of Capitalist Democracy: UK–Japan Perspectives'. It also includes a co-authored essay by two of the participants, Bill Emmott and Masayuki Tadokoro, on the role of the UK and Japan in the changing international order.

Barcelona Centre for International Affairs

The role of metropolitan areas in the governance of development challenges: towards the European urban agenda

by Anna Ayuso [@AyusoAnna](#) and Josep M. Coll,

12 February 2016

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

Accelerated urbanisation is a global demographic trend that takes different shapes in each region and continent. In developing countries the tendency has led to the creation of big megalopolises, but in Europe, where rural-to-urban migration is more mature and the urbanisation rate is highest, the metropolitan phenomenon has a more polycentric architecture. There has been a transition from a centre/periphery dialectic framework to a more complex reality in which interdependencies between various municipalities continually interact.