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This Think Tank Review* covers articles and reports published in July and August relating to different political and policy topics. ([click to share on Twitter](#))

Publications relating to **EU Politics and Institutions** look at the new political landscape following the European elections and how the rise of nationalists, populists and Eurosceptics did not lead to an increase of their weight in the EP. Reports highlight that the new EU policymakers are operating in a more favourable economic environment as growth is steady, employment is up and investment is recovering. Nevertheless, the EU leadership is confronted with formidable challenges in relation to the geopolitical landscape, global warming and digital technologies.

On **Competitiveness**, reports argue that a modern, well-functioning single market is paramount if the EU is to deliver on sustainability, competitiveness and innovation. Connectivity is high on the EU's agenda, but its digital dimension remains underdeveloped. What the EU needs now is a comprehensive strategic vision that will spur action on all three practical elements of digital connectivity - telecommunications infrastructure, business and regulation.

On **ECOFIN**, publications present the challenges that the next ECB president will face during the upcoming term of office, reinventing monetary policy in a system riddled with uncertainties. Articles comment on structural polarisation across much of the EU which poses the greatest threat to long-term European cohesion. This polarisation arises from differences in the sectoral structure of the economy, and also from the different institutional and legal entities, e.g. tax and company law or the labour market.

On **Environment**, papers address the oft-overlooked pitfalls and dilemmas relating to the ecological transition, for instance the balance between its costs and benefits, the decoupling of GDP and carbon emissions, carbon mechanisms and pricing and fossil fuel subsidies. Articles

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highlight what digitalisation means in the context of a circular economy and examine the role of the EU tools and initiatives in steering the (digital) transition towards a circular economy.

On **Brexit**, articles comment on how to prepare for no deal, as well as discussing ways to clearly define the UK's economic diplomacy and examining what is needed to revitalise UK foreign policy in the post-Brexit age.

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The next Think Tank Review will be out in October, with papers published in September 2019.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

SECTION 1 - EU POLITICS AND INSTITUTIONS	4
SECTION 2 - EU POLICIES	6
COMPETITIVENESS (INTERNAL MARKET, INDUSTRY, RESEARCH AND SPACE).....	6
ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS.....	7
EMPLOYMENT/SOCIAL POLICY/HEALTH AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS	8
ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES.....	10
GENERAL AFFAIRS	11
JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS	11
TRANSPORT/TELECOMMUNICATIONS/ENERGY	13
SECTION 3 - FOREIGN AFFAIRS	15
FOREIGN AND SECURITY POLICY / DEFENCE.....	15
TRADE.....	17
AFRICA.....	18
ASIA-OCEANIA.....	19
EASTERN EUROPE	20
LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN.....	21
MIDDLE EAST/NORTH AFRICA (MENA)	21
WESTERN BALKANS.....	22
CHINA.....	22
RUSSIA.....	23
TURKEY	24
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.....	24
SECTION 4 - EU MEMBER STATES	25
CZECH REPUBLIC	25
GERMANY	25
IRELAND	26
FRANCE.....	27
ITALY	27
NETHERLANDS	28
POLAND.....	28
SLOVAKIA.....	28
UNITED KINGDOM	28
BREXIT	30
MISCELLANEOUS	31

SECTION 1 - EU POLITICS AND INSTITUTIONS

ULKOPOLIITTINEN INSTITUUTTI (FINNISH INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS)

[Finland's 2019 presidency of the Council of the European Union: European and domestic determinants](#)

by Tuomas Iso-Markku and Juha Jokela [@JuhaJokela1](#)

The Finnish presidency of the EU Council faces a sensitive political climate, marked by divisions between the member states. However, some of the EU's recent crises have also given the Union a renewed sense of purpose: striking the right balance between ambition and realism will therefore be a key challenge for Finland. (8 p.)

FOUNDATION ROBERT SCHUMAN

[The 9th European legislature: a new political landscape](#)

by Eric Maurice [@er1cmau](#), Cindy Schweitzer, Magali Menneteau et al.

The 9th legislature of the European Parliament that began on 2nd July is marked by some evident contradictions. On the one hand 751 MEPs were elected in a better manner than any of their predecessors, with a turnout rate of 50.62%, the highest since 1994. On the other hand, the significant rise of the nationalists, populists and Eurosceptics in most member states is not reflected by an increase in their weight in Parliament. (10 p.)

BRUEGEL

[Braver, greener, fairer: memos to the EU leadership 2019-2024](#)

by Maria Demertzis [@mariademertzis](#) and Guntram Wolff [@GuntramWolff](#) (eds.)

The policymakers who will lead the EU until 2024 take office in the context of a more favourable economic environment than their predecessors faced. Growth is steady, employment is up and investment is recovering. But in other ways, the new leadership confronts formidable challenges. The multilateral consensus is breaking down and a geopolitical confrontation between the US and China has become a reality. Global warming has not been tackled and digital technologies are challenging traditional notions of society and work. Europe must aim at a green transformation of the economy. And it must ensure social fairness so the costs of change do not fall on the weakest. (269 p.)

EUROPEAN POLICY CENTRE

[The political reform agenda of Ursula von der Leyen](#)

by Andrew Duff [@AndrewDuffEU](#)

Ursula von der Leyen is looking to strengthen her support among pro-European forces. Her agenda for democratic reform of the EU is central to her mission. Only she, and not the European Council, is capable of setting an ambitious political agenda for the next five years. The author argues that the conference on future of Europe, which von der Leyen supports, is the best way to prepare for the next round of EU treaty revision. But the top priority must be to reform the electoral procedure of the Parliament to introduce a real transnational element and to salvage the controversial Spitzenkandidat concept. (8 p.)

**NEDERLANDS INSTITUUT VOOR INTERNATIONALE BETREKKINGEN - CLINGENDAEL
(NETHERLANDS INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS)**

[Comparative trends in EU governance. From the 'ordinary' method to the transgovernmental method?](#)

by Adriaan Schout [@adriaanschout](#), Dick Zandee, Wouter Zweers [@Wouter_Zweers](#) et al.

This study examines the developments in the governance structures of three high political areas, namely EMU, space, and migration policy. Rather than treating each policy area separately with the danger of reinventing the wheel of governance in individual policy areas, this brief considers developments in EU governance horizontally across different sectors. Particularly, it discusses the following questions: how has EU governance evolved? Which theoretical attitudes towards EU governance exist? How can we use theories to learn more about EU governance? And what horizontally emerging patterns in EU governance can be identified? (42 p.)

BRUEGEL

[The threats to the European Union's economic sovereignty. Memo to the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy](#)

by Jean Pisani-Ferry [@pisaniferry](#) and Guntram Wolff [@GuntramWolff](#)

The authors describe the increasing interlinkages between economics and power politics and set out what they think must be done to reinforce and defend Europe's economic sovereignty. Economics used to play a limited role in foreign policy, but neither China nor the US now separates economics from geopolitics. The competition between them is simultaneously an economic competition and a security competition. This is a threat to the multilateral system the EU has relied on for nearly seven decades and to the EU's separation of external economic relationships from geopolitics. (15 p.)

PETERSON INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL ECONOMICS

[Measuring the rise of economic nationalism](#)

by Monica de Bolle [@bollembd](#) and Jeromin Zettelmeyer [@jzettelmeyer](#)

Since the mid-2000s, the platforms of major political parties in both advanced and emerging-market economies have increasingly emphasized policies that stress national sovereignty, reject multilateralism, and seek to advance national interests through measures that come at the expense of foreign interests. This paper documents this shift by evaluating the policy platforms of the largest political parties (about 55 in total) in the G-20 countries with regard to trade policy, foreign direct investment, immigration, and multilateral organizations. (57 p.)

**NEDERLANDS INSTITUUT VOOR INTERNATIONALE BETREKKINGEN - CLINGENDAEL
(NETHERLANDS INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS)**

[The multilateral system under stress. Charting Europe's path forward](#)

by Brigitte Dekker, Sico van der Meer [@SicovanderMeer](#) and Maaïke Okano-Heijmans [@MaaïkeOh](#)

The retreat of the US from the international order that it helped to build marks a significant turning point in international affairs. The Netherlands, as a EU member state, now has to reposition itself in a world defined by great power rivalry and without a guaranteed strong transatlantic partnership. There is more urgency than ever to prevent a fracturing of the multilateral system.

The Netherlands and the EU are uniquely placed to play a special role in revitalising the multilateral system. (39 p.)

NOTRE EUROPE - JACQUES DELORS INSTITUTE

[L'Europe selon Jacques Delors](#) [Europe according to Jacques Delors](#)

by Pascal Lamy [@PascalLamyEU](#)

This paper looks back on what is still viewed as the golden age of European construction. Going beyond the achievements with outcomes that remain open to criticism, the Delors years form a valuable heritage in terms of the conception of Europe, working methods and political style. With his "Laudator temporis acti", Horace referred to the age which advances the temptation for a morose censorship of the present period and a glorification of past times. This is the risk taken when discussing the Delors period (1985-1995) described as a golden age of European construction in comparison to the present day. (FR - 5 p. / EN - 6 p.)

SECTION 2 - EU POLICIES

COMPETITIVENESS (INTERNAL MARKET, INDUSTRY, RESEARCH AND SPACE)

EUROPEAN COUNCIL ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

[Machine politics: Europe and the AI revolution](#)

by Ulrike Franke [@RikeFranke](#) and Paola Sartori [@SartoriPal](#)

The policy brief assesses the national AI strategies of France and Germany, as well as Italy's recently published "Proposals for an Italian AI strategy" and other official documents that pertain to AI and technology generally, to understand these countries' priorities on AI. It examines the role of European cooperation, especially the emphasis the three countries place on working with EU institutions and other member states to tackle the challenges of AI and take advantage of the opportunities it offers. (21 p.)

NEDERLANDS INSTITUUT VOOR INTERNATIONALE BETREKKINGEN - CLINGENDAEL (NETHERLANDS INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS)

[How to strengthen Europe's agenda on digital connectivity](#)

by Maaïke Okano-Heijmans [@MaaïkeOh](#)

Connectivity is high on the EU's agenda, but its digital dimension remains underdeveloped. The EU's distinct approach to digital connectivity - with a focus on the internal market, rule-making and development - differs from similar strategies, particularly China and its digital silk road. Needed, now, is a comprehensive strategic vision that spurs action on all three practical elements of digital connectivity - namely, telecommunications infrastructure, business and regulation – and gives strategic guidance in the political and even securitized sense, and not only from a market perspective. (8 p.)

KONRAD-ADENAUER-STIFTUNG

[Time to act – and fast! Europe's next steps in successfully shaping the process of digitisation](#) [Jetzt aber zügig! Europas nächste Schritte für die erfolgreiche Gestaltung der Digitalisierung](#)

by Sebastian Weise

The positive potentials of the digital transformation of Europe and the world are enormous and surpass the risks. If Europe wants to fully exploit the potentials of the emergent digital age and hold its own against international competition, it must actively shape the process of digital transformation, purposefully mobilise its own potentials and determinedly push ahead with the necessary changes. This paper presents a series of different recommendations for the EU's next steps in shaping digitisation. (EN/DE - 8 p.)

EUROPEAN POLICY CENTRE

[Making the Single Market work: launching a 2022 masterplan for Europe](#)

by Johan Bjerkem [@johanbjerkem](#) and Malcolm Harbour

This paper argues that it will be crucial for the next Commission to put the reform of the Single Market at the very top of its priority list. A modern and well-functioning single market is paramount if the EU is to deliver on the goals and aims it will surely set itself for the rest of its mandate, from sustainability to competitiveness and innovation. The EU should therefore define a new masterplan with concrete objectives to be achieved by 2022 – a '2022 single market action plan'. (24 p.)

ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

BRUEGEL

[Preparing for uncertainty: memo to the President of the European Central Bank](#)

by Grégory Claeys [@gregclaeys](#), Maria Demertzis [@mariademertzis](#) and Francesco Papadia [@FrancescoPapad1](#)

This memo presents the challenges that the next ECB president will face during the upcoming mandate, reinventing monetary policy in a system riddled with uncertainties. The architecture of EMU makes the challenge even greater because alignment of preferences and policies can only go so far. The ECB will have to be clearer on what it can do, while remaining flexible in order to manage current uncertainties and unknowns. (18 p.)

LUISS SCHOOL OF EUROPEAN POLITICAL ECONOMY

[Should the eurozone be less intergovernmental?](#)

by Marco Buti and Martina Krobath

Since the economic and financial crisis, the institutional landscape in the EU has changed. While no structure in the EU is perfectly intergovernmental or supranational, there is an increased tendency to introduce intergovernmental elements in the EMU architecture during and after the crisis. While such an approach was warranted at the time of the crisis, it should not become a permanent feature of the economic governance framework. (11 p.)

DEUTSCHES INSTITUT FÜR WIRTSCHAFTSFORSCHUNG (GERMAN INSTITUTE FOR ECONOMIC RESEARCH)

**[Öffentliche Investitionen sind wichtige Voraussetzung für privatwirtschaftliche Aktivität](#)
[Public investment a key prerequisite for private sector activity](#)**

by Marius Clemens [@MariusClemens](#), Marius Goerge and Claus Michelsen [@ClausMichelsen](#)

Ten years after the 2008 financial crisis, in the euro area investment is still below the pre-crisis level. Public and private investment growth is so weak that capital per worker (capital intensity) has virtually remained constant. An increase in public investment activity could ultimately stimulate private investment. The public sector should now begin investing more. And the rigid balanced budget amendment should be replaced by more flexible expenditure rules. (DE/EN 8 p.)

WIENER INSTITUT FÜR INTERNATIONALE WIRTSCHAFTSVERGLEICHE (THE VIENNA INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC STUDIES)

[Osteuropa trotz dem globalen Gegenwind](#)

by Vasily Astrov and Julia Grübler [@JuliaGruebler](#)

The economy in the Central, Eastern and Southeastern European countries is cooling down, but much less than expected in the spring: the forecasts for this year have been revised upwards for the majority of countries. Particularly in the EU-Central and Eastern region, growth has decoupled quite clearly from the downturn in the euro area. (DE - 108 p.)

FRIEDRICH-EBERT-STIFTUNG (FRIDRICH EBERT FOUNDATION)

[Wirtschaftliche Polarisierung in Europa: Ursachen und Handlungsoptionen](#)

by Jakob Kapeller, Claudius Gräbner [@ClaudiusGrabner](#) and Philipp Heimberger [@heimbergecon](#)

This study argues that the temporary positive economic developments from 2017 to 2018 have only masked the underlying structural polarisation across much of the EU. This polarisation arises from structural differences, e.g. differences in the sectoral structure of the economy, but also from the different institutional and legal entities, e.g. tax and company law or the labour market. The authors argue that polarisation continues to pose the greatest threat to long-term European cohesion, as it is causing a macroeconomic divergence under the current policy framework. (DE – 43 p.)

EMPLOYMENT/SOCIAL POLICY/HEALTH AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

ISTITUTO AFFARI INTERNAZIONALI / THE GERMAN MARSHALL FUND OF THE UNITED STATES / MERCATOR EUROPEAN DIALOGUE

[Fixing the European social malaise: understanding and addressing the grievances of European workers](#)

by Lorenza Antonucci [@SocialLore](#)

European citizens are increasingly dissatisfied with their standard of living and unhappy about their working conditions. This “social malaise” is resulting in growing distrust toward national and EU institutions as well as support for anti-establishment political forces. Against this backdrop, this paper provides policymakers and members of parliament with an analysis of the drivers and implications of such trends as well as some policy solutions to mitigate these phenomena. (8 p.)

EUROPEAN TRADE UNION INSTITUTE

[Regulating uncertainty: variable work schedules and zero-hour work in EU employment policy](#)

by Agnieszka Piasna

This policy brief considers what is the scope for addressing the challenges linked to irregular work schedules in EU social and employment policy. It first describes EU competence in the areas of work and employment conditions in order to assess what the EU institutions can de jure do to address irregular work schedules. It then evaluates what the EU can de facto do based on the current direction and agenda of its employment policy. It discusses in detail two legislative acts at EU level in the areas most pertinent to irregular and variable work schedules, that is working time and employment contracts. (6 p.)

BRUEGEL

[Digitalisation and European welfare states](#)

by Georgios Petropoulos [@georgionomix](#), J. Scott Marcus [@JScottMARCUS](#), Nicolas Moës [@NicolasMoes](#) et al.

EU policymakers must find answers to pressing questions: if technology has a negative impact on labour income, how will the welfare state be funded? How can workers' welfare rights be adequately secured? Rapid technological progress and innovation can destroy jobs and disrupt welfare systems. This is not a new concern. Historically, automation of production processes has led to extraordinary efficiency gains and to the displacement of labour. But history has also shown that, in the longer run, the gains in efficiency pay off and new jobs are created. (160 p.)

FRIEDRICH-EBERT-STIFTUNG (FRIEDRICH EBERT FOUNDATION)

[European cohesion: progress at a snail's pace](#)

by Michael Dauderstädt

This study examines how inequality and risk of poverty evolved in Europe between 2016 to 2017. It looks at the correlation between European poverty and the rise of Euroscepticism. The author argues that Europe needs a progressive economic policy that balances supply and demand, as well as stability and growth. Additionally, more democracy and less technocracy would boost the EU's approval ratings and at the same time dry up the wellsprings of populism. (5 p.)

KONRAD-ADENAUER-STIFTUNG

[Pandemics: how well-prepared is the EU?](#) [Pandemien: wie gut ist die EU vorbereitet?](#)

by Daniela Braun [@braun_daniela](#)

Epidemics and pandemics pose a real danger in the highly connected 21st century. Densely populated areas like the EU, with lively exchange of goods and services, are especially susceptible to the rapid spread of infectious diseases. The good news is: we can prepare ourselves – but it won't be easy according to this paper. (EN - 12 p. / DE - 13 p.)

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

INSTITUTE FOR PUBLIC POLICY RESEARCH

[Facing the crisis: rethinking economics for the age of environmental breakdown](#)

by Laurie Laybourn-Langton [@Laurie_L_L](#) and Tom Hill [@tomhillonline](#)

This paper explores the role of social and economic systems – and the ideas, policies and narratives that underpin them – in driving dangerous environmental change. It discusses how these systems should change in order to improve the response to environmental breakdown. (24 p.)

STIFTUNG WISSENSCHAFT UND POLITIK (GERMAN INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL AND SECURITY AFFAIRS)

[Climate neutrality as long-term strategy: the EU's net zero target and its consequences for member states](#)

[Klimaneutralität als Langfrist-Strategie: die Ausgestaltung des EU-Nullemissionsziels und die Folgen für Deutschland](#)

by Oliver Geden [@Oliver_Geden](#) and Felix Schenuit [@FelixSchenuit](#)

This article discusses climate neutrality as a long-term strategy. It looks at the design of the EU's zero emission ambitions and what consequences the EU 2030 target may have for member states, such as Germany. The authors argue that any decision made in favour of a long-term EU climate neutrality goal will only be credible if it is reflected in correspondingly ambitious measures by the member states. (EN/DE - 4 p.)

FRIENDS OF EUROPE

[The overlooked side of the ecological transition](#)

by Helen Mountford [@HMountford4](#), Laura Merrill [@merriaura](#), Emma Fryer et al.

This discussion paper aims to stimulate a debate on how to support a sustainable ecological transition, taking into consideration aspects ranging from cost, financing and the facilitation of a whole-of-society approach to decarbonisation. It addresses the pitfalls and dilemmas that are regularly overlooked in the conversation on the ecological transition. The authors tackle a number of controversial subjects, such as the costs and benefits of the transition, the decoupling of GDP and carbon emissions, carbon mechanisms and pricing, fossil fuel subsidies, digital emissions, smart resource management and the fundamental role of nature. (46 p.)

EUROPEAN POLICY CENTRE

[Creating a digital roadmap for a circular economy](#)

by Johan Bjerkem [@johanbjerkem](#), Annika Hedberg [@AnnikaAhtonen](#) and Stefan Šipka

This publication demonstrates what digitalisation means in the context of a circular economy; considers what a greater focus on sustainability would mean for the digital transition; examines the role of the EU policy framework, tools and initiatives in steering a (digital) transition towards a (digital) circular economy and makes recommendations for EU institutions for the next five years. It suggests that the EU must think systemically, define a vision and act and provide an adequate governance framework and economic incentives for a (digital) transition to a (digital) circular economy. (24 p.)

GENERAL AFFAIRS

BERTELSMANN STIFTUNG

[EU cohesion policy: a suitable tool to foster regional innovation?](#)

by Julia Schmidt

Across Europe, regions are divided into innovation leaders and moderate innovators – the latter referring to regions that lag behind in terms of prosperity and R&D activities. This innovation gap in turn threatens to reinforce the productivity gap between regions. The EU's cohesion policy recently shifted its focus towards funding innovation to deal with these disparities. This paper answers the question: is this strategy working? (14 p.)

STIFTUNG WISSENSCHAFT UND POLITIK (GERMAN INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL AND SECURITY AFFAIRS)

[A new budget for the EU: negotiations on the multiannual financial framework 2021–2027](#)

By Peter Becker

This research paper looks at the issues the MFF negotiations are facing, such as Brexit, increased protection of the EU's external borders, and the stabilisation of the eurozone. Many member states hope that Germany, as the strongest economy and largest net contributor, will provide additional resources to facilitate a successful conclusion of the negotiations on a new MMF. This paper argues that the German government needs clear and firm ideas about the fields in which it wants to modernise EU policies and to further Europeanise and communitise them. (34 p.)

NOTRE EUROPE - JACQUES DELORS INSTITUTE

[Budget européen 2021-2027 comment échapper au "business as usual" ?](#)

by Morgan Larhant [@MorganLarhant](#)

This paper offers an analysis of the European budgetary stakes after the European elections. The European Council of June 2019 called for reaching an agreement before the end of the year. This objective remains ambitious as the negotiation looks like one of the most complicated of recent years. (FR - 10 p.)

JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT THINK TANK

[The integration of refugees in Denmark, Finland and France](#)

by Manuela Samek Lodovici, Serena Marianna Drufuca and Anthea Galea

This study presents a comparative overview of recent policy developments in Denmark, Finland and France. The focus of the analysis is on progress achieved in the last three years in the adaptation of the reception and integration system for the high numbers of new arrivals and on the main challenges encountered. Special attention is given to changes in perceptions, public opinion and political discourse with respect to the asylum and integration of refugees and how this influenced policy strategy. (96 p.)

BERLIN-INSTITUT FÜR BEVÖLKERUNG UND ENTWICKLUNG (THE BERLIN INSTITUTE FOR POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT)

[Europa als Ziel? Die Zukunft der globalen Migration](#)

by Jana Aresin, Adrián Carrasco Heiermann, Alisa Kaps et al.

In view of the resistance to and reservations regarding migration, the question arises: what is the future of migration in the EU? In order to moderate the public debate, it is first necessary to obtain a clear idea of current migration and to analyse the migration potentials in different regions of the world. This study examines these elements based on various contributing factors and draws conclusions as to how migration to the EU could develop over the coming years. (DE - 96 p.)

KONRAD-ADENAUER-STIFTUNG

[Integrationskontinent Europa: Integration von Zuwanderern im europäischen Vergleich](#)

by Benedict Göbel and Thomas Köhler (eds.)

Europe is a continent of integration movements. All over Europe, integration concepts are developed and implemented by the member states. This paper proposes that the EU should understand integration policy as an independent policy field and support its member states in its design, coordination and development. (DE - 117 p.)

EUROPEAN POLICY CENTRE

[Policy update July 2019](#)

by Katharina Bamberg [@KatBamberg](#) , Marie De Somer [@MarieDeSomer](#), Alberto-Horst Neidhardt et al.

This edition's special focus examines the results of the EP elections and what they mean for the reform process of the Common European Asylum System. Other key highlights of this update include an analysis of the ongoing criminalisation of search and rescue activities in the Mediterranean, the situation at the eastern border of the EU, developments on the visa code and returns directive, and a closer look at the European summit of refugees and migrants. (16 p.)

STIFTUNG WISSENSCHAFT UND POLITIK (GERMAN INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL AND SECURITY AFFAIRS)

[Grenzverschiebungen in Europas Außen- und Sicherheitspolitik: rechtsstaatliche Defizite überwinden](#)

by Annegret Bendiek [@annegretbendiek](#) and Raphael Bossong [@raphaelbossong](#)

This article analyses how EU law and policies concerning migration and security can be strengthened in EU external matters. It looks at the challenges the EU is faced with regarding human rights and the pressure some member states are confronted with as regards the limitation of migration. The authors argue that the EU should resume the process of formal accession to the European Convention on Human Rights. This would clarify the legal limits and the efficiency of the EU foreign and security policy. (DE – 31 p.)

INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR COUNTER-TERRORISM - THE HAGUE

[Towards a framework for post-terrorist incident communications strategies](#)

by Alastair Reed [@reed_alastair](#) and Haroro J Ingram [@haroro_ingram](#)

Guidelines for shaping how social media companies, governments and the media respond to terrorist activities are essential. This paper explores what lessons can be drawn from various bodies of research and practice to inform such a framework of guiding principles. It synthesises research on post-incident communications from a range of fields – including terrorism, crisis communications, mass-shooter incidents, serial offenders, and suicide studies – to identify guidelines for the development of a post-terrorist incident communications framework. (16 p.)

FOUNDATION ROBERT SCHUMAN

[Europe and disinformation](#)

by Mariya Gabriel [@GabrielMariya](#)

The Commission has been looking at the phenomenon of on-line disinformation. Since disinformation has always existed, it is its on-line nature that is novel here. Disinformation, an invisible scourge, is infiltrating the lives of EU citizens and is influencing their opinion and decisions. Whilst social network platforms play an increasingly important role in the media landscape, the disinformation circulating there is polarizing debate and can create or worsen tension in society, but it can also undermine EU electoral systems. (6 p.)

THE GERMAN MARSHALL FUND OF THE UNITED STATES / ALLIANCE FOR SECURING DEMOCRACY

[Avoiding the band-aid effect in institutional responses to disinformation and hybrid threats](#)

by Nina Jankowicz [@wiczipedia](#)

Through a study of six key unilateral and multilateral efforts in Europe to counter disinformation and hybrid threats, this paper identifies best practices and pitfalls in establishing bodies to address the complex problem of foreign interference in democracies. It assesses the extent to which they are integrated into meaningful policy- and decision-making processes, the extent to which they coordinate across government and with each other, and the extent to which they are meeting public-facing program objectives. (20 p.)

TRANSPORT/TELECOMMUNICATIONS/ENERGY

OXFORD INSTITUTE FOR ENERGY STUDIES

[European traded gas hubs: a decade of change](#)

by Patrick Heather

This insight provides a further update on the maturity and development of European traded gas hubs, following on from the comprehensive study undertaken in 2015 and the update published in 2017, which looked at both the liquidity and pricing aspects of the hubs. (29 p.)

CENTRE FOR EUROPEAN POLICY STUDIES

[Comparative study on the governance structure and energy policies in EU macro-regional strategies](#)

by Jorge Núñez Ferrer [🐦 @jnunez_ferrer](#), Mihnea Cătuți [🐦 @mihneacatuti](#), Cristian Stroia [@Cristian_Stroia](#) et al.

This study focuses on the similarities and differences in the governance structures of the macro-strategies and, more specifically, their contribution to the implementation of the energy union, while keeping an eye on the potential role that these initiatives might have after 2020. The study reveals that the application of the new macro-regional strategies concept to the already existing advanced set of funding policies by the EU is not fully well-suited. (59 p.)

BRUEGEL

[The European Union energy transition: key priorities for the next five years](#)

by Simone Tagliapietra [🐦 @Tagliapietra_S](#), Georg Zachmann [🐦 @GeorgZachmann](#), Ottmar Edenhofer et al.

The new members of the EP and the Commission who start their mandates in 2019 should put in place major policy elements to unleash the energy transition. The EU now needs a much deeper energy transformation to decarbonise in line with the Paris agreement; seize the economic and industrial opportunities offered by this global transformation; and develop an EU approach to energy competitiveness and security, as the EU has neither the US shale potential nor China's top-down investment possibilities. (8 p.)

THE GERMAN MARSHALL FUND OF THE UNITED STATES

[Cities and civil society as allies for the energy transition](#)

by Irene García [🐦 @irenegarciag](#) and Divya Khandke [🐦 @divs_khandke](#)

This report summarises discussions by European and US local representatives, stakeholders, and experts responsible for the energy transition of their territories. The report identifies how cities can commit to further empowering civil society and guarantee that the energy transition generates real and widespread benefits for all. (21 p.)

CENTRE FOR EUROPEAN POLICY STUDIES

[Electricity sector holds the key for the EU's low-carbon economy](#)

by Christian Egenhofer [🐦 @CEgenhofer](#) and Francesco Gazzoletti

Electrification continues to be identified as a least-cost decarbonisation option. In order to be successful, this will require competitive and affordable – for both industry and citizens – low-carbon electricity at very large volumes. The EU can build upon the successes of its 2020 strategy, but the cycle from 2020 to 2030 will bring new and bigger challenges. During its term, the new Commission will be increasingly faced with calls to provide effective signals to unlock investments, for example in the form of a newly conceived long-term price signal. (10 p.)

CENTRE FOR EUROPEAN POLICY STUDIES

[The future of gas in Europe: review of recent studies on the future of gas](#)

by Mihnea Cătuți [@mihneacatuti](#), Christian Egenhofer [@CEgenhofer](#) and Milan Elkerbout [@MilanElkerbout](#)

This report reviews the findings of the most recent reports on the evolution of the EU gas market foreseen up to 2030 and 2050 with the aim of identifying the different outcomes and examining the reason for divergent results. Up until 2030, the demand for natural gas is projected to remain stable or to decrease slightly. Switching to natural gas-fired power plants can represent a short and medium-term solution for countries going through a coal phase-out. Gas can also contribute to the flexibility in the power sector necessitated by the increasing share of variable renewables such as wind and solar. (33 p.)

CENTRUM ANALIZ SPOŁECZNO-EKONOMICZNYCH (CENTER FOR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC RESEARCH)

[EU28 legal and fiscal readiness for the adoption of an on-tax financing mechanism - EuroPACE](#)

by Izabela Styczyńska and Karolina Zubeł [@kzubeł](#)

The statistics vary, but in general, EU citizens spend approximately 90% of their time indoors; and while time spent in workplaces, schools, and public spaces is relevant, it is the time spent in our homes that accounts for two-thirds of this time in total. The aim of this paper is to present an innovative financial mechanism – EuroPACE (property assessed clean energy) – which could increase the quality of this crucial residential category. (149 p.)

SECTION 3 - FOREIGN AFFAIRS

FOREIGN AND SECURITY POLICY / DEFENCE

EUROPEAN UNION INSTITUTE FOR SECURITY STUDIES

[The EU and NATO](#)

by Gustav Lindstrom and Thierry Tardy [@thierrytardy](#)

A momentum for renewed cooperation between NATO and the EU has emerged over the last few years, with the signing of the 2016 and 2018 joint declarations. This publication analyses interaction between both organizations by focusing on the main areas of cooperation identified in the two joint declarations. (94 p.)

NEDERLANDS INSTITUUT VOOR INTERNATIONALE BETREKKINGEN - CLINGENDAEL (NETHERLANDS INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS)

[Military mobility and the EU-NATO conundrum](#)

by Margriet Drent, Kimberley Kruijver and Dick Zandee

Improved military mobility has been identified as one of the flagships for EU-NATO cooperation. Both organisations have a vested interest in being able to rapidly move defence forces, equipment and supplies across Europe. The authors identify and map the relevant stakeholders in this essential field of cooperation. Subsequently, the way in which the EU and NATO have been working together so far, in general as well as in this specific area, is analysed. Will the issue

of improving cross-border military movement prove to be the silver bullet for solving the EU-NATO cooperation conundrum? (19 p.)

EUROPEAN COUNCIL ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

[From plaything to player: how Europe can stand up for itself in the next five years](#)

by Mark Leonard [@markhleonard](#) and Carl Bildt [@carlbildt](#)

This paper assesses the last five years of EU foreign policymaking, and sets out practical ways for Europe to fulfil its potential on the world stage over the next five years. It argues that the coming five years herald acute pressure on Europe, as Russia, China, and the US undermine multilateral institutions and treat trade, finance data, and security guarantees as instruments of power rather than global public goods. The authors believe that the new leadership team in Brussels needs to re-operationalise European defence and consider innovations such as a European Security Council. (8 p.)

EUROPEAN POLICY CENTRE

[Strategic autonomy for European choices: the key to Europe's shaping power](#)

by Giovanni Grevi

This paper follows recent debates dedicated to revamping Europe's approach to an increasingly challenging international context. It elaborates on these recommendations to place strategic autonomy at the top of the political agendas of the new EU leadership and of member states. The confusion that surrounds the debate about Europe's strategic autonomy mirrors the uncertainty surrounding the prospects for European integration and the EU's role in the world. (24 p.)

CHATHAM HOUSE - THE ROYAL INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

[The future of EU-US cooperation in space traffic management and space situational awareness](#)

by Alexandra Stickings

As more space activities develop, there is an increasing requirement for comprehensive space situational awareness (SSA). This paper provides an overview of the current landscape in SSA and space traffic management as well as possible scenarios for EU/US cooperation in this area. (18 p.)

EGMONT – ROYAL INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

[The end of the INF-Treaty: context and consequences](#)

by Didier Audenaert [@DidierAudenaert](#)

On 2 August both the US and the Russian Federation will no longer be restrained by the intermediate-range nuclear forces (INF) treaty (1987). Early this century it gradually became clear that Russia wanted to step out of the treaty, by which it felt itself to be solely restrained. EU nations should now take up a greater share of the burden of missile defense, which should get a broader mission than it has today. European NATO allies and EU member states may very soon be confronted with difficult and fundamental choices for a future without the INF treaty, which need to be communicated and explained to their national population. (9 p.)

EGMONT – ROYAL INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

[Reviving the security function: EU's path to save the JCPOA](#)

by Abdolrasool Divsallar [@Divsallar](#) and Marc Otte

Europe's efforts to keep the joint comprehensive plan of action (JCPOA) for Iran alive hardly seem effective. In June 2019, during a meeting of the joint commission of JCPOA, it was announced that the instrument in support of trade exchanges (INSTEX) has been made operational. Though it injected new hope into saving the deal, it is unlikely that in the long term INSTEX' limited scope will meet Tehran's demands. The Middle East is going through tough times since the US unilaterally withdrew from the JCPOA and started to exert 'maximum pressure' on Iran, prompting unparalleled tensions between the two nations. Can the EU do more? (9 p.)

STIFTUNG WISSENSCHAFT UND POLITIK (GERMAN INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL AND SECURITY AFFAIRS)

[Erneuerung der konventionellen Rüstungskontrolle in Europa: vom Gleichgewicht der Blöcke zur regionalen Stabilität in der Krise](#)

by Wolfgang Richter

This article looks at the renewal of conventional arms control in Europe, with regard to the Baltic region. The author argues that it is unlikely that NATO and Russia will negotiate a new pan-European arms control agreement in the foreseeable future, however, consideration could be given to strengthening existing agreements to reduce the risks of mutual deterrence and military tensions in the Baltic region. (DE - 44 p.)

TRADE

PETERSON INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL ECONOMICS

[EU trade policy amid the China-US clash: caught in the cross-fire?](#)

by Anabel González [@AnabelG](#) and Nicolas Véron [@nicolas_veron](#)

The combination of China's rapid rise and unique economic system, and of the increasingly aggressive and disruptive US trade policy is putting the global rules-based trade and economic system under unprecedented and possibly vital threat. The EU has critical interests at stake in the current escalation, even as it has so far been comparatively spared from US trade policy belligerence and China's reactions. (36 p.)

NOTRE EUROPE – JACQUES DELORS INSTITUTE

[Verdir la politique commerciale Européenne: oui, mais comment?](#) [Time to green EU trade policy: but how?](#)

by Pascal Lamy [@PascalLamyEU](#), Geneviève Pons [@genevieve_pons](#) and Pierre Leturcq [@pierre_leturcq](#)

"Is trade bad for the environment? ". This is the simple question asked on July 11 to 110 young professionals and students from 25 member states participating in the Budapest European agora. 40% responded positively, 37% negatively and 23% admitted they did not know. These results highlight the complexity of this interaction. The time has come to democratise this debate and propose concrete solutions. (FR – 10 p./ EN – 9 p.)

CORPORATE EUROPE OBSERVATORY

[Trading away protection: emerging threats from the EU-US trade talks on conformity assessment and regulatory cooperation](#)

by Kenneth Haar [@KennethHaar](#)

US President Donald Trump's threats of hostile trade measures against EU imports have helped kick-start new trade negotiations. Worried over the prospect, the EU will reconvene with the US at the negotiating table to discuss a transatlantic trade agreement. This has led to concerns that such an agreement could lead to a lowering of standards, and criticism over a lack of transparency about what is being negotiated. (20 p.)

EUROPEAN CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ECONOMY

[Preference utilization and customs data: the missing piece of the FTA puzzle](#)

by Anna Jerzewska [@AnnaJerzewska](#) and Nicolas Köhler [@nicolaskoehler](#)

Even though free trade agreements (FTAs) have proliferated for several decades, researchers still don't fully understand their effects. In the wake of mega-regional trade deals, many governments are now interested in evaluating the effectiveness of their existing commitments and the benefits they have brought for business. It is, therefore, more important than ever to understand how FTAs are applied and to pinpoint any issues in their design or implementation. Unfortunately, policymakers have only a limited understanding of FTA utilization and often rely on incomplete data and estimates. (5 p.)

KONRAD-ADENAUER-STIFTUNG

[Trade and economic connectivity in the age of uncertainty](#)

by Christian Echle and Megha Sarmah (eds.)

This publication focuses on the economic and trade connectivity between Asia and Europe. The authors not only look at the US-China trade war but also provide an overview of Asia-Europe relations in the age of rising uncertainty, including the development and implications of the Asia-Europe connectivity strategy and the Belt and Road Initiative. The impact of regional blocs on trade relations between Asia and Europe is also elucidated. Aside from the various multilateral and bilateral trade deals, the articles also look at other issues such as currency swap and bilateral agreements which help to forge a common bond between Asia and Europe. (146 p.)

AFRICA

FOUNDATION ROBERT SCHUMAN

[Towards a renewed Euro-African partnership: capitalizing on the Moroccan experience](#)

by Alexandre Kateb [@AlexandreKateb](#)

At a time when China is openly courting the African continent, the outgoing president of the EU Commission, Jean-Claude Juncker, pleaded in his September 2018 speech on the state of the Union for a "new alliance between Africa and Europe". This alliance would be founded on "investments and sustainable jobs". Previously, the 2017 summit between the EU and the African Union had insisted on the need to "provide young people with the skills and opportunities they need through the mobilization of intelligent, targeted investments". The renewal of the EU institutions provides an opportunity to give more tangible content to the Euro-African partnership. (9 p.)

DEUTSCHES INSTITUT FÜR ENTWICKLUNGSPOLITIK (GERMAN DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE)

[The influence of EU migration policy on regional free movement in the IGAD and ECOWAS regions](#)

By Clare Castillejo

The paper examines how regional free movement (RFM) has featured within EU and African migration agendas in recent years. It describes how the issue of RFM has been increasingly sidelined within the EU's migration policy framework and programming over the last few years, and suggests that upcoming processes to reshape EU–Africa engagement may be an opportunity to rectify this. It goes on to discuss the growing momentum for regional integration and RFM at continental level in Africa, while recognising the significant political and capacity challenges to actually delivering on these ambitions. (40 p.)

ISTITUTO PER GLI STUDI DI POLITICA INTERNAZIONALE

[Non solo verso l'Europa: le migrazioni interne all'Africa](#)

by Giovanni Carbone and Camillo Casola [@cam_casola](#)

International migrations are central to EU political agendas. The priorities of the public debate oftentimes revolve around the need to control migration flows originating from Africa and directed towards Europe. A largely neglected dimension of the African migratory phenomenon, however, shows that migratory flows are mostly internal, meaning that migrants from the sub-Saharan area leave their country but remain in Africa, and only a minority of them travel to Europe. This dossier analyzes regional and continental mobility dynamics, examining some emblematic cases. (IT - 37 p.)

ASIA-OCEANIA

UTRIKESPOLITISKA INSTITUTET (SWEDISH INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS)

[The partnership shift: analysing the European Union's strategic engagement with India](#)

by Henrik Chetan Aspengren and Axel Nordenstam [@AxelNordenstam](#)

The 2018 EU strategy on India highlights multiple areas of potential cooperation and proposes several concrete actions. This document signals a clear intent on the part of the EU to raise considerably the level of strategic engagement with India. (20 p.)

DEUTSCHE GESELLSCHAFT FÜR AUSWÄRTIGE POLITIK

[Eurasia: playing field or battle field? Defining an effective German and European approach on connectivity toward China and Russia](#)

by Jacopo Maria Pepe

Eurasia is emerging as a fluid continent where resurgent great power politics by Russia and China is marginalizing Europe and the Western liberal order. Moscow and Beijing are linking their Eurasian integration projects, the Belt and Roads Initiative and the Eurasian economic union. To avoid marginalization, the EU and Germany should define an interest-driven, flexible and regionally diversified approach toward Moscow and Beijing, focusing on Greater Central Asia and Greater Eastern Europe. (22 p.)

CHATHAM HOUSE – ROYAL INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

[Governance, leadership and legitimacy in East Asia](#)

by David Warren

This paper examines the political and government systems in East Asia in the wider context of the growth of populism worldwide. It argues that the countries of the region should seek multilateral solutions to global and regional problems. (17 p.)

CHATHAM HOUSE – ROYAL HOUSE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

[Reconnecting Afghanistan: lessons from cross-border engagement](#)

by Gareth Price and Hameed Hakimi [@hameedhakimi](#)

The sustainability of Afghanistan's economy will be predicated on the degree to which it is integrated with its neighbours. The notion that Afghanistan can be a source of licit benefits for its neighbours is far from mainstream opinion. And yet, as this paper documents, there are examples where it is exactly that. (54 p.)

EASTERN EUROPE

EUROPEAN COUNCIL ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

[Paradox of power: Russia, Armenia, and Europe after the velvet revolution](#)

by Richard Giragosian [@Richard_RSC](#)

This paper explores the context that Armenia currently finds itself in, examines how it is likely to navigate its relationship with Russia and neighboring states, and sets out what the EU should do to assist Armenia in the coming years. The author argues that the government and public wish to loosen ties with Russia, strengthen them with Europe, and improve relations with neighboring countries, including Iran. Therefore, Europe should break out of its self-imposed 'ring of restraint' with Armenia by increasing its technical support, something it can do without provoking Russia. (17 p.)

ROYAL UNITED SERVICES INSTITUTE

[The Surkov leaks: the inner workings of Russia's hybrid war in Ukraine](#)

by Alya Shandra [@AlyaShandra](#) and Robert Seely [@IoWBobSeely](#)

This paper provides a guide to Russian subversive warfare by examining, in detail, three tranches of leaked emails apparently belonging to Kremlin officials – including, primarily and critically, Vladislav Surkov, the man known as President Vladimir Putin's 'Rasputin' – who have been closely involved with the Eastern Ukraine conflict, and in particular with the political and economic management of two statelets established by the Kremlin in Donetsk and Luhansk. In addition, it examines the strategy and tactics of Russia's political subversion in the rest of Ukraine. (92 p.)

INTERNATIONAL CRISIS GROUP

[Rebels without a cause: Russia's proxies in Eastern Ukraine](#)

This report analyses the evolving relationship between Moscow and its proxies in eastern Ukraine since the early days of the crisis. Drawing inter alia on interviews in Crimea, Donetsk and Moscow with rebels, Russian fighters, former and current Russian officials, it explores how Moscow's objectives gradually have diverged from those of the separatists. It then offers

recommendations for more effective Ukrainian engagement with the population in the east. (30 p.)

EUROPEAN COUNCIL ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

[Guarding the guardians: Ukraine's security and judicial reforms under Zelensky](#)

by Gustav Gressel [@GresselGustav](#)

Since 2014, much of Europe's public debate on Ukraine has revolved around the geopolitical contest between the West and Russia, the war in Donbas, and their security implications for Europe. But, at its core, Ukraine's revolution of dignity was an anti-corruption uprising that only became geopolitical later. The EU, US, and NATO must ensure that security and judicial reforms remain high in the minds of the Zelensky administration and of Rada members. (31 p.)

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

INTERNATIONAL CRISIS GROUP

[Calming the restless Pacific: violence and crime on Colombia's coast](#)

Three years after the FARC peace deal, Colombia's Pacific region has seen surges of both dissident guerrilla activity and drug-related crime. To better aid this historically neglected area, the state should expand its presence, speed up development projects and improve educational opportunities for all. (51 p.)

INTERNATIONAL CRISIS GROUP

[A glimmer of light in Venezuela's gloom](#)

With polls suggesting a majority of Venezuelans back a peaceful resolution and with renewed international attention to the crisis, talks brokered by Norway offer the best (albeit slender) chance for a solution. To that end, pragmatic elements on both sides need to show willingness to compromise; potential domestic spoilers need to be neutralised; and deeply polarised international actors need to show flexibility and fully back Norway's initiative. (32 p.)

MIDDLE EAST/NORTH AFRICA (MENA)

ISTITUTO AFFARI INTERNAZIONALI/ MEDRESET

[Towards a more reflexive EU in the Mediterranean](#)

by Daniela Huber [@dhuber81](#) and Maria Cristina Paciello

This paper sets out policy recommendations, aimed at the new EP, Commission and High Representative, proposing that the EU should become a more reflexive actor in the Mediterranean. (15 p.)

CENTRE FOR EUROPEAN REFORM

[A troubled partnership: the US and Europe in the Middle East](#)

by Luigi Scazzieri [@LScazzieri](#)

President Donald Trump has re-orientated US policy in the Middle East. He has withdrawn from the joint comprehensive plan of action, the nuclear agreement with Iran, and aligned the US forcefully with its traditional allies in the region, Israel and Saudi Arabia. These actions have

opened a deep rift with Europe. This policy brief assesses the extent of policy disagreements between Europe and the US in the Middle East and their consequences. (14 p.)

INTERNATIONAL CRISIS GROUP

[Averting the Middle East's 1914 moment](#)

Today's standoff between the US and Iran is reminiscent of tensions on the eve of World War I. A small incident could blow up into region-spanning conflict. Third-party mediation is urgently needed to begin de-escalation that could lead to renewing broader talks. (31 p.)

CHATHAM HOUSE – THE ROYAL INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

[Principled aid in Syria: a framework for international agencies](#)

by Haid Haid [@HaidHaid22](#)

Throughout the conflict in Syria, the government has severely restricted how and where aid is delivered for military or political purposes. This paper offers a new framework for international humanitarian organizations and UN agencies to provide assistance to those in need. (24 p.)

KONRAD-ADENAUER-STIFTUNG

[Promoting water security in the MENA region. Water technology solutions in development cooperation and the role of SMEs](#)

by Johannes Hügel

Experts from medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) give in this paper clear recommendations for the EU for a more sustainable technology transfer, referring to financing, education and know-how exchange. Further, this paper discusses economic framework conditions to promote and improve inter and intraregional water technology transfer through SMEs and addresses the question of how to enhance investment protection and capacity building in the region. (5 p.)

WESTERN BALKANS

INSTITUT PRO EVROPSKOU POLITIKU EUROPEUM (EUROPEUM INSTITUTE FOR EUROPEAN POLICY)

[Between moderate progress and prolonged stagnation: the European Commission's reports on the Western Balkans](#)

by Marko Stojić

This paper analyses the Commission's reports on the Western Balkans and the issues faced by candidate and potential candidate countries in the region. (8 p.)

CHINA

ISTITUTO PER GLI STUDI DI POLITICA INTERNAZIONALE

[The global race for Antarctica: China vs the rest of the world?](#)

by Giulia Sciorati [@GiuliaSciorati](#)

As Earth's southernmost continent, Antarctica lives by norms of its own. It is a de facto condominium over which seven sovereign states maintain territorial claims, but that is governed

by a multilateral Antarctic treaty system. China's growing interests in the "white continent" have spurred responses from the actors that have much at stake in Antarctica, such as Australia, Brazil and Russia, as well as the EU. Which are the specific interests of these powers? What is the geopolitical status of the continent? And what's in store for one of the last sanctuaries left on earth? (IT - 29 p.)

CENTRE FOR STRATEGIC AND BUDGETARY ASSESSMENTS

[Stealing a march: Chinese hybrid warfare in the Indo-Pacific – issues and options for allied defence planners \(Vol. I & II\)](#)

by Ross Babbage

These volumes examine Beijing's hybrid warfare campaigns, their origins, means and modes, level of success and possible future shape. They also assess the primary options for US and allied counter-strategy. (Vol. I 92 p./ Vol. II 64 p.)

CENTRE FOR STRATEGIC AND BUDGETARY ASSESSMENTS

[Winning without fighting: Chinese and Russian political warfare campaigns and how the West can prevail \(Vol. I & II\)](#)

by Ross Babbage

These volumes assess the role of political warfare in Chinese and Russian strategy. The reports go beyond diagnosing the challenge to offer a range of potential allied counter-strategies and propose a new conceptual approach to such thinking. (Vol. I 96 p./ Vol. II 88 p.)

RUSSIA

EUROPEAN UNION INSTITUTE FOR SECURITY STUDIES

[Russia in the Western Balkans](#)

by Stanislav Secieru [@StasSecieru](#)

Russia's conduct in the Western Balkans has caught Europe by surprise and generated debate: does this resurgence herald Russia's return to the region and if so, what is driving the comeback? What does Moscow want to achieve? What is the Russian modus operandi in the region? (8 p.)

STIFTUNG WISSENSCHAFT UND POLITIK (GERMAN INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL AND SECURITY AFFAIRS)

[Russlands Streitkräfte - Entwicklungen und Zielsetzungen: eine Analyse vor dem Hintergrund der strategischen Kultur Russlands](#)

by Norbert Eitelhuber

This paper looks at the current issues in global disarmament efforts and arms control dialogues. It focuses on the relationship between the two nuclear powers, the US and Russia, and the consequences, both global and for Europe, of the breakdown of the INF treaty. The author argues that for German policy makers, the challenge is to develop an arms control concept that will provide military restraint and predictability. To preserve stability and rebuild trust there needs to be transparency and components of deterrence combined with dialogue with Russia. (DE - 9 p.)

INSTITUT FRANCAIS DES RELATIONS INTERNATIONALES (FRENCH INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS)

**[Russian nuclear modernization and Putin's wonder-missiles: real issues and false posturing](#)
[La modernisation nucléaire russe et les «supermissiles» de Vladimir Poutine: vraies questions et fausse posture](#)**

by Pavel Baev

The report examines the progress in the ongoing modernization of Russian strategic and non-strategic nuclear forces, focusing on the problems and shortcomings that might affect the implementation of the goals set in the 2027 state armament program. It assesses the feasibility of the projects prioritized by President Putin, as well as of the possibilities of new additions to the list of priorities. The report attempts to answer three questions: the evolving nature or strategic stability, the future of arms control, and the consequences for European security. (EN – 32 p. / FR - 36 p.)

INSTITUT FRANCAIS DES RELATIONS INTERNATIONALES (FRENCH INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS)

[Greater Eurasia: the emperor's new clothes or an idea whose time has come?](#)

by Bobo Lo

Greater Eurasia has emerged as the poster-child of Vladimir Putin's foreign policy. It has become symbolic of a resurgent and self-confident Russia. This paper examines the region and its role in Russian foreign policy. (40 p.)

TURKEY

TÜRKIYE EKONOMI POLİTİKALARI ARAŞTIRMA VAKFI (ECONOMIC POLICY RESEARCH FOUNDATION OF TURKEY)

[Syrian entrepreneurship and refugee start-ups in Turkey: leveraging the Turkish experience](#)

by Sibel Güven, Murat Kenanoğlu, Omar Kadkoy [@OmarKadkoy](#) et al.

The aim of this report is to analyse and evaluate the size and performance of refugee partnered enterprises in Turkey, together with the local population's perception of these firms in the environment in which they operate, and to assess the impact of the refugee influx on non-refugee driven SMEs in host communities. (63 p.)

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT THINK TANK

[An effective regime for non-viable banks: US experience and considerations for EU reform](#)

by Anna Gelpern [@AGelpern](#) and Nicolas Véron [@nicolas_veron](#)

For 85 years, the US regime for non-viable banks has maintained a high degree of stability and public confidence by protecting deposits, while working to minimize the public cost of that protection. With awareness of the difference in context, EU reformers can draw valuable insights from the US experience. On balance, a review of the US regime supports arguments in favour of harmonization and centralization of bank insolvency proceedings and deposit insurance in Europe's banking union. (61 p.)

INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR COUNTER-TERRORISM - THE HAGUE

[Siege: the Atomwaffen Division and rising far-right terrorism in the United States](#)

by Jacob Ware

This brief tracks the reasons behind the American far-right's rise and increasing turn to terrorism, and warns that the threat is likely to imminently worsen. To illustrate this trend, the Atomwaffen Division - a small, neo-Nazi terrorist organisation - is applied as a case study. The brief concludes with a series of recommendations for policymakers looking to understand and address the threat posed by rising violence from the far-right. (20 p.)

SECTION 4 - EU MEMBER STATES

CZECH REPUBLIC

INSTITUT PRO EVROPSKOU POLITIKU EUROPEUM (EUROPEUM INSTITUTE FOR EUROPEAN POLICY) / HEINRICH-BÖLL-STIFTUNG (HEINRICH BÖLL FOUNDATION)

[Budoucnost českých uhelných regionů](#)

by Zuzana Vondrová

The paper gives a brief description of the current economic situation in the coal regions of the Czech Republic. It points out that they are economically lagging behind other regions in the country and are in need of a structural plan in order to transition from the coal industry. It stresses the importance of the concept of "just transformation", i.e. a process that focuses not only on phasing out the coal mining but also on mitigating the negative consequences this may have for some of the residents. The article points to success stories from abroad, such as Germany and Spain, and suggests possible paths for achieving such success in the Czech Republic. (CZ - 6 p.)

GERMANY

FRIEDRICH-EBERT-STIFTUNG (FRIDRICH EBERT FOUNDATION)

[Vertrauen in Demokratie: wie zufrieden sind die Menschen in Deutschland mit Regierung, Staat und Politik?](#)

by Frank Decker, Volker Best, Sandra Fischer et al.

This study analyses the underlying reasons for why many German citizens' are feeling less satisfied, as well as an increased lack of confidence, in the German political system. The authors make several suggestions on how to improve citizen's confidence in German politics. (DE - 92 p.)

WISSENSCHAFTSZENTRUM BERLIN FÜR SOZIALFORSCHUNG (SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH CENTER BERLIN)

[Gender equality in German constitutional law](#)

by Michael Wrase

This article provides a brief history of gender equality in the German basic law (Grundgesetz) and its concretization in key Constitutional Court decisions from 1949 until today. A special emphasis is on the legal doctrine of non-discrimination and on the influence of feminist legal scholars. The article concludes with a discussion of affirmative action measures from the perspective of constitutional law. (23 p.)

INSTITUT DER DEUTSCHEN WIRTSCHAFT

Regionale Verteilung der Zuwanderung

by Wido Geis-Thöne

Immigration can make an important contribution to stabilizing the age structure in regions that are particularly affected by demographic change. However, these regions have hardly gained any immigrants in recent years. If integration into the labor market succeeds, immigration can also strengthen the economic development of a region. (DE - 13 p.)

STIFTUNG WISSENSCHAFT UND POLITIK (GERMAN INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL AND SECURITY AFFAIRS)

Wie Deutschland den Globalen Pakt für Migration nutzen kann: Chancen für nationale Reformen und internationale Zusammenarbeit

by Steffan Angenendt and Anne Koch [@annekoch10](#)

This article looks at the global compact for migration goals and how Germany can contribute to achieving them. The authors argue that reaching the aims will be a great, but necessary, challenge for Germany and EU member states, yet is feasible with the right national reforms and international cooperation. (DE – 4 p.)

IRELAND

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Trends in migration to Ireland of nationals of countries with visa liberalisation agreements with the European Union

by Anne Sheridan and Sarah Groarke

This European migration study looks at trends in migration to Ireland from certain countries in the Western Balkans and from certain Eastern Partnership countries that have agreed visa liberalisation agreements with the EU over the period 2009-2017. Ireland is not part of the Schengen area and does not participate in the EU's common visa policy. However, the report seeks to provide a parallel overview of trends in migration to Ireland of nationals of the countries concerned, in circumstances where there is no visa waiver for these nationals to travel to Ireland. (30 p.)

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Caring and unpaid work in Ireland

by Helen Russell [@helenrussell32](#), Raffaele Grotti [@RafGrotti](#), Frances McGinnity et al.

This report examines Irish data collected over more than a decade to investigate involvement in unpaid work in the areas of childcare, care of older adults or those with a disability, and housework. The study finds that adults in Ireland spend an average of 16 hours per week on caring and 14.5 hours on housework. The time spent on caring and housework combined is the third highest in the EU. On average, women in Ireland spend double the time of men on caring and more than twice as much time on housework. (88 p.)

FRANCE

INSTITUT FRANÇAIS DES RELATIONS INTERNATIONALES (FRENCH INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS)

[Another story from the "refugee crisis": resettlement in small towns and rural areas in France](#)

by Matthieu Tardis [🐦 @MatthieuTardis](#)

This study highlights that many obstacles to refugee integration are not specific to refugees. Lack of transportation, of doctors and of public services affect local populations all the same. But local actors proved to be innovative to address these issues for refugees and provide lessons for big cities and for the future of migration policies in France. (80 p.)

INSTITUT MONTAIGNE

[La transition énergétique ne s'accomplira pas sans améliorer l'efficacité énergétique des bâtiments](#)

The government has displayed a high level of ambition for France's sustainable development policy, i.e. carbon neutrality by 2050. This objective involves two underpinnings: optimizing energy consumption and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The building sector plays an essential role in order to achieve the objectives announced. The figures are known: building represents 43% of the final energy consumption in France. Therefore, a substantial effort is required from the building sector if the ambitious policy is to be realised. (FR - 130 p.)

ITALY

ISTITUTO AFFARI INTERNAZIONALI IAI INTERNAZIONALI / THE GERMAN MARSHALL FUND OF THE UNITED STATES / MERCATOR EUROPEAN DIALOGUE

[Why did Italy fall out of love with Europe?](#)

by Rosa Balfour [🐦 @RosaBalfour](#) and Lorenzo Robustelli

This article traces the rise of Euroscepticism in one of the founding members of the EU, seeks explanations for such a tectonic change, and considers the implications for the broader European political landscape. (8 p.)

FRIEDRICH-EBERT-STIFTUNG (FRIDRICH EBERT FOUNDATION)

[Immigration in Italy between two elections: myths and reality](#)

by Costanza Hermanin [🐦 @CostHermanin](#)

This brief analysis the rhetoric, legislation changes, and migration policies that have occurred in Italian politics from July 2016 to June 2019. The author also examines what implications Italy and EU might in regards to migration policy. (8 p.)

NETHERLANDS

OXFORD INSTITUTE FOR ENERGY STUDIES

[The great Dutch gas transition](#)

by Karel Beckman [@BeckmanKarel](#) and Jilles van den Beukel [@JillesAppelscha](#)

This study examines the strategy of a specific country, the Netherlands, which relies more on natural gas than any other country in the EU but which has embarked on an energy transition intended to lead to a complete phaseout of unabated natural gas consumption and production by 2050. This provides an excellent case study of the challenges, risks and costs that will be faced by the gas industry as a whole in the EU over the next three decades. (24 p.)

POLAND

FRIEDRICH-EBERT-STIFTUNG (FRIDRICH EBERT FOUNDATION)

[Das wunder an der Weichsel. Polen ist Europas am schnellsten wachsende Volkswirtschaft](#)

by Marcin Piątkowski [@mmpiatkowski](#)

Relatively unnoticed by the European public, Poland's economy has caught up rapidly in recent decades. The country is today the fastest growing larger economy in Europe. This growth process is accompanied by rising wages and a decline in social inequality. (DE - 8 p.)

SLOVAKIA

OŚRODEK STUDIÓW WSCHODNICH (CENTRE FOR EASTERN STUDIES)

[Frustration and hope: Slovakia after Kuciak's murder](#)

by Krzysztof Dębiec [@DebiecKrzysztof](#) and Jakub Groszkowski [@jgosw](#)

Slovakia is going through a period of important social and economic changes. The murder of the investigative journalist Ján Kuciak in February 2018 activated a significant part of the public, which led to the largest anti-government protests in the country since 1989. The rise in public dissatisfaction at the rule of the elites bore fruit in victory for the political novice Zuzana Čaputová in the presidential elections. However, the public's dissatisfaction with politics has also been expressed in a rise in popularity for radical forces, including Marian Kotleba, which are working to remove Slovakia from the EU and NATO. (35 p.)

UNITED KINGDOM

POLICY EXCHANGE

[UK defence from the 'Far-East' to the 'Indo-Pacific'](#)

by Alessio Patalano [@alessionaval](#)

This report discusses the changing importance of the 'Far East' in international affairs and its particular significance to the UK. (30 p.)

INSTITUTE FOR FISCAL STUDIES

[How do other countries raise more in tax than the UK?](#)

by Maddalena Conte, Helen Miller and Thomas Pope

The UK raised 35% of national income in tax in 2018–19. Tax revenues are now, just, higher as a share of national income than at any point since the late 1960s. An ageing society is increasing pressure on health, social care and pension systems such that maintaining the same quality and scope of public services in the future will likely require higher taxes as a share of national income. Tax increases have been on the public policy agenda for example in the 2017 general election when the Labour party proposed a package of tax measures that it expected to raise £50 billion a year. (31 p.)

CIVITAS – INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF CIVIL SOCIETY

[Islamophobia: an anthology of concerns](#)

by Emma Webb (ed.)

This volume brings together critiques from a wide range of distinguished voices anxious about the implications of the definition in a free society. It includes atheist, secularist, religious and academic assessments of the danger that the definition poses to civil liberties in the UK, including freedom of expression and freedom of academic and journalistic inquiry. (127 p.)

CENTRE FOR CLIMATE CHANGE ECONOMICS AND POLICY / GRANTHAM RESEARCH INSTITUTE ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

[Global lessons for the UK in carbon taxes](#)

by Josh Burke [@joshburke81](#), Rebecca Byrnes [@RebeccaCByrnes](#) and Sam Fankhauser [@SamFankhauser](#)

This policy brief analyses global trends in carbon taxation and differences in tax design around the world to draw out lessons for the design of a possible new carbon tax for the UK, as the country plans how to meet its ambitious new net-zero emissions target and how it prices carbon after Brexit. (8 p.)

CENTER FOR POLICY STUDIES

[Changing gear: a growth budget to boost the British economy](#)

by Priti Patel

There can be no doubt that the UK economy needs a change of gear. As things stand, the UK risks falling into a pattern of moderate expansion, low productivity and income growth, along with limited savings and falling home ownership. This report explains how and why the British economy urgently needs a budget for growth, by sketching out a pro-growth budget to kick start the UK economy. (39 p.)

BREXIT

FABIAN SOCIETY

[Progressive federalism: a different way of looking at the UK](#)

by Jim Gallagher [@ProfJimG](#)

The report argues in a post-Brexit world, in which the negative consequences of deconstructing a union becomes clearer, progressive federalism is likely to be the preference of an increasing majority of Scots. The author argues that progressive federalism should be seen as an 'each way bet' for progressive causes – a structure which enables the right UK government to promote social justice, but the devolved parliament to step in and fill the gaps if it does not. (17 p.)

INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AND EUROPEAN AFFAIRS

[Emerging UK agriculture and food policy post-Brexit and its potential implications](#)

by Con Lucey

This paper examines the emerging post-Brexit food and agriculture policy in three areas: direct payments, external trade, and regulation. It also discusses the future viability of the UK food market for Irish exports in the context of a no-deal Brexit. (36 p.)

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE / IZA INSTITUTE OF LABOR ECONOMICS

[The political economy of a Northern Ireland border poll](#)

by Seamus McGuinness [@seamusmcguinness](#) and Adele Bergin

This paper examines the position of the Northern Irish economy within a British and Irish regional framework in terms of its relative performance and structure, before considering more closely the similarities and differences between the two economies on the island of Ireland. The research aims to inform, what is now likely to be an ongoing debate, on the pertinent economic issues relevant to any border poll on Irish unification. (31 p.)

INSTITUT DER DEUTSCHEN WIRTSCHAFT

[Bremsspuren beim Handel zwischen Britannien und Deutschland](#)

by Berthold Busch

It is still unclear when the British will leave the EU. However, there is much to suggest that Brexit has already affected trade relations between the UK and Germany. On the one hand, this is due to uncertainty as to whether there is an orderly exit with a transitional period or a disorderly exit from the UK. (DE - 23 p.)

INSTITUTE FOR GOVERNMENT

[Preparing Brexit: no deal](#)

by Joe Owen [@jl_owen](#), Maddy Thimont [@ThimontJack](#) and Jill Rutter [@jillongovt](#)

With the new Prime Minister committing to leave by 31 October "no ifs and no buts", and the existing barriers to a deal with the EU remaining unchanged, the prospect of a no deal exit is rising. This paper looks at what the Prime Minister will need to do to prepare for no deal, and what he will have to do after 31 October if the UK has left the EU without a deal. It argues it could leave very little space for an ambitious domestic agenda. (24 p.)

UK IN A CHANGING EUROPE

[Briefing: post-Brexit priorities for low-income voters in deprived areas](#)

by Matthew Bevington [@matt_bevington](#), Anand Menon [@anandMenon1](#), Mike Hawking et al.

This briefing sets out what low-income voters, in parts of the country that have been locked out of opportunity, want to see after Brexit: their hopes, fears and aspirations for their families and local economies. (13 p.)

POLICY EXCHANGE

[Making global Britain work: 8 ideas for revitalizing UK foreign policy for the post-Brexit age](#)

The UK needs a bold new approach to foreign policy and national security that establishes clearer lines of ministerial responsibility and links together foreign policy and defence, diplomacy, development and trade more effectively. This research note makes 8 headline proposals for revitalizing UK foreign policy. (18 p.)

LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS IDEAS

[Refining Britain's economic diplomacy](#)

by Linda Yueh [@lindayueh](#)

The EU referendum has thrown up many questions around globalisation as well as how to reposition Britain in the world after Brexit. The UK government's professed intent to leave the EU and negotiate its own free trade agreements means that Britain would be setting its own trade policies for the first time since 1973, and would need to explicitly set out the aims of British trade and associated foreign investment policies for the first time in four decades. With this in mind, clearly defining the UK's economic diplomacy is crucial. Current global and domestic conditions are politically challenging. (9 p.)

KONRAD-ADENAUER-STIFTUNG

["The troubles" again? – Der Brexit und die Terrorismusgefahr in Nordirland](#)

by Tim Segler

As Brexit reopens old wounds, the threat of terrorism looms. This paper looks at the resurgence and proliferation of dissident republican paramilitaries in Northern Ireland alongside the ongoing government crisis. Could conflict be reignited in Northern Ireland? (DE - 10 p.)

MISCELLANEOUS

INSTITUTE FOR PUBLIC POLICY RESEARCH

[The future is ours: women, automation and equality in the digital age](#)

by Carys Roberts [@carysroberts](#), Henry Parkes [@Henry_J_Parkes](#), Rachel Statham [@rachelstatham](#) et al.

This paper argues that automation presents an opportunity to narrow gender inequalities. Nonetheless, a more gender-equal future will not happen spontaneously. Realising this opportunity will require a managed acceleration of automation, led by those who could be affected by it, including women. It sets out four propositions for change based on this premise. (56 p.)

DEUTSCHES INSTITUT FÜR WIRTSCHAFTSFORSCHUNG (GERMAN INSTITUTE FOR ECONOMIC RESEARCH)

[Das Risiko einer Immobilienpreisblase ist in Deutschland sowie in den meisten OECD Ländern hoch](#)

by Konstantin Kholodilin and Claus Michelsen [@ClausMichelsen](#)

Real estate prices have risen sharply in many countries over the past few years, and concerns are growing that speculative price bubbles are returning. It can be difficult for policymakers to know the right time to regulate the market. This report shows how modern methods of machine learning can be used to predict speculative price exaggerations early. (DE - 10 p.)

CERDI

[Uncertainty, confidence, and war](#)

by Maxime Menuet and Petros Sekeris

The present paper studies the causes and duration of wars by building a war of attrition game, and explores the effect of overconfidence in such settings. During the fight, each player infers his opponent's inclination in surrendering given two psychological biases jointly capturing overconfidence: illusory superiority (overestimation), and over-self-confidence (over precision). It demonstrates that overconfidence is neither necessary, nor sufficient to have war. Yet, overconfident decision-makers are nevertheless more likely to initiate war, and to remain active longer in a conflict. (55 p.)

CHATHAM HOUSE – THE ROYAL INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

[The geopolitical implications of future oil demand](#)

by Paul Stevens

The geopolitics of oil have played a central role in international relations. Some would argue that geopolitical rivalry over access to oil has been the source of much of the conflict in the 20th century. The rise of renewables in the current energy transition could well change this status quo. (42 p.)