



Council of the European Union
General Secretariat

THINK TANK REVIEW

Council Library

NOVEMBER 2019

ISSUE 72



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

Thirty years after the fall of the Berlin Wall and fifteen years on from the Eastern enlargement, the **EU politics and institutions** section includes commentary on the integration of the former Eastern Bloc into the EU. In other articles, Juncker's legacy is assessed and an argument is made that EU member states need to unite in defending democratic values from populism, which may be here to stay.

In **competition**, one article makes the case that the single market is and should remain the core business of the EU. There is a reminder that the transformation to a technology-centred, knowledge-intensive economy runs the risk of increasing economic and employment disparities across the EU and there is a call for a wider growth strategy to replace industrial policy.

On **employment and social policy**, it is argued that social policy must adapt to keep up with the changing world of work and that the pace of labour market changes, due to automation and digitalisation, requires our close attention.

Under **environmental issues**, there are recommendations for the Warsaw international mechanism, which was set up to help affected countries deal with negative effects of climate change and in the **general affairs** section there is a call for the mainstreaming of climate action in the MFF.

In the section on **justice and home affairs** there are recommendations to strengthen whistleblower protection, building on the recently adopted EU directive and there is some critical analysis of the Malta declaration on search and rescue and relocation.

In **foreign affairs** many articles allude to the changing world order and the need for the EU to define a clear role for itself. There is a warning of a possible resurgence of ISIS in Iraq and Syria due to the instability brought about by Turkey's offensive in Northeastern Syria and other factors.

Lastly, under the **miscellaneous** section, articles have been gathered together reporting on and analysing the recent wave of protests spanning much of the globe.

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ISTITUTO AFFARI INTERNAZIONALI

[Pros and cons of proactive political leadership: a review of the legacy of the "Last chance" Commission](#)

by Claire Darmé

Jean-Claude Juncker has defined his approach to the presidency of the European Commission as political rather than technocratic. This article discusses how, on a number of occasions, this approach has proved less than effective, as Juncker has antagonised partners, diminished the political capital of the Commission and left unfinished business for his successor on key pressing issues. (22 p.)

WILFRIED MARTENS CENTRE FOR EUROPEAN STUDIES

[Recommendations to the new European Commission President, Ursula von der Leyen](#)

by Dimitar Lilkov [@D_Lilkov](#), Eoin Drea [@EoinDrea](#), Federico Ottavio Reho et al.

In July 2019, the EP elected Ursula von der Leyen president of the Commission by a narrow majority of nine votes. To be elected, von der Leyen had to make numerous concessions to the Socialists, Liberals and to the Greens. This document recommends areas where action by the new Commission would be considered beneficial from a centre-right perspective. The recommendations are designed to highlight general areas of action, give a sense of direction and offer ideas, as opposed to prescribing specific measures. (22 p.)

FORUM FOR RESEARCH ON EASTERN EUROPE AND EMERGING ECONOMIES (FREE NETWORK)

[Liberal democracy in transition – the first 30 years](#)

by Torbjörn Becker

This brief provides an overview of political developments in transition countries since the first post-communist elections in Poland and the fall of the Berlin Wall 30 years ago. It focuses on establishing stylized facts based on quantitative indices of democracy for a large set of transition countries. The aim is to find common patterns across countries that can inform today's policy discussion on democracy in the region and inspire future studies of the forces driving democracy in transition countries. (7 p.)

ÖSTERREICHISCHE GESELLSCHAFT FÜR EUROPAPOLITIK (AUSTRIAN SOCIETY FOR EUROPEAN POLITICS)

[15 Jahre EU-Osterweiterung: aus Erfolg und Problemen lernen](#)

by Karl Aiginger

This year marks the 30th anniversary of the fall of the Iron Curtain and 15 years since the eastern enlargement of the EU. At the same time, democratic and political upheavals, especially in some Central and Eastern European EU countries, have repeatedly led to massive criticism. This brief examines the transformation and integration of the former socialist states. (DE - 9 p.)

CARNEGIE EUROPE/OPEN SOCIETY FOUNDATIONS

[Refocus the European Union: planet, lifetime, technology](#)

by Heather Grabbe [@HeatherGrabbe](#) and Tomáš Valášek [@valasekt](#) (eds.)

This report calls on Europeans to pull together and mobilize the EU's assets to manage the three biggest challenges of our times. It briefly diagnoses the consequences of climate change, aging populations, and digital revolutions and then explores the role the EU could play in supporting the inevitable transitions. (50 p.)



COMPETITIVENESS (INTERNAL MARKET, INDUSTRY, RESEARCH AND SPACE)

CENTRE FOR EUROPEAN POLICY STUDIES

[The single market remains the decisive power of the EU](#)

by Jacques Pelkmans

The EU's single market should not just be one among several priorities for the new Commission and Parliament. The single market was and is the core business of the EU. The striking revelation of Brexit for many EU citizens and all businesses is precisely the centrality of the single market (including the customs union) to EU membership. Its value is first of all economic, of course, as it yields higher prosperity. However, it is critical in other arenas where 'EU clout' derived from the single market matters, such as multilateral and bilateral trade negotiations, global climate deals, standard-setting, rule-making for international financial stability and even foreign policy. (12 p.)

EUROPEAN POLICY CENTRE

[A geographically fair EU industrial strategy](#)

by Marta Pilati [@Marta_Pilati22](#)

The industrial transformation towards a more sustainable, technological and knowledge-intensive economy can bring prosperity to the EU, but also bears the risk of increasing disparities among the EU territories. On the one hand, some regions are more fit to benefit

from these changes. On the other, economic activity, especially one that is knowledge- and innovation-intensive, tends to spatially cluster in areas that are already more advanced. Productivity, innovation, skills and thriving firms will increasingly concentrate in a few wealthy areas, while the less prosperous are excluded from the gains. (4 p.)

JACQUES DELORS INSTITUTE - BERLIN

[Beyond industrial policy: why Europe needs a new growth strategy](#)

by Henrik Enderlein [@henrikenderlein](#), Elvire Fabry [@elvirefabry](#), Lucas Guttenberg [@lucasguttenberg](#) et al.

Industrial policy has become a major buzzword in European economic policy debates but, as it stands, the term means too many different things to too many people. It is also a misnomer for what Europe truly needs: a new growth strategy that redefines the role of the state in the economy, allows Europe to tackle the challenges of globalization, automation and digitalization and, at the same time, appreciates the fact that close economic partners increasingly question the norms of fair competition. (11 p.)

DEMOS

[Research 4.0: research in the age of automation](#)

by Ben Glover and Elliot Jones

The world of research is rapidly changing. The past 20 years have seen huge developments in the way research is conducted, with many research tasks dramatically changed. There is a growing consensus that we are at the start of a 4th industrial revolution, with the rise of the Internet of things, 3-D printing, nanotechnology, biotechnology, 5G, new forms of energy storage and quantum computing. This report seeks to understand how these technologies are being used across research today, including highlighting the academics and researchers leading the way in the use of emerging automated research technologies. (29 p.)

REAL INSTITUTO ELCANO

[Diplomacy in the age of artificial intelligence](#)

by Corneliu Bjola [@CBjola](#)

The introduction of neural networks and deep learning in late 1990s has generated a new wave of interest in AI and growing optimism in the possibility of applying it to a wide range of activities, including diplomacy. The key question is whether AI would be able to deliver on its promises instead of entering another season of scepticism and stagnation. This paper evaluates the potential of artificial intelligence to provide reliable assistance in areas of diplomatic interest such as in consular services, crisis management, public diplomacy and international negotiations, as well as the ratio between costs and contributions of AI applications to diplomatic work. (7 p.)

ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

BRUEGEL

[With or without you: are central European countries ready for the euro?](#)

by Zsolt Darvas [@ZsoltDarvas](#)

The debate on euro adoption by Central European member states has intensified in the last years. In this contribution the author does not review all the complex aspects of euro-area enlargement, but analyses a particularly important issue: the build-up of macroeconomic vulnerabilities and the subsequent adjustments. (14 p.)

FOUNDATION ROBERT SCHUMAN

[November 1: Christine Lagarde, President of the ECB with various resistances](#)

by Jean-Paul Betbeze [@JPBetbeze](#)

On 1 November 2019, Christine Lagarde became the new President of the ECB, bestowed with the responsibility of ensuring the economic vitality of the Eurozone. This brief assesses the set of economic issues and political hurdles that she will be facing during her mandate. (5 p.)

TERRA NOVA

[Comment combattre la prochaine récession?](#)

by Jean Pisani-Ferry [@pisaniferry](#)

The current deterioration of the global economic situation has now become a top concern for decision-makers. The OECD recently adjusted its economic projections: the institution now expects a growth of 1,5% in 2020 for the G20 countries, a decrease of nearly a point compared to 2017. This brief analyses the underlying reasons for a potential economic recession and offers solutions to prevent it from happening. (FR - 4 p.)

LUISS SCHOOL OF EUROPEAN POLITICAL ECONOMY

[The strange reasons why Europe will have a "Golden Rule" in 2020](#)

by Carlo Bastasin [@CarloBastasin](#)

This brief illustrates some of the complex current economic policy challenges that emerged during the Autumn meetings of the International Monetary Fund in Washington, examining their effects on the European economy. (9 p.)

EMPLOYMENT / SOCIAL POLICY / HEALTH AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

THE GERMAN MARSHALL FUND OF THE UNITED STATES

[Structural change, institutions and the dynamics of labor productivity in Europe](#)

by Riccardo Pariboni and Pasquale Tridico

The objective of this paper is to explain the reasons behind the dynamics of labor productivity growth during a process of institutional and structural change. It shows - by means of a theoretical discussion and an empirical analysis, conducted on a sample of 25 European countries for the period 1995-2016 - that four main channels contribute to explaining the evolution of labor productivity. (26 p.)

LISBON COUNCIL FOR ECONOMIC COMPETITIVENESS AND SOCIAL RENEWAL

[The 2019 future of work index: how the world of work is changing – and how policy needs to change with it](#)

by Paul Hofheinz [@PaulHofheinz](#), Cristina Moise and David Osimo [@osimod](#)

This policy brief examines how various workplaces are changing and in what ways social policy ought to adapt to keep up. It profiles eight countries (Belgium, Estonia, Finland, Greece, Italy, Romania, Sweden and the UK), detailing each country's performance as measured by the index presented in the study. (105 p.)

CENTRE FOR EUROPEAN POLICY STUDIES

[Labour market and social policy](#)

by Mehtap Akgüç, Sara Baiocco, Miroslav Beblavý et al.

The mega-trends of digitalisation and automation have already changed labour markets and value chains around the world, with their inevitable economic and social consequences. And the pace of change is accelerating; job markets and skills requirements are evolving faster than traditional labour market practices and institutions. But what exactly are these changes, and how will governments, industry leaders, social partners and workers react to them? (9 p.)

CENTRAL EUROPEAN LABOUR STUDIES INSTITUTE

[A fresh look at the health-wealth correlation: a case study of European countries](#)

by Teresa García-Muñoz, Shoshana Neuman and Tzahi Neuman

This paper contributes to the development-health literature by studying the correlation between development measures and health measures - one subjective ('self-assessed-health-status'), and the other one objective (the individual's 'number of chronic diseases'). Correlations are examined for 29 European countries, using the SHARE data set, and country-level development measures.

The novelty of the study is the introduction of a channel for the significant health-wealth correlation, speculating that the driving forces are psychological. (34 p.)

ЦЕНТЪР ЗА ИЗСЛЕДВАНЕ НА ДЕМОКРАЦИЯТА (CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF DEMOCRACY)

[Assessing the access to and takeup of the youth guarantee measures by Roma youth in Bulgaria](#)

by Lilia Yakova

The 2008 global financial crisis resulted in economic challenges in the EU, one of which was a boom of youth unemployment. In response to the increase of youth unemployment, the EU designed the Youth Guarantee (YG), a scheme guaranteeing that every EU citizen between the ages of 15-24 who is out of employment, training and education, would receive support in finding temporary work, continuing education and practical training. With the initiation of the YG, the EU set expectations that every EU member state would implement the YG by introducing respective measures. In Bulgaria, a great portion of the YG target group are Roma youth. This publication reports on the results of research assessing the uptake of the YG among Roma youth in Bulgaria and offers recommendations to relevant stakeholders for the enhancement of such uptake. (85 p.)

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

INSTITUT FRANÇAIS DES RELATIONS INTERNATIONALES

[La guerre contre le carbone: cinq priorités pour le Green Deal européen](#)

by Marc-Antoine Eyl-Mazzega and Carole Mathieu [@CMathieu](#)

2019 is a turning point in the energy transition of the EU. Against the backdrop of both the renewed pledges to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050 and von der Leyen's Green Deal, this paper suggests a set of priorities to embrace in order to win the "war" against carbon. (FR - 6 p.)

EURO-MEDITERRANEAN STUDY COMMISSION

[Youth water cooperation in the Mediterranean: challenges and the way forward](#)

by Kholoud Al Ajarma [@KholoudAjarma](#)

On the assumption that safe and clean drinking water and sanitation are human rights, essential for the full enjoyment of other human rights, this brief looks at why youths' involvement in the water sector is essential for sustainable development in the Mediterranean. It first looks at water issues within the Mediterranean with a special focus on water as a human right. Subsequently, it maps the challenges faced by young water professionals and provides some insights into how the potential of young experts could be further boosted. (8 p.)

HANNS-SEIDEL-STIFTUNG (HANNS SEIDEL FOUNDATION)

[Die Vermüllung unseres Planeten stoppen. Der Weg in die Kreislaufwirtschaft](#)

by Anja Weisgerber [@anjaweisgerber](#)

Every year, 348 million tonnes of plastic are produced worldwide. A large proportion of these are single-use plastics. Large quantities of this plastic waste end up in the oceans every year. That needs to change. The plastic strategy adopted by the EP and the circular economy action plan can bring about a turnaround. It is estimated that up to 129,000 tonnes of plastic float in the sea on an area of around 1.6 million square kilometers. More and more plastic waste is also being found in European waters. (DE - 8 p.)

EUROPEUM

[An inhospitable climate: why the V4 needs to wake up on climate security](#)

by Louis Cox-Brusseau [@LouisCB01](#)

Climate security is an under-explored and under-addressed topic in international affairs; the threats it purports to address are holistic and existential, affecting – whether directly or indirectly – human welfare, stability and existence. Discussion of climate-related security issues has usually been as a subset of the broader topic of climate change, and thus

has rarely seen broader debate in mainstream considerations of traditional security. This article is critical of the approach taken by the V4 group and argues that climate change and climate security must be taken far more seriously by all member states. (7 p.)

ECOLOGICAL INSTITUTE

[Shaping EU plastic policies: the role of public health vs. environmental arguments](#)

by Linda Mederake and Doris Knoblauch

This article uses a structuring qualitative content analysis to investigate the parliamentary debates of two recently adopted plastic policies in the EU - namely the EU plastics strategy and the single-use plastics directive - and to assess the relevance of public health and environmental arguments for the EU debate. (18 p.)

HEINRICH-BÖLL-STIFTUNG (HEINRICH BÖLL FOUNDATION)

[Towards a contemporary vision for the global seafloor: implementing the common heritage of mankind](#)

by Sabine Christiansen, Duncan Currie [@Duncan_Currie](#), Kate Houghton et al.

This study aims to explain the basics of what the legal framework of the common heritage of mankind principle entails, its original vision, and its current implementation. It analyses what risks there might be to marine biodiversity – as far as this can be predicted today – and the possible governance conflicts that might accompany the uptake of exploitation. (108 p.)

CENTRE FOR CLIMATE CHANGE ECONOMICS AND POLICY / GRANTHAM LSE

[Addressing the impacts of climate change through an effective Warsaw international mechanism on loss and damage](#)

by Rebecca Byrnes [@RebeccaCByrnes](#) and Swenja Surminski

This paper outlines a set of observations on loss and damage and makes recommendations for the Warsaw international mechanism (WIM). The paper aims to advocate and illustrate how to: depoliticize the international loss and damage, reimagine the

role of the WIM to identify how it could have the greatest possible chance to protect lives and livelihoods, and mainstream loss and damage within broader climate change discussions. (21 p.)

GENERAL AFFAIRS

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT THINK TANK

[Mainstreaming of climate action in the EU budget: impact of a political objective](#)

by Alessandro D'Alfonso

The EU has developed many legislative measures related to climate change, and is on track to meet its 2020 targets for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, the improvement of energy efficiency and the increased use of renewables. However, analysts estimate that more demanding targets in the medium- and longer-term require significant financial investments in mitigation and adaptation measures. Public resources can play an important role in financing such investment needs, not only directly but also in attracting funding from other sources. (28 p.)

TANKETANKEN EUROPA

[Borgernes ønsker til EU klemmes i stramt budget](#)

by Jan Høst Schmidt

The many new priorities outlined by the incoming college of commissioners will require an increased budget or significant reductions in traditional areas of EU spending such as agriculture. The author argues that the 1% of GNP target advocated by countries such as Denmark and Germany will not be enough to finance important reforms and investments. (DK - 18 p.)

JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS

TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL

[Building on the EU directive for whistleblower protection](#)

by Marie Terracol [@marie_terracol](#)

In October 2019, the EU adopted a directive on the "Protection of persons reporting on breaches of Union law" (whistleblower protection directive). To support effective

implementation of the directive, this analysis provides recommendations aimed at closing loopholes and strengthening whistleblower protection in the transposition process. (11 p.)

REAL INSTITUTO ELCANO

[Cyber security: how GDPR is already impacting the public-private relationship](#)

by Danny Steed [@TheSteed86](#)

The public-private relationship has long been heralded as a key arena in cyber security, where collaborative arrangements can ensure greater resilience to cyberattacks and swifter responses to cyber incidents. This article argues, however, that the relationship will change greatly in a post-GDPR world. The relationship should now be considered as one where collaboration is augmented with coercive measures in order to change private sector behaviour in cyberspace. (7 p.)

LISBON COUNCIL FOR ECONOMIC COMPETITIVENESS AND SOCIAL RENEWAL

[The public-data opportunity: why governments should share more](#)

by Daniela Battisti, Francesco Mureddu [@muredduf](#) and David Osimo [@osimod](#)

The paper analyses the importance of data-sharing between EU public agencies, identifies the barriers and proposes seven policy recommendations that will help lift them. (15 p.)

ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΟ ΙΔΡΥΜΑ ΕΥΡΩΠΑΪΚΗΣ ΚΑΙ ΕΞΩΤΕΡΙΚΗΣ ΠΟΛΙΤΙΚΗΣ (HELLENIC FOUNDATION FOR EUROPEAN FOREIGN POLICY)/NOVA MIGRA

[Talking of values: understanding the normative discourse of EU migration policy](#)

by Angeliki Dimitriadi [@DimitriadiA](#) and Haris Malamidis

With respect to migration, the period 2014-2017 was characterised by reactionary policies and the outburst of far-right populist discourses. These important developments posed a normative challenge for the EU and particularly for its values which are supposed to lie at the core of the European project. By paying attention to the values of solidarity, responsibility-sharing, saving lives at sea,

human rights and the right to free movement, this research identifies which norms and values are mobilised in EU's institutional narratives with regard to migration, and whether they are shared across the European institutions, at least as regards the official discourse. (76 p.)

JACQUES DELORS INSTITUTE - BERLIN

[Far from a fresh start: what to make of the solidarity mechanism for the Mediterranean](#)

by Lucas Rasche [@LuRasche](#)

In September, France, Germany, Italy and Malta agreed on a declaration to establish a solidarity mechanism for the disembarkation and redistribution of asylum seekers rescued in the Mediterranean. While the proposal can help ending quarrels over the responsibility to disembark migrants rescued at sea, it applies only to a small fraction of those arriving via the Mediterranean. The Malta mechanism changes little in the overall direction of EU asylum policy and there is little hope that it can serve as a blueprint for von der Leyen's promise of a "fresh start" on migration. (5 p.)

CENTRE FOR EUROPEAN POLICY STUDIES

[The Malta declaration on SAR and relocation: a predictable EU solidarity mechanism?](#)

by Sergio Carrera and Roberto Cortinovis

The joint declaration of intent signed at the informal summit between the interior ministers of Italy, Malta, France and Germany in La Valletta on 23 September 2019 (the 'Malta declaration') has been presented as a milestone in addressing controversies over search and rescue (SAR) and disembarkation of asylum seekers and migrants in the Mediterranean. This insight provides a critical analysis of the declaration, questioning its added value in ensuring a predictable EU solidarity mechanism in the Mediterranean. (7 p.)

EUROPEAN COUNCIL ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

[All at sea: Europe's crisis of solidarity on migration](#)

by Shoshana Fine [@Shoshana_Fine](#)

This article argues that the EU's approach to migration has created a crisis of solidarity. While migrant arrivals in Europe have declined, so has cooperation and responsibility sharing within the EU. (19 p.)

EUROPEAN POLICY CENTRE

[Diminishing safeguards, increasing returns: non-refoulement gaps in the EU return and readmission system](#)

by Olivia Sundberg Diez [@OliviaSundberg1](#)

The new legislative cycle provides an opportunity to rethink EU return and readmission policy. In particular, its compliance with international legal obligations, most notably the principle of non-refoulement, merits renewed attention. The EU and its member states have an obligation to ensure that a return order does not lead to refoulement, either directly or indirectly. Nevertheless, several trends are at play that create a growing accountability gap over return and readmission, and amount to structural shortcomings in their efforts to prevent refoulement. (24 p.)

CENTRE FOR EUROPEAN POLICY STUDIES / STIFTUNG MERCATOR

[Rethinking EU migration and asylum policies: managing immigration jointly with countries of origin and transit](#)

by Mikkel Barslund [@mBarslund](#), Andreas Backhaus [@AndreasShrugged](#) and Mattia Di Salvo [@Mattia DiSalvo](#)

The new Commission has an opportunity to start afresh to address the persistent challenges in asylum and immigration policies. According to this report allowing EU member states greater flexibility in how they contribute to the common asylum system may be one way forward. The report argues that non-EU countries of origin and transit have an overwhelming interest in expanding opportunities for their citizens to work in Europe legally. Cooperation in other areas,

including containing irregular migration, would likely benefit from EU member states permitting more legal labour migration from non-EU countries. (51 p.)

MIGRATION POLICY INSTITUTE / SACHVERSTÄNDIGENRAT DEUTSCHER STIFTUNGEN FÜR INTEGRATION UND MIGRATION (EXPERT COUNCIL OF GERMAN FOUNDATIONS ON INTEGRATION AND MIGRATION)

[Legal migration for work and training: mobility options to Europe for those not in need of protection](#)

by Hanne Beirens, Camille Le Coz [@CamilleLeCoz](#),
Kate Hooper [@kmchooper](#) et al.

EU member states are struggling to deliver on the EU's call to expand channels for foreign workers as a way to meet labor market needs and potentially tackle spontaneous migration. And their focus has been more on attracting high-skilled workers, rather than filling the low and middle-skilled jobs that are increasingly open yet for which few channels to bring in third-country nationals exist. This report provides an overview of mobility options open to low- and middle-skilled foreign workers, distilling findings from an analysis of policy in the EU and case-study countries France, Germany, Italy, Spain, and Sweden. (76 p.)

FUNDACIÓN ALTERNATIVAS

[Desmontando el falso mito del problema migratorio](#)

by Beatriz Cózar Murillo [@CozarBeatriz](#) and Leticia Rodríguez García [@letirgar](#)

The present document examines migration as a phenomenon since its origins. The study explores migratory tendencies and analyses theories that link migration with security issues. It analyzes the perception the European population has on migration, as well as the European response to the issue, with special attention to the Spanish case. The paper takes into consideration the surge in populism and Euroscepticism in Europe, exposing the influence that migration has in European elections and analyzing potential fake news on the matter. (ES - 103 p.)

DAHRENDORF INSTITUTE

[‘Against immigrant integration’? A review of the logics of recognition among the ‘mainstream’ and the populist radical right in Europe](#)

by Josefin Graef [@graef_j](#)

This paper offers a review of the logics of recognition that shape mainstream and populist radical right (PRR) imaginaries of ‘immigrant integration’ in Europe. The paper illustrates how PRR attitudes to ‘immigrant integration’ emerge from, rather than simply oppose, mainstream norms. It suggests ways for re-approaching ‘integration’ precisely at a time when these norms are becoming increasingly politicised in the context of new immigration dynamics in Europe. (17 p.)

CENTRAL EUROPEAN LABOUR STUDIES INSTITUTE

["Comparison is the thief of joy" : does social comparison affect migrants' subjective well being?](#)

by Manuela Stranges, Daniele Vignoli and Alessandra Venturini

This paper investigates migrants' subjective wellbeing by analysing how the social comparison with two reference groups (natives and other migrants) within the host country affects migrants' life satisfaction. Using data of the European social survey, the authors constructed two measures of economic distance that compare each migrant's situation with the average of the group of natives and the group of migrants with similar characteristics. The results indicate that when the disadvantage between the migrant and the reference groups becomes smaller, migrant's life satisfaction increases. (39 p.)

INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR COUNTER-TERRORISM - THE HAGUE

[Free movement threatened by terrorism: an analysis of measures proposed to improve EU border management](#)

by Willemijn Tiekstra

From 2015 onwards, a new wave of terrorist attacks has hit the EU. Combined with amplified fears of uncontrolled irregular migration movements, the EU's free movement

area has been put under strain. This brief illustrates that in the current operational landscape of EU border management, there are gaps in the information exchange between authorities. It analyses whether the new measures for improving European border management remedy the identified flaws in border management systems and discusses whether the measures proposed are necessary and proportional to the objective pursued; namely, ensuring the safety of the EU and its citizens. (24 p.)

INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR COUNTER-TERRORISM - THE HAGUE

[A threat from within? Exploring the link between the extreme right and the military](#)

by Daniel Koehler

Right-wing violence and terrorism have gained more academic and public attention in recent years, with an increase in anti-immigration and anti-government organised violence from the extreme right in most Western countries. Some evidence exists that right-wing extremists have attempted to infiltrate the military in their home countries to gain access to tactical training, weapons, and to recruit highly skilled new members. This brief discusses available knowledge about extreme right-wing links to the military in Germany, the UK, Canada, and the US. It concludes by formulating concrete recommendations for handling this potential threat. (34 p.)

EUROPEAN COUNCIL ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

[Beyond good and evil: why Europe should bring ISIS foreign fighters home](#)

by Anthony Dworkin [@AnthonyDworkin](#)

Hundreds of EU citizens who joined ISIS abroad are in detention in Northern Syria, a territory whose future is deeply uncertain. EU governments remain extremely reluctant to bring these detainees back home and have instead sought to have them tried in the region. Sending suspects to Iraqi courts or an international tribunal also appear to be nonstarters given the risk of unfair trials and questionable legal footing available. Returning European ISIS supporters to Europe is the best way to ensure they remain under control and can be prosecuted, interrogated, and helped with re-engagement as necessary. (20 p.)

ЦЕНТЪР ЗА ИЗСЛЕДВАНЕ НА ДЕМОКРАЦИЯТА (CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF DEMOCRACY)

[The illicit cigarette trade along the Balkan route: measuring vulnerabilities and threats](#)

by Atanas Rusev, Alexander Gerganov, Tihomir Bezlov et al.

The current report focuses on the illicit tobacco market and the effectiveness of law enforcement against it in four EU countries along the Balkan route – Bulgaria, Italy, Greece and Romania. Having been affected by both illegal production and illegal trade, these countries face a number of vulnerabilities and threats in their capacities for effective law enforcement. The study analyses two comprehensive datasets – the data collected by the tobacco industry on illicit consumption and the institutional data on seizures of illicit cigarettes. (101 p.)

TRANSPORT / TELECOMMUNICATIONS / ENERGY

NEW CLIMATE INSTITUTE / AGORA ENERGIEWENDE

[Unlocking low cost renewables in South East Europe. Case studies in de-risking on-shore wind investment.](#)

by Katharina Lütkehermöller, Julie Emmrich, Frauke Roser et al.

To date, most South East European (SEE) countries have relied heavily on conventional generation technologies. However, over the next decade, countries in this region will have to replace around 50 per cent of their existing capacity for age-related reasons. The key question is: what will replace these conventional assets? Renewable energy development in SEE has been limited to date. One impediment to scaling up renewables is their higher up-front capital intensity compared to investment in coal or natural gas. This report explores how various political and financial measures could help to “de-risk” renewables investment. It then estimates how such measures would impact the prices paid by consumers for renewable energy. (48 p.)

THE OXFORD INSTITUTE FOR ENERGY STUDIES

[A mountain to climb? Tracking progress in scaling up renewable gas production in Europe](#)

by Martin Lambert

In the last couple of years there has been increasing recognition by key players in the European gas industry that to mitigate the risk of terminal decline in the context of a decarbonising energy system, there will need to be rapid scale up of decarbonised gas. This paper considers the very significant rate of scale up and the significant cost reductions contemplated by such projections. (41 p.)

INSTITUTE FOR EUROPEAN STUDIES

[Metals for a climate neutral Europe](#)

by Tomas Wyns [@TomasWyns](#) and Gauri Khandekar [@KhandekarGauri](#)

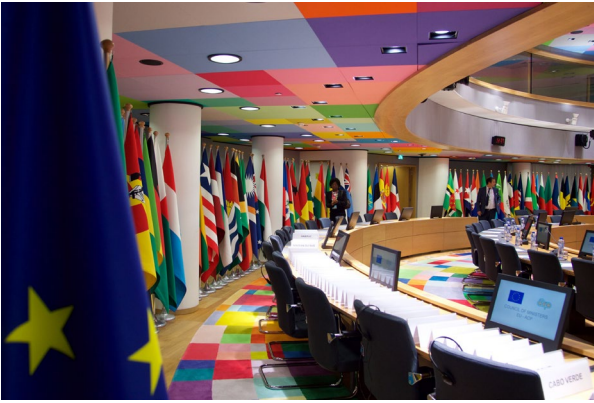
Europe's energy transition will require higher quantities of metals. Indeed, non-ferrous metals represent the building blocks of every conceivable climate technology including batteries, clean mobility, energy-efficient buildings, solar panels, and wind turbines. The climate transition will challenge Europe's industries to decarbonise in only one business cycle. The European non-ferrous metals industry has already made significant step changes since 1990 and must now be supported by an EU industrial policy, which enables it to meet EU 2050 climate-neutrality objectives while thriving against global competition. (91 p.)

E3G

[The Netherlands and Germany, ensuring competitiveness in a net zero emissions world](#)

by Artur Patuleia [@aspatuleia](#), Pieter de Pous [@Pieter_de_Pous](#), Lisa Fischer [@FactFishing](#) et. al.

Last August, the Dutch and German governments had a high-level consultation on their respective climate plans in The Hague. In October, they continued this dialogue in Berlin as part of a broader political consultation. This brief provides a closer look at some of the issues that the two states faced ahead of the meeting and how those matters could potentially increase the climate ambitions at the national and EU level. (11 p.)



FOREIGN AND SECURITY POLICY / DEFENCE

STIFTUNG GENSHAGEN

The changing global order – Which role for the European Union?

by Freya Grünhagen and Tobias Koepf [@TobiasKoepf](#) (eds.)

This paper is divided into three sections. The first focuses mainly on the inner workings of the EU and on the difficulties of finding a coherent strategic approach due to the different global positions and aspirations of its member states. The second comes to a more optimistic conclusion and sees global strategic instability as a window of opportunity for finding a new role as a security and defence actor. The third part calls on the EU to further improve its capabilities and to stay firm in defending the principle of multilateralism, which is currently being called into question from different sides. (15 p.)

FRIEDRICH-EBERT-STIFTUNG (FRIEDRICH EBERT FOUNDATION)

Rethinking European security

by Hans-Joachim Spanger

This article argues for a reassessment of European security against the backdrop of the changes in global politics in the last ten to twenty years. (29 p.)

INSTITUT FRANCAIS DES RELATIONS INTERNATIONALES

Mutual reinforcement: CSDP and NATO in the face of rising challenges

by Corentin Brustlein (ed.) [@CorentinBr](#)

Over the past five years, several political and security developments have made it increasingly necessary to look at the EU/NATO relation through a different lens. The renewed emphasis on European strategic autonomy, a concept that lends itself to multiple and sometimes diverging interpretations, has been a cause for rising concern among NATO member states. This paper argues that there are many ways to increase Europe's strategic autonomy without undermining the Alliance. (48 p.)

ISTITUTO AFFARI INTERNAZIONALI

The future is back: the EU, Russia and the Kosovo-Serbia dispute

by Maria Giulia Amadio Viceré [@mariagiuliaama](#)

This paper explores how, recently, EU influence in the Western Balkans has decreased as multiple crises have reduced the Union's attractiveness and divisions among member states have called into question the credibility of its enlargement process. By exploiting the EU's difficulties in maintaining momentum behind the association process towards Serbia and Kosovo, Russia has found a way to reinsert itself into the region's geopolitics. (21 p.)

INSTITUT FRANCAIS DES RELATIONS INTERNATIONALES

[Sub-surface competition in the Euro-Atlantic area: the challenge to Western dominance](#)

by Lee Willett

Russia's Syrian campaign has demonstrated the returning challenge the West faces in the underwater domain. Since 2008 – which saw both Russian naval forces engaged in the Georgia campaign and the re-emergence of regular deployments by Russian submarines south of the Greenland-Iceland-UK gap – naval power has been central to Russia's strategic resurgence. This paper both provides an in-depth analysis of the latest Russian innovations in regard to underwater capabilities and assesses this threat for European security. (7 p.)

DEUTSCHE GESELLSCHAFT FÜR AUSWÄRTIGE POLITIK (GERMAN COUNCIL ON FOREIGN RELATIONS)

[Der vernetzte Krieg. Warum moderne Streitkräfte von elektronischer Kampfführung abhängen](#)

by Torben Schütz [@_schuetzt](#)

Europe's armies have not sufficiently modernized in the digital domain since the end of the Cold War. This gap becomes particularly clear in the increasingly important electronic warfare. Countries such as China and Russia are catching up and showing the weaknesses of Western armed forces. This capability gap can only be shared by EU and NATO states to ensure credible deterrence and defence. (DE - 6 p.)

INSTITUTE FOR EUROPEAN STUDIES

[Articulating the logic of nuclear-sharing](#)

by Alexander Mattelaer [@ATJMattelaer](#)

NATO's nuclear-sharing arrangements often get bad press. This is remarkable given the fact that they have demonstrably contributed to countering the proliferation of nuclear arsenals in Europe; fostering alliance cohesion by giving non-nuclear weapon states a voice on the nuclear posture of the alliance; and making nuclear deterrence more effective militarily by offering a wider array of force options. In order

to enrich the debate about NATO's nuclear policy, this brief articulates the threefold logic of nuclear-sharing. (5 p.)

INTERNATIONAL CRISIS GROUP

[EU watch list 2019 – third update](#)

Watch list updates complement international crisis group's annual watch list of January 2019. These early-warning publications identify major conflict situations in which prompt action, driven or supported by the EU and its member states, would generate stronger prospects for peace. The third update to the watch list 2019 includes entries on Afghanistan, Nicaragua, Sudan and Yemen. (20 p.)

THE HAGUE CENTRE FOR STRATEGIC STUDIES

[NATO's futures through Russian and Chinese beholders' eyes](#)

by Yar Batoh, Stephan De Spiegeleire [@sdspieg](#), Daria Goriacheva et al.

As NATO celebrates the 70th anniversary of its Founding Treaty this year, many fundamental aspects of its future are widely debated within the Alliance itself. Western views on NATO's future have, throughout the seven decades of its existence, ranged from those who predicted NATO's imminent demise to those who claimed that the many ties that bind the two sides of the Northern Atlantic are so deep and enduring that they are bound to last for decades to come. More recently the Western outlook on NATO's future is increasingly being painted in decidedly more somber hues. (68 p.)

DANSK INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONALE STUIER (DANISH INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDIES)

[NATO og Rusland mellem strategisk konfrontation og stabilitet](#)

by Jens Ringsmose and Sten Rynning [@stenrynning](#)

The authors argue that NATO lacks a common Russia policy, which makes the alliance reactive in its relations with the big neighbor to the east. They also argue that stagnation is dangerous and that stability and predictability require dialogue with Russia. (DK - 41 p.)

CHATHAM HOUSE - THE ROYAL INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

[Getting to a new Iran deal: a guide for Trump, Washington, Tehran, Europe and the Middle East](#)

by Sanam Vakil [@SanamVakil](#) and Neil Quilliam [@NeilQuilliam1](#)

This paper assesses the impact of US President Donald Trump's campaign of 'maximum pressure' against Iran, and the potential for future negotiations. It draws on 75 off-the-record interviews with policymakers and analysts in 10 countries (the US, Iran, France, Germany, the UK, Russia, China, Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Israel). Respondents generally did not foresee a 'grand bargain' on Iran as a viable outcome of the US strategy. (60 p.)

STOCKHOLM INTERNATIONAL PEACE RESEARCH INSTITUTE

[The impact of artificial intelligence on strategic stability and nuclear risk](#)

by Lora Saalman (ed.)

This paper looks at why and how machine learning and autonomy may become the focus of an arms race among nuclear-armed states. It further explores how the adoption of these technologies may have an impact on their calculation of strategic stability and nuclear risk at the regional and trans-regional levels. (108 p.)

TRADE

INSTITUT FRANCAIS DES RELATIONS INTERNATIONALES

[La politique de sanctions de l'Union européenne. Ambition multilatérale contre ambition de puissance](#)

by Eric-André Martin

Restrictive measures are a major instrument of the EU's external action, which has emerged as one of the world's leading imposers of sanctions. The EU has been able to reinforce its image as a normative power and a global player, contributing actively to international peace and solidarity. Against the backdrop of rising unilateral sanctions, this paper argues that the EU should at the same time develop its

means of defence and consequently adapt its trade policy as well as its rules regulating economic competition on its internal market. (FR - 50 p.)

ELINKEINOELÄMÄN TUTKIMUSLAITOS (RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF THE FINNISH ECONOMY)

[Emerging trade battlefield with China: export competition and firm's coping strategies](#)

by Katariina Nilsson Hakkala

This paper analyzes how intensified Chinese export competition affects the exports and product ranges of firms from Finland. Using a novel identification strategy that exploits changes in Chinese export policies, the authors find that Chinese export competition reduces aggregate product-level exports. (44 p.)

DAHRENDORF INSTITUTE

[Shaping a new international trade order: competition and co-operation among the European Union, the United States, and China](#)

by Diego Salazar-Morales [@DiegoSalazarMo](#) and Mark Hallerberg [@mhallerberg](#)

Following the establishment of the World Trade Organisation in 1995, American and European trade relationships were characterised by 'competitive interdependence', as the US and EU simultaneously aimed to advance their commercial interests in third countries. The authors analyse trade policy shifts made by the EU and US in the last decade and argue that the rise of China has served to change such relationship. (20 p.)

AFRICA

DEUTSCHES INSTITUT FÜR
ENTWICKLUNGSPOLITIK (GERMAN
DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE)

Supporting or thwarting? The influence of European Union migration policies on African free movement regimes in West and North-Eastern Africa

by Clare Castillejo, Eva Dick and Benjamin Schraven
[@Ben_Schraven](#)

This paper analyses the effects of EU political dialogue and programming on regional free movement (RFM) in two African regions: the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) in the Horn of Africa and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) in West Africa. The analysis shows that EU approaches to and impact on RFM differ significantly in the two regions and discusses what factors drive this difference. (4 p.)

SOUTH AFRICAN INSTITUTE OF
INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

At the table or on the menu? Africa's agency and the global order

by Gustavo de Carvalho [@gb_decarvalho](#), Steven Gruzid and Chido Mutangadura

This report reflects discussions by key African think tanks on promoting African agency in an international system that faces increasing pressure. It finds that multilateralism is increasingly becoming ineffective in solving the world's problems and that Africa could be largely described as 'a resilient but marginal player' in the international system. The authors recommend that Africa's 'big 5' - Nigeria, South Africa, Egypt, Algeria and Ethiopia - should become more active in pushing for coherent African views. (16 p.)

FRIEDRICH-EBERT-STIFTUNG (FRIEDRICH
EBERT FOUNDATION)

G20 compact with Africa: the audacity of hope

by Robert Kappel [@robert_kappel](#) and Helmut Reisen
[@HrReisen](#)

The Compact with Africa (CwA) is the first comprehensive initiative between the G20 and Africa. Its primary objective is to increase the

attractiveness of private investment in Africa. It aims to leverage private financing for infrastructure projects via blended finance to mobilise subsequent foreign direct investment flows. This study takes a more detailed look at three quite different CwA countries, with which Germany has established a special partnership: Ethiopia, Ghana and Senegal. (72 p.)

SOUTH AFRICAN INSTITUTE OF
INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Inside the Russia-Africa matryoshka: summitry, geopolitics and resources

by Elizabeth Sidiropoulos and Chris Alden

This paper analyses Russia's re-engagement with the continent in the context of the evolution of Russian foreign policy since the end of the Cold War, arguing that its turn to Africa is part of a multi-vector approach that was articulated as early as 20 years ago. The paper also focuses on what Africa could expect from Russia and how the continent as a whole should engage with Russia in the future. (35 p.)

SOUTH AFRICAN INSTITUTE OF
INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Digital dictatorship versus digital democracy in Africa

by Ronak Gopaldas [@RonakGopaldas](#)

This paper interrogates what evolving technology trends mean for governance, both globally and in Africa. It starts by exploring digital democracy and dictatorship, taking stock of current realities, and assessing some of the opportunities and threats involved for societies that espouse this new mode of digital political communication. It attempts to understand the evolution of these trends and how specific African countries have reacted to them. Finally, it provides an outline of the key future issues for government, business and policymakers. (18 p.)

ITALIAN INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL STUDIES

Leaders for a new Africa: democrats, autocrats, and development

by Giovanni Carbone (ed.)

Political leadership can be a crucial ingredient for the development of sub-Saharan Africa. The region has been going through important transformations, with both political landscapes and economic trajectories becoming increasingly diverse. The changes underway include the role of leadership and its broader impact. This volume explores how, on the whole, African leaders and the way they reach power generally do contribute to shaping their countries' progresses and achievements. (156 p.)

OCP POLICY CENTER

The rationale behind India's shift to Africa

by Samuel Arnaud and Ihssane Guennoun

Africa, as a continent of economic opportunities, is attracting foreign players. In this context, India is emerging as an important partner, especially for Eastern and Southern Africa. The complexity of its geopolitical environment combined with internal specificities motivated the revival of interest for the continent. This paper draws on historical developments between India and African countries to provide the state of play of recent linkages. Those trends are better perceived through the three prisms of trade and investments, finance and defence. (9 p.)

EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT POLICY MANAGEMENT

Mission possible? The geopolitical Commission and the partnership with Africa

by Chloe Teevan [@ChloeTvan](#) and Andrew Sherriff [@AndrewSherriff](#)

This brief explores the opportunity von der Leyen's geopolitical framing can offer in regards to the EU-Africa relationship. At the same time, it points to the dangers of empty rhetoric for the EU's credibility as a foreign policy actor. In renaming the Commission's development portfolio "international partnerships" and outlining plans for a new comprehensive strategy for Africa, von der Leyen seeks to signal a more political

approach. The authors argue that the EU will need to show that this time it has the will and ability to move from words to meaningful action. (13 p.)

EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT POLICY MANAGEMENT

Governance in Africa-Europe relations: modesty, realism and working politically

by Geert Laporte

This briefing note identifies some of the political and bureaucratic hurdles in dealing with poorly governed states and suggests possible ways forward. The author calls for a large dose of modesty and realism, a more cooperative engagement towards coalition building, and fundamental changes in the political and bureaucratic culture of development agencies and diplomatic services. (5 p.)

EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT POLICY MANAGEMENT

Elections in Africa – playing the game or bending the rules?

by Martin Ronceray and Bruce Byiers

This paper identifies the means through which different actors and factors sway election outcomes as well as ongoing trends and implications for external partners. It introduces analytical frameworks to help understand the strategies used before, during and after election day, and relates these to recent and ongoing electoral processes in Africa through a number of telling examples. (39 p.)

EUROPEAN UNION INSTITUTE FOR SECURITY STUDIES

Resetting Ethiopia: will the state heal or fail?

by Giovanni Faleg [@gioFALEG](#)

While democratic reforms should in principle promote peace and stability, to what extent can they also exacerbate political violence? Although the academic debate is controversial with regard to this question, Ethiopia provides a good test case to look at conflict prevention from the perspective of a country that recently experienced a peaceful transfer of power, followed by fast-paced reformism, and can as a result either stabilise or fall back into conflict. (8 p.)

STOCKHOLM INTERNATIONAL PEACE RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Climate-related security risks and peacebuilding in Somalia

by Karolina Eklöv [@KarolinaEklow](#) and Florian Krampe [@FlorianKrampe](#)

Climate-related security risks are transforming the security landscape in which multilateral peacebuilding efforts take place. This policy paper offers a glimpse into the future of peacebuilding in the time of climate change by providing an in-depth assessment of the United Nations assistance mission in Somalia (UNSOM). (42 p.)

STOCKHOLM INTERNATIONAL PEACE RESEARCH INSTITUTE

The impact of armed groups on the populations of Central and Northern Mali Impacts des groupes armés sur les populations au nord et au centre du Mali

by Aurélien Tobie [@aurelientobie](#) and Boukary Sangaré

This study attempts to describe the interactions between armed groups in Mali. It attempts to explain the positioning of communities in the presence of these groups. The coexistence of communities and armed groups on the same territory generates renegotiations of the security, economic or social relations between the actors involved. The authors argue that these social changes must be taken into account in the responses adopted by the Malian government and its partners. (EN - 28 p. / FR - 30 p.)

ASIA-OCEANIA

MTA KÖZGAZDASÁG- ÉS REGIONÁLIS TUDOMÁNYI KUTATÓKÖZPONT - VILÁGGAZDASÁGI INTÉZET (CENTRE FOR ECONOMIC AND REGIONAL STUDIES)

Emerging Asian economies and multinational enterprises' (MNEs) strategies

by Ágnes Szunomár

The rise of multinational enterprises from emerging markets is topical, important and poses a number of questions and challenges that require considerable attention in the future. (67 p.)

THE ASIA FOUNDATION

Trade in the Sulu archipelago: informal economies amidst maritime security challenges

by Starjoan Villanueva (ed.)

This study examines the methods by which goods are transported and traded between Sabah and the Southern Philippines. The project, as part of the X-border local research network, aims at improving the understanding of border regions that experience conflict or fragility. Over the next five years the project will build up a body of knowledge on the unique experiences of communities in border zones. (24 p.)

FRIEDRICH-EBERT-STIFTUNG (FRIEDRICH EBERT FOUNDATION)

The wicked problem of AI governance

by Anita Gurumurthy and Nandini Chami

This article looks at the debates on AI governance and at the particular social effects AI could have in India, where the automation of work will impact on job creation in a young and growing population. (35 p.)

INSTITUTE FOR DEFENCE STUDIES AND ANALYSES

Aircraft carriers – the keystone to India's maritime security

by Roby Thomas

The brief explores the role that sea-based aviation has historically played in naval operations. The brief focusses on India and its investments on aircraft carriers for maritime security. India has been operating aircraft carriers since 1961 and is now looking at building and maintaining three aircraft carriers. It is time that India takes a 'leap of faith' to bolster its aircraft carrier capabilities to secure its strategic interests. (8 p.)

EASTERN EUROPE

FRIEDRICH-EBERT-STIFTUNG (FRIEDRICH EBERT FOUNDATION)

Implementation of the EU-Ukraine association agreement : labour law, gender equality and occupational safety and health

by Kateryna Yarmolyuk-Kröck, Marfa Skoryk and Vasyi Andreyev

Analysing the implementation of the EU-Ukraine association agreement within the social sphere, this paper focuses on implementation of the EU acquis into Ukrainian national legislation in the areas of labour and employment law, anti-discrimination and gender equality, and labour protection and occupational safety and health. (30 p.)

UTRIKESPOLITISKA INSTITUTET (SWEDISH INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS)

Ukraine's 2019 elections and the rise of a new political guard

by Katya Gorchinskaya [@gogolashvili2](#)

This brief analyses the implications of the dramatic alteration of Ukraine's political landscape that followed the country's presidential and parliamentary elections in 2019. (12 p.)

FORUM FOR RESEARCH ON EASTERN EUROPE AND EMERGING ECONOMIES (FREE NETWORK)

How to intensify and diversify Ukrainian exports? The case of bilateral trade with Germany

by Pavlo Iavorskyi, Olga Nikolaieva, Oleksandr Shepotylo [@shepotylo](#) et al.

This policy brief focuses on trade relations between Ukraine and Germany. In particular, it analyses bilateral trade in goods and examines the possibilities for increasing Ukrainian exports to Germany, in both the extensive and the intensive margins. The brief identifies prospective product groups for such increases and discusses potential obstacles to trade intensification. Finally, it provides recommendations for the further trade development. (7 p.)

საქართველოს სტრატეგიისა და საერთაშორისო ურთიერთობების კვლევის ფონდი (GEORGIAN FOUNDATION FOR STRATEGIC AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES)

Ten years after the initiation of the Eastern Partnership: what associated countries should do next?

by Kakha Gorchinskaya [@gogolashvili2](#)

This article argues that Georgia, Ukraine and Moldova represent the best performer countries among the EU's Eastern partners that have signed and implement association agreements / deep and comprehensive free trade agreements with the EU. They represent the same region of the Black Sea and face similar problems and challenges with internal reform, experiencing the same type of external pressures and aspiring to EU membership. The three countries need to establish a regional format for cooperation on European integration issues. (17 p.)

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

PETERSON INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL ECONOMICS

The Amazon is a carbon bomb: how can Brazil and the world work together to avoid setting it off?

by Monica de Bolle [@bollemdb](#)

This brief looks specifically at how the US and Brazil can work together, alongside the international community, to preserve the rainforest and develop ways to sustainably use its natural resources. (8 p.)

INTERNATIONAL CRISIS GROUP

Fight and flight: tackling the roots of Honduras' emergency

Despite US restrictions on Central American migration, Hondurans are fleeing north in record numbers as the country struggles with polarised government, corruption, poverty and violence. With outside help, Tegucigalpa should revisit its heavy-handed security policies and enact judicial and electoral reforms to avert future upheaval. (46 p.)

MIDDLE EAST/NORTH AFRICA (MENA)

INTERNATIONAL CRISIS GROUP

[A Huthi missile, a Saudi purge and a Lebanese resignation shake the Middle East](#)

by April Longley Alley, Ali Vaez [@AliVaez](#), Heiko Wimmen [@heiko_wimmen](#) et al.

Volatility is rising across the Middle East as local, regional and international conflicts increasingly intertwine and amplify each other. Four crisis group analysts give a 360 degree view of the new risks of overlapping conflicts that involve Yemen, Saudi Arabia, Iran, Lebanon and Israel. (8 p.)

INTERNATIONAL CRISIS GROUP

[Averting an ISIS resurgence in Iraq and Syria](#)

The Islamic State (ISIS) has not made a comeback in Iraq or Syria – yet. The jihadist group survives as a deadly insurgency in both countries, but one that, compared to its earlier iterations, is weak and geographically circumscribed. Local conditions, particularly in Iraq, have militated against its return. Yet both Iraq and Syria face internal dangers and external threats, most imminently Turkish intervention in Syria's north east, that could destabilise both countries. (43 p.)

THE INSTITUTE FOR NATIONAL SECURITY STUDIES

[Turkey's offensive in Northeastern Syria: the expected, the surprising, and the still unknown](#)

by Gallia Lindenstrauß [@GLindenstrauß](#) and Eldad Shavit

The Turkish military offensive in northeastern Syria that began in October is the third offensive carried out by Turkey in northern Syria and its most ambitious action in Syria to date, as well as the one that has elicited the most international censure. The developments that led to this offensive and its outcomes have regional and international significance that go well beyond the specific campaign. (4 p.)

EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT POLICY MANAGEMENT

[Peace and security in Africa: drivers and implications of North Africa's southern gaze](#)

by Lidet Tadesse Shiferaw

This paper provides an analysis of the strategic interests and agenda of Algeria, Morocco and Egypt in the domain of peace and security on the African continent. It unpacks why Algeria is a dominant actor in the African Union while its bilateral economic footprint in the continent is limited; how Morocco deploys economic and spiritual diplomacy to secure its national and geostrategic interests; what explains Egypt's gravitation back to the continent; and what it means for peace and security in North Africa and the Horn. (27 p.)

WESTERN BALKANS

CENTAR ZA EVROPSKE POLITIKE (EUROPEAN POLICY CENTRE)

[Effective benchmarking for concrete rule of law reforms in the Western Balkans](#)

by Simonida Kacarska [@skacarska](#) and Ardita Abazi Imeri

This brief focuses on the lessons learned from rule of law benchmarking in the Western Balkans so far in order to provide input for ongoing discussions on revising the accession methodology. The findings presented here reflect on the debates at the October 2019 summit. (4 p.)

CENTAR ZA EVROPSKE POLITIKE (EUROPEAN POLICY CENTRE)

[EU strategy for Adriatic-Ionian region \(EUSAIR\) case study of multi-level governance and cross-sectoral coordination in Serbia](#)

by Ranka Miljenović

The Republic of Serbia joined EUSAIR as the successor to the State Union of Serbia and Montenegro. The country supports and actively contributes to the activities aimed at defining the Adriatic and Ionian Region as a macro-region. Although Serbia is not a coastal country, it has both political and economic interest to participate in EUSAIR (36 p.)

CHINA

FOUNDATION FOR EUROPEAN PROGRESSIVE STUDIES

[Defend, engage, maximise: a progressive agenda for EU-China relations](#)

by Nicola Casarini

This paper examines the current state of play in EU–China relations and the future prospects for them. It proposes a progressive framework to be applied to a select list of issues of strategic importance for the next five years. (28 p.)

EUROPEAN COUNCIL ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

[China's great game in the Middle East](#)

by Camille Lons [@CamilleLons](#), Jonathan Fulton [@jonathandfulton](#), Degang Sun, et. al.

China has significantly increased its economic, political, and – to a lesser extent – security footprint in the Middle East in the past decade, becoming the biggest trade partner and external investor for many countries in the region. China still has a limited appetite for challenging the US-led security architecture in the Middle East or playing a significant role in regional politics. Yet the country's growing economic presence is likely to pull it into wider engagement with the region in ways that could significantly affect European interests. (33 p.)

INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR STRATEGIC STUDIES

[China and instability in developing countries](#)

by Nicholas Crawford [@CrawfordNJ](#)

This paper analyses the political economy of China's responses to instability, identifies the types of responses China undertakes, and assesses these responses. The author finds that as China is an increasingly important actor in countries facing instability and crisis, its responses to these situations and its underlying preferences and concerns will have implications for Western countries and their responses. (39 p.)

ROYAL UNITED SERVICE INSTITUTE

[Crossing the river by feeling the stones: the trajectory of China's maritime transformation](#)

by Sidharth Kaushal and Magdalena Markiewicz

The maritime turn in Chinese strategy promises to be a defining feature of the 21st century. Yet despite the substantial space devoted to analysing either specific capabilities or aspects of Beijing's naval strategy, such as the anti-access/area denial challenge and its emergent blue water capabilities, there has been little effort to situate China's maritime turn within the context of its broader national security strategy and geopolitical vision. (90 p.)

OCP POLICY CENTER

[China's Belt and Road Initiative: how has China's energy security changed over the past decade?](#)

by Mehmet Ögütçü

Decades of rapid economic growth have dramatically expanded China's energy needs. China is now the world's largest consumer of energy, the largest producer and consumer of coal, and the largest emitter of carbon dioxide. China has also become the world's largest producer, exporter and installer of solar panels, wind turbines, batteries, electric vehicles, and nuclear energy (47GW capacity in 2018). This brief explores China's leadership in renewables, climate change, while analyzing BRI's energy security dimension. (9 p.)

RUSSIA

საქართველოს სტრატეგიისა და საერთაშორისო ურთიერთობების კვლევის ფონდი (GEORGIAN FOUNDATION FOR STRATEGIC AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES)

[Russia's imperial ideologies: fuel for authoritarianism and expansion?](#)

by Giorgi Badridze [@GiorgiBadridze](#)

Over its history, the Russian political system has experienced several revolutionary changes. Russian Federation is the successor of the Soviet Union, being the successor of the Russian Empire which was a descendent of the

Grand Duchy of Moscow. That said, every new political formation established in Russia was connected by several unchanging characteristics. The most vivid of these are overly authoritarian domestic governance and aggressive foreign policy. This paper attempts to reveal the underlying reasons for this phenomenon. (12 p.)

FORUM FOR RESEARCH ON EASTERN EUROPE AND EMERGING ECONOMIES (FREE NETWORK)

The Russian food embargo: five years later

by Polina Kuznetsova and Natalya Volchkova

This brief reports the results of a quantitative assessment of the consequences of counter-sanctions introduced by the Russian government in 2014. It considers several affected commodity groups: meat, fish, dairy products, fruit and vegetables. According to findings consumers' total loss amounts to 445 bn Rub, or 3000 Rub per year for each Russian citizen, which is equivalent to a 4.8% increase in food expenditure for those who are close to the poverty line. (5 p.)

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

CENTER FOR AMERICAN PROGRESS

Embrace the Union: a new progressive approach for reviving the trans-Atlantic alliance

by Max Bergmann [@maxbergmann](#)

This paper argues that the US needs a new progressive approach to revive and rebuild the trans-Atlantic alliance. Fully embracing the EU and supporting European integration efforts that bolster the strength and resilience of Europe's union should be core to a new American approach. (71 p.)

CENTER FOR AMERICAN PROGRESS

Trump's Syria shambles

by Max Hoffman [@MaxHoffmanDC](#)

This issue brief provides background information on the American withdrawal from Syria in October and the subsequent Turkish incursion. It considers the risks of long-term instability caused by these events, and outlines

steps the US could take to salvage what it can from the situation and begin to reset its increasingly adversarial relationship with Turkey. (12 p.)

EUROPEUM

In this low cycle in transatlantic unity, the determinants of improvement are known: can the EU and US deliver?

by Martin Michelot [@martinmichelot](#)

Dynamics in the main agendas of the transatlantic relationship in the last year seem to have been, from a public perspective, relatively lacking in positive messaging. Nevertheless, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo in his speech given in Brussels early September called for a "reset" with the incoming leadership of the EU. This was mirrored, on the EU side, by High Representative-nominate Josep Borrell stating his desire for a reset of transatlantic relations, which he already discussed with Secretary Pompeo. (7 p.)

DEUTSCHE GESELLSCHAFT FÜR AUSWÄRTIGE POLITIK (GERMAN COUNCIL ON FOREIGN RELATIONS)

Budgetkrise und weniger Verlässlichkeit. Die USA setzen die UN-Friedensmissionen unter Druck

by Carina Böttcher [@Carina_Boe](#)

US President Donald Trump questions the achievements of UN peacekeeping. The US is pushing for budget cuts and rapid implementation of mandates. This jeopardizes the ability of peace missions to function. This paper argues that the German Government should clearly oppose, in the UN Security Council, a policy that undermines the credibility of the UN in conflict areas. At the same time, Germany must use opportunities for cooperation with the US, for example in the field of training. (DE - 7 p.)

SECTION 4 - EU MEMBER STATES



GERMANY

INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AND EUROPEAN AFFAIRS

Angela Merkel: the climate chancellor?

by Deirdre Ní Cheallacháin

Germany's 2030 climate protection programme was unveiled in September. This briefing outlines the context in which the programme was launched and how it fits into Angela Merkel's legacy as the climate Chancellor. (6 p.)

INSTITUT DER DEUTSCHEN WIRTSCHAFT KÖLN (COLOGNE INSTITUTE FOR ECONOMIC RESEARCH)

Investitionsfonds für Deutschland

by Michael Hüther [@michael_huether](#) and Galina Kolev [@galina_kolev](#)

Germany is in need of investment. This applies to both private and public investment, since it serves as intermediate input for entrepreneurial activity and efficient coordination of microeconomic transactions. (DE - 18 p.)

BERTELSMANN STIFTUNG

Fachkräftezuwanderung aus Drittstaaten nach Deutschland 2018

by Matthias M. Mayer

This paper looks at the immigration of skilled workers from non-European countries. It analyses the gross migration and is based on

records from the German federal office for migration and refugees. (DE - 13 p.)

STIFTERVERBAND FÜR DIE DEUTSCHE WISSENSCHAFT

D:R ØN 'DI: ANALYSEN 2019

by Verena Eckl [@VerenaEckl](#), Andreas Kladroba [@AKladroba](#) and Gero Stenke [@GeroStenke](#)

This report examines the dynamics and competitiveness of the German innovation system. The authors illustrate that the automotive industry is still the largest in German technology innovation. However, the authors argue that if Germany are to develop future technologies in a resourceful manner, the current innovation system needs to become more dynamic and efficient. (DE - 49 p.)

DEUTSCHES INSTITUT FÜR WIRTSCHAFTSFORSCHUNG (GERMAN INSTITUTE FOR ECONOMIC RESEARCH)

The effect of early childhood education and care services on the social integration of refugee families

by Ludovica Gambaro, Guido Neidhöfer and C. Katharina Spieß

Devising appropriate policy measures for the integration of refugees is high on the agenda of many governments. This paper focuses on the social integration of families seeking asylum in Germany between 2013 and 2016. It evaluates the effect of early education attendance by refugee children on their parents' integration. It finds a significant and substantial positive effect, in particular on the social integration of mothers. The size of the estimate is on average around 52% and is mainly driven by improved language proficiency and employment prospects. (58 p.)

HEINRICH-BÖLL-STIFTUNG (HEINRICH BÖLL FOUNDATION)

Autonom und öffentlich

by Weert Canzler and Andreas Knie

According to this paper, the German automotive industry and public transport services ought to actively seek and exploit the opportunities offered by new technologies, especially in automation. The authors argue that this would

SECTION 4 - EU MEMBER STATES

result in reduced numbers of cars in major cities as well as making travel easier for people living in the countryside. (DE - 27 p.)

ZENTRUM FÜR EUROPÄISCHE WIRTSCHAFTSFORSCHUNG (CENTRE FOR EUROPEAN ECONOMIC RESEARCH)

Wärmewende im Gebäudesektor: lasst den CO2-Preis wirken

by Martin Achtnich, Robert Germeshausen and Kathrine von Graevenitz

This policy brief provides a critical assessment of the German climate action plan 2050 with regard to the buildings sector. On the basis of current findings of economic research, the policy brief discusses the disadvantages of funding programmes and regulatory measures, and points out where further research is needed in the future. (DE - 6 p.)

SPAIN

POLICY NETWORK

Pathways and legacies of the secessionist push in Catalonia: linguistic frontiers, economic segments and media roles within a divided society

by Josep M Oller, Albert Satorra and Adolf Tobeña

The Spanish Supreme Court has handed down sentences of between nine and thirteen years to nine Catalan separatist leaders, finding them guilty of sedition for their role in the failed bid for independence of 2017. The authors consider the long-term implications of the Catalan secessionist movement for politics in the region. (27 p.)

REAL INSITITUTO ELCANO

The self-determination of peoples vs human rights in liberal democracies: the case of Catalonia

by Helena Torroja [@HTorroja](#)

This paper focuses on two main questions. First, do Catalans have a right to self-determination? The second question is what, in terms of the violation of human rights, are the implications when self-determination is invoked in a liberal democracy; that is, who are the real victims of human-rights violations in Catalonia? (9 p.)

FUNDACIÓN DE ESTUDIOS DE ECONOMÍA APLICADA

Una transición justa? Los bonos sociales a debate desde una perspectiva de pobreza y justicia energética

by Sergio Tirado Herrero, Luis Jiménez Meneses and José Luis López Fernández

According to studies millions of people are affected by energy poverty in Spain. This paper analyses the evolution of the social tariff for electricity (bono social de electricidad). The brief argues that for a just energy transition it is important that welfare measures, like the social tariff for electricity, be replaced with policies that address the causes of the climate emergency and energy poverty. (ES - 32 p.)

PORTUGAL

EUROPEAN COUNCIL ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The instinctive multilateralist: Portugal and the politics of cooperation

by Susi Dennison [@sd270](#) and Livia Franco

The Portuguese hope that the EU can help them tackle the challenges of globalisation. This brief particularly discusses climate change, cooperation and the impact of freedom of movement. (18 p.)

SWEDEN

SVENSKA INSTITUTET FÖR EUROPAPOLITISKA STUDIER (SWEDISH INSTITUTE FOR EUROPEAN POLICY STUDIES)

Better in or better out: weighing Sweden's options vis-à-vis the Banking Union

by Thorsten Beck [@TL_Beck_London](#)

Sweden and Denmark – both non-euro countries – have commissioned public inquiries concerning a potential participation in the EU's banking union. One of the contributions to the Swedish inquiry is presented in this report, where the arguments for and against a Swedish participation are examined: there are clear advantages and disadvantages for Sweden joining the banking union. While the report does not make the case that the arguments either for or against joining are

more persuasive on balance, it nevertheless concludes that certain criteria should guide the decision process. (48 p.)

BREXIT

THE UK IN A CHANGING EUROPE

[The border into Brexit: perspectives from local communities in the central border region of Ireland/Northern Ireland](#)

by Katy Hayward [@hayward_katy](#)

How has Brexit impacted those living and working in the central border region of Ireland and Northern Ireland? What are their views on a no deal Brexit? What do they anticipate from the prospect of a hard border? This report details the findings from the 'the Border into Brexit' project survey, endeavoring to answer the above questions. (6 p.)

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE

[The impact of Brexit uncertainty on FDI-related new jobs in Northern Ireland](#)

by Iulia Siedschlag and Manuel Tong Koecklin [@mtongkoecklin](#)

Recent data show a significant decline of greenfield foreign direct investment (FDI) activity and related new jobs in Northern Ireland in the two years after the UK's EU exit referendum in June 2016. Against this background, this research examines and quantifies the impact of the Brexit uncertainty on FDI-related new jobs in Northern Ireland. The analysis is based on new greenfield FDI only, in other words, jobs associated with new operations established by foreign companies at a new site. (18 p.)

THE UK IN A CHANGING EUROPE

[The economic impact of Boris Johnson's Brexit proposals](#)

by Hanwei Huang, Jonathan Portes, Thomas Sampson et al.

The Prime Minister has set out a means of escaping the Brexit stalemate, but his new Brexit proposals have, as yet, not managed to overcome the impasse. What, though, would the plan mean for the UK economy? (17 p.)

FOUNDATION ROBERT SCHUMAN

[Brexit: a new agreement and further uncertainties](#)

by Eric Maurice [@er1cmau](#)

The October European Council approved the new version of the withdrawal agreement (WA) that it had concluded with the UK just a few hours earlier. After providing an in-depth analysis of the compromises enshrined within the WA, this paper assesses a set of scenarios for the future of the Brexit process. (8 p.)

THE INSTITUTE FOR FISCAL STUDIES

[Recent trends to the UK economy](#)

by Benjamin Nabarro and Christian Schulz

This article analyses how the different elements of the UK economy have performed since last autumn, highlighting the resilience of consumer spending and the poor performance of business investment. It shows that the type of uncertainty that Brexit entails – prolonged and with repeated 'deadlines' for a resolution that has not yet materialised – has been especially damaging to business investment, and another year of uncertainty has imposed broader costs on the UK's economy. (27 p.)

THE INSTITUTE FOR FISCAL STUDIES

[UK economic outlook in four Brexit scenarios](#)

by Benjamin Nabarro and Christian Schulz

This paper sets out forecasts for the UK economy under four distinct Brexit scenarios: continued uncertainty (the base case); a no-deal scenario accompanied by significant fiscal loosening; a negotiated Brexit deal passed through the current parliament; or a second referendum on a Brexit deal negotiated by a Labour-led coalition, culminating in a vote to remain. It finds that a 'no-deal' Brexit makes for the hardest hit to the economy under these scenarios. By contrast, a 'no Brexit' scenario would, at least for the next three years, provide the most optimistic outlook for growth. (28 p.)



CARNEGIE EUROPE

[After protest: pathways beyond mass mobilization](#)

by Richard Youngs (ed.) [@YoungsRichard](#)

In recent years, a startling wave of large-scale citizen protests has washed over every region of the world. But what happens next is just as vital for achieving real and lasting change. Ten case studies from around the world examine what happens after protests die down. (98 p.)

THE INSTITUTE FOR NATIONAL SECURITY STUDIES

[The protests in Egypt: a wake-up call?](#)

by Ofir Winter and Orit Perlov [@oritperlov](#)

In October, Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi was confronted with his gravest public crisis since taking office. Mohamed Ali, a former Egyptian military contractor, posted videos on social media accusing the top military and political echelons of a range of corruption offenses and encouraged the public to protest against the President. Nevertheless, only a few thousand people responded to Ali's call and took to the streets. But the regime's success in containing the protests is no cause for nonchalance on its part, as the fundamental economic and political problems that sparked the public anger remain in place. (5 p.)

THE INSTITUTE FOR NATIONAL SECURITY STUDIES

[The mass demonstrations in Lebanon: what do they portend?](#)

by Orna Mizrahi

The recent demonstrations throughout Lebanon erupted spontaneously after a decision to impose a tax on WhatsApp calls. At the heart of the demonstrations, however, is the worsening economic situation and paralysis of a "unity government" hard-put to progress toward solutions that can improve the situation. The mass protest reflects the despair and exasperation with a corrupt leadership. There are signs that all components of the leadership, including Hezbollah, are not interested in changing the current system, and therefore supported a "recovery plan" that was hastily drafted by the cabinet. (4 p.)

INTERNATIONAL CRISIS GROUP

[Widespread protests point to Iraq's cycle of social crisis](#)

by Maria Fantappie [@MariaFantappie](#)

A surge in street protests in Iraq has left some 110 people dead and exposed a rift between the government and a population frustrated by poor governance, inadequate services and miserable living conditions. This commentary states that to avert further violence, the authorities and protesters should open dialogue channels. (4 p.)

EURO-MEDITERRANEAN STUDY COMMISSION

[Le retour des jeunes Algériens dans l'espace public](#)

by Francesca Caruso [@FcarusoFr](#)

This brief explains the reasons that pushed away Algerian youth from politics and that now brought them to take back their role in the political scene. The paper highlights also the link between these phenomena and the role of the EU in preventing backlashes in authoritarianism. (FR - 10 p.)

THE INSTITUTE FOR NATIONAL SECURITY STUDIES

[Domestic challenges spur Russian pragmatism toward the West](#)

by Daniel Rakov

The wave of protests in Moscow in recent months reflects heightened domestic challenges to Russian President Vladimir Putin's regime. This paper argues that the Kremlin will respond to internal pressures by seeking to achieve accommodations with the US and the EU. The accommodation efforts will focus on Ukraine and the Middle East specifically in the contexts of Syria and Iran-Gulf tensions. In the Kremlin's view, Israel wields much influence in regional affairs due both to its military activity and its influence on President Trump. President Putin can thus be expected to try to engage any future Israeli Prime Minister to help advance Moscow's interests. (6 p.)

and Amazon, the costs are clear as well: platforms threaten our social fabric, our economy and our democracy. Although calls have been growing for global platform governance, no solution has yet been found. Given platforms' unprecedented influence on democracy and the global economy alike, establishing a cohesive framework for platform governance is crucial. This essay series explores new models for governing digital platforms. (102 p.)

GLOBSEC/GERMAN MARSHALL FUND

[Countering information operations demands a common democratic strategy](#)

by Laura Rosenberger [@rosenbergerlm](#) and Bradley Hanlon

The paper examines approaches that democratic countries are adopting to counter information operations targeting their societies in order to identify common strategies and best practices. This paper focuses specifically on efforts made by democratic governments which include for instance: engaging and sharing information with technology companies; raising public awareness of the threat; constructing and reforming legal frameworks around transparency and election security; deterring malign actors through messaging and cost-raising measures; and facilitating international coordination to identify threats and share best practices. (11 p.)

CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL GOVERNANCE INNOVATION

[Models for platform governance - a CIGI essay series](#)

by Allison Leonard and Lynn Schellenberg (eds.)

In spite of the myriad of benefits offered by internet platforms, such as Google, Facebook,