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THINK TANK REVIEW

Issue 3
April 2013

Dear Readers,

*Welcome to issue 3 of the **Think Tank Review** compiled* by the Council Library. The Review provides links and abstracts (the publisher's or our own) of publications issued in March 2013. It is based on a selection from the nearly 100 think tanks that the Library research team monitors.*

Issues of institutional architecture feature prominently in this review, with insights on inter alia the various forms of differentiated integration at EU and euro-area level, joint external representation and the drive in national parliaments towards increased scrutiny of the European Council.

Broad societal currents are explored by papers on, among others, public support for EU and the euro, populist parties and far right extremism. Think tanks looking at political developments in Member States focus on France, Italy, the Baltic countries, Bulgaria. Our Regards croisés section links to papers on assistance to Cyprus from out-of-Brussels perspectives.

In external relations, our selection reflects the broad range of policy issues and areas covered by think tanks last month, including East Asia, India, the Middle East, and Russia. However, a distinct focus emerges on the EU-US free-trade negotiations.

Last but not least, the Library celebrates - ex post - the March 2013 Women's Day by pointing at publications on women in decision-making. Our way to help cracking the glass ceiling...

As always, we value feedback from our readers. You can reach us at central.library@consilium.europa.eu.

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SECTION 1 - EU INSTITUTIONS AND POLITICS

POLICY NETWORK

Gearing EU Governance Towards Future Growth

by Renaud Thillaye

14 March 2013

[link to the article](#)

Europe 2020, albeit carefully balanced, suffers from the same "capability-expectations" gap as the Lisbon Strategy did, argues the paper. Despite increasing support from the EU budget, national governments only hold the key of delivery. More worryingly, a legal analysis of the European Semester and insights from EU practitioners provide some evidence for tensions between the stability rationale prevailing in the Euro area and Europe 2020's upward objectives, argues the author.

STIFTUNG WISSENSCHAFT UND POLITIK

Strengthening the Core or Splitting Europe? Prospects and Pitfalls of a Strategy of Differentiated Integration

by Nicolai von Ondarza

March 2013

[link to the article](#)

SWP has published the English translation of this study issued in German at the end of 2012. The author argues that differentiated integration is becoming - partly also in response to the crisis - the modus operandi of the EU. However, different notions of differentiated integration should not be confused: integration differentiated in timing can still contribute to the Treaties' "ever closer union". Conversely, integration differentiated in space or subject matter, for example through opt-outs, can lead to an entirely "a la carte" configuration.

SPOTLIGHT ON...

Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik (German Institute for International and Security Affairs - SWP) could be considered Europe's largest think tank as it has more than 130 working staff. It's also one of the oldest with history of more than 50 years.

SWP functions as an advisor to the German parliament and the German Federal Government on foreign policy and security issues. With its 8 research divisions it covers EU integration and external relations, international security and global issues as well as the Russian federation, the Americas, Asia and Middle East and Africa.

The institute was established in 1962 and since January 1965 it has been largely federally funded. It is based in Berlin and has a representative office in Brussels since 2009.

NOTRE EUROPE - JACQUES DELORS INSTITUTE / TEPESA

National Parliaments: Their Emerging Control Over the European Council

by Olivier Rozenberg, Valentin Kreilinger, Wolfgang Wessels and Claudia Heffler

8 March 2013

[link to the article](#)

The paper - drawn from a larger study commissioned by the European Parliament - analyses the democratic control of the European Council in all 27 Member States, identifies different models of control, and formulates policy recommendations. It argues that the European Council is increasingly central to the governance of the European Union. It also underlines that even if national parliaments have originally focused their involvement in EU affairs on the ordinary legislative process, most of the chambers have started to develop specific activities, before or after European summits.

THE LISBON COUNCIL

The 14-15 March 2013 European Council, Post-Summit Analysis

by Alessandro Leibold

17 March 2013

[link to the article](#)

Was the European Council on 14-15 March really a non-event, as portrayed in press coverage (or lack thereof)? The author of this paper argues it was in fact quite noteworthy. Among major developments, he points out the change of tone on consolidation versus growth, and the extra leeway granted to Portugal and Ireland. The European Council - inter alia - narrowed down structural reform priorities, and it reaffirmed the commitment to break the vicious circle of sovereign and bank debt via direct recapitalisations of banks by the European Stability Mechanism (ESM). All in all, the summit was positive, and showed European leaders who were willing to work together on matters of grave economic import, the author says.

BRUEGEL

Should Non-euro Area Countries Join the Single Supervisory Mechanism?

by Zsolt Darvas and Guntram B. Wolff

13 March 2013

[link to the article](#)

A European banking union makes sense, including for non-euro area countries, because of the extent of EU financial integration, argues the paper. It outlines that from the point of view of non-euro countries, the draft Single Supervisory Mechanism (SSM) - the first element of the banking union, includes strong safeguards relating to decision-making, accountability, attention to financial stability in small countries and the applicability of national macro-prudential measures. And concludes that even these countries should stand ready to join the SSM and be prepared for the future negotiations of the banking union elements.

EGMONT

The Single Supervisory Mechanism: A Sound First Step in Europe's Banking Union?

by Stijn Verhelst

March 2013

[link to the article](#)

The creation of the Single Supervisory Mechanism (SSM) was the first decisive step towards the Banking Union. Yet there are tough negotiations ahead over the 4 pillars which still need to be decided upon: short-term crisis management, long-term crisis management provisions, some form of a European deposit guarantee and, finally, harmonised banking rules. These issues are politically most sensitive, there is not yet a common vision on their shape and it's most likely that the EU's ambitious roadmap will not be achieved, argues the paper, while providing an overview of the SSM and the planned road ahead.

FONDATION ROBERT SCHUMAN

EU Banking Union: Sound in Theory, Difficult in Practice

by Josef Ackermann

26 March 2013

[link to the article](#)

As with so many other institutional arrangements in the EU, the design of the banking union – at least its initial design – will be the result of what is politically possible and not necessarily what is required to put Europe's financial system on a firmer footing, argues the paper. It says that if the result is a weak EU-level supervision, dependent on the support of national supervisors (which have little incentive to cooperate or to share problems in their banking sectors at an early stage), EU-leaders would have wasted an important opportunity to build a more unified and stronger Europe.

EUROPEAN POLICY CENTRE

The European External Action Service and National Diplomacies

by Rosa Balfour, Andrea Frontini and Kristi Raik

11 March 2013

[link to the article](#)

The paper analyses the relationship between the European External Action Service (EEAS) and the member through 14 European countries. Foreign policy remains firmly in the hands of the member states notwithstanding the changes introduced by Lisbon and, as the findings of this report suggest, this is not about to change. Intergovernmentalism will remain the main mode of decision-making, and at the same time, all policy is increasingly global, underline the researchers.

REAL INSTITUTO ELcano

Towards a Common External Representation for the Euro area?

by Daniela Schwarzer, Federico Steinberg and Diego Valiante

26 March 2013

[link to the article](#)

The paper argues that there is a strong case for creating a single voice for the euro in the world in general and in the IMF in particular, especially after the global financial crisis and the emergence of the G20 as the main forum for global economic governance. However, some euro area countries are unwilling to give up sovereignty and transfer more power to Brussels. In addition, the functioning of the IMF, which is based on high majority voting, may induce major euro area countries not to give up their individual influence over IMF decisions. Nevertheless, the recently created European Stability Mechanism could act as a catalyst for solving some of these problems.

Europe's changing landscape of financial market and its response to the crisis invites comparison with international experiences

NOTRE EUROPE - JACQUES DELORS INSTITUTE

For a Genuine Economic and Monetary Union: Lessons From the International Experience

by Maria João Rodrigues

20 March 2013

[link to the article](#)

The paper draws some lessons from the international experience of monetary, fiscal and political unions for the current to debate on the ways to complete the Economic and Monetary Union. This comparative framework is then used to assess the new instruments which were introduced so far in the EMU to respond to the Euro area crisis. The authors also address several problems of the political processing: configurations, sequences, Treaty changes and possible narratives.

BRUEGEL

The Changing Landscape of Financial Markets in Europe, the United States and Japan

by Michiel Bijlsma and Gijsbert T. J. Zwart

18 March 2013

[link to the article](#)

The paper offers a comparison of the structure of the financial sectors of the EU27, Japan and the United States, looking at a set of 23 indicators. The authors identify 3 robust groups of EU countries which are more or less geographically related - the Eastern EU countries which have small financial sectors and others with market-based or bank-based sectors. They find out that the market-based countries are closer to the US in many indicators, while the bank-based more closely resemble Japan. And that the crisis has had its influence - the gap between the US and all EU regions slightly widened.

Public opinion, the rise of populism and extremism, at EU level as well as in individual Member States gets analysed

NOTRE EUROPE - JAQUES DELORS INSTITUTE

EU No, Euro Yes!

by Daniel Debomy

27 March 2013

[link to the article](#)

The extent of recent decline in public opinion on the European Union suggest that the highest level of euro gloom ever observed in the last quarter century has been or is close to being reached, argues the paper. However, the average European citizen appears to still want to believe that the EU can take effective action to solve the crisis and still support the single currency, show the recent data compiled and analysed by the author.

POLICY NETWORK

Democratic Stress, the Populist Signal and Extremist Threat

by Anthony Painter

21 March 2013

[link to the article](#)

Populists are routinely dismissed as "protest" parties, "clowns" and "flashes in the pan". In fact there is a real demand for populists of different kinds and they must be seen as serious challenger movements that the established parties ignore at their peril, argues the paper. It underlines that the ability to convert that "demand" into political power depends on the interplay of populist and mainstream forces. The paper analyses different populism movements and defines the strategies which could be used by the mainstream democratic parties.

CHATHAM HOUSE

The Roots of Extremism: The English Defence League and the Counter-Jihad Challenge

by Matthew Goodwin

March 2013

[link to the article](#)

While right-wing extremism and populist extremist parties have been the subject of growing attention in Europe and North America, the emergence of "counter-Jihad" groups has been relatively neglected, argues the paper. Campaigning amid fiscal austerity and ongoing public concerns over immigration, these groups are more confrontational, chaotic and unpredictable than established populist extremist political parties, yet not enough is known about who supports them and why - some questions the author deals with.

The idea of Britain leaving the EU still reverberates with some analysts. Others look at the country with a focus on its migrant integration policy

CENTRE FOR EUROPEAN REFORM

Do Britain's European Ties Damage Its Prosperity?

by Philip White

22 March 2013

[link to the article](#)

Leaving the EU would not resolve Britain's economic difficulties, which are mostly home-grown, argues the paper. However, it could turn the country into a more closed economy and its services, goods and people would probably move less freely across UK borders than they do at present.

FRIENDS OF EUROPE

UK Referendum on the EU: Lessons from the Past

by Joe Litobarski

March 2013

[link to the article](#)

Prime Minister David Cameron's speech on January 23 opened the way for a referendum on Britain's membership of the European Union by 2017. The paper reflects on Britain's past experiences with referendums and considers whether the lessons of the previous two might be relevant today. It also notes that Cameron cannot legislate for a referendum in this parliament because he doesn't have a majority, and his coalition partners have indicated they won't support him. And if the Conservative Party were to lose in 2015, the chances of a referendum before 2020 would look slim.

INSTITUTE FOR PUBLIC POLICY RESEARCH

Back to Basics: Towards a Successful and Cost-effective Integration Policy

by Jill Rutter

22 March 2013

[link to the article](#)

Migrant integration policy has lagged behind the political agenda in the UK while it should become a greater priority at national and local level, argues the paper. It notes that integration is crucial – for the wellbeing of individual migrants and their families, and as an important part of equipping the UK to cope with migration levels that are likely to remain high.

Looking at economics, politics and society in individual Member States

POLISH INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

The Baltic States' Success Story in Combating the Economic Crisis: Consequences for Regional Cooperation within the EU and with Russia

by Kinga Dudzińska

March 2013

[link to the article](#)

The global economic downturn of 2008 and the financial and ongoing fiscal crisis in the euro area have proved to be extremely painful for newer EU Member States Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia. Yet since 2011, economic growth has accelerated in all of the Baltic States, and their struggle with the crisis already seems to be a unique success story that affects regional cooperation as well as relations with Russia, argues the paper.

MADARIAGA COLLEGE OF EUROPE FOUNDATION

Italy's Lesson for Europe

by Marco Giuli

March 2013

[link to the article](#)

The paper highlight the lessons that Europe should learn from the Italian electoral outcome and the consequent political disarray. On the economic side, there is the imposition of discipline as the core of the Euro area governance encounters an obstacle in the resilience of national democracy, argues the paper. On the political side, a new wave of populism is not directly threatening the institutions, but the national constituencies advocating integration, reflecting a mounting shift in power from Brussels to the national capitals.

INSTITUT MONTAIGNE

France and Italy: Same Challenges, Same Solutions?

by Marc Lazar

March 2013

[link to the article](#)

* the whole paper is available in French and Italian

The paper discusses the complementary nature of the Italian and French economies and highlights the points of their convergence. It also makes proposals to revamp their democratic systems, encourage economic growth and strengthen the bilateral relationship.

EUROPEAN POLICIES INITIATIVE

Bulgaria's Leaderless Protests in the Winter of 2013: The Causes and Consequences Are Here to Stay

by Marin Lessenski

6 March 2013

[link to the article](#)

The protests in Bulgaria may have decreased after the appointment of a caretaker government but the country hasn't solved its problems yet. There are concerns that it might not be able to form a stable cabinet after the elections scheduled for the 12th of May, provided the critically low level of trust in political parties and the gravity of policy issues to be dealt with, argues the paper. It also underlines that in addition, populist and extremist parties may take advantage of the uncertainty and anger of the public.

8 March 2013 - Library's look at Women's Day

ROBERT SCHUMAN FONDATION

Towards More Women in Europe?

by Pascale Joannin

4 March 2013

[link to the article](#)

The paper presents interesting statistics on women involved in politics and decision making processes in the EU countries thus celebrating the International Women Day which was on the 8th of March. It concludes that 2012 was not an extraordinary year for women in Europe as no women were elected as Head of State or of a government. And its analysis also shows that a multitude of obstacles have been erected to undermine the European Commission's draft directive which aimed to achieve a 40% quota of women on company boards.

INSTITUTE FOR PUBLIC POLICY RESEARCH

Great Expectations: Exploring the Promises of Gender Equality

by Tess Lanning

31 March 2013

[link to the article](#)

The paper argues that "break-the-glass-ceiling" approaches have come to dominate mainstream debates about gender equality, and have led to a narrow focus on formal, legal equality. While important in seeking to combat the discrimination and sexist attitudes that still exists, this kind of approach is limited in its ability to bring about change, concludes the author. A more meaningful approach to gender politics requires a move away from abstract debates about how the "average woman" fares compared to the "average man" towards a set of policies and changes that are rooted in and relevant to the daily experiences of women, argues the paper.

Other issues

EGMONT / NOTRE EUROPE - JACQUES DELORS INSTITUTE

The Role Of Gas In The External Dimension Of The EU Energy Transition

by Sami Andoura and Clémentine d'Oultremont

March 2013

[link to the article](#)

As natural gas is expected to play an important role in the European transition towards a low-carbon economy by 2050, the EU should pay special attention on its gas strategy, both internally and externally, argues the paper. Clarifying the energy sources, creating a competitive, interconnected and well-functioning internal market for gas, defining a regulatory framework for the development of shale gas, diversifying and securing gas supply from abroad are just a couple of the list of recommendations, suggested by the authors.

FRIENDS OF EUROPE

EU Emissions Trading System: The Challenge of Restoring Credibility

22 March 2013

[link to the article](#)

The European Union's emissions trading system (EU ETS), which is the world's first and biggest experiment with trading in carbon dioxide, satisfies neither the energy industry nor environmentalists, argues the paper. The calls for its re-design are already mounting and the authors insists on action in order to keep the credibility of the system.

THE SWEDISH INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

The EU, Space Security and a European Global Strategy

by Tobias Evers

22 March 2013

[link to the article](#)

Space is an important dimension of European security, both because of the unique advantages it offers and because of its many interfaces with cyber, economic, environmental, infrastructure and military security concerns within the EU as well as globally, argues the paper. It insists on development of an European space security strategy which should consider EU's key partners (the US for example) in space security, how to best utilise the security advantages from current and planned European space programmes, how to integrate space security with other security concerns and etc.

REAL INSTITUTO ELCANO

The EU Performance in the Global Competition for Highly-Skilled Migrants

by Carmen González, Roderick Parkes, Alicia Sorroza and Andreas Ette

26 March 2013

[link to the article](#)

European efforts to attract highly-qualified immigration face several obstacles, from the non-existence of a true intra-European labour market to the difficulties resulting from the overly timid design of the Blue Card, argues the paper. The authors present several proposals for future actions in attracting this type of immigrant such as enhanced cooperation amongst subsets of Member States with similar salary structures, the opening of the academic admissions gate, or measures to enhance intra-European labour mobility of both EU citizens and third-country nationals.

SECTION 2 - EXTERNAL RELATIONS

INSTITUT DE RELATIONS INTERNATIONALES ET STRATEGIQUES **Will the EU Grow Again? From EU-27 to EU-36 and Beyond?**

by Pierre Verluise

March 2013

[link to the article](#)

If all potential candidates join the EU it could include 36 or even 42 countries, estimates the paper a couple of months before the official accession of Croatia. And it's also arguing that the current uncertainty about the expanding frontiers of the European Union is nourishing anxiety that the European elites seem happy to underestimate. And notes that this concern fuels a growing estrangement from the EU idea within the community.

THE CENTRE FOR EUROPEAN POLICY STUDIES

Enlargement Agenda - Special Focus on Macedonia, Serbia and Kosovo

by Erwan Fouéré

27 March 2013

[link to the article](#)

In April the European Commission is expected to present reports on Kosovo, Serbia and Macedonia and on the basis of their content the European Council in June will consider the next steps in moving the enlargement process forward. To counter the naysayers, the author underlines the importance for the EU to show that its current strategy continues to deliver dividends, as it certainly does in the case of Kosovo and Serbia. He further advises the EU to be ready to adapt its strategy where necessary, as in the case of Macedonia, by using whatever leverage it has in a more direct and consistent way.

EUROPEAN INSTITUTE FOR ASIAN STUDIES

The EU-Japan Free Trade Agreement: Potentials and Japan's Domestic Agenda

by Stijn Lambrecht and Anna Yumi Pohl

March 2013

[link to the article](#)

Despite the cancellation of the EU-Japan Summit in Tokyo due to the Cyprus crisis, the negotiations on the EU-Japan FTA were officially launched. The first round of negotiations is expected to take place in Brussels from 15 to 18 April 2013. The paper outlines that the bilateral EU-Japan trade and investment relationship isn't fulfilling its potential during last years. It stresses that non-tariff measures are major barriers to EU exports to Japan and some parts of its markets are totally closed to EU exports. At the same time the main interest for Japan is the EU tariff elimination, particularly since the entry into force of the EU-Korea FTA.

EU-Russia relations depend on the ability of the Union to undertake reforms and overcome the crisis, argue some of the papers, analysing the complex bilateral connections

BERTELSMANN STIFTUNG

The European Union and Russia at a Crossroads

by Iris Kempe and Cornelius Ochmann

14 March 2013

[link to the article](#)

EU-Russia relations are currently at a dead end and future depends on the process of overcoming the integration and financial crisis in Europe, argues the paper. It suggests that the EU must develop and implement new forms of institutional cooperation, such as tiered integration through partial membership in a free-trade zone. And underlines that the leaders for developing innovative European-Russia relations should be the EU member states that are tied to Russia through common interests and values such as Germany, Finland and Poland.

CHATHAM HOUSE

Russia: Cold Shadows and Present Illusions

by Andrew Wood

March 2013

[link to the article](#)

Russia's current leadership and President Putin, in particular, are wedded to the idea that the West, and especially the United States, is hostile and purposive in its efforts to undermine Russia, argues the paper. "Strategic partnership" with Russia is unachievable, and according to Russia, undesirable at the present moment. The paper also adds that the countries to Russia's west are, in addition, too divided and too limited in their attention to make it possible. And concludes that yes, Russia will change and so will its rulers, but in the meanwhile Western countries should beware of becoming too associated with any particular Kremlin dispensation.

Some think tanks assess EU politics towards Africa and Asia

IEMed / EUROMESCO

The European Union and the Arab World: From the Rome Treaty to the Arab Spring

by Bichara Khader

March 2013

[link to the article](#)

Arab Civil society was not taken seriously as a partner in dialogue, which explains why the Arab Spring caught the EU off guard, argues the paper. The author analyses the European policies towards the Mediterranean and the Arab countries in the past 65 years and underlines how objectives such as conflict resolution, human rights and democracy promotion have often been mentioned in the EU official documents but that the discrepancy between rhetoric and deeds has been appalling.

FRIDE

Europe and the US in the Middle East: A Convergence of Partiality

by Michele Dunne and Richard Youngs

11 March 2013

[link to the article](#)

The Arab spring has presented the United States and the European Union with a severe foreign policy test, argues the paper. It highlights that so far, modest upgrades in US and European policies are insufficient in light of the momentous changes afoot in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA). Neither Europe nor the US can expect to determine political outcomes in the region, but both can realistically aim to facilitate change and avoid rendering democratisation more difficult is one of the main conclusions.

INSTITUTE FOR EUROPEAN STUDIES

The Sahel Crisis: Where do European and African Perspectives Meet?

by Daniel Fiott, Hans Hoebeker, Esther Marijnen and Alexander Mattelaer

March 2013

[link to the article](#)

The paper argues that the long-term response to the Sahel region has only just begun. For international partners such as the EU long-term political will and funding for African responses will be essential. And a common regional approach to development and security, which takes into due consideration porous borders and the transnational dynamic to the crisis, is necessary. However, whether Mali's armed forces will be resilient and willing enough to secure the whole country is the most immediate challenge, write the authors of the brief.

ICCT / THE CLINGENDAEL

The Nexus Between Development and Security: Searching for Common Ground in Countering Terrorism

by Ivan Briscoe and Bibi van Ginkel

March 2013

[link to the article](#)

The authors argue that there is a complex but important connection between political violence and socio-economic development and insist for new synergies between development and counter-terrorism experts. According to them this increased cooperation should build on small steps that both communities have taken of late and start with sharing experiences and collaborating on topics of mutual interest such as (de-)radicalisation, the rule of law and countering violent extremism.

THE SWEDISH INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

A European Strategy towards East Asia: Moving from Good Intentions to Action

by Mikael Weissman

22 March 2013

[link to the article](#)

The EU has failed to become a strong, cohesive, actor in East Asia because of a lack of an unified strategic vision for the region, argues the paper. The author recommends that the Union needs a clear prioritisation of areas where it realistically can have an impact. He suggests that emphasise should be put on enhancing the bilateral trade and investment conditions as well as on pursuing principled policies, in particular towards Southeast Asian nations that are going through a democratisation process.

THE GERMAN MARSHALL FUND OF THE UNITED STATES

How China Will Change the Global Political Map

by Martin Jacques

25 March 2013

[link to the article](#)

The paper suggests that the reconfiguration of global power will likely lead to 2 future trends. Firstly, there will be a decline in the relative weight and influence of Western democracy as the West decreases in importance. Secondly, democratic forms in the developing world may well prosper, but they are quite likely to be increasingly hybrid in form. And it also suggests that China will be taken increasingly seriously as offering an alternative form of governance to the Western liberal order.

INSTITUTE FOR SECURITY STUDIES

The European "Pivot"

by Nicola Casarini

26 March 2013

[link to the article](#)

The European "pivot" - or rebalancing - towards Asia has gone largely undetected but it really began roughly a decade ago, argues the paper. Its focus is primarily on economic, monetary, technological and soft-power issues, and much less on increasing a military presence and forming security alliances. And it does include defence-related elements, but mainly in the form of military dialogues, exchanges, joint exercises, and arms sales, adds the author.

FRIENDS OF EUROPE

India Goes Global: What Role for Europe?

by Lorne Cook

March 2013

[link to the article](#)

After a period of impressive growth, India's economy has slowed markedly over the last two years. But things are set to improve as the government rediscovers a renewed zest for economic liberalisation and reform. And this also "opens a window" of political and business opportunity for EU nations, seeking stronger growth of their own, argues the paper.

FRIDE

Europe's Trade Strategy: Promise or Peril?

by John Springford and Richard Youngs

14 March 2013

[link to the article](#)

Europe's growth strategy is based on a larger trade surplus with the rest of the world but it's unlikely to make Europe richer, argues the paper. The continent's short-term problem is the lack of domestic demand as overall exports to the rest of the world would have to grow at an unlikely pace to offset it, say the authors. And the long-term problem is a slow rate of productivity growth. The paper argues that more competition between Europe's firms is more likely to raise productivity, and with it living standards, than a government-sponsored export drive.

SPECIAL FOCUS - TRANSATLANTIC FREE-TRADE NEGOTIATIONS

After the formal talks on a US-EU free-trade agreement began in February, several think tanks analyse its challenges, as well as economic and political effects

CARNEGIE ENDOWMENT

Don't Buy the Hype on the Transatlantic Trade Deal

by Uri Dadush

18 March 2013

[link to the article](#)

Expectations for the US-EU free trade agreement are dangerously high, argues the author of the paper in his Q&A on the issue. According to him reaching a deal is likely to take longer and produce smaller gains than optimistic figures suggest.

DEMOS EUROPA

Towards a Transatlantic Market

by Paweł Świeboda

12 March 2013

[link to the article](#)

The success of the new trade and investment agreement between the US and the EU is necessary if they want to take advantage of their predominant role in the international economic system and try to use it as an impulse for economic growth, argues the paper. It adds that in parallel, they need a regular strategic economic dialogue in order to better understand each other's mutual challenges and more effectively coordinate macroeconomic policies.

PETERSON INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL ECONOMICS

Crafting a Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership: What Can Be Done

by Jeffrey J. Schott and Cathleen Cimino

March 2013

[link to the article](#)

A comprehensive Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) has important implications for both US-EU bilateral trade and the world trading system. The paper argues that both sides can achieve the pact's ambitious agenda by (1) broadly aligning their respective trade pacts with South Korea and (2) deepening market access commitments covering both tariff and nontariff barriers to trade in goods, agriculture, and services.

THE SWEDISH INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

The Transatlantic Relationship

by Jan Joel Andersson

20 March 2013

[link to the article](#)

Ever since US President Barak Obama announced that the United States would gradually shift its focus from Europe to Asia, there has been concern in Europe regarding the future of the transatlantic relationship. The author argues that it will continue to be at the core of global affairs and that the U.S. needs Europe more than it is often understood. Yet he also says that Europe must do more to ensure its continuing relevance and influence in both Washington and the world.

REGARDS CROISÉS

THE CENTRE FOR EUROPEAN POLICY STUDIES

Cyprus... A Test Case for Future European Banking Policy

by John Bruton

21 March 2013

[link to the article](#)

The former Irish Prime Minister John Bruton calls the precedents being set in the Cypriot banking case "troubling" and reflective of a lack of clarity and consistency of thought by both the euro area Finance Ministers and the European Commission. In his commentary he welcomes the rejection of the deal by the Cypriot Parliament and asks euro area policy-makers to think again about their approach to the financial crisis.

CENTRE FOR EASTERN STUDIES

Germany's "Cyprus victory"?

by Ewa Fischer, Marek Menkiszak and Konrad Popławski

27 March 2013

[link to the article](#)

In the short term, the agreement on the loan for Cyprus is a success for Germany, argues the paper. From a political point of view, the position and credibility of Germany were strengthened as the euro area countries adopted a common position. The decision also strengthens Chancellor Merkel's position domestically. In the longer term, however, the turbulence around the bailout for Cyprus may undermine confidence in the banking system and destabilise the euro area once again, which would be especially dangerous at a time when it is in recession, argues the paper.