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THINK TANK REVIEW

Issue 13
May 2014

Dear Readers,

Welcome to issue 13 of the Think Tank Review compiled by the EU Council Library*. This particularly thick issue references papers published in April 2014. As usual, we provide the link to the full text and a short abstract.

With EP elections approaching, our selection reflects the think tank community's concern on the forthcoming 're-setting' of membership and leadership in EU institutions. We found the usual wealth of papers investigating in broad terms the *raison d'être* and the way forward for the European project, a quest which is also echoed in initiatives to develop a 'new narrative' for Europe, as reported for example in the April monthly brief by [BEPA](#). Founding narratives are rooted in shared memory, so that the decision to gather the [28 Heads of State and Government in Ypres](#) on June 26 to commemorate the outbreak of the First World War appears particularly significant. Another recent element in a shared narrative has been the tenth anniversary of the 2004 [wave of accessions](#), on which we highlight a few papers.

This month we also harvested very specific and sometimes militant perspectives on individual parties, or on Member states and the performance of their MEPs. The number of papers focusing on the prospects of specific parties probably reflects the consolidating partisan infrastructure at EU level, with foundations and think tanks directly providing research and advice to political families, and the surge from left and right of many challengers to the mainstream parties. It may also be seen as a response to the unprecedented politicization of this round of European elections, e.g. through the explicit designation of party candidates for Commission president. Many papers investigate the possible impact of this development, with a few - notably one by CEPS - questioning the wisdom of having personalization precede, or substituting for, a politicization of institutions.

The studies on MEP performance are a reflection of the growing availability of data from voting records. See for example the project "[15 European Parliament votes that shaped EU and national politics 2009-2014](#)", in which VoteWatch Europe and Notre Europe - Jacques Delors Institute joined with think tanks from 20 EU Member States. Another notable project, although by a single think tank this time, was the UK Institute for Economic Affairs' 'Brexit prize' (sic), around which we found a variety of papers on the broader subject of the UK relationship to the EU.

As usual, we signal high think tank publishing activity on EMU (it's 25 years since the Delors report), the Banking Union, trade, energy policy, migration (sometimes conflated with free movement), social policy. The social impact of the crisis continues to attract attention, as we reported last month referencing the Caritas report on poverty in the EU.

The external relations section in this issue spans, literally, from Andorra to Zimbabwe; we note in particular the joint effort of the OSCE Network of Think Tanks and Academic Institutions to assess [threats](#) in the OSCE area; we also found many publications looking at the Ukraine crisis - some indeed resorting to Cold War metaphors, albeit in order to contest them, and one dissonant voice contesting 'Western expansion', together with an original look at the implications of the Ukraine crisis for the Middle East.

The regards croisés section hosts various perspectives on Hungary from neighbouring Member States, stemming from the recent elections, but also a look from France at German-Algerian relations.

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The next Review will be out in June 2014, with papers published in May.

Stay informed...

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

SECTION 1 - POLITICS, EU INSTITUTIONS

European Parliament / 2014 elections

NOTRE EUROPE - JACQUES DELORS INSTITUTE / FONDATION ROBERT SCHUMAN / VOTEWATCH EUROPE	
Faces on divides: the May 2014 European elections.....	10
SVENSKA INSTITUTET FÖR EUROPAPOLITISKA STUDIER (SWEDISH INSTITUTE FOR EUROPEAN POLICY STUDIES)	
Why vote at an election with no apparent purpose? Voter turnout at elections to the European Parliament	10
EUROPEAN POLICY CENTRE / EUROPEAN ALLIANCE FOR DEMOCRATIC CITIZENSHIP	
Missing a generation in EU politics.....	10
EUROPEAN POLICY INSTITUTES NETWORK	
The 'personalisation' of the European elections: a half-hearted attempt to increase turnout and democratic legitimacy?.....	10
The impact of Spain's economic and political crisis on the European elections.....	11
Euro-enthusiasm, euro-rejection, and various shades of grey: the 2014 European Parliament election campaign in the Netherlands	11
EGMONT – ROYAL INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS	
The European elections: what is at stake for the citizens? An analysis of the EU's legitimacy and policy challenges	11
The voting behaviour of Belgian MEPs during 16 key votes: What lessons from the 2009-2014 legislature?.....	11
INSTITUT PRO EVROPSKOU POLITIKU EUROPEUM (EUROPEUM INSTITUTE FOR EUROPEAN POLICY) / NADACE OPEN SOCIETY FUND PRAHA (OPEN SOCIETY FUND PRAGUE)	
Work activity of the Czech members of the European Parliament during the year 2009 - 2014	12
POLICY NETWORK / NOTRE EUROPE - JACQUES DELORS INSTITUTE / VOTEWATCH EUROPE	
British political parties in Europe: reliable, ambiguous, reluctant and dismissive	12

EU institutions

THE INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AND EUROPEAN AFFAIRS	
Europe is our story: towards a new narrative for the European Union	12
CENTRE FOR EUROPEAN POLICY STUDIES	
From subsidiarity to better EU governance: a practical reform agenda for the EU.....	12
FUNDACIÓN ALTERNATIVAS / FRIEDRICH-EBERT-STIFTUNG (FOUNDATION FRIEDRICH-EBERT)	
III Informe sobre el estado de la Unión: la ciudadanía en tiempo de crisis.....	13
TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL	
The European Union integrity system	13
CORPORATE EUROPE OBSERVATORY / ARBEITERKAMMER (THE AUSTRIAN FEDERAL CHAMBER OF LABOUR) / ÖSTERREICHISCHER GEWERKSCHAFTSBUND (THE AUSTRIAN TRADE UNION FEDERATION)	
The fire power of the financial lobby. A survey of the size of the financial lobby at the EU level	13
EGMONT – ROYAL INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS	
The German Constitutional Court's decision about the European Central Bank's OMT mechanism: a masterpiece of judicial arrogance	13

Political parties

FOUNDATION FOR EUROPEAN PROGRESSIVE STUDIES	
Get the party started - Modernising progressive politics	14
POLICY NETWORK / GLOBAL PROGRESS / WIARDI BECKMAN STICHTING	
Making progressive politics work: a handbook of ideas	14

EUROPEAN COUNCIL ON FOREIGN RELATIONS	
The eurosceptic surge and how to respond to it	14
OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE	
The radical right in the European Parliament. Impact on development policy	14
FRIEDRICH-EBERT-STIFTUNG (FOUNDATION FRIEDRICH-EBERT)	
Nordeuropäische Rechtspopulisten im Aufwind.....	15
Der Front National (FN) – eine rechtsradikale Partei?.....	15

SECTION 2 - ECONOMICS

Member States and European economies

CENTRE FOR EUROPEAN POLICY STUDIES	
What are the effects of the EU budget: driving force or drop in the ocean?.....	16
EUROPEAN CAPITAL MARKETS INSTITUTE / CENTRE FOR EUROPEAN POLICY STUDIES	
Supporting Access to Finance by SMEs: mapping the initiatives in five EU countries	16
NOTRE EUROPE - JACQUES DELORS INSTITUTE	
The single market and cohesion policy dyad: battered by the crisis and globalisation.....	16
FUNDACIÓN ALTERNATIVAS	
Convergence in the Spanish regions: too little or too much European Structural Funds?	16
ELINKEINOELÄMÄN TUTKIMUSLAITOS (RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF THE FINNISH ECONOMY)	
Competitiveness gaps behind the economic crisis in the euro area	17
FRIEDRICH-EBERT-STIFTUNG (FOUNDATION FRIEDRICH-EBERT)	
Die Eurokrise im Spiegel der Potenzialschätzungen: Lehren für eine alternative Wirtschaftspolitik?.....	17
DAS INSTITUT DER DEUTSCHEN WIRTSCHAFT KÖLN (COLOGNE INSTITUTE FOR ECONOMIC RESEARCH)	
Überschaubare Erholung in einem risikoreichen globalen Umfeld – IW-Konjunkturprognose Frühjahr 2014	17
THE LISBON COUNCIL / PROGRESSIVE POLICY INSTITUTE	
Bridging the data gap. How digital innovation can drive growth and create jobs.....	17

EMU / Euro / Banking Union

KONRAD-ADENAUER-STIFTUNG (FOUNDATION KONRAD-ADENAUER) / DAS INSTITUT DER DEUTSCHEN WIRTSCHAFT KÖLN (COLOGNE INSTITUTE FOR ECONOMIC RESEARCH)	
European Banking Union. Status of implementation and the need for improvement.....	18
CENTER OF EXCELLENCE SAFE	
Lessons from the implementation of the Volcker rule for banking structural reform in the European Union	18
NOTRE EUROPE - JACQUES DELORS INSTITUTE	
25 years after the Delors report: which lessons for economic and monetary union?.....	18
STIFTUNG WISSENSCHAFT UND POLITIK (GERMAN INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL AND SECURITY AFFAIRS)	
Divergenz statt Konvergenz in der Wirtschafts- und Währungsunion? Ein währungstheoretisch begründetes Plädoyer für eine andere Währungsunion.....	18
INSTITUT FÜR WELTWIRTSCHAFT KIEL (KIEL INSTITUTE FOR THE WORLD ECONOMY)	
Finanz- und Wirtschaftspolitik bei einer anhaltenden monetären Expansion	19

SECTION 3 - EU MEMBER STATES

INSTYTUT SOBIESKIEGO (SOBIESKSI INSTITUTE)	
'Golden straitjacket of Europeanization' - reflections on the 10-year presence of Poland in the EU.....	20
CENTRE FOR EUROPEAN POLICY STUDIES	
How much does EU citizenship cost? The Maltese citizenship-for-sale affair: a breakthrough for sincere cooperation in citizenship of the union?.....	20

REAL INSTITUTO ELCANO (ELCANO ROYAL INSTITUTE)	
¿Fuera de juego global?: los grupos culturales españoles y europeos en las redes mundiales	20
DEMOS	
Opting up. How to increase financial resilience.....	20
BALTI UURINGUTE INSTITUUT (INSTITUTE OF BALTIC STUDIES)	
Newly-arrived immigrants in Estonia: policy options and recommendations for a comprehensive and sustainable support system.....	21
MIGRATION POLICY INSTITUTE	
Catching up: the labor market outcomes of new immigrants in Sweden	21
INSTITUT FÜR WELTWIRTSCHAFT KIEL (KIEL INSTITUTE FOR THE WORLD ECONOMY)	
Der deutsch-russische Außenhandel: Eine Bestandsaufnahme	21

SECTION 4 - EU POLICIES

Employment and social Europe

INSTITUTE FOR PUBLIC POLICY RESEARCH	
States of transition: youth unemployment, education and labour market policy in Europe and the US	22
BRUEGEL	
Europe's social problem and its implications for economic growth.....	22
FRIEDRICH-EBERT-STIFTUNG (FOUNDATION FRIEDRICH-EBERT)	
Crisis, austerity and cohesion: Europe's stagnating inequality.....	22
Austerity policy from a feminist perspective: the Spanish case.....	22
TERRA NOVA	
Pour une assurance chômage européenne.....	23

Migration policy

FRIEDRICH-EBERT-STIFTUNG (FOUNDATION FRIEDRICH-EBERT)	
Das neue Gemeinsame Europäische Asylsystem und die Verantwortung des Europäischen Parlaments.....	23
ISTITUTO AFFARI INTERNAZIONALI	
The governance of migration, mobility and asylum in the EU: a contentious laboratory.....	23
ΕΛΛΗΝΙΟ ΙΔΡΥΜΑ ΕΥΡΩΠΑΪΚΗΣ & ΕΞΩΤΕΡΙΚΗΣ ΠΟΛΙΤΙΚΗΣ (HELLENIC FOUNDATION FOR EUROPEAN & FOREIGN POLICY) / MIDAS	
Detention as punishment: can indefinite detention be Greece's main policy tool to manage its irregular migrant population?	23
INSTITUTE FOR PUBLIC POLICY RESEARCH	
Europe, free movement and the UK: charting a new course.....	24
EUROPEAN POLICY CENTRE / KONRAD-ADENAUER-STIFTUNG (FOUNDATION KONRAD-ADENAUER) / EAST ASIAN INSTITUTE / EU CENTRE IN SINGAPORE	
Migration and integration - Common challenges and response from Europe and Asia	24
FOREIGN POLICY CENTRE	
Shelter from the storm? The asylum, refuge and extradition situation facing activists from the former Soviet Union in the CIS and Europe.....	24

Development policy

LEUVEN CENTRE FOR GLOBAL GOVERNANCE STUDIES	
Integrating human rights in EU development cooperation policy: achievements and challenges.....	25

Energy policy

CENTRE FOR EUROPEAN POLICY STUDIES	
Exploring a regional approach to EU energy policies	25

HEINRICH-BÖLL-STIFTUNG (FOUNDATION HEINRICH-BÖLL)	
Renewables: the only path to a secure, affordable and climate-friendly energy system by 2030	25
NORTHSEAGRID / CENTRE FOR EUROPEAN POLICY STUDIES	
The role of support schemes for renewables in creating a meshed offshore grid	25
EGMONT – ROYAL INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS	
Shale gas in Europe: much ado about little?	26
FRIEDRICH-EBERT-STIFTUNG (FOUNDATION FRIEDRICH-EBERT)	
Unpacking the shale gas revolution	26
Energy policy - Dependency on Russian gas	
ΕΛΛΗΝΙΟ ΙΔΡΥΜΑ ΕΥΡΩΠΑΪΚΗΣ & ΕΞΩΤΕΡΙΚΗΣ ΠΟΛΙΤΙΚΗΣ (HELLENIC FOUNDATION FOR EUROPEAN & FOREIGN POLICY)	
Dependencies & vulnerabilities: the energy parameters of the evolving crisis between Russia, the EU and Ukraine	26
ISTITUTO AFFARI INTERNAZIONALI	
Caspian gas, TANAP and TAP in Europe's energy security	26
The southern gas corridor: Europe's lifeline?	27
Environment	
ECOLOGIC INSTITUTE	
Influences on consumer behaviour. Policy implications beyond nudging	27
Security	
OSCE NETWORK	
Threat perceptions in the OSCE area	27
EUROPEAN UNION INSTITUTE FOR SECURITY STUDIES	
Crisis rooms – Towards a global network?	28
FRIENDS OF EUROPE	
The EU and 21st century security	28
UTRIKESPOLITISKA INSTITUTET (THE SWEDISH INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS)	
Civil security and the European Union: a survey of European civil security systems and the role of the EU in building shared crisis management capacities.....	28
Defence	
EUROPEAN UNION INSTITUTE FOR SECURITY STUDIES	
One size to fit all? Setting standards for European defence.....	28
RAHVUSVAHELIN KAITSEUURINGUTE KESKUS (INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR DEFENCE STUDIES)	
Lessons identified in Crimea. Does Estonia's national defence model meet our needs?.....	29
STIFTUNG WISSENSCHAFT UND POLITIK (GERMAN INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL AND SECURITY AFFAIRS)	
Perspektiven maritimer Sicherheit. Europäische Maritime Sicherheitsstrategie, Piraterie und der asiatisch-pazifische Raum	29
Trade and Economic Partnership Agreements	
HANNS-SEIDEL-STIFTUNG (FOUNDATION HANNS-SEIDEL)	
Das Transatlantische Freihandelsabkommen - wo liegen die Chancen, was sind die Risiken?.....	29
PEW RESEARCH CENTER / BERTELSMANN STIFTUNG (BERTELSMANN FOUNDATION)	
Support in principle for U.S.-EU trade pact. But some Americans and Germans wary of TTIP details.....	29
EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ECONOMY	
The Japan-EU negotiations on railway.....	30
After the Bali agreement: lessons from the Doha round for the WTO's post-Bali agenda	30

STIFTUNG WISSENSCHAFT UND POLITIK (GERMAN INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL AND SECURITY AFFAIRS)	
Menschenrechte und Nachhaltigkeit in Freihandelsabkommen. Das Wirtschaftspartnerschaftsabkommen Cariforum–EU als Modell?	30
EUROPEAN INSTITUTE FOR ASIAN STUDIES	
The EU-Mongolia economic partnership: the mining sector and beyond.....	30
POLSKI INSTYTUT SPRAW MIĘDZYNARODOWYCH (THE POLISH INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS)	
Rocky road to a level playing field in EU–China investment and trade relations	31
CHATHAM HOUSE	
Community forestry in FLEGT Voluntary Partnership Agreements (VPAs).....	31
Europe's forest strategy in the next decade: options for the Voluntary Partnership Agreements.....	31

SECTION 5 - EXTERNAL RELATIONS

EU foreign policy

REAL INSTITUTO ELCANO (ELCANO ROYAL INSTITUTE)	
Elcano global presence report 2014	32
EESTI VÄLISPOLIITIKA INSTITUUT (ESTONIAN FOREIGN POLICY INSTITUTE)	
The Estonian foreign policy yearbook 2013.....	32
STIFTUNG WISSENSCHAFT UND POLITIK (GERMAN INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL AND SECURITY AFFAIRS)	
Die Assoziierung der europäischen Mikrostaaten. Integrationstest mit Modellcharakter	32
STIFTUNG GENSHAGEN (FOUNDATION GENSHAGEN) / MITTELMEER INSTITUT BERLIN (MEDITERRANEAN INSTITUTE BERLIN)	
Die Europäische Union und der Mittelmeerraum. Deutsche und französische Perspektiven seit den arabischen Umbrüchen	33
POLSKI INSTYTUT SPRAW MIĘDZYNARODOWYCH (THE POLISH INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS)	
Learning from past experiences: ways to improve EU aid on reforms in the Eastern Partnership	33

Enlargement

FONDATION ROBERT SCHUMAN	
2004-2014: review of a decade of enlargements.....	33
STIFTUNG WISSENSCHAFT UND POLITIK (GERMAN INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL AND SECURITY AFFAIRS)	
Die Ukraine-Krise und kritische Fragen an die EU-Erweiterungspolitik	33

Turkey

ISTITUTO AFFARI INTERNAZIONALI / STIFTUNG MERCATOR (FOUNDATION MERCATOR) / İSTANBUL POLİTİKALAR MERKEZİ (ISTANBUL POLICY CENTER)	
Turkey's migration transition and its implications for the Euro-Turkish transnational space.....	34

Kosovo

GRUPI PËR STUDIME JURIDIKE DHE POLITIKE (GROUP FOR LEGAL AND POLITICAL STUDIES)	
EULEX -Towards an integrated exit strategy: strengthening the rule of law through EU integration	34
KËSHILLI I PRISHTINËS PËR MARRËDHËNIE ME JASHTË (PRISHTINA COUNCIL ON FOREIGN RELATIONS) / KONRAD-ADENAUER-STIFTUNG (FOUNDATION KONRAD-ADENAUER)	
Brussels "First Agreement" a year after	34

Russia

COUNCIL ON FOREIGN RELATIONS	
Global economics monthly: April 2014. The sanctions dilemma.....	35
CENTRE FOR EUROPEAN REFORM	
The EU and Russia: uncommon spaces	35
CARNEGIE	
Russia's new challenge to Europe.....	35
EUROPEAN COUNCIL ON FOREIGN RELATIONS	
Reframing Germany's Russia policy - an opportunity for the EU	35
ÖSTERREICHISCHE INSTITUT FÜR INTERNATIONALE POLITIK (AUSTRIAN STUDY CENTRE FOR PEACE AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION)	
Ein neuer Kalter Krieg?.....	36
INSTITUT FRANÇAIS DES RELATIONS INTERNATIONALES	
Russia: youth and politics	36

Ukraine

STIFTUNG WISSENSCHAFT UND POLITIK (GERMAN INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL AND SECURITY AFFAIRS)	
Am Rande der Ukraine-Krise? Die Krimtataren nach der Annexion ihrer Heimat durch Russland.....	36
Die Ukraine-Krise. Die Dimension der paneuropäischen Sicherheitskooperation	36
RYTU EUROPOS STUDIJŲ CENTRAS (EASTERN EUROPE STUDIES CENTRE)	
What will determine Ukraine's future scenarios?	37
OŚRODEK STUDIÓW WSCHODNICH (CENTRE FOR EASTERN STUDIES)	
Ukraine: sovereign decentralisation or federalism without sovereignty?	37
CENTRE FOR EUROPEAN POLICY STUDIES	
Ukraine and security disorder in Europe – A defining moment for the OSCE?.....	37
Restarting Ukraine's economy.....	37
EUROPEAN POLICY CENTRE	
Ukraine and the EU: turning the Association Agreement into a success story	38
BARCELONA CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS	
Implications of the Ukraine crisis for the Middle East	38
WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM	
Scenarios for Ukraine: reforming institutions, strengthening the economy after the crisis.....	38

Belarus

ISTITUTO PER GLI STUDI DI POLITICA INTERNAZIONALE	
Belarus and EaP: in the light of Ukrainian crisis	38
RYTU EUROPOS STUDIJŲ CENTRAS (EASTERN EUROPE STUDIES CENTRE)	
Can Maidan happen in Belarus?	39

Georgia

OŚRODEK STUDIÓW WSCHODNICH (CENTRE FOR EASTERN STUDIES)	
Georgia - between a dream and reality.....	39

Armenia

EUROPEAN COUNCIL ON FOREIGN RELATIONS	
Armenia's strategic U-turn	39

China

ULKOPOLIITTINEN INSTITUUTTI (FINNISH INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS)	
Chinese dream, others' nightmare? Despite superficial similarities, China is not destined to follow Russia's path to rogue-dom	39
FRIENDS OF EUROPE / EUROPE CHINA FORUM / MISSION OF CHINA TO THE EUROPEAN UNION	
EU-China: the next ten years	40

Japan

BRUEGEL	
Japan and the EU in the global economy	40

Zimbabwe

CHATHAM HOUSE	
Zimbabwe's international re-engagement: the long haul to recovery	40

SPECIAL FOCUS - UK RELATIONSHIP TO THE EU

INSTITUTE OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS	
A Blueprint for Britain: openness not isolation	41
ADAM SMITH INSTITUTE	
After no: a practical blueprint for the UK outside the EU	41
CENTRE FOR EUROPEAN REFORM	
The green benefits of Britain's EU membership	41
EUROPEAN POLICY INSTITUTES NETWORK	
Cameron's reality check on Europe.....	41
CENTRE FOR EUROPEAN POLICY STUDIES	
Proportionality needed in the subsidiarity debate in the EU – Appraisal of the British and Dutch initiatives.....	42

REGARDS CROISÉS

OŚRODEK STUDIÓW WSCHODNICH (CENTRE FOR EASTERN STUDIES)	
In a state of necessity. How has Orbán changed Hungary	43
The German reaction to the Russian-Ukrainian conflict – shock and disbelief	43
DEUTSCHE GESELLSCHAFT FÜR AUSWÄRTIGE POLITIK (GERMAN COUNCIL ON FOREIGN RELATIONS)	
Fidesz-Sieg trotz Stimmenverlust. Die ungarischen Parlamentswahlen 2014	43
FRIEDRICH-EBERT-STIFTUNG (FOUNDATION FRIEDRICH-EBERT)	
Parlamentswahlen in Ungarn: Viktor Orbán, ein verdienter Sieger?	43
INSTITUT FRANÇAIS DES RELATIONS INTERNATIONALES	
Les relations germano-algériennes. Une relance par la coopération énergétique ?	44

SECTION 1 - POLITICS, EU INSTITUTIONS

European Parliament / 2014 elections

NOTRE EUROPE - JACQUES DELORS INSTITUTE / FONDATION ROBERT SCHUMAN /
VOTEWATCH EUROPE

Des visages sur des clivages : les élections européennes de mai 2014

Faces on divides: the May 2014 European elections

by Yves Bertoncini and Thierry Chopin

April 2014

Link to the article in [French](#) and to the executive summary in [English](#)

The first part of this study is an overview of the powers exercised by the EP. Its second part presents the "variable-geometry majorities" that form within the EP. The third part explores the possible impact of the vote, based on available opinion polls.

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

Why vote at an election with no apparent purpose? Voter turnout at elections to the European Parliament

by Mark N. Franklin

April 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

The author argues that low turnout can be blamed on the low salience of elections at which little is considered to be at stake, and on the declining ability of parties to mobilize loyal voters, especially in new democracies. The analysis gives recommendations on how to make European elections work better.

EUROPEAN POLICY CENTRE / EUROPEAN ALLIANCE FOR DEMOCRATIC CITIZENSHIP

Missing a generation in EU politics

by Wouter de Jongh and Linde Zuidema (ed.)

7 April 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

This publication presents the results of a survey investigating young Europeans' attitudes towards the EU and the upcoming election. The authors suggest that the trend of declining youth participation in the EU could be countered by a further increase in EP competences, stronger emphasis on youth topics like education, employment, mobility and environment, as well as information on EU personalities and European parties' positions.

EUROPEAN POLICY INSTITUTES NETWORK

The 'personalisation' of the European elections: a half-hearted attempt to increase turnout and democratic legitimacy?

by Sonia Piedrafita and Vilde Renman

11 April 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

This paper relativizes expectations on how the politicization of EE2014 could help increase turnout. It notes that that "the process of selecting the party's candidate for the position of Commission President was blurred by internal negotiations on this and other appointments at stake at the expense of its democratic dimension". The paper also notes that the manifestos of European political parties are mostly a compendium of the party's ideology, rather than an actionable political programme for the top candidates.

The impact of Spain's economic and political crisis on the European elections

by Carme Colomina and Elina Viilup

2 April 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

Despite growing criticism in Spain against austerity measures perceived as 'imposed by the EU', there is no anti-European discourse among the Spanish mainstream political parties. This paper finds no sign that the upcoming European elections will have a more European focus than any of the previous ones.

Euro-enthusiasm, euro-rejection, and various shades of grey: the 2014 European Parliament election campaign in the Netherlands

by Stijn van Kessel

29 April 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

With less than a month to go to the EP elections, campaigning has barely begun in the Netherlands. Whether the campaign will address concrete EU policies or the future of the EU remains to be seen, but this author argues that the outcomes will probably have less to do with the parties' stance on Europe than with the unpopularity of the incumbent parties and the 'second order' character of EP elections.

EGMONT – ROYAL INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

The European elections: what is at stake for the citizens? An analysis of the EU's legitimacy and policy challenges

by Marc Lepoivre and Stijn Verhelst (eds.)

25 April 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

The papers attempt to highlight the importance of European elections by gathering experts' opinions about the key issues the EP will face during the next term. These issues include both the legitimacy of the EU in general, as well as specific policy challenges ahead.

The voting behaviour of Belgian MEPs during 16 key votes: What lessons from the 2009-2014 legislature?

by Clémentine d'Oultremont, Laurent Santin, Stijn Verhelst and Xavier Vanden Bosch

28 April 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

This paper focuses on the voting behaviour of the Belgian MEPs during the 2009-2014 term. It discusses their general voting behaviour, as well as how they voted during more controversial votes. In general, loyalty of Belgian MEPs to their group is high compared to average loyalty. The most noticeable exception concerns the N-VA, which, as a centre-right party is an outlier in the centre-left Greens/EFA group. To a lesser extent, the centre-left cdH also deviates from its centre-right EPP line.

INSTITUT PRO EVROPSKOU POLITIKU EUROPEUM (EUROPEUM INSTITUTE FOR EUROPEAN POLICY) / NADACE OPEN SOCIETY FUND PRAHA (OPEN SOCIETY FUND PRAGUE)

Činnost a pracovitost českých europoslanců v období 2009–2014

Work activity of the Czech members of the European Parliament during the year 2009 - 2014

by Věra Řiháčková

25 April 2014

Link to the article in [Czech](#)

This paper examines the work of Czech MEPs during 2009-2014, and it is based on the quantitative analysis of their work during their sessions in Brussels as well as in Strasbourg. An activity index is used in order to compare the diligence of the Czech parties with each other and the Czech MEPs with the MEPs of other countries.

POLICY NETWORK / NOTRE EUROPE - JACQUES DELORS INSTITUTE / VOTEWATCH EUROPE

British political parties in Europe: reliable, ambiguous, reluctant and dismissive

by Renaud Thillaye

2 April 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

This paper investigates how successful political parties have been at using the power of European politics. By analysing the voting patterns of British MEPs during the last EP's mandate (2009-2014), it highlights how often Conservatives, Labour, Lib Dems and UKIP participated in winning coalitions and have influenced policymaking in 15 of the EP's most important decisions.

EU institutions

THE INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AND EUROPEAN AFFAIRS

Europe is our story: towards a new narrative for the European Union

by IIEA Working Group on Values and Narrative in the EU

April 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

The EU now faces challenges different from those of its early years. This paper suggests that the time is ripe for a reorientation of the EU narrative. With profound developments underway in many areas, from banking to foreign policy, and as the institutions restructure in 2014, the moment has come for new thinking: for a determined reaching out to the citizens, to involve them and to listen to their desires; and for a renewal of respect for the values that the EU has claimed.

CENTRE FOR EUROPEAN POLICY STUDIES

From subsidiarity to better EU governance: a practical reform agenda for the EU

by Steven Blockmans, Judith Hovenaars, Adriaan Schout and Jan Marinus Wiersma

8 April 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

This paper explores the political and practical relevance of some of the ideas currently considered to solidify the principle of subsidiarity in day-to-day decision-making. It maps the current political contours of subsidiarity as they appear in speeches and policy papers and presents some of the main ideas in the current debate on deepening subsidiarity.

III Informe sobre el estado de la Unión: la ciudadanía en tiempo de crisis

by María Pallares (coord.)

25 April 2014

Link to the article in [Spanish](#)

European citizens enjoy the rights and freedoms proclaimed in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU. Despite this legal coverage, the fact is that Europeans feel more European than citizens. And according to the authors, the crisis has not extended European democracy, but shrunk it, because the most critical decisions taken to address it have been at a national executive level, although the format was communitarian. As this report highlights, there is a "deficit of European citizenship".

TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL

The European Union integrity system

by Louis Hancisse, Amanda McMenamin, Mark Perera and Ronny Patz

April 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

This report presents a comprehensive review of corruption and integrity risks in the EU institutions. It analyses how ten EU institutions and bodies promote integrity, how they deal with the risk of corruption and how their policies help the fight against corruption in Europe.

Read our related blog post: [Transparency International report on Corruption and Integrity Risks in EU Institutions](#).

CORPORATE EUROPE OBSERVATORY / ARBEITERKAMMER (THE AUSTRIAN FEDERAL CHAMBER OF LABOUR) / ÖSTERREICHISCHER GEWERKSCHAFTSBUND (THE AUSTRIAN TRADE UNION FEDERATION)

The fire power of the financial lobby. A survey of the size of the financial lobby at the EU level

by Marcus Wolf, Kenneth Haar and Olivier Hoedeman

April 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

Despite the many references to the presence of "the financial lobby" in the EU decision-making, until now there has been no comprehensive survey of its size and power in the EU. This report finds that the financial industry spends more than €120 million per year on lobbying in Brussels and employs more than 1700 lobbyists.

EGMONT – ROYAL INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

The German Constitutional Court's decision about the European Central Bank's OMT mechanism: a masterpiece of judicial arrogance

by Charles Secondat, Daisy Roterod and P.J. Goossens

7 April 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

The German Constitutional Court recently referred different questions to the European Court of Justice (ECJ) for a preliminary ruling. They concern the legality of the ECB's Outright Monetary Transactions (OMT) created in 2012. Simultaneously, the German Court has threatened to disrupt the implementation of OMT in Germany if its very restrictive analysis is not validated by the ECJ. This paper analyses the fundamental questions this raises about the future efficiency of the ECB's monetary policy, the damage to the independence of the ECB and the balance of power between judges and political bodies in charge of economic policy.

Political parties

FOUNDATION FOR EUROPEAN PROGRESSIVE STUDIES

Get the party started - Modernising progressive politics

by Lorenza Antonucci, Marc Esteve del Valle, Teodor Slavev, Laura Ballarin Cereza and Jesper Dahl Kelstrup

3 April 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

This publication examines the actual situation, challenges and chances of European Social Democracy. It analyses the maintaining importance of redistribution issues in order to mobilize political support. Furthermore, it addresses the problem of party membership decline and the social movements' estrangement from socialist parties. The authors stress the necessity of internal party modernisation and modes of participation.

POLICY NETWORK / GLOBAL PROGRESS / WIARDI BECKMAN STICHTING

Making progressive politics work: a handbook of ideas

by Policy Network (eds.)

22 April 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

As the slow return to growth begins to gather pace in western democracies, the danger is that insufficient attention has been given to structural economic weaknesses and long-term stresses on representational politics and governance, according to the authors. This paper brings together policy recommendations and proposals on how progressives should approach the major economic and political challenges of our times.

EUROPEAN COUNCIL ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The eurosceptic surge and how to respond to it

by Jose Ignacio Torreblanca and Mark Leonard

9 April 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

The authors argue that pro-European politicians must not turn things into a simple battle between pro- and anti-Europe, but must emphasise centre-left and centre-right policy responses to the challenges facing the EU and its Member States, such as employment, migration, growth, and the rise of China. Moreover, pro-European parties who form a grand transnational coalition risk increasing the perception of an elite cartel that runs the EU.

OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE

The radical right in the European Parliament. Impact on development policy

by Raphaëlle Faure

4 April 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

There is a growing awareness that the next EP may contain a large contingent of radical right parties. At the domestic level, 21 out of the 28 EU member states have a party which can be qualified as radical right in their political system. This paper looks at their possible impact on European decision-making in development cooperation. The Council discussed the EU [framework](#) for development aid post-2015 in these very days.

Nordeuropäische Rechtspopulisten im Aufwind

by Silke Breimaier

April 2014

Link to the article in [German](#)

This article examines the right populist parties in the Nordic Member States, which experience an upturn in the EP election polls. Despite the differences in terms of rhetoric, origin and policy positions, these parties have shared core issues, namely immigration and the renationalization of EU competencies.

Der Front National (FN) – eine rechtsradikale Partei?

by Jean-Yves Camus

April 2014

Link to the article in [German](#)

This paper discusses the French *Front National* (FN). It analyses the new party strategy, which aims at de-diabolisation, and the claim to be neither left nor right. The author states that the key issues are still the same, but the party support has diversified socially and geographically. The party has gained appeal with blue collar workers, young people and women. The modernised FN could establish itself as the third force in the French party system.

SECTION 2 - ECONOMICS

Member States and European economies

CENTRE FOR EUROPEAN POLICY STUDIES

What are the effects of the EU budget: driving force or drop in the ocean?

by Jorge Núñez Ferrer and Moni Katarivas

28 April 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

This study examines the impact of the main investment tools of the EU budget. The focus is on the role of financial instruments through which the EU can invest more efficiently and mobilise multiple funds. The EU budget has the potential to influence the European economy much more than its modest size in terms of GDP may suggest, conclude the authors

EUROPEAN CAPITAL MARKETS INSTITUTE / CENTRE FOR EUROPEAN POLICY STUDIES

Supporting Access to Finance by SMEs: mapping the initiatives in five EU countries

by Federico Infelise

23 April 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

This paper maps the initiatives to support access to finance for SMEs that were available at national level in 2012 in the five biggest European economies. A broad set of initiatives has been implemented to close the funding gap of SMEs in these five countries. Public subsidisation of bank loans has been by far the most widespread type of intervention. Despite the fact that this strategy might prove to be effective in the short term, it fails to address long-term sustainability issues via a more diversified set of financing tools.

NOTRE EUROPE - JACQUES DELORS INSTITUTE

The single market and cohesion policy dyad: battered by the crisis and globalisation

by Marjorie Jouen

28 April 2014

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

Historically, newly acceding countries to the EU have been enjoying the fruits delivered by single market and cohesion policies. During the recent economic crisis the benefits of these policies have withered. When recovery will come, things will not necessarily be back as before, argues this papers.

FUNDACIÓN ALTERNATIVAS

Convergence in the Spanish regions: too little or too much European Structural Funds?

by Samuele Centorrino and María Pérez-Urdiales

2 April 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

This study aims at analysing the growth processes experienced by the Spanish regions for the period 1986-2008 and assess the effectiveness of the Structural Funds on reducing disparities between them. According to the authors, the results suggest that EU Funds are not sufficient to achieve convergence and that they must be released in a more efficient way to ensure long term growth.

ELINKEINOELÄMÄN TUTKIMUSLAITOS (RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF THE FINNISH ECONOMY)

Saksan ja muun euroalueen kilpailukyvyen ero eurokriisin taustalla

Competitiveness gaps behind the economic crisis in the euro area

by Olavi Rantala

1 April 2014

Link to the article in [Finnish](#)

The author argues that the euro area economic crisis is largely a result of the competitiveness gap between Germany and the rest of the area. Wage moderation in Germany has considerably improved its competitiveness edge, whereas the rest of the euro area has had an inflationary wage policy with wage growth has exceeding labour productivity growth.

FRIEDRICH-EBERT-STIFTUNG (FOUNDATION FRIEDRICH-EBERT)

Die Eurokrise im Spiegel der Potenzialschätzungen: Lehren für eine alternative Wirtschaftspolitik?

by Erik Klär

April 2014

Link to the article in [German](#)

This paper discusses the European Commission's regular estimations of production potential in the Member States. The reports aim at abstracting from economic short-term fluctuations, but the fact they are frequently revised shows this objective is not achieved. The author maintains that this has serious consequences, when policy is based on the reports.

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

Überschaubare Erholung in einem risikoreichen globalen Umfeld – IW-Konjunkturprognose Frühjahr 2014

by IW-Forschungsgruppe Konjunktur

7 April 2014

Link to the article in [German](#)

The Institute's spring economic forecast states that the slow recovery in the euro area will continue. The report covers short-term economic prospects, labour market, state budget and economic policy.

THE LISBON COUNCIL / PROGRESSIVE POLICY INSTITUTE

Bridging the data gap. How digital innovation can drive growth and create jobs

by Paul Hofheinz and Michael Mandel

April 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

This paper describes the immense benefits that arise as a result of greater use of data analytics in healthcare, CO2 emissions, social inclusion, job creation and growth generation – and finds a vast "data gap" between Europe and the US, with American consumers and businesses consuming on average 60% more data each month per capita than Europeans.

KONRAD-ADENAUER-STIFTUNG (FOUNDATION KONRAD-ADENAUER) / DAS INSTITUT DER DEUTSCHEN WIRTSCHAFT KÖLN (COLOGNE INSTITUTE FOR ECONOMIC RESEARCH)

European Banking Union. Status of implementation and the need for improvement

by Matthias Bauer and Markus Demary

April 2014

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

The crisis in the euro area revealed points of weakness in the architecture of the monetary union. It appeared that the common monetary policy also required a common system of banking supervision. This report summarizes the current proposals and decisions regarding the Banking Union and evaluates the Banking Union's three pillars from a regulatory economic perspective.

CENTER OF EXCELLENCE SAFE

Lessons from the implementation of the Volcker rule for banking structural reform in the European Union

by Douglas J. Elliott and Christian Rauch

16 April 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

In the US, the set of rules commonly known as the "Volcker Rule", prohibiting proprietary trading activities in banks, became effective on April 1, 2014. In January 2014, the European Commission put forward its proposal on banking structural reform, which includes a Volcker-like provision. This paper offers lessons to be learned from the implementation process for the Volcker rule in the US for the European regulatory process.

NOTRE EUROPE - JACQUES DELORS INSTITUTE

25 years after the Delors report: which lessons for economic and monetary union?

by Henrik Enderlein and Eulalia Rubio

30 April 2014

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

The "Delors Report" of 1989 was a seminal paper that contributed to the EMU adventure. 25 years after that daring political confidence trick, the authors see the euro as a mixed blessing.

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

Divergenz statt Konvergenz in der Wirtschafts- und Währungsunion? Ein währungstheoretisch begründetes Plädoyer für eine andere Währungsunion

by Ognian Hishow

April 2014

Link to the article in [German](#)

The author finds the origins of increasing economic divergence in the Eurozone not merely in the financial and economic crisis, but mainly in the framework of the single currency. The solution is another monetary union which includes a fiscal union, as well as a dense cooperation in economic policy. This paper draws a possible framework for this new monetary union.

INSTITUT FÜR WELTWIRTSCHAFT KIEL (KIEL INSTITUTE FOR THE WORLD ECONOMY)

Finanz- und Wirtschaftspolitik bei einer anhaltenden monetären Expansion

by Jens Boysen-Hogrefe, Klaus-Jürgen Gern, Dominik Groll, Nils Jannsen, Stefan Kooths, Martin Plödt, Tim Schwarzmüller, Björn van Roye and Joachim Scheide

April 2014

Link to the article in [German](#)

This report presents various monetary transmission channels from a theoretical perspective and analyses the impact of the eurosystem's monetary policy on Germany. It also discusses how to identify unsustainable developments at an early stage.

SECTION 3 - EU MEMBER STATES

INSTYTUT SOBIESKIEGO (SOBIESKI INSTITUTE)

"Złoty kaftan europeizacji" - refleksje o 10-ciu latach obecności Polski w UE

'Golden straitjacket of Europeanization' - reflections on the 10-year presence of Poland in the EU

by Tomasz Grzegorz Grosse

April 2014

Link to the article in [Polish](#)

This analysis focuses on the impact of 10-years of Poland's EU membership in terms of political, social and economic change. The author points to the tension between the opportunities offered by European integration and the constraints that it imposes. Poland has achieved advancement from the periphery to the so-called semi-periphery of Europe, but this opportunity might be wasted, and the europeanisation can even consolidate the dependency and peripheral position on the geopolitical map.

Read the related document published by the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs: [Poland's 10 years in the European Union](#).

Read the related document in this review: [2004-2014: review of a decade of enlargements](#).

CENTRE FOR EUROPEAN POLICY STUDIES

How much does EU citizenship cost? The Maltese citizenship-for-sale affair: a breakthrough for sincere cooperation in citizenship of the union?

by Sergio Carrera

25 April 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

This paper studies the extent to which member states are still free to lay down the grounds for the acquisition and loss of nationality without any EU supervision and accountability. It provides a comparative overview of member state schemes and the 'price' for citizenship and a residency permit in the EU. It is argued that the EU's intervention on the Maltese citizenship-for-sale affair constitutes a legal precedent for assessing the lawfulness of 'golden migration' programmes in other EU member states.

REAL INSTITUTO ELCANO (ELCANO ROYAL INSTITUTE)

¿Fuera de juego global?: los grupos culturales españoles y europeos en las redes mundiales

by Ángel Badillo

3 April 2014

Link to the article in [Spanish](#)

The purchase and sale of companies in the area of culture is a constant result of technological convergence. The paper by Instituto Elcano calls for a reflection on the value of Spanish cultural industries and their size in the global economy, as well as on the role of European companies in the new scenario of cultural industries.

DEMOS

Opting up. How to increase financial resilience

by Max Wind-Cowie

April 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

This report examines financial security in the British workforce and asks what can be done to improve British collective and individual resilience to financial shocks. It includes original polling which finds that UK workers have relatively low levels of protection against the financial shocks of sickness.

BALTI UURINGUTE INSTITUUT (INSTITUTE OF BALTIC STUDIES)

Uussisserändajate kohanemine Eestis: valikud ja poliitikaettepanekud tervikliku ja jätkusuutliku süsteemi kujundamiseks

Newly-arrived immigrants in Estonia: policy options and recommendations for a comprehensive and sustainable support system

by Kristina Kallas and Kristjan Kaldur (eds.)

April 2014

Link to the article in [Estonian](#) and to the executive summary in [English](#)

The objective of the paper is to prepare proposals, on the basis of data collected, for sustainable support system, allowing the adaptation of key targeted groups coming to the country.

MIGRATION POLICY INSTITUTE

Catching up: the labor market outcomes of new immigrants in Sweden

by Pieter Bevelander and Nahikari Irastorza

April 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

Many of Sweden's immigrants are refugees who lack the skills and education to gain employment soon after they arrive. Over time, however, newcomers to Sweden have improved their employment rates, displayed income growth similar to natives, and moved from low- to middle-skilled positions. This report assesses how new immigrants—refugees, labour migrants, and others—fare in Sweden's labour market.

INSTITUT FÜR WELTWIRTSCHAFT KIEL (KIEL INSTITUTE FOR THE WORLD ECONOMY)

Der deutsch-russische Außenhandel: Eine Bestandsaufnahme

by Klaus Schrader and Claus-Friedrich Laaser

April 2014

Link to the article in [German](#)

This paper deals with the impact of restrictions on trade with Russia on German economic development, as well as with the importance of trade with EU and US for Russia.

SECTION 4 - EU POLICIES

Employment and social Europe

INSTITUTE FOR PUBLIC POLICY RESEARCH

States of transition: youth unemployment, education and labour market policy in Europe and the US

by Tony Dolphin (ed.)

April 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

This report analyses the youth unemployment problems of France, Germany, the Netherlands, Spain and the US, examining how the transition from education to full-time employment is managed in each country. Drawing from their successes, failures and points of difference, it recommends ways in which the process can be improved in all countries.

BRUEGEL

Europe's social problem and its implications for economic growth

by Zsolt Darvas and Guntram B. Wolff

1 April 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

The EU faces major social problems. First, addressing unemployment and poverty should remain a high priority not only for its own sake, but because these problems undermine public debt sustainability and growth. Second, bold policies in various areas are required. Third, tax/benefit systems should be reviewed for improved efficiency, inter-generational equity and fair burden sharing between the wealthy and poor.

Further references in our blog post: [New Caritas report examines the social cost of economic crisis](#)

FRIEDRICH-EBERT-STIFTUNG (FOUNDATION FRIEDRICH-EBERT)

Crisis, austerity and cohesion: Europe's stagnating inequality

by Michael Dauderstädt and Cem Keltok

April 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

The authors analyse the development of economic inequality in the EU. They measure inequality between Member States, as well as within Member States. The results suggest that the trend towards increasing equality since 2000 was stopped by the financial crisis. After 2009, most East European Member States could recuperate. Still, economic performances in the South European countries as well as Ireland slow down this process.

Austerity policy from a feminist perspective: the Spanish case

by Sonia Ruiz García

April 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

Spain's ranking in the Global Gender Gap Index dropped 14 places this year: from place 12 to 26. The budget cuts and drastic policy reforms in areas such as the labour market, the welfare state and the public and judicial administration are exemplary for all European crisis countries. The author finds that the several reforms austerity measures are structurally changing the country's socioeconomic model as well as the gender model built over the last few decades.

TERRA NOVA

Pour une assurance chômage européenne

by Florian Mayneris

17 April 2014

Link to the article in [French](#)

This article explores the idea of a European unemployment insurance. According to the author it would not only enhance the economic efficiency of the eurozone but also help develop a sense of solidarity in Europe. The debate that it would provoke would represent an opportunity to give positive content to the discussions on Europe and democratically decide on the contours to give to a true social Europe.

Migration policy

FRIEDRICH-EBERT-STIFTUNG (FOUNDATION FRIEDRICH-EBERT)

Das neue Gemeinsame Europäische Asylsystem und die Verantwortung des Europäischen Parlaments

by Petra Bendel

April 2014

Link to the article in [German](#)

This article analyses the common European Asylum System. The author argues that, despite complex and highly politicised negotiations, the European legislators have achieved a rise of protection standards and a basis for a further harmonisation of European asylum legislation. It will be a task of the EP in its next term to pay attention that these standards will be respected by the Commission's legislative initiatives.

ISTITUTO AFFARI INTERNAZIONALI

The governance of migration, mobility and asylum in the EU: a contentious laboratory

by Giulia Henry and Ferruccio Pastore

April 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

This paper reconstructs the evolution of the management of population movements across national borders at EU level, with a focus on governance structures and on core-noncore relations. It identifies two major transformations with centrifugal effects on EU migration, mobility and asylum governance. The authors end by arguing that only by facing migratory challenges with more resources and in a more integrated way can the EU defuse their potential and enhance their positive dimension.

ΕΛΛΗΝΙΟ ΙΔΡΥΜΑ ΕΥΡΩΠΑΪΚΗΣ & ΕΞΩΤΕΡΙΚΗΣ ΠΟΛΙΤΙΚΗΣ (HELLENIC FOUNDATION FOR EUROPEAN & FOREIGN POLICY) / MIDAS

Detention as punishment: can indefinite detention be Greece's main policy tool to manage its irregular migrant population?

by Anna Triandafyllidou, Angeliki Dimitriadi and Danai Angeli

April 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

Europe faces complex challenges in controlling irregular migration and providing protection to people in need. Greece's policy for irregular migration control includes arrest and return combined with regular detention of undocumented immigrants and asylum seekers whose case is pending. This paper examines the legality of detention, particularly in light of the recent decision to extend detention indefinitely for irregular migrants, until they consent to return to their home countries.

INSTITUTE FOR PUBLIC POLICY RESEARCH

Europe, free movement and the UK: charting a new course

by Alex Glennie and Jenny Pennington

April 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

This report considers the arguments that have been made for changing the rules around free movement within the EU, and sets out suggestions for reform. It looks in particular at: addressing the problem of vulnerable low-skilled employment in the UK; increasing conditions on access to social security assistance for mobile EU citizens; the return of individuals who are unable to exercise their free movement rights; reform of the rules around transitional controls for future accession states; and the question of unbalanced migration flows.

EUROPEAN POLICY CENTRE / KONRAD-ADENAUER-STIFTUNG (FOUNDATION KONRAD-ADENAUER) / EAST ASIAN INSTITUTE / EU CENTRE IN SINGAPORE

Migration and integration - Common challenges and response from Europe and Asia

by Andrea Frontini and Yves Pascouau

15 April 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

In order to ensure their economic growth and maintain their welfare systems, many European and Asian countries have implemented a series of measures to reduce the demographic effects, among which opening channels to legal migration plays a key role. As these countries try to attract the same group of people, mainly highly-skilled professionals and low-skilled workers, increasing competition between the two regions might be observed in the upcoming years. This publication discusses the different migration policies and challenges in the concerned countries.

FOREIGN POLICY CENTRE

Shelter from the storm? The asylum, refuge and extradition situation facing activists from the former Soviet Union in the CIS and Europe

by Adam Hug (ed.)

April 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

This publication looks at some of the key issues around asylum, extradition and the provision of refuge for human rights defenders, political and religious activists and other controversial figures from the former Soviet Union. It examines the extent to which Russia and other CIS countries abide by their obligations under European and international law when facing extradition requests from fellow signatories to the Minsk Convention. It also explores European asylum and immigration policies and how they impact on activists from the former Soviet Union.

Development policy

LEUVEN CENTRE FOR GLOBAL GOVERNANCE STUDIES

Integrating human rights in EU development cooperation policy: achievements and challenges

by David D'Hollander, Axel Marx and Jan Wouters

April 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

Human rights and democratic governance have gained a central position on the EU's development cooperation agenda. This paper clarifies how the notion of integrating human rights in development cooperation has been operationalized in EU policy, and describes new policy efforts and innovations as part of three broader strategies for integrating human rights. It briefly presents key concerns and discusses the feasibility of realising a human rights-based development cooperation policy.

Energy policy

CENTRE FOR EUROPEAN POLICY STUDIES

Exploring a regional approach to EU energy policies

by Jacques de Jong and Christian Egenhofer

15 April 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

This report explores the potential for regional approaches towards EU energy policy. It assesses lessons from existing regional energy arrangements to determine whether they are an efficient, effective and politically acceptable approach toward reaching three EU energy policy objectives: competitiveness, supply security and sustainability.

HEINRICH-BÖLL-STIFTUNG (FOUNDATION HEINRICH-BÖLL)

Renewables: the only path to a secure, affordable and climate-friendly energy system by 2030

by Uwe Nestle and Silvia Brugger

April 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

This paper argues that an expansion of renewable energy sources is the only path to a secure, affordable and climate-friendly energy system until 2030 and beyond. Renewables not only drastically reduce emissions and other environmental and social burdens; they also reduce energy import dependency and hence increase energy security, strengthen local economies, and create jobs.

NORTHSEAGRIDS / CENTRE FOR EUROPEAN POLICY STUDIES

The role of support schemes for renewables in creating a meshed offshore grid

by Fabio Genoese

7 April 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

The paper explores the role of support schemes for renewables in creating a meshed offshore grid. North Sea states' national support schemes for renewables are rather incompatible and represent a barrier to cooperation. More coherent support approaches to offshore wind projects will be conducive to the creation of a meshed offshore grid in the North Sea. Policymakers could resolve incompatibilities through common guidelines for national support schemes, focusing on common grid access rules and common price-setting mechanisms.

EGMONT – ROYAL INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Shale gas in Europe: much ado about little?

by Tania Zgajewski

6 April 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

This paper examines various estimations of potential shale gas resources in the EU, the potential costs and benefits, the initiatives taken by the EU institutions and the national authorities, and finally the emerging EU framework. The conclusion is that whatever happens on this front, this will not modify the present structural challenges of the EU in the domains of climate and energy.

FRIEDRICH-EBERT-STIFTUNG (FOUNDATION FRIEDRICH-EBERT)

Unpacking the shale gas revolution

by Dominic Marcellino

April 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

This paper analyses the economic, social, geopolitical and environmental implications of the shale gas tapping in the US. The author predicts that natural gas will replace coal as America's largest energy source. Shale gas improves the US's economic outlook, strengthens its negotiating position in some geopolitical conflicts, i.e. Iran, and could contribute to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Energy policy - Dependency on Russian gas

ΕΛΛΗΝΙΟ ΙΔΡΥΜΑ ΕΥΡΩΠΑΪΚΗΣ & ΕΞΩΤΕΡΙΚΗΣ ΠΟΛΙΤΙΚΗΣ (HELLENIC FOUNDATION FOR EUROPEAN & FOREIGN POLICY)

Dependencies & vulnerabilities: the energy parameters of the evolving crisis between Russia, the EU and Ukraine

by Theodoros Tsakiris

April 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

What can the EU do to help Ukraine financially and in terms of energy security? How significant could EU/US assistance be against the need to reduce Ukraine's dependence on Russian exports? This paper attempts to answer these questions. It also assesses the likelihood of EU energy sanctions against Russia and the impact of those potential sanctions on the Union's energy security as well as the global oil market.

ISTITUTO AFFARI INTERNAZIONALI

Caspian gas, TANAP and TAP in Europe's energy security

by Ariel Cohen

April 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

Russia's occupation of Crimea and the possible incorporation of Eastern Ukrainian regions demonstrates Europe's vulnerability to Gazprom's energy power. TAP is one step towards the strategic goal of diminishing Russia's energy supply market share in Europe. But in view of the proposed construction of the Russian South Stream, how could Central Europe ensure energy diversification? What next for the Southern corridor? Is Russia going to accept and tolerate infrastructure growth of the Caspian and other competitors south of its borders?

The southern gas corridor: Europe's lifeline?

by David Koranyi

April 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

The Ukraine crisis brought European energy security and with it the southern gas corridor back into the spotlight. Europe becomes more and more concerned about Russia's behaviour and reliability as an energy supplier, and the southern gas corridor can be a critical component in this context. In the medium-term, the corridor has the potential to become a major source of gas for Europe, so the EU should deploy robust energy diplomacy and resources to speed up its development.

Environment

ECOLOGIC INSTITUTE

Influences on consumer behaviour. Policy implications beyond nudging

by Katharina Umpfenbach

8 April 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

The article aims at increasing the efficiency and efficacy of EU environmental policy by taking consumer behaviour into consideration. The author revisits the research on behaviour and discusses its implications for environmental policy making. She describes how to take consumer behaviour into account in each step of the policy-making process. Finally, she gives policy examples which aim at influencing consumer behaviour.

Security

OSCE NETWORK

Threat perceptions in the OSCE area

by Wolfgang Zellner (coord.)

April 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

The OSCE Network of Think Tanks and Academic Institutions present the results of its first joint research project. This study compares the threat perceptions of 18 governments of participating States, based on country reports prepared by institutions and think tanks from across the OSCE area. One of the main conclusions is the prominence of perceived domestic threats combined with questions about the efficiency and legitimacy of governance.

EUROPEAN UNION INSTITUTE FOR SECURITY STUDIES

Crisis rooms – Towards a global network?

by Patryk Pawlak and Andrea Ricci (eds.)

April 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

In recent years, the EU's crisis management policy has gradually broadened in range and scope, as it seeks to adapt its response mechanisms to the increasingly complex crises facing the world today. In this regard a major role is played by crisis coordination centres or 'crisis rooms'. This book brings together key elements from an [international conference](#) devoted to challenges and opportunities for cooperation between crisis rooms that was organised by the EEAS in December 2013.

FRIENDS OF EUROPE

The EU and 21st century security

by Emiliano Battisti and David Koczij

8 April 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

Over 200 officials from European, international and national institutions along with representatives of business, civil society and academia came together in meetings organised in Rome and Berlin to seek to share concrete suggestions on the shape and contents of the post Stockholm framework. This report presents an overview of their discussions and key recommendations.

UTRIKESPOLITISKA INSTITUTET (THE SWEDISH INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS)

Civil security and the European Union: a survey of European civil security systems and the role of the EU in building shared crisis management capacities

by M. Rhinard et al.

April 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

This paper draws from the work of the EU FP7 – ANVIL project to outline key differences and similarities in national civil security systems in Europe. It suggests the EU's role in enhancing compatibility is best oriented in a few specific directions. Namely, the EU should act as a promoter and a facilitator. The findings contained herein are relatively rare in so far existing studies of the EU's growing role in societal security tend to focus on the European level.

Defence

EUROPEAN UNION INSTITUTE FOR SECURITY STUDIES

One size to fit all? Setting standards for European defence

by Daniel Fiott

16 April 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

As defence expenditure generally remains in decline across Europe, a range of innovative measures to ensure that defence budgets are spent more efficiently and effectively are being devised. One such measure – being pursued by the European Defence Agency and the European Commission – is the greater standardisation of defence equipment in the EU. Yet the European defence market is fragmented and characterized by a plethora of national standards.

RAHVUSVAHELINE KAITSEUURINGUTE KESKUS (INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR DEFENCE STUDIES)

Lessons identified in Crimea. Does Estonia's national defence model meet our needs?

by Martin Hurt
April 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

The annexation of Crimea in late February 2014 raises a number of questions about whether Estonia's own national defence system is adequate. The military part of the national defence development plan approved last year states that Estonia can only benefit from units that consist of trained personnel and possess the specific equipment and weaponry they require. But given the events in Crimea, do the core elements of Estonia's military national defence system meet the current needs?

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

Perspektiven maritimer Sicherheit. Europäische Maritime Sicherheitsstrategie, Piraterie und der asiatisch-pazifische Raum

by Markus Harder and Michael Paul
April 2014

Link to the article in [German](#)

The authors argue that NATO's troop withdrawal from Afghanistan marks the end of lengthy land warfare, while maritime military operations gain importance, due to the American strategic focus on Asia, geopolitical disputes in the East and South China Sea, the fight against piracy in the Indian Ocean and Russia's expansion in Crimea. The authors stress the necessity that the EU has to adapt to these developments.

Trade and Economic Partnership Agreements

HANNS-SEIDEL-STIFTUNG (FOUNDATION HANNS-SEIDEL)

Das Transatlantische Freihandelsabkommen - wo liegen die Chancen, was sind die Risiken?

by Peter Witterauf
9 April 2014

Link to the article in [German](#)

This article discusses the negotiations between EU and US about the planned free-trade agreement TTIP. It gives an overview of the negotiations and analyses the chances and risks of the treaty. The author emphasises the necessity of an open debate about TTIP and blame the public resentment against the agreement on the lack of transparency around it.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER / BERTELSMANN STIFTUNG (BERTELSMANN FOUNDATION)

Support in principle for U.S.-EU trade pact. But some Americans and Germans wary of TTIP details

9 April 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

This report examines American and German attitudes towards trade at a time when the US and the EU are negotiating a free trade agreement, the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP). This report is based on telephone surveys conducted during February and March 2014 in the US and Germany.

EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ECONOMY

The Japan-EU negotiations on railway

by Patrick Messerlin

April 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

Despite advancements in the Japan-EU free trade negotiations, the talks remain difficult in the railway sector. The author argues that these difficulties flow largely from the radically different legal and economic basis of the Japanese railways. But these differences also offer more opportunities in the future for the Japanese and EU railway companies in a global world.

After the Bali agreement: lessons from the Doha round for the WTO's post-Bali agenda

by Fredrik Erixon

April 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

This paper surveys the problems that prevented the Doha Round to succeed and outlines ideas for a new post-Bali agenda for the WTO. Some of the problems relate to changes in the structure of the world economy, others to the absence of political leadership or 'mercantilist workhorses' to help push the Round to the finishing line. Furthermore, a decade and more of criticism against economic liberalism will challenge any attempt to create more markets and less government in cross-border commerce .

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

Menschenrechte und Nachhaltigkeit in Freihandelsabkommen. Das Wirtschaftspartnerschaftsabkommen Cariforum–EU als Modell?

by Evita Schmieg

April 2014

Link to the article in [German](#)

This paper discusses the effects of free trade agreements. These often lead to development and prosperity, but sometimes to unemployment, environmental problems and threats to food security. The author stresses the importance of prompt visible positive effects and of mechanisms in case of negative effects. These aspects, as well as sustainability, human rights, and monitoring instruments for economic effects, are considered in EU's economic partnership agreement with the Cariforum, which could therefore be a successful model for future agreements.

EUROPEAN INSTITUTE FOR ASIAN STUDIES

The EU-Mongolia economic partnership: the mining sector and beyond

by Kateryna Rolle

April 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

This paper outlines the state of Mongolia's economy, focusing particularly on trade, urban planning, the environment, the mining sector, foreign direct investment, education and employment. It discusses the cooperation already achieved between Mongolia and the EU in these areas, and finally, it assesses where cooperation with the EU could be further administered in the next few years through the EU-Mongolia Partnership Cooperation Agreement.

POLSKI INSTYTUT SPRAW MIĘDZYNARODOWYCH (THE POLISH INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS)

Rocky road to a level playing field in EU–China investment and trade relations

by Artur Gradziuk and Damian Wnukowski

April 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

The Lisbon Treaty provided the EU with the exclusive competence in the area of foreign direct investment. Until now there have been 25 separate bilateral investment treaties (BIT) between EU member states and China, each different from the other. The negotiation between EU and China for a new uniform, EU-wide BIT will be a test for the EU to clinch a complex agreement that could be the precursor for a free trade deal.

CHATHAM HOUSE

Community forestry in FLEGT Voluntary Partnership Agreements (VPAs)

by Jade Saunders

April 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

VPAs are negotiated under the auspices of the 2003 EU Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) Action Plan. They are incorporating domestic political processes that have won plaudits from civil society for their inclusiveness, and a series of commitments to forest sector accountability and transparency on the part of governments. Countries currently expressing interest in VPAs are those with much less substantial timber trade relationships with the EU. This paper therefore seeks to elucidate one option for VPAs that could be of use to such countries.

Europe's forest strategy in the next decade: options for the Voluntary Partnership Agreements

by Alison Hoare

April 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

The world's forest sector has changed significantly in the last 10 years, with growing competition for forest lands and increasing restrictions on public finances. This has implications for moving forward with the EU's FLEGT VPAs. Further effort is needed to integrate VPAs into other policy agendas, in particular that of climate change, and to coordinate with broader trade policy. The European Commission is about to undertake a review of the FLEGT Action Plan. An important element of the Action Plan has been the development of VPAs and these are the focus of this paper.

SECTION 5 - EXTERNAL RELATIONS

EU foreign policy

REAL INSTITUTO ELCANO (ELCANO ROYAL INSTITUTE)

Elcano global presence report 2014

by Iliana Olivé, Manuel Gracia and Carola García-Calvo

23 April 2014

Link to the article in [English](#) and in [Spanish](#)

The Elcano Global Presence Index measures the effective positioning of countries outside their own borders. It takes into account economic, military and soft dimensions. The top 10 slots in the 2013 ranking are held by the US, which has consistently emerged first, followed by six European countries in positions ranging from second to tenth, with China and Japan at fourth and seventh. The first year-on-year change appears at number 12, with Saudi Arabia climbing one position in the ranking.

EESTI VÄLISPOLIITIKA INSTITUUT (ESTONIAN FOREIGN POLICY INSTITUTE)

The Estonian foreign policy yearbook 2013

by Andres Kasekamp and Lauri Mälksoo (eds.)

29 April 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

This publication is based on the symposium on human rights and foreign policy that the Estonian Institute of Foreign Policy organized on 29 August 2013 in Tallinn. It discusses Estonia's role and goals in the UN Human Rights Council of which it is member between 2013 and 2015. One focus is set on Austria and Norway, which are considered as positive examples of Human Rights Council membership. The last part of the document highlights Estonia's geographical position between the EU Member States and the Russian Federation, as well as the chances and challenges this involves.

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

Die Assoziierung der europäischen Mikrostaaten. Integrationstest mit Modellcharakter

by Nicola Forster and Felix Mallin

April 2014

Link to the article in [German](#)

The author revisits the situation of Andorra, Monaco and San Marino, which are only partly integrated into the EU common market. This causes problems in financial market regulation and labour mobility. In December 2013, the European Council opted for an agreement with the three countries in order to solve them. The author argues that an agreement could serve as a model for EU's relations to other European non-EU states.

STIFTUNG GENSHAGEN (FOUNDATION GENSHAGEN) / MITTELMEER INSTITUT BERLIN
(MEDITERRANEAN INSTITUTE BERLIN)

Die Europäische Union und der Mittelmeerraum. Deutsche und französische Perspektiven seit den arabischen Umbrüchen

by Khadija Mohsen-Finan and Isabel Schäfer
April 2014

Link to the article in [German](#)

This paper analyses French and German interest and engagement in North Africa after the political ruptures of the so-called Arab Spring. The two countries face different problems due to divergent historical involvement in the region, which leads partly to competing interests. On the other side, there are also several common interests, namely in economic, energy and migration policy. The authors give policy recommendations to enhance the partnership with North Africa.

POLSKI INSTYTUT SPRAW MIĘDZYNARODOWYCH (THE POLISH INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS)

Learning from past experiences: ways to improve EU aid on reforms in the Eastern Partnership

by Elżbieta Kaca, Anita Sobják and Konrad Zasztowt
April 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

With financial and political crisis looming over Ukraine, the region of the Eastern Partnership is facing increasing uncertainty. The paper asks whether aid translates into real changes in the lives of ordinary people, or if reforms are merely a façade for corrupt and disengaged governments.

Enlargement

FONDATION ROBERT SCHUMAN

2004-2014: review of a decade of enlargements

by Gilles Lepasant
29 April 2014

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

After the enlargements of 2004, 2007 and 2013 the number of EU Member States has almost doubled and a convergence process has begun. The economies of Central Europe will have to move beyond a development model based on price-competitiveness, argues Lepasant. Cohesion policy is a precious tool but it is not a guarantee for successful modernisation in itself. The rise of populist movements also illustrates the political and social challenges which remain in spite of a successful democratic transition.

See in this review a Polish perspective on 10 years of EU membership: ['Golden straitjacket of Europeanization' - reflections on the 10-year presence of Poland in the EU.](#)

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

Die Ukraine-Krise und kritische Fragen an die EU-Erweiterungspolitik

by Barbara Lippert
April 2014

Link to the article in [German](#)

The author states that the Ukraine crisis raises questions about the EU enlargement policy. She agrees with several EU actors that a general commitment to take willing Eastern European states in would be too hastily and lead to tensions with Russia. However, given the 'integration competition' between the EU and Russia, Europe should make itself clear about which future geopolitical order of Eastern Europe it strives for.

Turkey

ISTITUTO AFFARI INTERNAZIONALI / STIFTUNG MERCATOR (FOUNDATION MERCATOR) / İSTANBUL POLITIKALAR MERKEZI (ISTANBUL POLICY CENTER)

Turkey's migration transition and its implications for the Euro-Turkish transnational space

by Ahmet İçduygu

April 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

Although generally overlooked, Turkey is rapidly developing from a net emigration setting to a net immigration setting. Based on the last hundred-years of emigration and immigration flows in Turkey, this essay analyses various stages of the evolution and sees the once asymmetric relationship between the EU and Turkey evolving towards relatively symmetrical relations, as reflected for example in the readmission agreement and the launching of the "visa liberalization dialogue".

Kosovo

GRUPI PËR STUDIME JURIDIKE DHE POLITIKE (GROUP FOR LEGAL AND POLITICAL STUDIES)

EULEX -Towards an integrated exit strategy: strengthening the rule of law through EU integration

by Bodo Weber and Lowell West

April 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

This report examines the challenges of establishing the rule of law in Kosovo as well as EULEX's performance in the past, its mandate and the decision-making process regarding the future mission's mandate. The authors gather insights from the experience of international judges and prosecutors in Bosnia-Herzegovina as a lesson to be learned regarding the future transition of EULEX. The report also lays out an alternative proposal for the future EULEX mission.

KËSHILLI I PRISHTINËS PËR MARRËDHËNIE ME JASHTË (PRISHTINA COUNCIL ON FOREIGN RELATIONS) / KONRAD-ADENAUER-STIFTUNG (FOUNDATION KONRAD-ADENAUER)

Brussels "First Agreement" a year after

by Engjellushe Morina

April 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

A year after the EU sponsored "First Agreement", the author looks into what happened in the intervening time on three vectors: the international community approach on the issue of north Kosovo, the progress of the (excessively ambitious?) implementation plan and a critical analysis of the First Agreement's future.

Russia

COUNCIL ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Global economics monthly: April 2014. The sanctions dilemma

by Robert Kahn and Steven A. Tananbaum

1 April 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

The sanctions put in place on Russia to date have been limited and largely symbolic, according to this CFR paper. The economic effects of the measures taken appear minimal. The authors argue that sanctioning Russia requires a tougher response and a willingness from the West to accept pain, too.

CENTRE FOR EUROPEAN REFORM

The EU and Russia: uncommon spaces

by Ian Bond

16 April 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

Russia is challenging the EU's values and interests, above all in Eastern Europe and the South Caucasus. Europe needs a new, long-term strategy to defend its values and interests, argues the CER. It proposes that the Union should use EU law and the WTO to make Russia play by the rules; and it should direct more of its funding to small and medium enterprises in Russia, and to civil society organisations.

CARNEGIE

Russia's new challenge to Europe

by Ulrich Speck

17 April 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

Russia's annexation of Crimea and its amassing of troops on the border with Ukraine have come as a geopolitical shock to Europe. These events are forcing the EU to reconsider long-held assumptions about its relations with Russia and about the character of the European order. According to Carnegie, Europeans must now answer the difficult question of how to deal with a Russia that is simply not interested in the kind of mutual engagement the EU has offered for the last twenty years.

EUROPEAN COUNCIL ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Reframing Germany's Russia policy - an opportunity for the EU

by Stefan Meister

24 April 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

This report states that EU states should push Germany to take a leading role and one which is less deferential to the Kremlin. As the crisis in Ukraine continues to deepen, Germany's policy towards Russia is deemed too idealistic. At the same time, the EU should help develop a new European security order that includes Russia and Eastern neighbourhood states without bowing to Moscow's desire to dominate its near abroad.

Ein neuer Kalter Krieg?

by Heinz Gärtner

28 April 2014

Link to the article in [German](#)

The author explores the current impact of the Ukrainian crisis in the aftermath of the Crimea annexation on the US and EU relations with Russia. He challenges the suggestion that a new policy towards Russia should be outlined according to the Cold War model. There has to be an offer that can save face for Ukraine, the West and Russia. The author points to the case study of Austria which could provide such a viable offer. Austria is a member of the EU but not a NATO member.

INSTITUT FRANÇAIS DES RELATIONS INTERNATIONALES

Russia: youth and politics

by Михаил Коростиков

April 2014

Link to the article in [English](#), in [French](#) and in [Russian](#)

Young people are the most politically active and impulsive part of any society. They were among the first to come out on the streets during the 2011-2013 worldwide protests in the Middle East, Thailand, Ukraine, Europe and the US, to express their disagreement with the existing political and economic order. In Russia, protests began immediately after parliamentary elections in December 2011 and the youth took a very active role in the movement. However, a study of the Kryshtanovskaya Laboratory in 2012-2013 shows that not all of young Russians are opposed to the government.

Ukraine

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

Am Rande der Ukraine-Krise? Die Krimtataren nach der Annexion ihrer Heimat durch Russland

by Uwe Halbach

April 2014

Link to the article in [German](#)

This article analyses the situation of the Tatars in Crimea after the peninsula joined Russia. Russian politics towards the ethnic minority is ambiguous. On the one hand, it aims at their rehabilitation, as one of the penalised ethnicities of the Soviet Union, on the other hand, it uses repressive instruments. The author examines the attitude of the Tatars towards Russia and estimates the risk of ethno-political conflicts in Crimea.

Die Ukraine-Krise. Die Dimension der paneuropäischen Sicherheitskooperation

by Wolfgang Richter

April 2014

Link to the article in [German](#)

The author argues that the Ukraine crisis cannot be explained merely by Russian neosoviet revisionism, as Russia is in defence against a "western expansion strategy", which threatens Russian security interests. The step backwards into a bipolar confrontation in Europe could be prevented by a rejuvenation of the pan-European security cooperation instruments established in the 1990s.

RYTU EUROPOS STUDIJŲ CENTRAS (EASTERN EUROPE STUDIES CENTRE)

What will determine Ukraine's future scenarios?

by Marius Laurinavičius

29 April 2014

Link to the article in [English](#) and in [Lithuanian](#)

The author gives an outlook on the future of Ukraine by pointing out its most important determinants, namely Russia's projected model of Ukraine, Russia's possible role as a veto player in questions of EU and NATO expansion into Eastern Europe, the Ukrainian domestic structure of politics and economics, as well as Ukraine's economic dependence on Russia. The analysis of these factors leads to different scenarios.

ÓŚRODEK STUDIÓW WSCHODNICH (CENTRE FOR EASTERN STUDIES)

Ukraine: sovereign decentralisation or federalism without sovereignty?

by Tadeusz A. Olszański

18 April 2014

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

A key element of Russia's policy towards Ukraine concerns demands for a constitutional reform that would transform the country from a unitary into a federal state. According to the authors, the intention behind Russia's demands is to undermine Ukraine's sovereignty. However, keeping in place the current, centralist model of state governance is not a feasible alternative.

CENTRE FOR EUROPEAN POLICY STUDIES

Ukraine and security disorder in Europe – A defining moment for the OSCE?

by Erwan Fouéré

24 April 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

The OSCE is the first and currently the only international body to have a monitoring mission deployed in Ukraine. Today, the EU needs to show greater responsibility and far-sightedness in its dealings with the OSCE. In the run-up to the 40th anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act, and faced with its most serious security crisis since the fall of the Berlin Wall, the EU should take the lead once again in fostering collective responsibility on the part of all Participating States to ensure a meaningful and effective role for the OSCE.

Restarting Ukraine's economy

by Daniel Gros

8 April 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

Regardless of whether Ukraine is 'lost', or who lost it, the author argues that the country can still offer an attractive future for all of its citizens if unavoidable economic reforms can be made compatible with regional cohesion. He urges the EU to play an essential role in the process by opening its market and providing funding and technical assistance in crucial areas.

EUROPEAN POLICY CENTRE

Ukraine and the EU: turning the Association Agreement into a success story

by Kataryna Wolczuk

23 April 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

According to the author, more attention needs to be paid to the role and impact of the Association Agreement on Ukraine. Implementing the Agreement in a cost-effective way will allow Ukraine to derive benefits in the short-to-medium term, at the very time when Russia is sparing no efforts to inflict harm on the Ukrainian economy to punish the country for its European orientation.

BARCELONA CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Implications of the Ukraine crisis for the Middle East

by Eduard Soler i Lecha and Eckart Woertz

April 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

The Ukraine crisis could have an impact on oil and gas prices, the Middle East's most important export goods, and Turkey could sharpen its profile as a gas-trading hub. The crisis can also have political effects in the Middle East. Tension in Ukraine is diverting global attention away from Syria and a more assertive Russia is likely to strengthen the positions of hardliners in Tehran and Damascus. Above all, the crisis raises concerns about Western security guarantees in a region that is characterized by turmoil, shifting alliances and a bid for regional hegemony with sectarian undertones by Saudi Arabia and Iran.

WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM

Scenarios for Ukraine: reforming institutions, strengthening the economy after the crisis

April 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

Amidst the severe geopolitical tensions that followed the political changes in Ukraine, this report maps the different policy paths available to the country's new leadership, beyond short-term interests and political positions.

Belarus

ISTITUTO PER GLI STUDI DI POLITICA INTERNAZIONALE

Belarus and EaP: in the light of Ukrainian crisis

by Andrei Yahorau

April 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

According to this ISPI paper, the recent events in Ukraine reveal the weaknesses of the EU's Eastern neighbourhood policy. Belarus remains a problematic partner for the EU and rejects the European way of transformation. EU policy towards Belarus needs new approaches and more effective instruments. The establishment of Russia's political control over Ukraine threatens overall stability in the EaP region, and for Belarus this will mean challenges to its state sovereignty.

RYTU EUROPOS STUDIJŲ CENTRAS (EASTERN EUROPE STUDIES CENTRE)

Can Maidan happen in Belarus?

by Dzianis Melyantsou and Andrei Yeliseyeu

28 April 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

The authors estimate the likelihood of a Belarusian Maidan scenario by, firstly, examining the Belarusian leadership's perspective on the Ukrainian events, secondly, comparing protest activity in the two countries and, thirdly, analysing Belarusian public attitudes towards the events in Kiev. The paper comes to the conclusion that a Belarusian Maidan is very unlikely.

Georgia

OŚRODEK STUDIÓW WSCHODNICH (CENTRE FOR EASTERN STUDIES)

Georgia - between a dream and reality

by Marek Matusiak

16 April 2014

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

Georgia has been relatively successful in negotiating a difficult transition period. At present, Georgia's main challenge is its relations with Russia and the West. Without strong and tangible support from the West the country could become powerless against the inevitable Russian pressure, leading to the destabilisation of the country and the undoing of the progress made over the past two decades.

Armenia

EUROPEAN COUNCIL ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Armenia's strategic U-turn

by Richard Giragosian

22 April 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

Armenia's surprise decision to abandon a planned Association Agreement with the EU in favour of joining the Russian-led Customs Union derailed its Western orientation and deepened its position within the Russian orbit. Yet even as it pushes ahead with its stated goal of joining the Customs Union, good relations with Europe remain important. The author argues that the EU needs to recognise Armenia's limitations as a partner and come up with new ways to engage the country.

China

ULKOPOLIITTINEN INSTITUUTTI (FINNISH INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS)

Chinese dream, others' nightmare? Despite superficial similarities, China is not destined to follow Russia's path to rogue-dom

by Jyrki Kallio

23 April 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

Although China's statements about the Ukrainian crisis have been weighed very carefully, there are concerns that China could turn to a more expansionist approach of foreign policy as a consequence of the crisis. The author states that the Chinese Dream is all about national rejuvenation, but the Dream need not turn into a nightmare for other powers. The increase in China's military budget does not indicate growing ambitions of a global power projection. China's primary concern remains stability.

FRIENDS OF EUROPE / EUROPE CHINA FORUM / MISSION OF CHINA TO THE EUROPEAN UNION

EU-China: the next ten years

by Shada Islam and Patricia Diaz (eds.)

1 April 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

This publication provides information on the state of China-EU ties today and prospects for their future expansion. The volume brings together key messages and policy recommendations made by experts, policymakers and business leaders at the recent Europe-China Forum and Policy and Practice Roundtable.

Japan

BRUEGEL

Japan and the EU in the global economy

by Zsolt Darvas, Joachim Fels, Takuji Kinkyo, Tomomi Miyazaki, Kiyohiko G. Nishimura, Michael G. Plummer, André Sapir, Wataru Takahashi, Guntram B. Wolff and Masahiko Yoshii

9 April 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

Japan and the EU are both open economies with significant trade and financial links. Both economies are affected by the rise of emerging market economies, which represent a huge opportunity but also imply the need to continuously adapt the production structure to the new competition. Both economies also face comparable internal economic adjustments. This report sets out to address these issues, and to identify some of the channels through which Europe can learn from Japan, and viceversa.

See also our [blog post](#) on the occasion of the EU-Japan summit.

Zimbabwe

CHATHAM HOUSE

Zimbabwe's international re-engagement: the long haul to recovery

by Knox Chitiyo and Steve Kibble

April 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

This report assesses the principal economic and political challenges and opportunities facing Zimbabwe, and offers recommendations to help normalize the country's relations with the West. Given the results of the 2013 election, the lifting of most EU sanctions and the continued economic challenges facing the country, this report argues in favour of accelerating Western re-engagement with Zimbabwe now, rather than after presidential change.

SPECIAL FOCUS - UK RELATIONSHIP TO THE EU

INSTITUTE OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

A Blueprint for Britain: openness not isolation

by Iain Mansfield

April 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

Exiting from the EU should be used as an opportunity to embrace openness, according to the author. The UK should pursue free trade agreements with major trading nations and deepen its engagement with international organizations. In Europe, a priority must be to secure open trade relations, though remaining outside the EEA. Bilateral strategic relationships with allies as well as emerging powers in Asia and Latin America, should be cultivated.

This essay is the winner of IEA Brexit Prize. Read all the [Brexit Prize - Final shortlisted entries](#). Read our related blog post: [Institute for Economic Affairs' Brexit prize - our quick reading of the winning entry](#).

ADAM SMITH INSTITUTE

After no: a practical blueprint for the UK outside the EU

by Miles Saltiel

22 April 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

This essay explains how the UK would go about leaving the EU if the public voted against continued membership in a referendum. The central proposal is that of the Global Initiative for Free Trade which would meet the UK's economic objectives and as argued by the author would animate domestic energies; the UK should appeal to third countries and the international community and, according to the author, could survive a failure of Article 50 negotiations.

CENTRE FOR EUROPEAN REFORM

The green benefits of Britain's EU membership

by Stephen Tindale

30 April 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

Tindale maintains that European rules have delivered cleaner air and water in Britain, and protected wildlife. Outside the EU, Britain would again be 'the dirty man of Europe'. Britain has not merely been a recipient of regulation: the UK has made EU policy on chemicals stronger, and EU climate diplomacy better. European environmental policy clearly needs reform. London should focus on achieving this reform, rather than demanding repatriation or threatening to quit the club.

EUROPEAN POLICY INSTITUTES NETWORK

Cameron's reality check on Europe

by Michael Emerson

15 April 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

On 15 March 2014, the UK Prime Minister offered a reply on the subject of future EU-UK relations in an article in the Daily Telegraph. This paper extracts the main ideas from that article. The author comments that the PM gave the impression that he is not now heading towards an impossibly difficult list of demands for renegotiation. On the contrary, an informed and moderate realism seems to be in the making.

CENTRE FOR EUROPEAN POLICY STUDIES

Proportionality needed in the subsidiarity debate in the EU – Appraisal of the British and Dutch initiatives

by Michael Emerson

8 April 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

The author assesses the initiatives taken by the UK and Dutch governments to cut EU regulatory intrusion. He concludes that while one can approve of a campaign for better EU regulation, it would require impressive commitment by all member states and the EU institutions to follow the British and Dutch proposals.

REGARDS CROISÉS

OŚRODEK STUDIÓW WSCHODNICH (CENTRE FOR EASTERN STUDIES)

In a state of necessity. How has Orbán changed Hungary

by Andrzej Sadecki

1 April 2014

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

Sadecki traces the context of Viktor Orbán's sweeping victory in the 2010 election, which ensured his party, Fidesz, a constitutional two-thirds majority. The party took over the rule of the country from the political left when Hungary was plunged in political and economic crisis. The Orbán government has been unable to overcome economic stagnation but it has managed to stabilise Hungary's budget situation, which needs to deal with the high debt. Hungary's relations with most partners in the EU and NATO have cooled due to controversial moves made by its government. As regards foreign policy and economic co-operation, Orbán has granted high priority to the 'Eastern opening', where Russia has assumed the leading role.

The German reaction to the Russian-Ukrainian conflict – shock and disbelief

by Anna Kwiatkowska-Drożdż and Konrad Popławski

3 April 2014

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

The crisis in Ukraine and the Russian intervention have brought about a situation in which it is necessary for Germany to make decisions and take action. In the long term, Russia's stance in the conflict with Ukraine will reinforce the viewpoint shared by some in the German government that the Kremlin's ruling elite has a destructive power and is irrational.

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

Fidesz-Sieg trotz Stimmenverlust. Die ungarischen Parlamentswahlen 2014

by Dániel Hegedüs

29 April 2014

Link to the article in [German](#)

Again, the right-conservative alliance between Fidesz and Christian Democrats won the parliamentary election in Hungary. The paper discusses the German media coverage in contrast to the Hungarians' perceptions of the election. Moreover, the author states that, in the face of the results, nobody has a reason to celebrate, apart from the right-extremist Jobbik.

FRIEDRICH-EBERT-STIFTUNG (FOUNDATION FRIEDRICH-EBERT)

Parlamentswahlen in Ungarn: Viktor Orbán, ein verdienter Sieger?

by Jan Niklas Engels

April 2014

Link to the article in [German](#)

This paper discusses the Hungarian general parliament election. Inequalities in campaigning budgets, lack of media pluralism and a new electoral system raise doubt that this was a fair election, according to the Ebert Stiftung. During the last legislative term, the government changed the country profoundly, which led to a societal split. While the left opposition is too fragmented to mobilise the discontent, Jobbik is the main beneficiary of the government's policy. The author gives a prediction of the future development in Hungary and recommendations for the EU how to react.

Les relations germano-algériennes. Une relance par la coopération énergétique ?

by Christoph Partsch

April 2014

Link to the article in [French](#) and in [German](#)

Bilateral relations between Germany and Algeria are officially qualified by both sides as good and friendly. However, both states have underutilized the opportunities for cooperation that exist on the energy market. Although Algeria is currently one of the most stable countries in North Africa, it will nevertheless experience turbulence in the next 15 years, according to the author. This perspective should make all of Europe, including Germany, react and get them to engage more with the largest country in Africa, and the richest.