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**THINK TANK REVIEW**

**October 2014**

**Issue 17**

Dear Readers,

Welcome to issue 17 of the Think Tank Review compiled by the EU Council Library\*. It references papers published in September. As usual, we provide the link to the full text and a short abstract.

In September, appointments to top-ranking offices in the EU institutions continued to trigger reflections on the policy priorities for the next term and on the broad orientation of the European project, with several variations on the theme 'federation' and 'States', and with attempts by think tanks to gauge the relative weight of institutions, or of political forces within them, in the post-2014 election scenario. See the 'Special focus' section of this Review, including an EPC paper with a contribution by the President of the European Council.

And as the October European Council approached, issues of economic and financial governance featured high on the agenda of EU think tanks, with publications on the notion of flexibility in fiscal rules, banking resolution, or the threat of deflation. Other papers touched on the relationship between labour policies and a single currency.

We see think tanks networking across national boundaries, as in the collective 'open letter' by DEMOS Europa and the Central European Policy Institute, spelling out the region's priorities for the EU agenda in the next five years. We sometimes see them embarking in large 'n=28' projects, as in the Bertelsmann paper offering an index on social justice in all Member States. We also see think tanks experimenting with models of participation, as in the Notre Europe initiative called "Horizon EU", which brought citizens from 18 Member States to Brussels to discuss their vision of and their means of access to the EU.

Another topical issue in September were the various separatist pressures, from the Scottish independence referendum to the Catalan call for one. Although some of their content may appear obsolete after the Scottish No vote, we include various papers published on the eve of the Scottish referendum, to document the considerable amount of reflection that was devoted to its implications in the UK and elsewhere.

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The list of topics in the section on EU policies may seem incoherent in its diversity. There, readers will find material on energy (just as the EU leaders are forging an [agreement](#) on targets to tackle climate change), migration, industrial policy, food safety, gender equality, unemployment insurance and more. An equally rich variety of third countries is covered in the section on external relations (note for example the Finnish perspective on the Eurasia Union). Conversely, this month our *regards croisés* section sticks to one of the *incontournables* of European integration, with the usual Franco-German mutual interest (on energy policy this time), plus a glance from Germany to Spanish politics.

The current Review and past issues can be downloaded from our [Central Library blog](#). As always, feedback is welcome at [central.library@consilium.europa.eu](mailto:central.library@consilium.europa.eu).

The next Review will be out in November 2014, with papers published in October.

For readers from outside the General Secretariat, the Central Library is in the Justus Lipsius building, at JL 02 GH, Rue de la Loi 175, 1048 Brussels. It is open to Council officials, staff of other EU institutions and Permanent Representations of Member States. Members of the public may use the library for research purposes.
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## SECTION 1 - EU POLITICS AND INSTITUTIONS

### *EU institutions / European Union*

VOTEWATCH EUROPE

#### **Who holds the power in the EP committees and the bureau?**

September 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

This paper looks at the allocation of committee chairmanships and EP bureau posts from the 2004 EU enlargement until today. It shows that, as in the previous 10 years, the biggest and older Member States still hold the majority of the EP committees' chairs positions. However, this representation gap between big/small and old/new Member States has substantially declined after the 2014 European elections, as a result of a combination of factors including the rise of anti-EU parties in 'old' EU. As regards political groups' representation, the elections have not generated significant changes in the chairmanship of the committees. Moreover, it looks like each of the main political group has particular preferences as to what committees to chair. These preferences are consistent over time.

LEUVEN CENTRE FOR GLOBAL GOVERNANCE STUDIES

#### **CoR's future role and institutional positioning**

by Wim Van Aken, Tim Corthaut, Pierre Schmitt and Axel Marx

September 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

The aim of this report is to address the CoR's future role and institutional positioning within the European political architecture. It draws up five future-based scenarios with predictions about the evolution of the CoR's institutional and political role, its associated powers and relations with other EU institutions and stakeholders. For each scenario, the report analyses the consequences for the overall EU institutional setup, the evolution of parliamentarism, the supranational decision-making process and the CoR mandate. The report invites debate on the policy options for the CoR and its membership given the challenges ahead at the horizon of 2025.

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

#### **Comitology and regulatory burdens: a blind spot?**

by Arnout Mijs [@ArnoutMijs](#)

August 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

The reduction of regulatory burdens is one of the new spearheads on the European Commission's agenda ([High Level Group on Administrative Burdens](#)). In the depths of EU decision-making, comitology is allegedly still one of the remaining sources of high and unnecessary regulatory costs. This policy brief examines these indictments and comes to the conclusion that comitology is something which should be taken seriously. Possible improvements to the EU quality control mechanism might include an improved impact assessments system that includes substantive compliance costs as well as an ex post or interim control mechanism. Furthermore, cost reduction cannot be obtained by the Commission alone, and Member States are indispensable to tackle the myth about regulatory burdens stemming from comitology.

TÆNKETANKEN EUROPA

### **Danskerne kender ikke deres "spidskandidater"**

by Maja Kluger Rasmussen

23 September 2014

Link to the article in [Danish](#)

The introduction of the leading candidates for the post of Commission President was a new phenomenon in the elections to the European Parliament in May 2014. The hope was that the best candidates must be able to make the choice more closely and personally, thereby increasing turnout. Very few Danes, however, were aware that their voice in the EP election could also indirectly affect the choice of a new President. This memorandum compares Danish knowledge about top candidates to the level of knowledge in other EU countries.

NOTRE EUROPE - JACQUES DELORS INSTITUTE

### **Reforming Europe's governance for a more legitimate and effective federation of Nation States**

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

15 September 2014

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

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

According to the authors, reforming "Europe's governance" supposes to better legitimate the exercise of the EU and the EMU 's powers, to clarify the actions of and interactions between the European institutions, as well as to modify their internal functioning. This report formulates analyses and recommendations both on the EU in the broader sense, and its "institutional triangle", as well as on the EMU. These analyses and recommendations take into account the major progress associated with the entry into force of the Treaty of Lisbon, which has improved the EU's functioning, without necessarily including all of the potential institutional and political reforms.

REAL INSTITUTO ELCANO (ELCANO ROYAL INSTITUTE)

### **A tale of two cities: the next European Utopia**

by José M. de Areilza

4 September 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

This short essay borrows its title from the novel by Charles Dickens in order to describe two European 'cities' that are very different from each other. Through them it aims to present a narrative that can be useful for understanding European integration as a whole, presenting a critique and re-launching it in our time. Each of the two cities represents an approach to the future of European integration, as bearers of a Utopian component, an ideal that gives meaning to 'Europeanism' at very different historical moments.

LUISS SCHOOL OF EUROPEAN POLITICAL ECONOMY

### **European Union: the limits of collective action and collective leadership**

by Giandomenico Majone

9 September 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

While a number of political leaders, as well as some scholars and opinion makers, argue that the current crisis of EU-style integration can only be overcome by having "more Europe", this paper argues that there are intrinsic limits to the method that integration followed since the founding treaties. The paper concludes that it is no longer possible to think of European integration as a collective good; rather it has become a "club good", i.e., a public good from whose benefits countries may be (or may wish to be) excluded.

### Central Europe for the new EU

by Danuta Hübner [@danutahuebner](#), Milan Ježovica, Edward Lucas [@edwardlucas](#), Rainer Münz, Milan Nič, Jiří Schneider, Réka Szemerényi and Paweł Świeboda [@pswieboda](#)

30 September 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

This letter spells out Central Europe's policy priorities for the EU agenda in the next five years. It suggests that Central Europe should aim at consolidation, reinvention and protection. By 'consolidation' is about building an infrastructure for growth by deepening regional integration and connectivity, 'reinvention' describes the need to revamp the region's economic model and enhance its innovative potential, while 'protection' has to do with filling the gaps in the region's defences and projecting stability in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe.

### **Banking Union**

LUISS SCHOOL OF EUROPEAN POLITICAL ECONOMY

### Will Merkel call for Eurobonds?

by Carlo Bastasin [@CarloBastasin](#)

25 September 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

The idea of mutual issuance is very controversial and politically sensitive. The very word Eurobonds has become epitome of strong divergence of interests among the 18 eurozone member states. However the issuance of securities representing multinational debt might emerge as the only solution at hand to bring domestic interest rates at a level consistent with an efficient rate of savings and investments.

PETERSON INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL ECONOMICS

### Banking Union in nine questions

by Nicolas Véron [@nicolas\\_veron](#)

30 September 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

This aim of this statement is to help form a collectively shared assessment of the EU's banking union project, its implementation so far, its possible future impact, and further policy initiatives that may be considered to complete or complement it. To facilitate reading, it is structured in a question-and-answer format, with three questions each on the banking union's past, present, and future. Given the statement's focus, the topical issues of EU bank structure reform and capital markets union are covered only superficially and primarily in their relationship with banking union under question 9. The other issue of microcredit is not covered.

SAFE - SUSTAINABLE ARCHITECTURE FOR FINANCE IN EUROPE

### Effective resolution of banks: problems and solutions

by Günter Franke, Jan Pieter Krahnén and Thomas von Lüpke

8 September 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

This essay reviews a cornerstone of the European Banking Union project, the resolution of systemically important banks. The focus is on the inherent conflict between a possible intervention by resolution authorities, conditional on a crisis situation, and effective prevention prior to a crisis. Moreover, the paper discusses the rules for bail-in debt and conversion rules for different layers of debt. Finally, some organizational requirements to achieve effective resolution results will be analysed.

## SECTION 2 - THE EUROPEAN ECONOMY

### *Euro, economic governance and growth*

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

#### **Is there a threat of self-reinforcing deflation in the euro area? A view through the lens of the Phillips curve**

by Volker Wieland and Maik Wolters

September 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

The recent decline in euro area inflation has triggered new calls for additional monetary stimulus by the ECB in order to counter the threat of a self-reinforcing deflation and recession spiral. This note reviews the available evidence on inflation expectations, output gaps and other factors driving current inflation through the lens of the Phillips curve. It also draws a comparison to the Japanese experience with deflation in the late 1990s and the evidence from Japan concerning the output-inflation nexus at low trend inflation. The note concludes from this evidence that the risk of a self-reinforcing deflation remains very small.

LISBON COUNCIL FOR ECONOMIC COMPETITIVENESS AND SOCIAL RENEWAL

#### **Interpreting the stability and growth pact: making best use of the existing flexibility within the rules**

by Alessandro Leipold [@ALEipold](#)

10 September 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

In this briefing, the author explores the limits and best application of flexibility within the existing stability and growth pact. On the basis of a comprehensive analysis of the economic situation in Europe today, he proposes a three-point plan for developing pro-growth policies within the existing rules – and ensuring that the pact continues to play its important role in encouraging fiscal discipline and underpinning market confidence in the euro project.

LUISS SCHOOL OF EUROPEAN POLITICAL ECONOMY

#### **Germans' fear of paying the debts of other Europeans**

by Carlo Bastasin [@CarloBastasin](#)

19 September 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

A poll conducted by a German insurance company revealed that for two out of three Germans, the worst fear in life is having to pay the debts of other Europeans; worse than war, sickness, natural disasters or inflation. The results of the survey could appear to be the fruit of a special paranoia, but they reflect a phenomenon of political relevance that impacts on the possible solutions for the crisis plaguing the euro area. In the "last resort creditor" country, the euro crisis blew fears out of proportion, embedding them into the public language on which media and politics build their consensus and identity. In such a closed arena, when the ECB intervenes to buffer the crisis, it cannot dispel German fears, and instead reinforces group dynamics and conspiracy theories.

**Targeted longer-term refinancing operations (TLTROs): will they revitalise credit in the euro area?**

by Daniel Gros, Cinzia Alcidi and Alessandro Giovannini  
18 September 2014  
Link to the article in [English](#)

In recent months, the ECB has taken several steps to revitalise credit. In June, it decided to offer banks targeted longer-term refinancing operations, and in September, it announced its intention to buy large amounts of asset-backed securities, also with the aim of improving the financing conditions for investment, especially for small and medium enterprises. However, this focus on bank balance sheets as an inhibitor of lending might be misplaced. Surveys indicate that lending is falling at present because demand for credit is very weak, while the supply constraints from the side of the banks are disappearing. This is definitely the case for the core countries and increasingly so for those in the periphery (whose share in lending is still higher than at the start of EMU).

**Labour market reforms and current account imbalances: beggar-thy-neighbour policies in a currency union?**

by Timo Baas and Ansgar Belke  
8 September 2014  
Link to the article in [English](#)

Member countries of the EMU initiated wide-ranging labour market reforms in the last decade. This process is ongoing, as countries that are faced with serious labour market imbalances perceive reforms as the fastest way to restore competitiveness within a currency union. This fosters fears among observers about a beggar-thy-neighbour policy that leaves non-reforming countries with a loss in competitiveness and an increase in foreign debt. Using a two-country, two-sector search and matching DSGE model, this paper analyses the impact of labour market reforms on the transmission of macroeconomic shocks in both non-reforming and reforming countries. By analysing the impact of reforms on foreign debt, the authors contribute to the debate on whether labour market reforms increase or reduce current account imbalances.

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

**The effects of unconventional monetary policy: what do central banks not include in their models?**

by Andrzej Rzonca and Piotr Cizkowicz  
23 September 2014  
Link to the article in [English/Polish](#)

In a response to the outbreak of the global crisis, the main central banks, namely the Fed and the ECB, resolved to take some unconventional actions: (i) reducing interest rates to close to zero, (ii) committing to keep interest rates that low for a long time, (iii) introducing quantitative easing on a large scale. In this paper, the authors attempt to answer what were the costs of the unconventional monetary policy adopted by Fed and EBC, as well as what effects it had on restructuring process, uncertainty, the use of credit, and the use of credit.

TERRA NOVA

**La politique monétaire de la Banque centrale européenne dans tous ses états**

by Michel Aglietta  
23 September 2014  
Link to the article in [French](#)

The ECB faces a situation without parallel in the world and in history: it is the federal institution of a Europe that is not, it defends the monetary interests of the Union in a context characterized by the lack of coordination of the economic policies of Member States. But the risk of the current situation is to plunge the continent into a secular stagnation. The author presents the lineaments of a new body of doctrine for the central banker, having shown what monetarism was unable to guide monetary policy.

MAX-PLANCK-INSTITUT FÜR GESELLSCHAFTSFORSCHUNG (MAX PLANCK INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF SOCIETIES)

### **One currency and many modes of wage formation: why the eurozone is too heterogeneous for the euro**

by Martin Höpner and Mark Lutter

August 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

Synchronisation of national price inflation is the crucial precondition for a well-functioning fixed exchange rate regime. Given the close relationship between wage inflation and price inflation, convergence of price inflation requires the synchronization of wage inflation. Why did the convergence of wage inflation fail during the first ten years of the euro? While differences in economic growth shape the inflation of labour costs, the authors argue that the type of wage regime has an additional, independent impact. In coordinated labour market regimes, increases in nominal unit labour costs tended to fall below the ECB's inflation target, while in uncoordinated labour regimes, the respective increases tended to exceed the European inflation target. To show this, the authors analyse data from 1999–2008 for twelve eurozone members.

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

### **The low interest rate environment : causes, effects and a way out**

by Jürgen Matthes

16 September 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

The very expansive and unconventional monetary policy of the ECB reduced the tensions of the Euro debt crisis at the price of persistently very low interest rates. While the ECB was right to act at the peak of the crisis, the risks of the low-interest rate environment become increasingly obvious. Therefore, it is a positive sign that the economic conditions for an interest rate turnaround have improved significantly since 2012 and are expected to improve further. Economic activity is clearly on an upward trend which is expected to continue despite current uncertainties. Significant structural reforms have been implemented in most stressed Euro countries which will most likely increase growth potentials soon. As an exit from the long low interest rate period poses significant challenges to financial markets, the ECB should raise interest rates initially only in very small monthly steps to allow financial actors to better adapt to the changing interest rate environment.

BRUEGEL

### **The G20 financial reform agenda**

by Nicolas Véron [@nicolas\\_veron](#)

26 September 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

Five years ago, the declarations of the G20 listed specific commitments on financial regulatory reform. When measured against these declarations, most commitments have been met to a substantial degree. However, the effectiveness of these reforms in making global finance more stable is not so far proven. This uncertainty on impact mirrors the absence of an analytical consensus on the 2007-08 financial crisis itself. In addition, unintended consequences of the reforms are appearing gradually, even as their initial implementation is still unfinished. At a broader level, the G20 has established neither an adequate institutional infrastructure nor a consistent policy vision for a globally integrated financial system. This shortcoming justifies increasing concerns about economically harmful market fragmentation. One key aim should be to make international regulatory bodies more representative of the rapidly-changing geography of global finance, not only in terms of their membership but also of their leadership and location. The next [G20 Leaders' Summit](#) in 2014 will be held on 15 and 16 November in Brisbane, Australia.

### **So far apart and yet so close: should the ECB care about inflation differentials?**

by Zsolt Darvas and Guntram B. Wolff [@GuntramWolff](#)

22 September 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

Inflation rates can differ across regions of monetary unions. In normal times, the ECB cannot influence such developments with its single interest rate instrument. However, unconventional policy measures can have different effects on different countries depending on the chosen instrument, and should be used to reduce fragmentation and ensure the proper transmission of monetary policy. This policy contribution discusses ECB's conduct of monetary policy and macro prudential policies.

FRIEDRICH-EBERT-STIFTUNG (FRIEDRICH EBERT FOUNDATION)

### **Konvergenz in der Krise: Europas gefährdete Integration**

by Michael Dauderstädt

September 2014

Link to the article in [German](#)

Convergence regarding economic growth, income and socio-economic conditions requires faster growth by the formerly weaker states. Economic integration is no guarantee for convergence as it both facilitates capital and labour mobility and concentration processes. Poorer countries can succeed but they may also fail at catching up depending mostly on structural factors. The EU can support real convergence and growth in productivity only to a certain extent. Still, in order to mitigate divergence, the EU should ease the repercussions of monetary shocks and leave Member States to manoeuvre relatively freely in the economic policy realm.

CHATHAM HOUSE

### **Building growth in Europe: innovative financing for infrastructure**

by Paola Subacchi, Stephen Pickford, Davide Tentori and Helena Huang

September 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

Europe needs economic growth. To unlock the potential for long term growth and job creation, this report suggests that there needs to be more and better investment in infrastructure. The return on well-selected and well-managed infrastructure projects is certainly higher than the current low return on risk-free financial instruments in an environment of abundant liquidity and under-utilized resources. If economic actors, both public and private, can be encouraged to take advantage of current conditions to increase investment in infrastructure, this can create a virtuous circle and kick-start growth.

ROBERT SCHUMAN CENTRE FOR ADVANCED STUDIES - EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY INSTITUTE

### **Corporate governance of public utilities**

by Matthias Finger, Sara De Masi, Nadia Bert and David Kupfer

29 September 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

Corporate governance provides the structure through which the objectives of the company are set, and the means of attaining those objectives and monitoring performance are determined. In public utilities, corporate governance assumes a much more complex and relevant role than in other companies: market regulation, public-private ownership, political connections and multiple agency relationships may change the company's objectives and relationships, arising critical and interesting questions. This paper looks at different aspects of corporate governance of public utilities.

## SAFE - SUSTAINABLE ARCHITECTURE FOR FINANCE IN EUROPE

### **Neuordnung der Finanzmärkte in Europa durch MiFID II/MiFIR**

by Peter Gomber and Frank Nassauer

11 September 2014

Link to the article in [German](#)

There will be severe consequences for financial markets in Europe as a result of the adaptation of EU Markets in Financial Instruments Directive, which will lead to a new ordering of structures in financial markets. This article looks at the aims and measures taken in the new directive in light of the original directive from 2004. Indeed, both the introduction of a new "Handelsplatzkategorie", the Organised Trading Facility and the expansion of transparency guidelines from stocks to other financial instruments will constitute crucial elements in terms of market structures and equity trading. There are several other elements of the directive that are scrutinized in the article. Overall, the paper outlines the regulation process, especially so-called level II - measures, and discusses possible repercussions of MiFID II and MiFIR on market structures and equity trading.

### **Social Europe**

## BERTELSMANN STIFTUNG

### **Social justice in the EU : a cross-national comparison**

by Daniel Schraad-Tischler and Christian Kroll

September 2014

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

Europe is making some progress in terms of economic stabilisation, but the level of social justice has declined in recent years in most EU states. The social imbalance between the affluent northern European states and the many southern and south-eastern European countries has considerably intensified over the course of the crisis. Whilst there still is a high level of social inclusion in Sweden, Finland, Denmark and the Netherlands, social injustice in countries such as Greece, Spain, Italy or Hungary has increased. This is the result of this new index comparing the justice of all 28 EU states.

## SECTION 3 - EU MEMBER STATES

### *Denmark*

MIGRATION POLICY INSTITUTE

#### **Decentralising immigrant integration: Denmark's mainstreaming initiatives in employment, education, and social affairs**

by Martin Bak Jørgensen

September 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

This report examines the development of immigrant integration policies in Denmark over the past 15 years, specifically focusing on the centralization of Danish integration policies and exploring differences between policy frameworks at national and local levels, where certain areas have developed less restrictive and more accommodating policy responses to immigrant integration.

### *France*

TERRA NOVA

#### **La nouvelle question territoriale**

by Laurent Davezies and Thierry Pech

3 September 2014

Link to the article in [French](#)

The authors present the elements of a new territorial issue. In a context where inequalities of GDP and income are sharpened, the residential economy and the productive economy are not opposed: on the contrary, they fit together, one to another. How to define a new balance between cohesion and territories greater autonomy for those who are the main drivers of growth? These reflections contribute to the ongoing discussions on territorial reform.

### *Germany*

BERTELSMANN STIFTUNG

#### **Vielfältige Demokratie. Kernergebnisse der Studie "Partizipation im Wandel – Unsere Demokratie zwischen Wählen, Mitmachen und Entscheiden"**

by Ulrich Eith, Rolf Frankenberger, Brigitte Geißel, Oscar W. Gabriel, Norbert Kersting and Roland Roth

5 September 2014

Link to the article in [German](#)

This newly released study on public participation in Germany demonstrates that there is increasing citizen demand for various types of participatory processes and confirms a number of ways public participation yields positive impact. An additional study focused on German cities can be found [here](#). Under the program "Future of democracy", the Bertelsmann foundation also publishes Policy briefs, of which the two latest can be found here [EINWURF 1/2014](#) and [EINWURF 2/2014](#).

HANNS-SEIDEL-STIFTUNG (HANNS SEIDEL FOUNDATION)

**Argumentation kompakt vom 25. September 2014: Wie soll die deutsche Außen- und Sicherheitspolitik der Zukunft aussehen? Zivile Konfliktprävention als Leitlinie der strategischen Neuausrichtung**

by Christine Hegenbart [@CHegenbart](#) and Alexander Wolf [@dr\\_alexwolf](#)  
25 September 2014

Link to the article in [German](#)

Recently, several German politicians have argued for greater German global engagement. Indeed, this summer the urgency of debating the legitimate instruments of and paradigms inherent in German foreign and security policy became evident seeing that several conflicts started to escalate. It is crucial that a dialogue takes place and public opinion be taken into account. How can foreign and security policy issues - that often just occupy a minor role in everyday life of voters - be conveyed and explained effectively to the public? And likewise, how should German foreign policy look like so that it is both in line with public opinion and caters to the international interests and responsibility of Germany?

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

**German foreign policy toward the Visegrad countries - Patterns of integration in Central Europe**

by Andrea Gawrich and Maxim Stepanov  
29 September 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

This analysis describes, firstly, Germany's cooperation with the Visegrad Four as a whole, particularly its decisive role in shaping the countries' EU and NATO accession processes. Secondly, it investigates the bilateral agreements between Germany and the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, and Slovakia, respectively, and examines these as instruments of German foreign policy. The conclusion is that, because of unequal interests and differences of opinions, the V4 as a whole is less important to Germany than the sum of its individual bilateral relationships.

**Greece**

ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΟ ΊΔΡΥΜΑ ΕΥΡΩΠΑΪΚΗΣ ΚΑΙ ΕΞΩΤΕΡΙΚΗΣ ΠΟΛΙΤΙΚΗΣ (HELLENIC FOUNDATION FOR EUROPEAN FOREIGN POLICY)

**Greek-Russian relations I: foreign policy and diplomacy**

by Theodoros Grigoriadis and Vlantis Iordanidis  
September 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

In this paper the authors discuss Greek-Russian relations since the collapse of the Soviet Union. The approximation of Greek and Russian foreign policies has never been possible outside the EU institutional framework. This continuous stalemate in Greek-Russian relations is due to the policy calculus of both sides. Greece will never treat its relationship with Russia as more important than its political and economic ties with the US. The formation of Eurasian Economic Community and the steady improvement in Russian-Turkish relations have reduced the mutual benefits of a rapprochement between Moscow and Athens, also given the strong Western commitments of Greek political elites.

## ***Ireland***

INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AND EUROPEAN AFFAIRS

### **A small state in a large Union: the Irish experience**

by Brendan Halligan

1 September 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

This paper focuses on the political strategy employed by Ireland throughout its membership of the EU and analyses the principles upon which it is based. While the experience of each state is unique to itself it is suggested that lessons applicable to small states in general can be drawn from the Irish experience. The evolution of the European Economic Community into the EU over the forty-year period from 1973 is traced for its impact on Irish strategy. The emergence of a "Core Europe", consisting of the eurozone, and the emergence of the "Union Method" of decision-making are both examined for their long run implications for the Union as a whole and for small Member States in particular.

## ***Malta***

TODAY PUBLIC POLICY INSTITUTE

### **A review of the constitution of Malta at fifty: rectification or redesign?**

by Michael Frendo and Martin Scicluna

September 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

This report highlights those parts of the Maltese Constitution that may need revisiting, with a view to stimulating a policy debate and acting as the working baseline for dialogue and discussion in a planned Constitutional Convention. The fifth period, between 1998 and today has seen the 'Europeanisation' of Malta's Constitutional framework in the lead-up to, and following, the accession of Malta to the EU in 2004. This period was initially marked by a bitter contest between the political parties over the vital strategic choice about Malta's future direction. Accession to the EU raised implications about 'shared sovereignty' with the EU, which were further reinforced by the Lisbon Treaty of 2007

## ***Netherlands***

MIGRATION POLICY INSTITUTE

### **Rotterdam: a long-time port of call and home to immigrants**

by Han Entzinger and Godfried Engbersen

September 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

As a port city connecting the Netherlands with major trading partners, Rotterdam is, and has long been, home to migrants from around the globe. But the recent rise in temporary forms of migration presents new challenges for Rotterdam's integration policy.

## ***Poland***

INSTYTUT SOBIESKIEGO (SOBIESKI INSTITUTE)

### **Jak w Polsce realizujemy politykę regionalną?**

by Tomasz Grzegorz Grosse

26 September 2014

Link to the article in [Polish](#)

At first glance, regional policy in Poland is doing very well. The generous funds of the EU enable the implementation of a number of investments in the Polish regions. Cohesion policy is largely centralized especially in terms of strategic planning. There is also no appropriate national development policies, i.e. policy independent from European funds. In this situation, do the regional governments have the right foundation for the full development of their own regional policy? Has the cohesion policy created conditions for the development of appropriate competence in this respect among the Polish local government and regional officials?

FRIEDRICH-EBERT-STIFTUNG (FRIEDRICH EBERT FOUNDATION)

### **Die Gewerkschaften in Polen. Neue Bündnisse, mehr Schlagkraft?**

by Vera Trappmann

September 2014

Link to the article in [German](#)

The Polish government has largely ceased to engage in social dialogue which has led to massive protests in the country. Trading unions have started to regard themselves as "correcting the markets" and as interest groups that do not shy away from conflict. At this point, trade unions especially focus on revoking the higher retirement age of 67 as well as the transition to flexible working hours as approved in 2013. They also work towards greater minimum wage and a reform of trade union legislation.

### **Spain**

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

### **Catalonia's separatist swell**

by Cale Salih [@callysally](#)

2 October 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

Artur Mas, regional leader of Catalonia, has signed a decree calling for a non-binding consultation on independence to be held on November 9. Madrid continues to refuse to allow a Catalan vote, in contrast to London's approval of the Scottish referendum. Recent polls indicate that half of Catalans would vote to break away from Spain, while a striking 75% favour a plebiscite. This October may be Madrid's last chance to lower the temperature in Catalonia.

REAL INSTITUTO ELCANO (ELCANO ROYAL INSTITUTE)

### **After austerity: lessons from the Spanish experience**

by Sebastián Royo

11 September 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

Spain is currently exiting a treble crisis: financial, fiscal and competitiveness. This working paper seeks to provide an overview of the country's evolution since its transition to democracy and to explain its economic collapse after 2008. The paper's first section outlines the main features of Spain's growth model and the challenges it faced. Section two describes the scale of the shock it underwent from 2008 onwards and analyses the treble crisis in the financial, fiscal and competitiveness spheres. It concludes with some lessons to be learnt from the Spanish experience.

## **Sweden**

MIGRATION POLICY INSTITUTE

### **No quick fix: policies to support the labor market integration of new arrivals in Sweden**

by Henrik Emilsson

September 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

Sweden's strong economic record continues to be marred by its struggles to integrate immigrants, especially those who come through humanitarian or family channels. This report describes how Sweden is trying to overcome these labour market integration challenges and analyses how successful its workforce development and integration policies have been in helping immigrants progress from low-skilled work to middle-skilled jobs.

## **United Kingdom**

POLICY NETWORK

### **Laying the foundations for a labour century**

by Liz Kendall [@leicesterliz](#) and John Woodcock [@JWoodcockMP](#)

21 September 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

This collection of essays brings together ideas on how the centre-left can maintain its electoral appeal and remain an effective force for progress amidst the major economic and political challenges of our times. It argues that Labour needs to harness the unstoppable forces of change for good rather than attempting to reverse them. The essays point strongly to the need to give more power to individuals and communities as a way to renew our democracy after the seismic shock of the Scotland vote.

POLSKI INSTYTUT SPRAW MIĘDZYNARODOWYCH (POLISH INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS)

### **Out on the edge instead of here in the middle: the four reasons why Britain can't resolve its relations with the EU**

by Roderick Parkes [@RoderickParkes](#) and Julian Rappold

5 September 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

While most Member States seek a deepening of Europe's political and financial ties, London is trying to recover its scope for independent action, ordering a review of the EU's competencies and mooted a membership referendum in 2017. The reasons are rooted in Britain's historical experience of international relations, which persists in the thinking of the main UK-wide parties. In their understanding, Britain's political trajectory and its geopolitical position are a boon, and not things to be modified through integration with neighbours. More than ever, London views the EU as an obstacle rather than a tool. Awareness of the UK's specific attitude towards regionalism may offer room for compromise.

CHATHAM HOUSE

### **Does Britain matter in East Asia**

by David Warren

25 September 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

Britain retains considerable economic power, diplomatic reach and involvement in international organizations, which enable it to exercise influence and have impact worldwide. International polling suggests that the UK's profile in East Asia is positive. But its immigration policy could damage its reputation as an open society. The legacy of empire complicates Britain's image in East Asia, especially its relationship with China. Britain can only sustain its positive profile by engaging with the difficult issues in East Asia, which means acknowledging more actively that it is a stakeholder in continued regional stability. The UK's exit from the EU would have a seriously negative impact on its profile among its partners in the East Asian region, which want it both to have a strong national voice and to be an influential member of the EU.

And a series of papers on the topic of the Scottish referendum that took place on 18 September...

NOTRE EUROPE - JACQUES DELORS INSTITUTE

**The EU and referenda on independence: a leap in the dark?**

by Yves Bertoncini [@ybertoncini](#)  
17 September 2014

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

EUROPEAN POLICY CENTRE

**Scotland and the EU: what impact of the potential in-out UK referendum on the independence debate?**

by Fabian Zuleeg [@FabianZuleeg](#)  
4 September 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

BERTELSMANN STIFTUNG

**Flashlight Europe - Besser allein als gemeinsam einsam? Schottland stimmt über seine Unabhängigkeit ab.**

by Joachim Fritz-Vannahme  
10 September 2014

Link to the article in [German](#)

BARCELONA CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

**Las claves del referéndum escocés**

by Marc Gafarot  
17 September 2014

Link to the article in [Spanish](#)

**A Yes vote will truncate the United Kingdom**

by Francis Ghilès  
15 September 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

**The No vote offers a reprieve – no more**

by Francis Ghilès  
30 september 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

INSTITUTE FOR GOVERNMENT

**Governing after the referendum : future constitutional scenarios for the UK**

by Akash Paun [@AkashPaun](#), Robyn Munro [@RobynImunro](#), Joe Randall [@joerandall](#) and Lucy Shaddock [@Lucyshaddock](#)

11 September 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

CENTRE FOR POLICY STUDIES

**Oil, finance and pensions: why Scots should say No**

by Tim Morgan

16 September 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

***Extremism***

GERMAN MARSHALL FUND OF THE UNITED STATES

**The unstoppable far right?**

by Timo Lochocki

24 September 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

A cross-country analysis including Germany, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, and Sweden specifically demonstrates that right-wing populists can only increase their share of votes if moderate political actors have already legitimized populist campaign topics. This policy paper offers suggestions for pro-European parties when facing popular eurosceptic parties in their countries.

FRIEDRICH-EBERT-STIFTUNG (FRIEDRICH EBERT FOUNDATION)

**Right wing extremism in Europe - Country analyses, counter-strategies and labor-market oriented exit strategies: Sweden**

by Anna-Lena Lodenius [@annalenalo](#)

September 2014

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

A view of the situation of right wing extremism in Sweden. It argues that the SD has come a long way since its formative years in the 1980s, but it still retains the same ideological orientation. The main difference between then and now is that the party has toned down its more controversial statements and has removed members who maintain too many obvious contacts with more extreme parties and politicians. The paper is part of a wider project presenting a series of country issues <http://publication.fes-gegen-rechtsextremismus.de/>.

## SECTION 4 - EU POLICIES

### *Justice and home affairs*

MIGRATION POLICY INSTITUTE

#### **Building inclusive cities: challenges in the multilevel governance of immigrant integration in Europe**

by Dirk Gebhardt

September 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

As the initial point of contact for most immigrants, cities see first hand how both local and national policies affect newcomers and minorities. This report explores the steps cities across Europe are taking to be more inclusive of immigrants and minorities and how these efforts relate to national policies.

### *Competitiveness (Internal market, industry, research and space)*

INSTITUT FRANÇAIS DES RELATIONS INTERNATIONALES

#### **L'échiquier numérique américain: quelle place pour l'Europe?**

by Olivier Sichel [@oliviersichel](#)

September 2014

Link to the article in [French](#)

While the US has managed to establish itself as the undisputed leader in the digital market, Europe has fallen behind and is struggling to find its place in this crucial sector of the global economy. The new European Commission must now react to enable Europe to compete on equal footing with the dominant market players.

EGMONT – ROYAL INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

#### **Industrial policy in the EU: a guide to an elusive concept**

by Xavier Vanden Bosch [@XVandenBosch](#)

19 September 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

Conceived as a guide, this paper explores the meaning of industrial policy for the EU. Building on a recently proposed OECD definition, the different policies at the EU, national and regional level that are constitutive of the 'EU industrial policy' are presented. While its shortcomings cannot be ignored, the industrial policy framework can be useful. Broad as it is, the concept underlines the need for coherence across policy fields and across levels. And it calls for sound analysis and greater coordination, in particular, for those sectors, technologies and tasks whose promotion is deemed a strategic priority for the EU as a whole.

### *Transport / Telecommunications / Energy*

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

#### **Die US-Schieferrevolution und die arabischen Golfstaaten. Wirtschaftliche und politische Auswirkungen des Energiemarkt-Wandels**

by Marco Overhaus [@moverhaus](#), Guido Steinberg and Kirsten Westphal

September 2014

Link to the article in [German](#)

The shale revolution in the US has profound consequences for global energy markets. It makes the US a self-supporting actor and causes trade flows of oil and gas to move more to the Pacific region. Due to more energy security in the country, the US is gaining policy options with regards to the Gulf States. Amongst those States there is insecurity about the role of the US with many regimes fearing American withdrawal from the region. Europe needs to be ready to take a greater share of the burden in the gulf region, especially in light of securing trade flows from the Persian Gulf to other parts of the world. The new energy landscape requires more international dialogue and strengthened cooperation. Energy partnerships with the Gulf States could provide a good starting point for this.

BRUEGEL

### **Elements of Europe's energy union**

by Georg Zachmann [@GeorgZachmann](#)

10 September 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

EU energy policy is guided by three objectives: sustainability, security of supply and competitiveness. To meet its goals in these areas, the EU is updating its energy strategy with new targets for 2030. This policy brief proposes Europe to rethink its quantitative headline targets for 2030. The proposed 40% decarbonisation target is in line with a stronger emission allowance market, but the target for renewables should be defined in terms of innovation rather than deployment, and the energy-efficiency target should be defined in terms of encouraged energy and cost savings, not the amount of energy consumed in a certain period.

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

### **Abhängigkeit gleich Verletzlichkeit? Energieimporte in Deutschland und Europa**

by Hubertus Bardt [@H\\_Bardt](#), Esther Chrischilles, Michael Grömling and Jürgen Matthes

22 September 2014

Link to the article in [German](#)

In order to examine the dependency on energy imports, this paper assesses the meaning of international division of labour for products imported by Europe. Subsequently, the paper looks at resource specific dependencies, and whether those dependencies have changed due to energy portfolio diversification in the past couple of years. Finally, the paper looks at the role of the "Energiewende" as a new energy policy doctrine. Is this policy compatible with an idea of autarky or is it not necessary for the "Energiewende" to be based on international division of labour?

MADARIAGA – COLLEGE OF EUROPE FOUNDATION

### **The South Stream in the wake of the Ukrainian crisis: a test case for the Third Energy package**

by Marco Giuli

September 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

As the Ukrainian crisis has added elements of political sensitivity to the EU's gas relation with Russia and furthered calls to reduce energy dependence, this paper aims at understanding whether the Third Energy Package raised the EU's profile as an energy actor to the point of effectively challenging the primacy of Member States' bilateral relations with Gazprom. Despite a certain degree of success in temporarily halting the South Stream, it is not sure that such a move could have a relevant impact on the costs of dependence, especially those associated with market concentration and transit risk. To reduce these costs, an approach based solely on spilling over competition rules might not be enough.

### **Nuclear energy in Poland**

by Aleksandra Gawlikowska-Fyk and Zuzanna Nowak

30 September 2014

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

The Polish Nuclear Energy Programme is entering a decisive stage, with nuclear technology incorporated into the country's energy policy. The aim of the present report is to formulate conclusions and recommendations for Poland, proceeding from a comparative analysis of nuclear energy ventures in other Members States of the EU. It also covers findings of public opinion research, both quantitative and qualitative, to establish the Polish public's attitudes towards nuclear energy.

### INSTITUT FRANÇAIS DES RELATIONS INTERNATIONALES

#### **Le coût des énergies renouvelables**

by Michel Cruciani

September 2014

Link to the article in [French](#)

Renewable forms of energy used to produce electricity are sometimes singled out because of their higher cost. However, investment and operating costs vary greatly from one site to another and between different sectors. This study underlines these cost changes depending on the sources and countries. However, the author notes that the basic investment in renewable installations remains generally high per power unit. For the community, support for renewable energy implies an additional cost but it also has indisputable advantages: lower dependence on imported energy and a reduced impact on the environment.

#### **Russia and global climate politics**

by Nina Tynkkynen [@NTynkkynen](#)

September 2014

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

This paper scrutinizes Russia's stance in global climate politics, offering an overview of Russia's engagement in international climate politics and its domestic climate policy. In the second part of the paper, Russia's engagement in global environmental politics is discussed in the context of Russia's world status and the great-power concept. Accordingly, the paper aims to shed light on how and why Russia behaves in global climate politics in the way it does.

### INSTITUTE FOR PUBLIC POLICY RESEARCH

#### **Europe's power: re-energising a progressive climate and energy agenda**

by Joss Garman [@jossgarman](#)

9 September 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

Europe's strategy on climate change and energy policy is at a critical juncture. The political crisis in the Ukraine and the entire continent's significant dependence on imported fossil fuels from Russia has caused energy security to rise to the top of the European agenda. Simultaneously, the emergence of new clean energy policies in the US and China now means that an international climate change agreement could be reached at the UN summit in Paris in December 2015. This report offers further details on how the EU can and should reinvigorate its climate and energy strategy with a new package of progressive policies covering up to 2030.

BRUEGEL

**Benefits and drawbacks of European Unemployment Insurance**

by Grégory Claeys [@gregclaeys](#), Zsolt Darvas and Guntram B. Wolff [@GuntramWolff](#)

13 September 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

European Unemployment Insurance has been proposed as a measure to contribute to fiscal policy management and improve labour markets and is one option for stabilising country specific economic cycles thanks to risk sharing, but it would not substantively influence the area-wide fiscal stance. This policy brief suggests that this measure would be a long-term project and not a measure to help quickly the millions currently unemployed.

ROBERT SCHUMAN CENTRE FOR ADVANCED STUDIES - EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY INSTITUTE

**The coproduction of the global regulatory regime for food safety standards and the limits of a technocratic ethos**

by Alessandra Arcuri

25 September 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

Several socio-legal scholars have studied how the Codex Alimentarius Commission was empowered by the WTO and how, under this transition, its standards became quasi-binding. This article investigates the dynamic relationship between the WTO and Codex and the evolving role of expert knowledge in the global regime for food safety standards. The article's main thesis is that technocracy is an unsustainable regulatory paradigm in the field of global food safety standards. The article concludes by arguing that the global food safety regime is turning towards a paradigm that marries science with democratic values.

EUROPEAN POLICY INSTITUTES NETWORK

**Advances in EU gender equality: missing the mark?**

by Vilde Renman and Caroline Conroy

15 September 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

Female representation in top EU positions remains low. This paper analyses the EP committees, finding a clear divergence in legislative influence between committees chaired by men and women. Although female political representation has been increasing, this is happening at a very slow pace and the most influential leadership roles in the EP remain dominated by men. This raises questions of the possible need to resort to stronger measures to improve female representation in the EU institutions.

COLLEGE OF EUROPE

**Analyser l'influence du syndicalisme agricole majoritaire: quelle utilité pour le modèle néo-corporatiste? Etude de cas à partir du « mini-paquet lait »**

by Guillaume Meynet

September 2014

Link to the article in [French](#)

This research aims to reflect on the role of interest groups in the political system of the EU based on the example of the dairy industry. The CAP is a special case since it ran from 1960 on a logic of co-management market policy between the Commission and the main European agricultural federation, the Committee of Professional agricultural Organisations (COPA) associated since 1962 to the General Committee for Agricultural Cooperation in the European Union (COGECA). However, because the process of CAP reform undertaken since 1992, it seems necessary to analyse whether the logic of co-management is being called into cause This research concluded that there is a neo-corporatist report in the dairy sector, in the sense that a particular actor, the union COPA-COGECA managed to significantly influence the process by getting to strengthen the bargaining power of producers without reversing recent CAP reforms.

## SECTION 5 - EXTERNAL RELATIONS

### **Security and defence**

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

#### **Lessons of the MH17 disaster**

by Barend ter Haar  
3 September 2014  
Link to the article in [English](#)

The MH17 disaster makes clear that the Netherlands should look beyond its short term interests and develop a long term view on its relations with Ukraine and Russia. Russia presents Western democracies with a strategic challenge, but the widespread support in Ukraine for democratization and rule of law presents them with a strategic opportunity that should not be squandered. That requires deeper and longer term investment in international cooperation.

#### **Upgrading peacekeeping to counter transnational conflict drivers: five essential actions**

by Erwin van Veen [@erwinveen](#)  
25 September 2014  
Link to the article in [English](#)

Technological progress, liberalisation and the end of the Cold War have significantly altered existing transnational conflict drivers, as well as created new ones. Many of today's conflicts cannot be sustainably resolved without taking account of transnational conflict drivers. Yet, the international community's peace-building toolkit is not well equipped to do so, and UN peacekeeping operations, remains particularly hamstrung by its focus on domestic conflict drivers, host-state capacity-building and national boundaries. To discharge their mandates more effectively, such operations need to improve their transnational situational awareness through dedicated intelligence and strategy units, and expand their regional reach through the introduction of roving envoys.

NOTRE EUROPE - JACQUES DELORS INSTITUTE

#### **Should European defence be scrapped?**

by Giorgio Garbasso  
11 September 2014  
Link to the article in [English](#) and in [French](#)

This book summary presents the main ideas developed in Nicole Gnesotto's book "*Faut-il enterrer la défense européenne?*" (Should European Defence be scrapped?). The author conducts an in-depth analysis of European defence: its historical development, its difficulties and the future challenges that Europe must address if it wishes to succeed in playing a stabilising role in its area of influence and in living up to its ambitions.

POLSKI INSTYTUT SPRAW MIĘDZYNARODOWYCH (POLISH INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS)

#### **NATO narrows military gap on its eastern flank**

by Wojciech Lorenz [@LorenzWojciech](#)  
8 September 2014  
Link to the article in [English](#)

The decisions taken during the NATO summit in Wales will partially fill the security gaps on NATO's eastern flank. The alliance will be better prepared for a number of traditional and asymmetric threats, emanating from Russia, against its members. However, the alliance has no answer for the strategic change caused by annexation of Crimea and possible dismemberment of the rest of Ukraine. NATO will also remain vulnerable to attempts to undermine its credibility—a path Russia may embark upon in pursuit of its broader strategic goals.

ROYAL UNITED SERVICES INSTITUTE

### **Prospects for the European defence industrial base**

by Christina Balis [@ChristinaBalis](#) and Henrik Heidenkamp

September 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

Despite the emergence of a handful of large prime contractors, the European defence industrial base remains far more national and less integrated than the size of these companies would suggest. Against the background of today's strategic environment and dynamics of the defence market, European policy-makers can no longer delay a serious and inclusive debate about the future of the European defence industrial base. Such a debate must acknowledge critical role of industry in sustaining European defence and Europe's ability to act effectively in the international system. This paper examines the shortfalls of current approaches and outlines an agenda for a capable, sustainable European defence industrial base in an era of fundamental change.

ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΟ ΊΔΡΥΜΑ ΕΥΡΩΠΑΪΚΗΣ ΚΑΙ ΕΞΩΤΕΡΙΚΗΣ ΠΟΛΙΤΙΚΗΣ (HELLENIC FOUNDATION FOR EUROPEAN FOREIGN POLICY)

### **The Cyprus Question in the contemporary regional-security environment**

by Pavlos Koktsidis

September 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

Negotiations over the settlement of the Cyprus Question entered a most critical phase following the official resumption of intercommunal talks between the Greek and Turkish Cypriot delegations, in the midst of a broader climate of insecurity. A viable settlement of the islands' division could normally open up a range of opportunities for rapid development, yet different perceptions over issues of sovereignty, adoption of the European acquis, human rights and self-determination, as well as political controversies regarding Turkey's future role in the island, present serious impediment to the process of reaching a settlement.

### ***Geopolitics and strategy***

GERMAN MARSHALL FUND OF THE UNITED STATES

### **A new strategy for Europe's neighborhood**

by Michael Leigh

1 September 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

The European Neighbourhood Policy has failed in its goal of creating "a ring of well-governed states" around the EU's borders. Instability, authoritarianism, civil strife, sectarianism, and international conflict characterize much of the EU's hinterland to the east and to the south. Intolerance and archaic forms of nationalism are obstacles to political and economic development. The EU cannot impose democracy and the rule of law through political conditionality without an offer of membership. It must find new ways to advance its values and interests in adjoining countries.

### **EU cooperation with non-member neighboring countries: the principle of variable geometry**

by Marek Dabrowski

25 September 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

The EU's experience in building a complex and flexible net of economic and political relations with non-member countries can serve as a good lesson and example to follow by other regional integration blocs that face the problem of shaping their external relations with countries that are interested in close cooperation but not membership in a given bloc. On the one hand, several non-member countries are interested in close cooperation or integration with the organization because of their future membership aspirations or simply because they consider the EU an important economic and political partner. On the other hand, the EU itself is also interested in building such close relations, for economic but often also for geopolitical and security reasons.

ROBERT SCHUMAN CENTRE FOR ADVANCED STUDIES - EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY INSTITUTE

### **Empty signifier in practice: interrogating the 'civilizations' of the United Nations alliance of civilizations**

by Gregorio Bettiza

25 September 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

This working paper investigates the reasons underpinning the growing use and widespread resonance of the concept of 'civilizations' in scholarly, policy and public discourses, since the end of the Cold War. Why have discourses and practices about civilizations acquired the political salience they have in international society at this historical juncture? This paper argues for an understanding of the concept of civilizations as a particular kind of 'empty signifier', underpinned by three overarching logics: a logic of interpretation centred on identity, a logic of critique towards liberal 'end of history' narratives and projects, and a logic of practicality that matches the interests of multiple state and non-state actors.

### ***Countries preparing to join the EU***

BARCELONA CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

### **Macedonia and the EU: plunging headlong into the past**

by Eran Fraenkel

September 2014

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

This note discusses the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia's relations with the EU and argues that the country's continued exclusion from the Union has had, and will continue to have a negative impact on the country. Indeed, the author argues that unless the EU provides a clear path for Macedonia's accession to the Union, the country will further suffer the negative economic and political consequences of the government's nationalist historical revisionism program.

BROOKINGS INSTITUTION

### **Linking peace, security and durable solutions in a multi-ethnic society: the case of Kosovo**

by Maria Derks-Normandin

4 September 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

The author examines how the case of Kosovo provides insight into the links between security sector reforms and durable solutions to displacement.

EUROPEAN POLICY CENTRE

### **EU integration and party politics in the Balkans**

by Corina Stratulat

2 September 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

Distrust in representative institutions and disengagement from political life runs dramatically high among the people of the Balkan countries, and this generalised sense of dissatisfaction is starting to breed cynicism also towards the idea of a better future inside the EU. This study highlights the interplay between EU integration and national politics in the region, and shows that both are consequential for the quality of Balkan democracies, as well as reminiscent of the Western and Central and Eastern European experience.

### ***Eastern Partnership***

BELARUSIAN INSTITUTE FOR STRATEGIC STUDIES

### **Belarus foreign policy index n. 21 (July–August 2014)**

by Dzianis Melyantsou [@melyantsou](#), Yauheni Preyherman and Siarhei Bohdan

18 September 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

This issue of Belarus' Foreign Policy Index presents the Belarus' critical relations with China and its difficult relations with some developing countries. It presents as well the potential Minsk has now, thanks to the Customs Union–Ukraine–EU Summit event that took place there on 26 August, to speed up the normalization of its relationship with the West after becoming recognized as a negotiating platform because of its reasonable position on Ukraine.

### ***Trade***

BERTELSMANN STIFTUNG

### **Brazil and Germany: a 21st-century relationship. Opportunities in trade, investment and finance**

by Viviane Maria Bastos, Andreas Esche, Renato Flores, Samuel George, Antonio Carlos Porto Gonçalves, Thieß Petersen and Thomas Rausch

1 September 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

This study identifies significant areas of mutual interest between Germany and Brazil. In terms of comparative advantages, the Brazilian export portfolio features precisely those raw materials required by German manufacturers - and which are largely absent in the German market. Conversely, German producers specializing in high-tech and knowledge-based goods could find an expanding consumer base both in the growing Brazilian middle class and in business-to-business trade with Brazilian partners.

NOTRE EUROPE - JACQUES DELORS INSTITUTE

### **The World Trade Organisation: new issues, new challenges**

by Pascal Lamy [@PascalLamyEU](#)

July-September 2014

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

In this paper, Pascal Lamy deals with the new issues and challenges of the WTO: firstly, he analyses the transformation of international trade; secondly, he explains why the emerging countries are changing the picture; finally, he suggests ways to reform the WTO governance.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

### **Faith and skepticism about trade, foreign investment**

by Bruce Stokes [@bruceestokes](#) and Russ Oates [@russoates](#)

16 September 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

This report examines public opinion about growing trade and business ties between countries, as well as views about the impact of trade on jobs, wages and prices. It also looks at attitudes towards greenfield foreign investment and foreign-led mergers and acquisitions, as well as the potential impact of these opinions on current negotiations for both the TTIP and the Trans-Pacific Partnership.

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

### **Trade diplomacy in EU-Asia relations: time for a rethink**

by Maaïke Okano-Heijmans

29 September 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

This report assesses the EU's strategy and practice on trade diplomacy, with a particular focus on relations with countries in East Asia. It argues that, without a radical rethink, the EU risks being side-lined from major geopolitical currents and thereby losing both economic and foreign policy opportunities to improve living standards and stability at home and away. However, the '2009 Common Approach' is nearing its 'best by' date and the EU can hardly afford to forego participation in trade diplomacy at the regional level any longer.

### ***Transatlantic relations and TTIP***

CATO INSTITUTE

### **One year into the TTIP negotiations: getting to yes**

by Simon Lester [@snlester](#)

29 September 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

It is now just over one year that the process started, with the sixth round of talks having just taken place July 14–18 in Brussels and the seventh round to be held from September 29 through October 3 in Washington. This paper examines the current state of the TTIP talks relative to expectations and in the larger context of the world trading system. It describes some of the main stumbling blocks that have arisen and makes suggestions for moving the process forward.

### **Opening the skies: put free trade in airline services on the transatlantic trade agenda**

by Kenneth Button

15 September 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

This paper argues that the objections to liberalization of airline services lack genuine merit and describes some of the benefits that have emerged as aviation markets have been freed up over the last 35 years. It offers insights into how US airline passengers and transportation-consuming businesses would benefit from opening the domestic air market to competition from foreign carriers. Finally, it urges the US and EU governments to put free trade in commercial air services on the TTIP negotiating agenda.

### **TTIP – Mehr als Handelsliberalisierung**

by Galina Kolev

18 September 2014

Link to the article in [German](#)

Due to its great degree of openness, the German economy will benefit tremendously from TTIP. The US is the second largest recipient of German exports, making up about 8% of German goods exports. Even if on the state level there are significant differences in terms of intensity and interdependency with the US as well as in terms of structure of exports, still the economic repercussions can be regarded as predominantly positive. This results from a further reduction of already low tariffs, which could lead to a cost reduction of about 3.5 billion euros. Even more significantly, though, a reduction in non-tariff barriers will lead to a substantial welfare gains.

KONRAD-ADENAUER-STIFTUNG

### **The impact of TTIP : volume 1 - Economic effects on the transatlantic partners, third countries and the global trade order**

by Andreas Freytag, Peter Draper and Susanne Fricke

29 September 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

The current plans to conclude a TTIP raise a number of both economic and political questions. This policy brief deals with the potential economic effects for the transatlantic partners as well as for third parties.

### **The impact of TTIP : volume 2 - Political consequences for EU economic policymaking, transatlantic integration, China and world trade**

by Andreas Freytag, Peter Draper and Susanne Fricke

29 September 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

The envisaged TTIP is not only of enormous economic relevance, but also has the potential to cause shifts in global governance and the global architecture of trade and welfare. Whereas transatlantic negotiations in the 1990s were generally seen as a threat to the global trade order and bore the risk of a "Fortress Atlantic", this time the preconditions are different.

REAL INSTITUTO ELCANO (ELCANO ROYAL INSTITUTE)

### **'Race to the bottom' or setting global standards? Assessing the regulatory impact of the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP)**

by Gabriel Siles-Brügge [@GabrielSilesB](#)

19 September 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

This paper looks at the likely regulatory impact of TTIP in three key policy areas: investor protection, public services and food safety. It finds that the agreement is unlikely to lead to one big deregulatory 'big bang'. That said, the agreement is still likely to constrain regulatory autonomy through its investment provisions, provide insufficient protection for public services and lead to some downward pressure on standards in the area of food safety. The agreement establishes the primacy of the competitive disciplines of trade liberalisation, simply seeking to carve out regulatory exceptions.

### **Transatlantic trends 2014**

by Constanze Stelzenmueller [@ConStelz](#) and Joshua Raisher

10 September 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

Over the past year, policymakers on both sides of the Atlantic have been confronted with increasingly grave foreign policy challenges, even as the global economic crisis appeared to retreat somewhat. Under the circumstances, politicians and publics alike face difficult questions about burden-sharing in the context of transatlantic cooperation, the future of NATO and the European project, negotiations on Iran's nuclear program, the impact of mobility and migration on foreign and security policy, and the West's relations with Russia. This paper paints a picture of a complex relationship between the US and Europe, and their responses to these challenges.

### **Transatlantic trends: mobility, migration, and integration**

by Astrid Ziebarth, Tanja Wunderlich and Joshua Raisher

10 September 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

With more than 230 million people on the move worldwide, migrant-receiving societies such as the US and Europe confront many similar immigration challenges — but they also experience the benefits that migrants can bring. At the same time, policymakers must recognize that migration has important implications for domestic policy concerns, such as national security, economics, identity politics, and social cohesion. This paper presents an overview of the 2014 key findings on mobility, migration, and integration from the Transatlantic Trends survey, as well as selected highlights of the years 2008-13 compiled through both surveys — Transatlantic Trends in 2013 and Transatlantic Trends: Immigration (2008-11).

### ***Baltic Sea region***

BALTIC DEVELOPMENT FORUM / NORDIC COUNCIL OF MINISTERS / KONRAD-ADENAUER-STIFTUNG

### **Political state of the region report 2014. Baltic sea neighbourhoods – A mega-region in progress?**

by Bernd Henningsen, Tobias Etzold and Christian Opitz (ed.)

September 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

Against the background of the shrinking space for political dialogue between Russia and most European countries, regional platforms remain one of the few possible places for cross-border communication. This analysis concludes, in the light of the recent crisis around Ukraine, that the Baltic Sea region is still recognized as a model for cross-border cooperation and outlines that it can provide inspiration for the neighbouring regions and that common problems can be solved in pragmatic ways when there is a will to cooperate and to overcome historical cleavages, without forgetting the past.

### ***China***

FUNDACIÓN PARA LAS RELACIONES INTERNACIONALES Y EL DIÁLOGO EXTERIOR  
(FOUNDATION FOR INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND FOREIGN DIALOGUE) / EGMONT –  
ROYAL INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

### **The China-EU strategic partnership on development: unfulfilled potential**

by Sven Grimm

September 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

China has become a major international development player, but EU-China engagement on development remains weak. Profound differences in their conception of development cooperation and China's desire to avoid association with traditional donors leave little room for significant collaboration. However, some complementarities in specific issues could be further explored, for example regarding fragile states, capacity building or environment. A priority for the EU should be to build a long-term dialogue with China on development that seeks to understand and engage with, rather than reform Chinese development policy. The EU-China strategic partnership could offer a framework to facilitate such dialogue and build trust between these two giant development actors.

### ***Eurasian Economic Union***

ULKOPOLIITTINEN INSTITUUTTI (FINNISH INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS)

#### **The Eurasian Economic Union: breaking the pattern of post-Soviet integration?**

by Sean Roberts, Anaïs Marin, Arkady Moshes and Katri Pynnöniemi [@KatriPynnoniemi](#)  
September 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

The Eurasian Economic Union between Belarus, Kazakhstan and Russia consolidates a market of 170 million people with a combined GDP of almost 3 trillion US dollars. On paper, this union has the potential to transform economic relations in the region and to offer an alternative to the EU in the post-Soviet space. However, despite early successes, further deepening and widening of the Union are fraught with difficulties and the pace of integration will inevitably slow. Taken together, and against the backdrop of an increasingly hostile international environment that has accompanied the crisis in Ukraine, the Eurasian Economic Union faces an uphill struggle to maintain momentum and deliver the results Member States desire.

### ***Pakistan***

EUROPEAN COUNCIL ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

#### **After "AfPak": reframing Europe's Pakistan policy**

by Angela Stanzel  
1 September 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

Since 9/11, Europeans have seen Pakistan through the prism of Afghanistan, what came to be known as "AfPak". As NATO troops withdraw from Afghanistan, it remains important for the EU to prevent Pakistan becoming a failed state. But the EU is not keeping pace with developments in Pakistan, which has an increasingly central role in the emerging regional competition between external actors – in particular, China and India. Europe needs a new policy that takes into account regional dynamics and external actors as a first step towards a broader European South Asia strategy.

### ***Russia***

ULKOPOLIITTINEN INSTITUUTTI (FINNISH INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS)

#### **Russian thinking in the Ukraine crisis: from drawing a line of defence to seeing a threat to national security**

by Katri Pynnöniemi [@KatriPynnoniemi](#)  
September 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

Three articles written by Russian foreign policy analyst Sergei Karaganov, published at the turning points of the Ukraine conflict, shed light on how the reasoning on Russia's strategic interests in Ukraine has evolved amid the conflict. The evolution of the argumentation shows that some sort of 'reality check' has occurred in the vicinity of the general line. However, while the dangers inherent in the conflict are recognized, Karaganov fails to acknowledge Russia's active involvement in the conflict.

OŚRODEK STUDIÓW WSCHODNICH (CENTRE FOR EASTERN STUDIES)

### **The tug of war. Russia's response to changes on the European gas market**

by Szymon Kardaś [@szymonkardas](#)

11 September 2014

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

Russia, being aware of the evolution of the EU gas market and the fluctuations in trends that accompany it, and in an attempt to maintain its position on the European gas market, is sticking to a dichotomous strategy. On the one hand, Moscow has taken an offensive approach while, on the other hand, the evolution of the EU gas market has forced Russia to take steps to adapt to a certain extent. Hoping that the unfolding situation on the gas markets will contribute to slowing down the recent liberalisation tendencies in the EU and that EU Member States won't make progress in decreasing their dependence on Russian gas, Moscow is thus preparing itself for the 'long game' in gas with its European partners.

RYTU EUROPOS STUDIJŲ CENTRAS (EASTERN EUROPE STUDIES CENTRE)

### **Primakov clan's trap for the West or a little about Putin's peace roadmap**

by Marius Laurinavičius

17 September 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

Some assumptions suggest that a faction within the Russian government dubbed the Rogozin's clan was the main architect and executor behind the Ukraine's events. This paper explores which Russian government clans are the most active in opposing the aggression towards Ukraine, and how they do it. It also tries to identify the wolves disguised as sheep or the influence of Yevgeny Primakov's clan to Kremlin's foreign policy in general, and particularly the current "Putin's peace plan" in Ukraine.

STOCKHOLM INTERNATIONAL PEACE RESEARCH INSTITUTE

### **Russia's evolving Arctic strategy: drivers, challenges and new opportunities**

by Ekaterina Klimenko

September 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

This paper analyses the evolving Russian Arctic strategy in the changing international context. The author argues that, while debate has increased in the media and research community with regard to China's potential as a partner for development of the Arctic, significant challenges stand in the way of a major reorientation of Russian Arctic policy towards China. The success of Russia's recent energy cooperation with China will depend on solving previous problems, developing mutually acceptable forms of cooperation and increasing mutual trust.

### **Ukraine**

ІНСТИТУТУ СВІТОВОЇ ПОЛІТИКИ (INSTITUTE OF WORLD POLICY)

### **Ukraine is not alone. How the world supports Ukrainians in countering Russia's aggression**

September 2014

Link to the article in [Ukrainian/English](#)

The Institute of World Policy has estimated the real amount of aid provided to Ukraine by the international community. Results of the research displayed that the world supports Ukraine not only with declarations and statements, but also with real actions, providing consultants, humanitarian aid and bulletproof vests.

INSTITUTE FOR NATIONAL SECURITY STUDIES

### **Is the Ukrainian crisis really over?**

by Zvi Magen  
10 September 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

On September 5, 2014, a ceasefire agreement to end the fighting in Ukraine was signed in Minsk. Notwithstanding doubts from various directions, the arrangement went into effect, and holds thus far. Yet what is emerging is that despite Russia's achievement in safeguarding its essential interests in Ukraine's eastern region, the overall picture is still one of defeat in the war over Ukraine as a whole. The country is looking westward and will remain outside the Russian sphere of influence. It therefore appears that despite the emerging agreement, the conflict over the regional arrangement promoted by Russia has not come to an end. Russia will not accept the situation, and will continue to take action to change the new situation. As a result, no lull in this global conflict should be expected, says the author.

CARNEGIE EUROPE

### **Postponing the trade agreement with Ukraine: bad move, EU**

by Ulrich Speck [@uli\\_speck](#)  
30 September 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

According to the author, the EU made a mistake when it compromised with Russia and delayed the implementation of its free trade agreement with Ukraine.

CENTRE FOR EUROPEAN POLICY STUDIES

### **Russia's punitive trade policy measures towards Ukraine, Moldova and Georgia**

by Denis Cenuşa, Michael Emerson [@Michael12540](#), Tamara Kovziridse and Veronika Movchan  
26 September 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

This paper documents trade policy restrictions and embargoes imposed by Russia, and provides some first indications of their impact. The immediate impact on trade flows, especially for agri-food products, has been substantial, albeit with some leakage through Belarus. The main instrument for the Russian measures has been allegations of non-conformity with Russian technical standards, although the correlation of these allegations with movements in Russia's geopolitical postures makes it obvious that the Russian technical agencies are following political guidelines dressed up as scientific evidence.

## **SPECIAL FOCUS - THE EU AFTER 2014 AND THE NEW COMMISSION**

OPEN SOCIETY EUROPEAN POLICY INSTITUTE

### **2014 and beyond: priorities for the European Union**

by Israel Butler [@IdJButler](#)

September 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

The new leaders of the EU's institutions face immediate and major challenges that have major implications for the future of Europe's open societies. The EP elections in May 2014 led to a turnover of half of the body's members and the intake of many more xenophobic populist parties. The European Commission has a new president and College of Commissioners who will need to find new approaches to employment, inclusion, and development. The new European Council president will also have a tough job finding consensus among EU heads of state and government on issues ranging from relations with Russia to economic governance. With this in mind, the Open Society European Policy Institute has prepared a set of briefings and recommendations for the new political actors in Brussels.

BRUEGEL

### **EU to DO 2015-2019: memos to the new EU leadership**

by André Sapir, Guntram B. Wolff [@GuntramWolff](#), Zsolt Darvas, Silvia Merler [@SMerler](#), Nicolas Véron [@nicolas\\_veron](#), Mario Mariniello [@BruegelMario](#), Carlo Altomonte [@Altomonte\\_C](#), Reinhilde Veugelers, Rainer Münz, Suparna Karmakar, Georg Zachmann [@GeorgZachmann](#) and Jim O'Neill

4 September 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

The new EU leadership will have to address pressing challenges. Despite the significant steps taken by Europe, results are still unsatisfactory for many citizens. The memos in this publication all have a common theme; the need to focus on pro-growth policies, on a deepening of the single market and on better and more global trade integration.

OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE / EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT POLICY MANAGEMENT / DEUTSCHES INSTITUT FÜR ENTWICKLUNGSPOLITIK (GERMAN DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE) / FUNDACION PARA LAS RELACIONES INTERNACIONALES Y EL DIALOGO EXTERIOR

### **Our collective interest: why Europe's problems need global solutions and global problems need European action**

by Anna Brown and Elize Hefer (ed.)

September 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

In 2010, the European Think Tanks Group published a report addressed to a new leadership in the EU. In 2014, welcoming a new team of European leaders, they again call attention to the importance of a global perspective in European policy-making. This report is issued in the name of the four institutions and of the 26 authors who have contributed to the text. It calls for a new understanding of the EU's global role, and in particular, a new approach to international development.

CENTRE FOR EUROPEAN POLICY STUDIES

### **Priorities for the next legislature: EU external action**

by Steven Blockmans

29 September 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

At a time when the EU's strategic and geopolitical environment is more troubled and unpredictable than it has been for decades, the European Council is calling for stronger EU engagement in international affairs. The rest of the rapidly changing world is not going to wait for the EU to get its act together to defend its own values and interests. This paper sets out four priorities for High Representative/Vice-President-designate Federica Mogherini as she takes up her role as leader of the EEAS.

### **The new Juncker Commission: the Digital Agenda**

by Colin Blackman and Andrea Renda [@arendal11](#)

26 September 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

In assessing the challenges facing Andrus Ansip, as Vice-President-designate for the Digital Single Market, and Günther Oettinger, as Commissioner-designate for Digital Economy and Society, the authors find that leadership and building real consensus among the Member States will be the main keys to achieving what is, in their view, the most ambitious and important of the new Commission's objectives. And their challenge is even greater, if one considers that, if successful, the Digital Agenda will have to be the last one. Five years from now, the 'digital agenda' will have become, simply, the agenda.

### **The Juncker Commission: a new start for EU Justice and Home Affairs policy?**

by Sergio Carrera and Elspeth Guild

18 September 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

This essay outlines the main structural and thematic changes introduced by the new Commission, in particular those with direct or indirect relevance to Justice and Home Affairs or to the Area of Freedom, Security and Justice. The authors also reflect on what the new institutional configuration might mean for the substantive work of the Commission services and for their intra- and inter-institutional relations. They conclude with a set of policy priorities for the new European Commission.

EUROPEAN POLICY CENTRE

### **Policy recommendations for the new European Commission: priorities for stabilising EMU**

by Janis A. Emmanouilidis [@jaemmanouilidis](#), Jan David Schneider and Fabian Zuleeg [@FabianZuleeg](#)

30 September 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

The euro area crisis exposed substantial structural flaws in the currency area's architecture. Addressing these flaws this discussion paper explores the ways in which the European Institutions can re-evaluate and overcome challenges for a more positive European future.

### **Challenge Europe issue 22 - Challenges and new beginnings: priorities for the EU's new leadership**

by László Andor [@LaszloAndorEU](#), Paweł Świeboda [@pswieboda](#), Rosa Balfour [@RosaBalfour](#), Janis A. Emmanouilidis [@jaemmanouilidis](#), Heather Grabbe [@HeatherGrabbe](#), Malcolm Harbour, Paul Ivan [@paul2ivan](#), Jo Leinen [@jo\\_leinen](#), Cecilia Malmström [@MalmstromEU](#), George Pagoulatos, Maria João Rodrigues, Daniela Schwarzler [@D\\_Schwarzler](#), Radosław Sikorski, Alexander Stubb [@alexstubb](#), Herman Van Rompuy [@euHvR](#) and Fabian Zuleeg [@FabianZuleeg](#)

30 September 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

The new EU leadership will be confronted with a number of internal and external challenges. They will have deal with economic stagnation, the negative effects of fragmentation and the need to increase the Union's legitimacy. There is no better moment to take stock of the 'state of the Union' and to look ahead into the next European political cycle (2014-2019), focusing not on personalities but on content: what challenges do we face and what should the EU focus on in the coming years?

### **10 priorities for the EU trade commissioner**

by Yurendra Basnett, Jodie Keane and Dirk Willem te Velde [@/DWteVelde](#)

September 2014

Link to the article in [English](#)

This short document presents ten policy priorities for the new EU Trade Commissioner which stress the importance of trade policy to stimulate economic growth in the developing world.

### TÆNKETANKEN EUROPA

#### **Junckers omstrukturering af Kommissionen**

by Maja Kluger Rasmussen

27 September 2014

Link to the article in [Danish](#)

This memorandum takes a closer look at changes in the European Commission's chairman role over time and compares Juncker's restructuring with the Commission's previous practice. It shows that the establishment of Commissioners' groups is not a new idea, as Barroso also tried to put together groups of commissioners - but without much success. It is still too early to assess whether Juncker's Commissioners team will work as intended. It is, for example unclear how the Vice-Presidents are going to manage conflict within their Commissioner cluster, and whether they will be able to manage it without a DG behind them.

## REGARDS CROISÉS

### *On energy in Germany and France...*

FRIEDRICH-EBERT-STIFTUNG (FRIEDRICH EBERT FOUNDATION)

#### **Die Energiewende in Frankreich: Aufbruch zu einem neuen Energiemodell?**

by Andreas Rüdinger

September 2014

Link to the article in [German](#)

Following the national debate on "Energiewende", the French government proposed legislation paving the way for a change in France's energy portfolio. The respective legislation hints at long-term strategies aiming at a break with the structural dependency vis-à-vis the old energy model. This new strategy by France could have positive consequences for both Germany and Europe, partially because we can see a convergence in German and French strategies that could lead to closer cooperation both bilaterally and on the European level. It is to be seen in the upcoming years whether France will be willing to embed this vision in more tangible and specific measures. Two aspects are crucial in that regard: the development of suitable financial mechanisms and the progressive decentralisation concerning energy policy.

NOTRE EUROPE - JACQUES DELORS INSTITUTE

#### **Taking stock of German energy policy in a European context**

by Philipp Offenberg

29 August 2014

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

In face of the Ukrainian crisis, the security of supply of natural gas has moved to the centre of the debate on European energy policy. This sometimes blinds to the fact that there are further challenges in European energy policy need to be addressed. For Germany, due to its energy transition, there are three problems that can only be solved on the European level: first, in spite of the energy transition, CO2 emissions in Germany are rising; second, in spite of the rise in electricity generation from coal, electricity costs in Germany are high; and third, Germany is in risk of shortages of electricity supply during peak times, when the sun and wind cannot generate enough energy.

### *On Spanish politics...*

FRIEDRICH-EBERT-STIFTUNG (FRIEDRICH EBERT FOUNDATION)

#### **Die PSOE und die Krise der spanischen Demokratie**

by Michael Ehrke

September 2014

Link to the article in [German](#)

Ever since its loss in the European elections in 2014, the Spanish socialist workers' party (PSOE) has been looking for a path out of the crisis. The party has elected a new president, a new board as well as a new federal committee. The new leaders not only aim at reforming PSOE, but also look at a re-founding. Indeed, austerity policies followed by the Zapatero government have cost quite some public support. But it seems that the crisis of PSOE is rooted in the crisis of Spanish democracy as such. For decades the consensus of the 'transición' has been stable but has now started to shatter. PSOE needs to show an authentic path out of the national crises in order to discover a path out of its own crisis. On the same topic you can consult the recent [election polls](#) that are interpreted by many as the end of two main parties system in Spain.