



THINK TANK REVIEW

Central Library

JANUARY 2015
ISSUE 20

Dear Readers,

Welcome to issue 20 of the Think Tank Review compiled by the EU Council Library*. It references papers published in December 2014. As usual, we provide the link to the full text and a short abstract.

Strong focus on Member States in the think tank papers selected for this TTR. A CEPS author wonders whether a new balance of power will emerge in the Council after the entry into force, last November, of new QMV rules (other background on our [library's blog](#), and from our colleagues at [EPRS](#)). In a similar vein, the German DGAP publishes a report on patterns of coalition-building among Member States. The notion of 'balance of powers' is central to one of the papers chosen for this month's *regards croisés*: a Czech view on the change in the relative weight of France and Germany in EU politics.

Still on Member States, a fundamental concern is, arguably, their territorial integrity. A new analysis by Real Instituto Elcano, departing from [many](#) others we have seen so far, takes the view that the EU should insert an anti-secession clause in the treaties. We also feature a review of the proposals for further tax devolution to Scotland. Just as we finalize this TTR, the UK Government has published [draft legislation](#) on 'an enduring settlement' with Scotland.

Moving to the other branch of the legislature, a PISM paper assesses the impact of the eurosceptic presence in the new EP, drawing conclusions that are in line with the findings in [previous literature](#).

In the section on external relations, think tanks continue to explore TTIP and its impact on growth and jobs, on food and agriculture, on multilateralism in general. We also highlight a report by the *Consejo Uruguayo para las Relaciones Internacionales*, on the perspectives of a free trade agreement between MERCOSUR and the EU, in view of the recent rise of China as MERCOSUR's main trade partner.

As readers know, we are particularly interested in projects where think tanks join forces. In this issue we include a report by the 40-member [OSCE Network of Think Tanks and Academic Institutions](#), with options for new forms of OSCE field operations. We also look forward to the [Brussels Think Tank Dialogue](#) on 28 January. Now at its sixth edition, this event organised by ten EU think tanks is devoted this year to energy security, the labour market, investment, and migration. The library team will tweet from the conference with hashtags [#BTTD15](#) and [#EUCOLibrary](#). Our cataloguers are already bracing to capture the documentary 'fall-out' from BTTD15 in the next Think Tank Reviews.

The current Review and past issues can be downloaded from our [informal blog](#). Feedback is welcome at central.library@consilium.europa.eu. The next Review will be out in February 2015, with papers published in January.

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.

* This collection of links and abstracts was compiled by the Central Library of the General Secretariat of the EU Council for information only. The contents linked are the sole responsibility of its authors. Publications linked from this review do not represent the positions, policies, or opinions of the Council of the European Union or the European Council.

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SECTION 1 - EU POLITICS AND INSTITUTIONS

EU INSTITUTIONS

Centre for European Policy Studies

A new balance of power in the Council? Yes, but not yet...

by Sonia Piedrafita

19 December 2014

Link to the article in [English](#) (3 p.)

While acknowledging that the new double majority system in the Council, entered into force in November, promises to do away with the difficult negotiations of the past among member states to reallocate voting weights, this commentary doubts whether it will substantially improve democratic legitimacy and efficiency.

Instytut Spraw Publicznych (Institute of Public Affairs)

The significance of Eurosceptics in the new term of the European Parliament – conclusions from the first months since the elections

by Agnieszka Łada

December 2014

Link to the article in [English](#) (17 p.) and in [Polish](#) (21 p.)

The success of eurosceptics in the elections to the European Parliament in 2014 has not translated into influence on decision-making, according to this Institute of Public Affairs analysis. Rather, their impact is felt in the style of political discussions and on the attitude of national governments.

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Auswärtige Politik (German Council on Foreign Relations)

(Re-)Building coalitions: the role and potential of Member States in shaping the future of the EU

by Josef Janning and Almut Möller (ed.)

19 December 2014

Link to the article in [English](#) (48 p.)

The report from a workshop, held earlier in 2014, with contributions on coalition-building among Member States, written by experts from across the EU. Author commented inter alia on whether the traditional distinction between Member States as integration drivers, veto actors, or bystanders is still valid.

Notre Europe - Jacques Delors Institute

What do citizens think the future challenges of the EU are?

by Virginie Timmerman

19 December 2014

Link to the article in [English](#) (14 p.)

How would citizens like to communicate with the European Union?

by Virginie Timmerman and Daniel Debomy

9 December 2014

Link to the article in [English](#) (28 p.)

Two summaries of group discussions held in [18 Member States](#) within the project "[Horizon EU: European citizenship, a horizontal development](#)" which collected citizens' opinion on the future challenges of the EU.

A new roadmap for the EU

by António Vitorino

17 December 2014

Link to the article in [English](#) (4 p.)

An interview with António Vitorino ahead of the European Council of 18-19 December 2014, including recommendations for the new president of the European Council, Donald Tusk.

Five years as president of the European Council

by Herman van Rompuy

4 December 2014

Link to the article in [English](#) (6 p.), in [French](#) (6 p.) and in [German](#) (8 p.)

Link to a [synthesis](#) by Claire Versini (4 p.)

This Tribune by Herman Van Rompuy is based on his speech on 25 November 2014, during a conference co-organised by Notre Europe – Jacques Delors Institute and Sciences Po Paris. His speech took stock of his five years as president of the European Council and focused on three political responsibilities: speaking the truth, creating hope, and instilling and ensuring trust.

Out of concern for Europe (book by Helmut Kohl)

by Jörg Haas

11 December 2014

Link to the article in [English](#) (4 p.)

A summary of the main arguments put forward by former German chancellor Helmut Kohl in his book *Aus Sorge um Europa (Out of concern for Europe)*. Kohl puts the challenges posed by the euro crisis in a historical context and argues that only a unified Europe, not a loose association of states, can ensure peace and prosperity for the continent.

College of Europe

The emergence of a network of 'European embassies': increasing cooperation between EU delegations and Member State diplomatic missions

by Dimitar Dermendzhiev

December 2014

Link to the article in [English](#) (34 p.)

An analysis of the 'institutional socialisation' between Member State Embassies and EU Delegations. The paper focuses on the Member States' perceptions of the role of EU Delegations and examines to what extent the socialisation between EU Delegations and EU Member State Embassies helps the Delegations to fulfil their mandate in bilateral diplomacy.

Real Instituto Elcano (Elcano Royal Institute)

Más allá de un asunto interno: secesionismo e integración europea

by Javier Tajadura Tejada

22 December 2014

Link to the article in [Spanish](#) (9 p.)

A Spanish constitutional law professor examines the risk posed by secessionist processes, and calls on the EU to set 'red lines' by making secession from a Member State and subsequent re-admission to the EU illegal under the treaties.

Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik (German Institute for International and Security Affairs)

Die Politisierung der Europäischen Union: zur Genese eines europapolitischen Forschungsansatzes in Fachzeitschriften und Tageszeitungen 2006–2014

by Peter Becker and Lucas Schramm

2 December 2014

Link to the article in [German](#) (8 p.)

An overview of how the notion of 'politicisation' of EU policies, institutions and discourse developed in recent academic literature.

Max-Planck-Institut für Gesellschaftsforschung (Max Planck Institute for the Study of Societies)

After the crash: a perspective on multilevel European democracy

by Fritz W. Scharpf

December 2014

Link to the article in [English](#) (32 p.)

Scharpf, a student of decision-making in federal systems, argues that European integration has widened the range of individual options, but it has also reduced the capacity of democratic politics to deal with the challenges of global capitalism. Restoring the democratic capacity to shape the political economy implies doing away with veto positions. To this end, he puts forward a set of institutional rules that would facilitate democratic political action at both the European and national levels.

Madariaga – College of Europe Foundation

Ethics and geopolitics replacing the market as Europe's unifying principles

by Pierre Defraigne

December 2014

Link to the article in [English](#) (14 p.)

Europe is facing three ongoing transformations of a magnitude and of a speed never before experienced, because the world has become more interdependent, more interconnected and more exposed to technological innovations. Defraigne sees in addressing these challenges the "commonality of destiny" for European states.

SECTION 2 - ECONOMY

BANKING UNION

College of Europe

Changing banking supervision in the Eurozone: the ECB as a policy entrepreneur

by Stefaan De Rynck

December 2014

Link to the article in [English](#) (38 p.)

A theoretical account of the actors and moves that led to the change in banking policy for the Eurozone from decentralized supervision and regulatory competition between countries, to a single supervisor and harmonization. This paper identifies the ECB as an effective entrepreneur which also played an active role in political bargaining.

Barcelona Centre for International Affairs

La Unión Económica y Monetaria europea y su evolución de desde la crisis

by Elena Flores and Kees van Duin

22 December 2014

Link to the article in [Spanish](#) (24 p.)

This article offers an overview of the eurozone's economic development during the crisis, highlighting the underlying deficiencies in the architecture of the EMU. It examines the political response to the crisis and presents possible avenues towards a strong, genuine EMU.

Bruegel

Bad banks in the EU: the impact of Eurostat rules

by Christopher Gandrud [@ChrisGandrud](#) and Mark Hallerberg

16 December 2014

Link to the article in [English](#) (22 p.)

At least 12 Member States used publicly created asset management companies, known as 'bad banks', to respond to the recent financial crisis. This tool remains an option for future bank resolutions under the EU Bank Recovery and Resolution Directive, notes the paper.

Centre for European Policy Studies

Enhancing the legitimacy of EMU governance

by Cinzia Alcidi, Alessandro Giovannini [@AleGiov](#) and Sonia Piedrafita

18 December 2014

Link to the article in [English](#) (93 p.)

This report investigates ways to enhance the legitimacy of EMU governance without introducing Treaty changes. It suggests changes in the governance framework at both the institutional and economic level. Input-oriented legitimacy can be improved by increasing parliamentary oversight on decisions related to EMU and increasing the accountability of the Eurogroup. Output-oriented legitimacy can be improved by strengthening the ability of EMU to reduce the emergence of negative externalities and to mitigate their impact, through market and fiscal risk-sharing mechanisms.

ECB banking supervision and beyond

by Karel Lannoo

11 December 2014

Link to the article in [English](#) (104 p.)

With publication of the results of its Comprehensive Assessment at the end of October 2014, the ECB has set the standard for its new mandate as supervisor. But this was only the beginning. The heavy work started in early November, with the day-to-day supervision of the 120 most significant banks in the eurozone under the Single Supervisory Mechanism. The centralisation of supervision will pose a number of challenges for the ECB in the coming months and years ahead.

ECONOMIC GOVERNANCE

Barcelona Centre for International Affairs

La UE ante la reforma del FMI: préstamos como medida de atrincheramiento

by Robert Kissack

22 December 2014

Link to the article in [Spanish](#) (23 p.)

In 2010, the IMF approved the General Review of Quotas, which proposes significant redistribution of voting power, displacing it from the 'over-represented' European states towards the 'under-represented' emerging market countries. The results will put Brazil, Russia, India and China among the ten largest contributors to the IMF. This article considers the recent changes in the light of the collapse of the Bretton Woods system in 1971, the transition to soft loans and the restructuring of sovereign debt. Given that the enormous loans to bailout Greece, Ireland and Portugal recommend continuing to use the IMF to promote the interests of the EU, it is argued that it is too early to speak of European decline at the heart of the Fund.

The Lisbon Council for Economic Competitiveness and Social Renewal

The 2014 Euro Plus Monitor: leaders and laggards

17 December 2014

Link to the article in [English](#) (100 p.)

The Lisbon Council and Berenberg jointly publish this yearly competitiveness ranking. The classification is based on a double metric: the Adjustment Progress Indicator measures the speed with which countries are reforming (this year's winners are Greece, Ireland and Latvia). The Fundamental Health Indicator looks at the overall economic strength of the eurozone countries plus Poland, Sweden and the United Kingdom (this year's winners are Luxembourg and Estonia; while Germany falls one spot to no. 3).

Peterson Institute for International Economics

Rebuilding Europe's common future: combining growth and reform in the Euro area

by Adam S. Posen, Ajai Chopra, Angel Ubide, Paolo Mauro, Jacob Funk Kirkegaard, and

Nicolas Veron [@nicolas_veron](#)

December 2014

Link to the article in [English](#) (42 p.)

Six essays by economists at the Peterson Institute for International Economics. The main message is that monetary and fiscal policies must more actively work in tandem with productivity-enhancing structural reforms (such as deregulation and deepening the single market) to shift the euro area toward a path of higher growth and stable prices.

Policy Network

In search of public approval: strengthening governance and legitimacy in the Eurozone

by Renaud Thillaye [@RThillaye](#)

18 December 2014

Link to the article in [English](#) (21 p.)

This paper is a contribution to the "WWWforEurope" project, a four-year research initiative led by the Austrian Institute of Economic Research with the objective to identify the conditions for a successful socio-ecological transition in line with the Europe 2020 strategy. The paper argues that the EU must be very careful at managing perceptions of unequal participation and unfairness, since legitimacy primary rests with national political systems.

Svenska institutet för europapolitiska studier (Swedish Institute for European Policy Studies)

Socializing the European Semester? Economic governance and social policy coordination in Europe 2020

by Jonathan Zeitlin and Bart Vanhercke

December 2014

Link to the article in [English](#) (86 p.)

The Europe 2020 Strategy is currently undergoing a mid-term review, which includes an evaluation of the European Semester. A public consultation conducted by the European Commission closed on 31 October 2014. Jonathan Zeitlin and Bart Vanhercke argue that since 2011 there has been a partial but progressive 'socialization' of the European Semester. This has led to an increasing emphasis on social objectives in the priorities and Country-Specific Recommendations.

SECTION 3 - EU MEMBER STATES

BALTICS

Latvijas Ārpolitikas institūts (Latvian Institute of International Affairs)

Economic diplomacy of the Baltic States

by Andris Sprūds and Kārlis Bukovskis (ed.)

December 2014

Link to the article in [English](#) (146 p.)

An analysis of the promotion of economic interests of Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania abroad. Being relative newcomers to the global economic system, the Baltic States have quickly learned about the instruments available, and used, by other countries. The main challenge, although, remains the size and experience of public institutions and business in attracting investments, enhancing trade relations, and competing in the transport sector.

BULGARIA

Институт Отворено общество - София (Open Society Institute - Sofia)

Public attitudes towards hate speech in Bulgaria in 2014

by Georgi Stoytchev (ed.)

9 December 2014

Link to the article in [English](#) (32 p.)

This report contains data from public opinion surveys run in 2013 and 2014, which seek to measure the proliferation of, and the public attitude towards hate speech. Over the last year almost half of Bulgarian citizens have heard statements expressing disapproval, hatred or aggression against minorities, while every fourth citizen has heard statements, which in their opinion could result in violence against minorities.

CZECH REPUBLIC

Ústav mezinárodních vztahů (Institute of International Relations Prague)

Transition experience 2.0: a new way to close the gap between the Central European human rights and development policies

by Ondřej Horký-Hlucháň

11 December 2014

Link to the article in [English](#) (13 p.)

After twenty-five years of independent foreign policy making, the Central European countries must rethink their post-communist experience. The Transition Experience 2.0 narrative links the relatively successful development of the region not only to the political rights gained after 1989 but also to the social rights inherited from the socialist era.

ITALY

Istituto Affari Internazionali

Chinese investments in Italy: facing risks and grasping opportunities

by Marco Sanfilippo

22 December 2014

Link to the article in [English](#) (32 p.)

This paper analyses foreign direct investment (FDI) activities of Chinese multinational enterprises in Italy. Chinese investments in Italy shows some country-specific features. Italy is considered an attractive destination for Chinese investors not only because of its large market and its strategic position, but also because it is seen as a valuable source of strategic assets in both traditional and advanced industries.

Italian interests and NATO: from missions to trenches?

by Alessandro Marrone, Paola Tessari and Carolina De Simone

22 December 2014

Link to the article in [English](#) (42 p.) and in [Italian](#) (44 p.)

NATO functions as an "insurance policy" for European and national security; a function that the current crisis with Russia could bring to a role of the politico-military "trenches" between the West and the Russian Federation. Also see the related paper *L'Italia e la NATO, tra missioni internazionali e "polizza di assicurazione"* by Giulia Formichetti and Alessandro Marrone (in [Italian](#), 13 pages) with a conference report on the same issues.

Istituto Bruno Leoni

Il risparmio in Italia, sempre più penalizzato

by Paolo Belardinelli

5 December 2014

Link to the article in [Italian](#) (14 p.)

An analysis by the libertarian think tank Istituto Bruno Leoni of the decline of propensity to save in Italy, and the increasing tax load on savings and capital gains.

LATVIA

Latvijas Ārpolitikas institūts (Latvian Institute of International Affairs)

Eiro ieviešanas Latvijā politiskā dimensija (The political dimension of euro introduction in Latvia)

by Kārlis Bukovskis (red.)

December 2014

Link to the article in [Latvian](#) (62 p.)

An analysis of the introduction of the euro in Latvia, a year on, stressing the broader context in terms of policy choice, public opinion, international relations.

LITHUANIA

Lietuvos laisvosios rinkos institutas (Lithuanian Free Market Institute)

Survey of the Lithuanian economy (No. 34). Overly optimistic budget forecasts may place additional burden on taxpayers

by Kaetana Leontjeva and Laurynas Rekašius

1 December 2014

Link to the article in [English](#) (14 p.)

Fifty-eight experts participated in this survey carried out in September 2014. It covers estimates of economic indicators for 2014 and forecasts for 2015.

POLAND

Case - Centrum Analiz Społeczno-Ekonomicznych (Center for Social and Economic Research)

The Polish transition in a comparative perspective

by Anders Aslund and Witold M. Orlowski

15 December 2014

Link to the article in [English and Polish](#) (49 p.)

A bilingual paper comparing the economic performance of Poland with that of the other CEE countries, and tracing its relative success back to the political conditions of 1989 and the quick, drastic reforms that ensued.

Instytut Spraw Publicznych (Institute of Public Affairs)

Polityka rodzinna w Polsce. W stronę zrównoważonego modelu (Family policy in Poland. Towards a sustainable model)

by Maciej Sobociński

December 2014

Link to the article in [Polish](#) (30 p.)

This report discusses the various instruments of family policy, assessing their contribution to stated objectives such as improving fertility and gender equality. The report refers to data from research on evaluation of family policies in the EU and the OECD.

UNITED KINGDOM

Centre for European Policy Studies

British balance of competence reviews, part III: More reform than renegotiation or repatriation

by Michael Emerson [@Michael1254O](#), Graham Avery, Miroslav Beblavý [@beblavy](#), Arno Behrens, Steven Blockmans, Hugo Brady [@hugobradly](#), Alžběta Hájková, Karel Lannoo [@karellannoo](#) and Jorge Núñez Ferrer

8 December 2014

Link to the article in [English](#) (38 p.)

This paper is the third in a series on the 'The British Question', and takes stock of the exercise by the British government to review all the competences of the EU on the basis of independent evidence. The areas considered in this paper cover services, financial markets, the free movement of people, cohesion, energy, agriculture, fisheries, competition, social and employment policies, and fundamental rights. The paper concludes that while demands for repatriation of EU competences are voiced in general terms in public debate, no specific proposals emerge from the evidence.

Overseas Development Institute

The coordination of climate finance in the United Kingdom

by Brooke Flanagan

December 2014

Link to the article in [English](#) (46 p.)

This paper measures the institutional arrangements for stakeholder engagement and coordination of climate finance in the UK. The author aims to understand the processes around institutional governance in order to inform climate finance developments in other countries. The annexes contain detailed listing about the European policies, the UK climate change policies and legislation and UK climate change institutions.

Taxing problem: the UK's incoherent tax system

by Ryan Bourne

1 December 2014

Link to the article in [English](#) (36 p.)

A critique of the UK's tax system, arguing that the failure to adjust tax thresholds has resulted in close to 3 million more taxpayers paying the higher rate of income tax between 1990 and 2013/14.

Institute for Public Policy Research

Silver cities: realising the potential of our growing older population

by Ed Cox, Graeme Henderson and Richard Baker

15 December 2014

Link to the article in [English](#) (61 p.)

This report analyses trends in employment, consumption and investment among older people in cities, and puts forward a number of principles to handle demographic ageing both at national and local levels.

Gathering strength: backing clusters to boost Britain's exports

by Tony Dolphin

1 December 2014

Link to the article in [English](#) (59 p.)

A report on 'economic fitness', arguing that the UK lags behind in terms of the diversity of its exports. According to the author, economic policy should aim at increasing the number of product areas that are export strengths. One way to achieve this aim is to support industrial clusters. This report provides policy recommendations relating to four elements that are crucial to clusters: networks, innovation (and access to finance to fund it) and a skilled workforce.

When rebalancing goes bad: why the chancellor's deficit reduction plan threatens the economic recovery

by Tony Dolphin
10 December 2014

Link to the article in [English](#) (6 p.)

Setting the fiscal rules: how the next government should handle investment, debt and the deficit

by Tony Dolphin
19 December 2014

Link to the article in [English](#) (13 p.)

Two short analyses by the progressive IPPR, arguing that if the next UK government pursues the plan to eliminate the fiscal deficit by 2018/19, then it will risk derailing the economic recovery, either because growth will weak, or because it will only be fuelled by private debt, aggravating the housing bubble. Instead, the author makes the case for increased investment.

Institute for Fiscal Studies

The Smith Commission's proposals – how big a change do they represent? And what questions remain to be addressed?

by David Phillips
18 December 2014

Link to the article in [English](#) (21 p.)

On 27 November 2014, the Smith Commission published proposals for further fiscal devolution of powers to Scotland. This note critically appraises the Smith Commission proposals and addresses the problem of how to adjust the block grant given to Scotland, when more taxes and spending are devolved.

SECTION 4 - EU POLICIES

JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS

Centre for European Policy Studies

A series of papers from the final conference of the project on Involuntary Loss of European Citizenship: Exchanging Knowledge and Identifying Guidelines for Europe, 11-12 December 2014. Co-funded by the European Commission's DG for Justice, Citizenship and Fundamental Rights, the project aimed to establish a framework for debate on international norms on involuntary loss of nationality.

How to deal with quasi-loss of nationality situations? Learning from promising practices

by Gerard-René de Groot and Patrick Wautelet

5 December 2014

Link to the article in [English](#) (5 p.)

Statistics on loss of nationality in the EU

by Maarten Peter Vink and Ngo Chun Luk

5 December 2014

Link to the article in [English](#) (8 p.)

Best practices in involuntary loss of nationality in the EU

by Gerard-René de Groot and Maarten Peter Vink

5 December 2014

Link to the article in [English](#) (10 p.)

Mapping statistics on loss of nationality in the EU: a new online database

by Maarten Peter Vink and Ngo Chun Luk

11 December 2014

Link to the article in [English](#) (58 p.)

European citizenship at the crossroads: enhancing European cooperation on acquisition and loss of nationality

by Sergio Carrera and Gerard-René de Groot

5 December 2014

Link to the article in [English](#) (7 p.)

The end of the transitional period for police and criminal justice measures adopted before the Lisbon Treaty: who monitors trust in the European Criminal Justice area?

by Valsamis Mitsilegas, Sergio Carrera and Katharina Eisele

8 December 2014

Link to the article in [English](#) (45 p.)

This study examines the legal and political implications of the forthcoming end of the transitional period for the measures in the fields of police and judicial cooperation in criminal matters. This Protocol limits some of the most far-reaching innovations introduced by the Treaty of Lisbon over EU cooperation on Justice and Home Affairs for a period of five years after the entry into force of the Treaty of Lisbon, and provides the UK with special 'opt out/opt-in' possibilities.

Transparency International

Corruption perceptions index 2014

3 December 2014

Link to the article in [English](#) (12 p.)

Based on expert opinion from around the world, the Corruption Perceptions Index measures the perceived levels of public sector corruption worldwide. See also, in this issue, the TI report on preventing corruption in humanitarian operations.

Ελληνικό Ίδρυμα Ευρωπαϊκής και Εξωτερικής Πολιτικής (Hellenic Foundation for European Foreign Policy)

Background report on international and European law against corruption

by Dia Anagnostou and Evangelia Psychogiopoulou (ed.)

15 December 2014

Link to the article in [English](#) (56 p.)

An initial report for the ANTICORRP project, preparing the ground for a research that has four main research objectives: a) to measure state compliance and implementation of international anti-corruption norms in Europe; b) to explore whether international law has an independent causal influence over the anti-corruption laws, policies and practices adopted by EU states; c) to identify patterns of variation of state compliance and implementation, whether cross-national, or across sectors and issue areas; and d) to explore the factors that account for significant variation across sectors or states.

Vrije Universiteit Brussel - Institute for European Studies

The missing piece: empowerment of Roma grassroots organisations in EU Roma Integration Policies

by Serena D'Agostino

December 2014

Link to the article in [English](#) (4 p.)

A general discontent towards the EU Roma integration policies exists within the Roma civil society, who calls for stronger support to and the promotion of "Roma-led change". This brief investigates the reasons behind such discontent and identifies the distance from Roma communities as the sore spot of EU policies. It argues for further efforts by the EU to empower Roma organisations through community capacity building, structured dialogue and simplification of the funding mechanisms.

Center for Policy Studies

Faces and causes of Roma marginalization in local contexts: Hungary, Romania, Serbia

by Julia Szalai and Violetta Zentai

18 December 2014

Link to the article in [English](#) (175 p.)

This research explored the factors perpetuating Roma marginalization at the municipal and community level in Hungary, Romania and Serbia. This volume presents the country studies and a comparative analysis about local communities that mobilize a variety of means and actions to either maintain clear-cut ethnic distinctions or to move toward a certain degree of inclusion.

Real Instituto Elcano (Elcano Royal Institute)

Gibraltar, controles en la verja y nuevo diálogo ad hoc: la UE se involucra en la controversia

by Alejandro del Valle Gálvez

19 December 2014

Link to the article in [Spanish](#) (17 p.)

The crisis that broke out between Spain, Gibraltar and the UK in 2013 over the sinking of an artificial reef in waters traditionally exploited by Spanish fishermen has extended through 2014. This dispute over border controls has led to the direct intervention of the Commission, which has made recommendations with a view to creating a "smart Border" for 2016. Indeed, the EU has become a necessary third in this dialogue, because many issues, argues this paper, are related directly or indirectly with EU law.

COMPETITIVENESS (INTERNAL MARKET, INDUSTRY, RESEARCH AND SPACE)

Bruegel

Foreign takeovers need clarity from Europe

by Mario Mariniello [@BruegelMario](#)

9 December 2014

Link to the article in [English](#) (8 p.)

Foreign takeovers are often a source of concern for national governments. Concerns might be of a strategic nature or of a more economic nature. In these cases, the public perception is often that a foreign investor, being less physically or psychologically attached to the host country, could more easily take decisions that would harm the economy, such as downgrading the acquired company's brand or cutting jobs or research expenditure. However, the only consideration in merger assessment that matters for the European Commission, is whether the merger will harm consumers.

MTA Közgazdaság- és Regionális Tudományi Kutatóközpont - Világgazdasági Intézet (Centre for Economic and Regional Studies HAS - Institute of World Economics)

Privatization and state property management in post-transition economies

by Miklós Szanyi

15 December 2014

Link to the article in [English](#) (40 p.)

By the mid-2000s the main transition goals of CEE economies were largely achieved, which is also expressed in their EU-accession. However, the transition process did not create economic systems fully comparable with more established market economies of the EU. After successful stabilization and large scale de-nationalization of state property the first two drivers of privatization lost importance. Furthermore external pressure from international organizations such as the World Bank or the European Commission declined, notes the author, arguing that governments started to use state property as an "uncontrolled tap of public money".

DEVELOPMENT

Fundación para las relaciones internacionales y el diálogo exterior (Foundation for International Relations and Foreign Dialogue) / Egmont – Royal Institute for International Relations

New donors, new partners? EU strategic partnerships and development

by Clare Castillejo (ed.)

11 December 2014

Link to the article in [English](#) (78 p.)

The report examines the approach to development adopted by Brazil, China, India, Korea and South Africa; the status of current EU engagement with these strategic partners on development; and opportunities to strengthen this engagement.

EMPLOYMENT

Centre for European Policy Studies

An unemployment insurance scheme for the euro area: a simulation exercise of two options

by Miroslav Beblavý [@beblavy](#) and Ilaria Maselli [@IlariaInBxl](#)

9 December 2014

Link to the article in [English](#) (74 p.)

This study offers an analysis of the two main proposals for a European unemployment insurance scheme. The rationale is to set up an EU-level shock absorber to overcome coordination failures and the crisis-budget constraints of individual countries. The authors consider the possible trade-offs and challenges of, for example, the definition of the trigger, the fiscal rule and the harmonisation of national benefits. They conclude that while both options are viable, 'reinsurance' offers a stronger stabilisation effect for the same amount of European distribution. On the same subject, see this [report](#) included in TTR no. 17.

ENERGY

Centre for European Policy Studies

Implementing the EU 2030 Climate and Energy Framework – a closer look at renewables and opportunities for an Energy Union

by Anne Held, Mario Ragwitz, Gustav Resch, Lukas Liebmann and Fabio Genoese

[@FabioGenoese](#)

10 December 2014

Link to the article in [English](#) (14 p.)

On 23-24 October 2014, the European Council decided on a new set of targets for 2030 by adopting the 2030 Climate and Energy Policy Framework. The framework raises several practical questions that need to be addressed in the upcoming legislative process, specifically regarding renewables. The aim of this paper is to provide a first analysis of these questions and to offer policy recommendations based on our findings. The main issues revolve around the need for dedicated support for reaching the renewables target, how to ensure a legally binding character of the EU-target in the absence of binding national commitments and how to share the overall 27% target among individual entities such as single EU member states or groups of EU member states. The European Council conclusions on the 2030 Climate and Energy Policy Framework can be found [here](#).

Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik (German Institute for International and Security Affairs)

Der neue EU-Rahmen für die Energie- und Klimapolitik bis 2030: Handlungsoptionen für die deutsche Energiewende-Politik

by Severin Fischer

December 2014

Link to the article in [German](#) (8 p.)

A review of the common strategy for energy and climate policy of the EU by 2030, and its impact on the German *Energiewende*. The author also points out the role Poland played in negotiations between Member States. He examines outstanding issues in the future implementation process and concludes with options and strategies that are open to the German energy transition policy.

NorthSeaGrid

Das EU-Projekt NorthSeaGrid: Technisch-ökonomische Nutzenanalyse eines grenzüberschreitenden Offshore-Netzes in der Nordsee

by Leif Rehfeldt

12 December 2014

Link to the article in [German](#) (29 p.)

A technical and economic assessment of the cost/benefit of a cross-border offshore grid in the North Sea.

Ośrodek Studiów Wschodnich (Centre for Eastern Studies)

Breaking the boundaries. The transformation of Central European gas markets

by Tomasz Dąbrowski

10 December 2014

Link to the article in [English](#) (56 p.)

According to the European Council decision of February 2011, the process of creating the EU's internal gas market should be completed by the end of 2014. Therefore, it is worth summarising the changes which have taken place in the gas markets of Central Europe so far. The past few years have seen not only a period of gradual 'marketisation' of the national gas sectors, but also the building of new gas infrastructure, a redrawing of the gas flow map, and changes in the ownership of the Central European gas companies. Another change in Central Europe is the fact that states and companies are moving away from their focus on national gas markets; instead, they are beginning to develop regional integration.

Barcelona Centre for International Affairs

La Unión Europea y el buen gobierno de los recursos energéticos

by Gonzalo Escribano Francés and Enrique San Martín González

22 December 2014

Link to the article in [Spanish](#) (24 p.)

The EU, being both a large global importer of hydrocarbons and a promoter of good governance norms, has special interest in the development of standards for improvement in the governance of energy resources. This article analyses the role of the EU in such governance, distinguishing between its actions at an institutional level and their practical implications for the supply of gas and oil.

Bruegel

Rebalancing the EU-Russia-Ukraine gas relationship

by Agata Loskot-Strachota and Georg Zachmann [@GeorgZachmann](#)

11 December 2014

Link to the article in [English](#) (14 p.)

The October 2014 agreement on gas supplies between Russia, Ukraine and the EU did not resolve the Ukraine-Russia conflict over gas. The differences between the parties in terms of objectives, growing mistrust and legacy issues make it unlikely that a long-term stable arrangement will be achieved without further escalation, argue the authors. Without EU pressure and support, Ukraine is likely to enter a new unfavourable gas arrangement with Russia, which could have repercussions beyond the energy sector.

ENVIRONMENT

Barcelona Centre for International Affairs

Después de Kyoto, Beijing: la UE ante las nuevas negociaciones del clima

by Oriol Costa

22 December 2014

Link to the article in [Spanish](#) (19 p.)

This article evaluates how the transition of power underway in the international system has changed international climate negotiations, as well as the way the EU has responded to this process. It is argued that, until 2005-2007, negotiations took place within a structure of normative congruence, characterised by climate institutions being set up in spite of the reluctance of a very powerful coalition of states. However, since the mid-2000s, the negotiations have entered a phase of institutional lag and the new coalition of key actors are imposing a new conceptual approach that has left the old institutions clearly lagging behind. The EU has responded to this change by adjusting its strategies and objectives.

Egmont – Royal Institute for International Relations

The nuclear safety framework in the European Union after Fukushima

by Didier Verhoeven and Franklin Dehousse

22 December 2014

Link to the article in [English](#) (40 p.)

On 11 March 2011, a devastating earthquake struck Japan and caused a major nuclear accident at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant. The disaster confirmed that nuclear reactors must be protected even against accidents that have been assessed as highly unlikely. It also revealed a well-known catalogue of problems: faulty design, insufficient back-up systems, human error, inadequate contingency plans, and poor communications. The catastrophe triggered the rapid launch of a major re-examination of nuclear reactor security in Europe.

GENDER EQUALITY

Instytut Spraw Publicznych (Institute of Public Affairs)

(nie)Obecność Kobiet w Polityce - czy wspólna strategia dla Europy środkowo-wschodniej jest możliwa? ((No) Women in Politics - is a common strategy for Central and Eastern Europe possible?)

by Małgorzata Druciarek and Aleksandra Niżyńska

December 2014

Link to the article in [Polish](#) (29 p.) and in [English](#) (28 p.)

Based on a 2013 workshop, an overview of the presence of women in politics in the Visegrad Group, challenging the stereotypical view whereby "it was the men who printed the illegal leaflets, distributed the independent newspapers and organised demonstrations. Whereas the women cooked for them, cared for their homes, and looked after the children, so that they did not get in the way of the men fighting for independence."

Institute for Public Policy Research

Women and flexible working: improving female employment outcomes in Europe

by Amna Silim and Alfie Stirling

26 December 2014

Link to the article in [English](#) (38 p.)

This report considers the role that flexible working options can play in raising female employment rates, and reducing the number of women working below their skill level or who are underemployed in terms of hours, throughout Europe. It also assesses the extent and nature of demand for, and the challenges and opportunities of, flexible working practices.

MIGRATION

Centre for European Policy Studies

'Wrong number?' The use and misuse of asylum data in the European Union

by Minos Mouzourakis

4 December 2014

Link to the article in [English](#) (17 p.)

This paper discusses the content of asylum data and the evolving interaction between its different sources, ranging from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to the European Commission's EUROSTAT and DG HOME, the European Asylum Support Office, FRONTEX, the European Migration Network and national databases. The way in which such data are often misused, or even omitted, in political debate affects the soundness of policy decisions. This briefing paper argues that solid data-based evidence is often absent from political negotiations on measures affecting refugees and asylum-seekers.

Istituto Affari Internazionali

A reappraisal of the EU expanding readmission system

by Jean-Pierre Cassarino

12 December 2014

Link to the article in [English](#) (18 p.)

A paper exploring the linkages between labour migration regulation and labour market deregulation. When viewed as a way of ensuring the temporary stay of foreign workers in the labour markets of European destination countries, readmission may also impact on the participatory rights of a growing number of native workers facing equally temporary (and precarious) labour conditions, in a context marked by employment deregulation and wage flexibility.

SECTION 5 - EXTERNAL RELATIONS

SECURITY AND DEFENCE

Ulkopoliittinen instituutti (Finnish Institute of International Affairs)

Europe's changing security landscape: what role will the EU play in security and defence?

by Tuomas Iso-Markku

12 December 2014

Link to the article in [English](#) (8 p.)

The Ukraine crisis has reminded Europeans of the importance of defence policy, thus amplifying the main message of the December 2013 European Council on security and defence. The Ukraine crisis highlights a strategic divergence within the Union, argues the author, and poses fundamental questions about its role as a security provider.

Deeper defence cooperation: Finland and Sweden together again?

by Charly Salenius-Pasternak

3 December 2014

Link to the article in [English](#) (8 p.)

Finland and Sweden are increasing their bilateral defence cooperation. Officially, it is restricted to peacetime and international crisis management, but it nonetheless has national territorial defence impacts. The planned deepening of cooperation between Finland and Sweden builds on the already extensive daily cooperation between the two countries.

Egmont – Royal Institute for International Relations

America's global defence predicament – Why the Asia 'rebalancing' has little significance for European security

by Jeffrey H. Michaels [@j michael424](#)

9 December 2014

Link to the article in [English](#) (41 p.)

Michaels finds that the "pivot to Asia" announced by the Obama Administration's is mainly a rhetorical construct with little effect on US security policy. There is no evidence that a renewed emphasis on Asia would place meaningful restrictions on America's willingness and ability to deal with European security problems. Furthermore, undue emphasis on this aspect of American policy has detracted attention from more important developments in Washington's capacity to effectively project military power.

Wales, to spur on European defence (pages 20-22)

by Jo Coelmont

22 December 2014

Link to the article in [English](#) (3 p.)

In his contribution to this strategic dossier of the *Institut de Recherche Stratégique de l'Ecole Militaire* (IRSEM, Paris), Egmont's Jo Coelmont outlines what NATO's Wales Summit means for European defence.

Nederlands Instituut voor Internationale Betrekkingen - Clingendael (Netherlands Institute of International Relations)

Setting a progressive UN peace and security agenda: searching for new narratives (symposium report)

by Bibi van Ginkel and Rosa Dinnissen

29 December 2014

Link to the article in [English](#) (39 p.)

On 10 and 11 November 2014 the Netherlands Institute for International Relations 'Clingendael' together with the Brazilian think tank [Igarapé](#) organised a [symposium](#) on the reform of the UN, and in particular the UN Security Council. This report reflects the discussions on the underlying values of the UN, the influence of emerging powers and new stakeholders, the challenges with regard to peace-keeping, and the proposals with regard to reform.

The EU as a security provider

by Dick Zandee, Margriet Drent and Lennart Landman

18 December 2014

Link to the article in [English](#) (39 p.)

This report addresses the question of how the EU as a security provider should further adapt to the changing security environment. First, it deals with the question of developing further policy in response to the external-internal security nexus, looking in particular at the consequences for the actors involved. Based on this central question, the impact on three specific areas has been analysed: the comprehensive approach in EU crisis management; capability development and the defence industry.

Norsk Utenrikspolitisk Institutt (The Norwegian Institute of International Affairs)

Peacemaking: can the EU meet expectations?

by Steven Blockmans

18 December 2014

Link to the article in [English](#) (31 p.)

This paper advances three arguments: the EU is under a moral duty and a legal obligation to work towards the peaceful settlement of disputes with, in and between third countries; a review of the Union's track record in 'peacemaking' since the early 1990s shows that while the EU is equipped with a rich toolbox, it has so far used its diplomatic instruments in a fairly ad hoc fashion; and the creation of the EEAS has reinforced the EU's capacities and expertise in the field of conflict resolution, but there is still ample room for improvement.

OSCE Network of Think Tanks and Academic Institutions

The future of OSCE field operations (options)

by a group of twenty-one members of the OSCE Network of Think Tanks and Academic Institutions.

3 December 2014

Link to the article in [English](#) (32 p.)

The report starts from the finding that OSCE field operations are service providers in situations of crisis, transition or state-building. They cannot be established, changed or closed against the will of the respective host state. They embody common values and are tools for promoting stability and common security. To maintain and further develop them, this report recommends a range of new forms of field operations.

Nederlands Instituut voor Internationale Betrekkingen - Clingendael (Netherlands Institute of International Relations) / International Centre for Counter-Terrorism - The Hague

Addressing the foreign terrorist fighters phenomenon from a European Union perspective: UN Security Council Resolution 2178, legal issues, and challenges and opportunities for EU Foreign Security and Development Policy

by Naureen Chowdhury Fink, Fulco van Deventer, Eva Entenmann, Bibi van Ginkel, Eelco Kessels, Alistair Millar, Christophe Paulussen and Mark Singleton
23 December 2014
Link to the article in [English](#) (18 p.)

On 24 September, the UN Security Council adopted Resolution 2178 to ensure increased border security and to screen for or arrest so-called "foreign terrorist fighters" (FTFs) travelling to or returning from conflict areas. This policy brief is a compilation of essays on the challenges and opportunities for addressing the FTF threat from a EU perspective. It also examines the implementation of Resolution 2178 as an integral part of national and multilateral foreign security and development policies and initiatives. See a [previous blog post](#) on the same.

EU Non-Proliferation Consortium

The European Union and the humanitarian initiative in the 2015 non-proliferation treaty review cycle

by Jenny Nielsen and Marianne Hanson
December 2014
Link to the article in [English](#) (20 p.)

The humanitarian dimension was first included in the Final Document of the 2010 Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference. This paper identifies three groups of states within the EU with regard to the humanitarian initiative: (a) drivers of disarmament, (b) guarded supporters, and (c) nuclear weapon states. The paper concludes by assessing the merits of the humanitarian initiative and its implications for EU states, noting the difficulty of reconciling strong support for the initiative with a continued reliance on nuclear deterrence.

Österreichische Institut für Internationale Politik (Austrian Institute for International Affairs)

Deterrence, disarmament and arms control

by Heinz Gärtner
9 December 2014
Link to the article in [English](#) (13 p.)

This article discusses the limitations of traditional nuclear deterrence and assesses why progress in nuclear disarmament since the end of the Cold War has fallen short of expectations. As long as deterrence goes unaddressed, global zero will be impossible to achieve, it argues. Comprehensive deterrence is more complicated than normally assumed. It covers not only nuclear weapons as such but consists of several categories of nuclear and conventional weapons that are related.

GEOPOLITICS AND STRATEGY

Instytut Spraw Publicznych (Institute of Public Affairs)

Polityka wschodnia 2014. Pięć nieporozumień między Polakami a Niemcami (Eastern Policy 2014 - Five disagreements between Germans and Poles)

by Agnieszka Łada

December 2014

Link to the article in [Polish](#) (12 p.) and in [German](#) (12 p.)

The opinion that Polish-German relations are excellent has established itself among the elites of both countries. The joint visit of foreign ministers Frank-Walter Steinmeier and Radosław Sikorski, together with the French Foreign Minister, Laurent Fabius, in Kiev in February 2014 became a symbol of the robust agreement in the policy towards Eastern neighbours. Soon after, however, there were misunderstandings that created the impression that Polish and German eastern policy diverged again.

Barcelona Centre for International Affairs

Gobernanza global contra la delincuencia transnacional: la UE y la Convención de Palermo

by Juan Pablo Soriano

22 December 2014

Link to the article in [Spanish](#) (23 p.)

The UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (Palermo Convention) is the main international legal instrument to fight this phenomenon. Negotiations over an evaluation are blocked on its issues like financing and civil society participation. In this context, this article analyses the EU's role in the creation and strengthening of the convention in an international setting that is increasingly unfavourable to EU.

Centre d'études et de recherches internationales

Tableau de bord des pays d'Europe centrale et orientale et d'Eurasie 2014 (Volume 1: Europe centrale et orientale)

Tableau de bord des pays d'Europe centrale et orientale et d'Eurasie 2014 (Volume 2: Eurasie)

by Jean-Pierre Pagé

December 2014

Link to Volume 1 in [French](#) (52 p.) and Volume 2 in [French](#) (59 p.)

A comprehensive stocktaking by the CERI at Sciences Po on developments in Central and Eastern Europe and Eurasia, which short chapter and data on each country. In 2014, CEE countries differ in the understanding and the impact of the conflict in Ukraine. Penalties and sanctions between Russia and the EU greatly affect the peripheral economies, major projects such as the South Stream pipeline are cancelled, the relations of the Central Asian and Caucasus countries with the EU are observed with vigilance by Russia.

College of Europe

Conflicting role conceptions: in search of the European Union's added value for its Southern Neighbours

by Joren Selleslaghs [@jselles](#)

December 2014

Link to the article in [English](#) (33 p.)

Many scholars have analysed the role of the EU in its southern neighbourhood by looking at the EU's policy documents and strategies. However, very few studies have analysed the EU's role from the recipients' point of view: the southern neighbouring countries themselves. This paper adopts an 'outside-in approach' and explores what the southern neighbourhood countries believe the EU should be or do and seeks to reveal the EU's real 'added value' for its southern Mediterranean partners.

European Centre for Development Policy Management

The future of ACP-EU relations post-2020

December 2014

Link to the article in [English](#) (50 p.)

The Cotonou Partnership Agreement between the EU and the African, Caribbean, and Pacific (ACP) Group of States aims to reduce poverty and contribute to sustainable development with the gradual integration of ACP countries into the world economy. It will end in 2020, and discussions on its future have now begun in earnest and will be a top priority for the ACP and EU development stakeholders during 2015.

Ulkopoliittinen instituutti (Finnish Institute of International Affairs)

Not another Transnistria: How sustainable is separatism in Eastern Ukraine?

by András Rácz and Arkady Moshes

1 December 2014

Link to the article in [English](#) (21 p.)

The situation in Eastern Ukraine is often compared with that of Transnistria, the separatist region of Moldova. However, the two cases differ for a number of reasons, all of which will make the "Novorossiya" project much harder for Russia to sustain than Transnistria, according to this FIIA paper.

DEVELOPMENT

Barcelona Centre for International Affairs

Desarrollo global y países emergentes: retos para la política de cooperación de la UE

by José Antonio Sanahuja

22 December 2014

Link to the article in [Spanish](#) (27 p.)

The rise of the emerging countries and South-South cooperation has created a scenario of adversity for the EU in the field of development cooperation. It affects its leadership position, its influence, legitimacy and normativity. This article examines this challenge and the EU's response to it through the significant reforms adopted from 2011 onwards, particularly, the Agenda for Change of development policy and the new instruments that link trade and development. The article concludes that the EU has found itself stuck between a difficult adjustment and entrenchment in a traditional North-South aid paradigm.

Transparency International

Preventing corruption in humanitarian operations

10 December 2014

Link to the article in [English](#) (196 p.)

Transparency International has long held that the most directly damaging impact of corruption is the diversion of basic resources from poor people. Corruption in humanitarian aid deprives the most vulnerable poor people, the victims of natural disasters and civil conflicts, of essential life-saving resources.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE

Barcelona Centre for International Affairs

Lectura de la política comercial de la UE desde una perspectiva multilateral

by Patricia Garcia-Duran and Montserrat Millet
22 December 2014

Link to the article in [Spanish](#) (22 p.)

This article analyses whether the shift in EU trade strategy towards bilateralism is in conflict with its objective of promoting effective multilateralism. It demonstrates that the emergence of new powers in the trade sphere has produced a breach in the historical structure of international trade that puts the WTO's capacity to achieve its mission of trade liberalisation at risk.

Centre for European Policy Studies

Agriculture, food and the TTIP: possibilities and pitfalls

by Tim Josling and Stefan Tangermann
19 December 2014

Link to the article in [English](#) (30 p.)

Progress on agriculture and food issues in the TTIP talks will largely be determined by the level of ambition in the negotiations as a whole. If ambitions are modest, argues this CEPS paper, a low-level agreement could probably be reached that includes limited commitments on agricultural market access and food regulations. These could include promises of mutual support in opening up agricultural markets through the WTO and transatlantic cooperation in conflicts over food regulations. Bolder ambitions would allow more scope for tackling the difficult problems, although at the cost of time. This paper argues that it is worthwhile making the effort.

Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (Friedrich Ebert Foundation)

TTIP, Freihandel und wirtschaftliche Entwicklung

by Heiner Flassbeck
December 2014

Link to the article in [German](#) (17 p.)

The author questions the neo-classical economic models used to simulate the impact of TTIP on growth and jobs. Trade imbalances, such as the high German current account surplus, make it unlikely that TTIP would generate jobs in Germany, he argues, stating that only multilateral trade agreements, supplemented by monetary policy, can improve the conditions for trade.

The return of geopolitics - Trade policy in the era of TTIP and TPP

by Heribert Dieter
December 2014

Link to the article in [English](#) (17 p.)

The future of the multilateral trading system looks bleak. The main reason for this development is the return of geopolitics in a new multipolar world characterized by a declining willingness to cooperate. The lack of progress in the WTO Doha round is the main factor for the current mushrooming of preferential trade agreements. EU countries, Germany in particular, have nothing of lasting value to gain from such a fragmentation of world trade. They should, therefore, not seek to isolate China and any other BRICS country, argues Dieter.

Consejo Uruguayo para las Relaciones Internacionales

El Acuerdo de Libre comercio entre el MERCOSUR y la Unión Europea - Antecedentes y perspectivas

by Washington Durán

1 December 2014

Link to the article in [Spanish](#) (9 p.)

An assessment of the perspective to reach a free trade agreement between MERCOSUR and the EU, in view of the recent decline in the share of trade in goods between the two blocks, and the rise of China as the main trade partner of MERCOSUR members.

Utrikespolitiska Institutet (Swedish Institute of International Affairs)

Corporate social responsibility 2014: business as usual?

by Frida Olsson Avereyireh

2 December 2014

Link to the article in [English](#) (14 p.)

This paper argues for a reconsideration of the doctrine of the state as the only actor in charge of ensuring the human rights of its people. It discusses whether, as a part of corporate social responsibility, companies can and should be recognized as legal entities under International Human Rights Law.

ALBANIA

Instituti për Demokraci dhe Ndërmjetësim (Institute for Democracy and Mediation)

Albania's EU accession – Is it risking a 2009 déjà vu?

15 December 2014

Link to the article in [English](#) (4 p.)

Almost six months after it was granted the candidate status, Albania's accession process is off the attention of the public and a remote focus in domestic political debates. Betting hopes on the Berlin Process, Albanian stakeholders do not seem troubled by "enlargement fatigue".

CHINA

European Institute for Asian Studies

Europe's rare Earth dependence on China: future perspectives

by Julia Ebner

December 2014

Link to the article in [English](#) (32 p.)

Based on an analysis of the status quo and recent trends in Europe's dependence on China's rare earths, the briefing paper assesses developments on both the supply and demand side of the Sino-European rare earth market.

UKRAINE

European Council on Foreign Relations

What will happen with Eastern Ukraine?

by Andrew Wilson and Kadri Liik [@KadriLiik](#)

5 December 2014

Link to the article in [English](#) (7 p.)

Europe needs a clearer and more unified strategy for a diplomatic settlement if Ukraine is to avoid becoming a frozen conflict. According to this ECFR paper, the EU should aim at the return of Donbas to Ukraine by implementation of the Minsk agreements; the EU can help prevent Moscow controlling Kiev's geopolitical choices by converting Russia's pain from sanctions into a tool for diplomacy.

International Crisis Group

Eastern Ukraine: a dangerous winter

18 December 2014

Link to the article in [English](#) (32 p.)

Winter in Ukraine is injecting further uncertainty into an already volatile conflict. After well over 5000 deaths and eight months of war, eastern Ukraine – particularly the separatist-held parts of Donetsk and Luhansk – now runs the risk of a humanitarian crisis, warns the ICG.

TURKEY

Carnegie Europe

A moment of opportunity in the EU-Turkey relationship

by Marc Pierini [@MarcPierini1](#) and Sinan Ülgen

10 December 2014

Link to the article in [English](#) (36 p.)

Relations between Ankara and Brussels are about more than Turkey's potential accession to the EU. While Turkey's EU membership vocation should be maintained, the author recommends that Ankara and Brussels should take steps to update their partnership and improve cooperation on current challenges that are of vital importance for both.

REGARDS CROISÉS

Mezinárodní politologický ústav Masarykovy univerzity (International Institute of Political Science)

Germany's new role in the EU: the future of the Berlin-Paris axis in terms of the Czech foreign-political interests

by Filip Černocho, Vladimír Handl, Vladan Hodulák, Oldřich Krpec, Petr Ocelík, William E. Paterson, Elsa Tulmets and Michal Vít

December 2014

Link to the article in [English](#) (122 p.)

The book focuses on an ongoing change in the relative position of Germany and France in the EU. The team of authors deal with this change in the balance of power and try to gauge its impact on the Czech Republic. Two case studies are included, one on the impact on the Czech economy, the other on the Czech energy sector.

Instytut Spraw Publicznych (Institute of Public Affairs)

Euroscepticism in the Polish and German 2014 European election campaign

by Aleksander Fuksiewicz and Julia Klein

December 2014

Link to the article in [English](#) (40 p.)

Eurosceptic attitudes are determined by features of the country in which they are found: the nature of public debate, the shape of the political scene, economic and social factors. In Poland, during election campaigns, the EU is rarely mentioned. Eurosceptic parties were also in opposition to the government and their election strategies consisted mainly of attacking the government for its domestic activity and not its European one. In Germany, European elections are still second order elections, used by voters to demonstrate their dissatisfaction with governing parties and are also characterized by the success of small fringe parties. In contrast to the Polish eurosceptical parties, the German anti-mainstream strategy contains a specific European dimension.