



THINK TANK REVIEW

Central Library

JUNE 2015
ISSUE 25

Dear Readers,

Welcome to issue 25 of the Think Tank Review compiled by the EU Council Library* ([click to share on Twitter](#)). It references papers published in May 2015. As usual, we provide the link to the full text and a short abstract.

As noted on our [blog](#), the publications in this month's TTR offer a mixture of short term concerns and longer term perspectives from think tanks across the continent and beyond.

Among the immediate concerns, think tank papers reflected international and national events which took place in May: on the Eastern Partnership summit in Riga we gathered papers from Latvia, Hungary, Austria and Poland. Still on Poland, we noted the briefing on the presidential ballot, part of the regular Election Monitor published by the Fondation Robert Schuman. The release in May of the Commission's package on Better Regulation also triggered commentary by Brussels-based think tanks ([here](#) for the state of play in a recent Council document).

Still in May, ILO published its employment and social [outlook](#), which can be read in conjunction with the many publications we gathered on welfare, pensions and employment; while some of them surveyed policies or stakeholder opinions across Member States, others (like those from IAI and CEPS) set out possible schemes for a European Unemployment Insurance.

On a longer perspective, we found think tanks in Barcelona, Berlin, Brussels and elsewhere looking back at the European elections in 2014 and forward to 2019, with stances that range from 'business as usual' to seeing the EP as the possible driver of EU reform. Still on the European Parliament, we noted the analysis by votewatch.eu on the reform of copyright law, in the wake of recent proposals on the [Digital Single Market](#).

A recurrent concern are the TTIP negotiations, on which we found the usual abundance of publications from both sides of the Atlantic and of the for/against divide. Equally recurrent is the think tanks' focus on climate change, where we see a cluster of policy papers building up to the Paris Conference of the Parties in December 2015.

Another recurrent issue on which we found various substantial papers in May is the Economic and Monetary Union in its various aspects; see inside for readings on the Banking Union, QE, adjustments in labour costs, the fragmentation of financial markets and a comparison of how Latvia and Greece went through the crisis. To be read in conjunction with the 5 Presidents' [report](#) on Completing Europe's Economic and Monetary Union, published on 22 June.

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The special focus in this issue is devoted to papers looking at the state of German relations with some of the main 'others' in its history, namely France, Russia and the US. As the choice of the month for *regards croisés*, a paper on 'Brexit' stands out, as it looks at the possible impact from Asia, notably from Singapore.

The Review can be downloaded from our [informal blog](#). As always, feedback is welcome at central.library@consilium.europa.eu.

The next Review will be out in July 2015, with papers published in June.

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Fundación Alternativas

The state of the European Union 2015. The new legislature: eleven challenges facing Europe

by Diego López Garrido [@DiegoLGarrido](#), Michael Ehrke and Nicolás Sartorius (dir.); María Pallares (cord.)

May 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (149 p.) and in [Spanish](#) (149 p.)

This fourth State of the Union report, published jointly by the Ebert Foundation and Fundación Alternativas, reflects the new composition of the European Parliament as well as a new Commission and new presidents of the European Commission and the European Council.

Las estrategias en la red de los partidos en las elecciones europeas de 2014: ¿un nicho para los partidos niche?

by Javier Lorenzo Rodríguez and Amuitz Garmendia Madariaga

May 2015

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

A study of the network strategies of parties standing in the EP elections in 2014, reviewing their presence and impact on Facebook and Twitter, and matching it with socio-demographic and institutional data.

Notre Europe - Jacques Delors Institute

2014 European elections: an upsurge in Europhobia or business as usual?

by Yves Bertoncini [@ybertoncini](#)

6 May 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (16 p.)

This policy paper is the English version of an article published in February 2015 in *L'État de l'opinion 2015*, presented by Olivier Duhamel and Edouard Lecerf. Yves Bertoncini analyses three complementary aspects of the 2014 European elections: a new victory for parties of the "grand coalition"; the rise of the eurosceptic and europhobe 'constellation'; and abstention.

European political parties: learning from 2014, preparing for 2019

by Nereo Peñalver Garcia and Julian Priestley

5 May 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (20 p.) and in [French](#) (22 p.)

The authors review how European political parties fielded lead candidates for the presidency of the Commission, devised procedures for selecting their nominees, organised (belatedly) Europe-wide campaigns, negotiated conditions for TV debates, and promoted their programmes and candidates through social media. They conclude that the *Spitzenkandidaten* 'gamble' paid off, introducing an element of Europeanness into what used to be largely national contests.

Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung

"Ich will die EU zerstören": EU-Gegner im 8. Europäischen Parlament. Eine Jahresbilanz

by Karsten Grabow and Torsten Oppeland

May 2015

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

This paper draws a balance of the level of activity and voting behaviour of eurosceptic, protest parties in the EP one year after the elections. It differentiates between left-wing, technocratic and right-wing/populist anti-EU stances. It concludes that their impact on EP proceedings has been limited but that, because of their domestic influence, the threat of a populist re-nationalisation of EU politics is real.

Österreichische Gesellschaft für Europapolitik (Austrian Society for European Politics)

Das Europäische Parlament als Reformmotor für Europa. Ein 10-Punkte-Plan

by Hannes Swoboda [@Hannes_Swoboda](#)

24 May 2015

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

A call to action and 10 proposals on how the EP could reform itself and the Union. Among the proposals, stronger ties with national parliaments and a stronger scrutiny of fundamental rights by the EP.

Barcelona Centre for International Affairs

Euroescepticismo: tres en uno

by Dídac Gutiérrez-Peris [@didacgp](#)

May 2015

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

An analysis of the main drivers of euro-critical discourses: less acceptance of transfers of sovereignty, higher levels of disapproval of the institutions, and a mismatch between societal expectations and the policy agenda pursued by EU decision-makers in time of crisis.

Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies - European University Institute

More integration, less federation: the European integration of core state powers

by Philipp Genschel and Markus Jachtenfuchs

May 2015

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

At the time, the constitutional equilibrium reached with the Maastricht Treaty was thought by many to be stable. Today, common wisdom holds that Maastricht has unleashed new dynamics of change. Some scholars diagnose the rise of a 'new intergovernmentalism'. Others note the creeping territorial differentiation of EU integration through national opt-outs. Yet others are concerned with the politicization of EU policies and institutions. Against this background, this paper argues that all these trends reflect the increasing involvement of the EU in core areas of state power: public finances, foreign and defence policy, migration, citizenship, and internal security.

Centre for European Policy Studies

Too good to be true? A quick assessment of the EC's new Better Regulation Package

by Andrea Renda [@arendal11](#)

21 May 2015

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

On 19 May 2015, the European Commission published its Better Regulation package, which contains new guidelines on various phases of the policy cycle and sets out entirely new consultation platforms, including a new body in charge of regulatory scrutiny. This report presents initial impressions on the content of this set of new documents.

SECTION 2 - ECONOMICS AND FINANCE

Bruegel

Europe's radical banking union

by Nicolas Véron [@nicolas_veron](#)

6 May 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (64 p.)

According to the author, Banking Union is the single biggest structural policy success of the EU since the start of the financial crisis. This essay presents the sequence of events that led to its inception in late June 2012 and takes stock on its current status of implementation and prospects.

Centre for European Policy Studies

The 'visible hand' of the ECB's quantitative easing

by Diego Valiante [@diegovaliante](#)

22 May 2015

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

Since March 9th, the ECB has joined the club of central banks deploying the most feared monetary policy tool in its armoury. Unsterilized outright asset purchases (known as 'quantitative easing', or QE) aim to re-establish control over the transmission of monetary policy impulse via policy rates. This paper examines three dimensions of quantitative easing: i) the rationale behind the ECB's new monetary policy stance, ii) the operational challenges of QE and iii) preliminary evidence on the effects of QE on markets.

The monetary policy of the European Central Bank (2002-2015)

by Stefano Micossi

22 May 2015

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

This paper examines the policies pursued by the ECB since the inception of the euro. The ECB was originally set up to pursue price stability, with an eye also to economic growth and financial stability as subsidiary goals. Applying a single monetary policy to a diverse economic area has entailed pro-cyclical economic effects on the eurozone periphery. Later, monetary policy became the main tool against the financial instability elicited by the failure of Lehman Brothers and the sovereign debt crisis in the eurozone. In the process, the ECB emerged as the lender of last resort in the sovereign debt markets of participating countries.

Barcelona Centre for International Affairs

Redesigning European Monetary Union governance in light of the eurozone crisis

May 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (88 p.)

A collection of papers on various aspects of EMU governance, written by think tank analysts from EPC, CEPS, ELIAMEP, Delors Institute, by senior Commission officials and others. The authors review flaws in the basic design of the euro and propose ways to improve the governance of the euro area, including on the issue of democratic legitimacy and the independence of the ECB.

LUISS School of European Political Economy

Non-neutrality of open-market operations

by Pierpaolo Benigno and Salvatore Nisticò [@salnistico](#)

6 May 2015

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

The authors examine how unconventional monetary policy can have consequences for inflation and output, because of income losses on central-bank balance sheet. A proposition of neutrality holds under some special monetary and fiscal policy regimes, in which the treasury is ready to back the central bank's losses through transfers levied as taxes on the private sector. In the absence of this fiscal backing, large and recurrent central bank losses can undermine its long-run solvency and will lead a prolonged increase in inflation.

European Digital Forum

Financial services in the digital age: leveraging technology and regulation to achieve a stronger Capital Markets Union

by Sergey Filippov [@FilippovEU](#)

May 2015

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

This paper examines the spread of digital technology throughout the financial-services arena and the rise of new and innovative services. It concludes that "if the European Commission wants to make the Capital Markets Union a success, it must tap into the wealth of improved consumer services and greater access to funding opportunities that technology has brought."

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

Die Vorzüge selektiver Globalisierung. Zum unterschätzten Nutzen balkanisierter Finanzmärkte

by Heribert Dieter

May 2015

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

The author notes how, after initial efforts in the G20, international cooperation in addressing the financial crisis has given way to unilateral regulation of financial markets. He argues however that highly diverse, "balkanised" financial markets have a positive impact on stability. Indeed, all attempts to avoid crises through joint regulation at the global level have failed, as they reflected compromises at the lowest common denominator. The author concludes by arguing that governments should be able to chose their preferred path through globalisation, reflecting differences in economic structure and the division of labour at global level.

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

Revisiting the Latvian and Greek financial crises: the benefits of front-loading fiscal adjustment

by Anders Åslund [@anders_aslund](#)

26 May 2015

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

This paper compares Greece with the other EU country that was hit by the most severe fiscal crisis, namely Latvia. The conclusion is that front-loaded fiscal adjustment works much better. The paper also examines what policy the IMF pursued with regard to Greece, and how its views have been influenced by the debate and Greek economic developments. Finally, the paper assesses what lessons can be drawn from the contrasting experiences of Latvia and Greece. The conclusion

is that a fiscal adjustment should be sufficient to restore confidence and that it should be as front-loaded as is practically and politically possible.

Peterson Institute for International Economics

Versailles Redux? Eurozone competitiveness in a dynamic Balassa-Samuelson-Penn framework

by Kevin Stahler and Arvind Subramanian [@arvindsubraman](#)

May 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (55 p.)

This paper offers an alternative view of shifts in competitiveness in the euro area, based on unit labour cost developments. It argues that there has been a deterioration in competitiveness in the periphery countries between 2007 and 2013; that the pattern of adjustment has been perverse, with Germany's competitiveness improved, and Greece's deteriorated. Finally, it argues that real competitiveness changes are correlated with nominal exchange rates, which suggests the importance of a flexible and preferably independent currency.

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

Why did Western banks expand into Russia and Western CIS countries, what went wrong and what comes next?

by Gunter Deuber and Elena Romanova

29 May 2015

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

In the context of a Russian turn to Asian markets, a major question will be to what extent Asian/Chinese banks are ready and willing to compensate for more conservative strategies of Western banks in Russia. However, Chinese banks are still niche players in Russia compared to their Western counterparts. Moreover, the authors see limits for Asian and Arab investors in boosting their Russia exposures due to risk management and reputational considerations.

Instytut Zachodni (Institute for Western Affairs)

Outward FDI policies in Visegrad countries

by Andrea Éltető, Sonia Ferenčíková, Marta Götz, Tatiana Hlušková, Barbara Jankowska, Erich Kříž and Magdolna Sass

27 May 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (102 p.)

This report presents the findings of a project investigating Outward Foreign Direct Investment (OFDI) policies in the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia. The project examined a possible (post-crisis) change of attitude towards OFDI; the types of assistance offered, directed mainly to SMEs; the priority given to promising prospective markets, and how potential beneficiaries perceive the support available.

SECTION 3 - EU MEMBER STATES

AUSTRIA

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

Thesen zur engagierten Neutralität

by Heinz Gärtner

May 2015

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

A view of Austria's neutrality that should not be confused with 'do nothing and wait'; the paper calls instead for a 'committed neutrality', which includes participating actively in international crisis management and offering Austria's good offices in specific conflict situations.

BULGARIA

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

Assessing EU membership experience, benefits and further integration: public opinion in Bulgaria 2015

by Marin Lessenski [@marinlessenski](#)

May 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (15 p.)

In 2015, the vast majority of Bulgarians (64,4%) continue to assess EU membership positively, while 21,8% assess it as negative. The trends have remained unchanged over the last three years, with a slight improvement in 2015 over 2014. But the situation is much better in comparison to the attitudes in 2008, one year after the accession, when approvals led over disapprovals by a mere 3%.

FRANCE

Institut Montaigne

Dépense publique : le temps de l'action. 15 propositions pour redonner sens et efficacité à la dépense publique

by Pierre-Mathieu Duhamel and Maël de Calan [@MaeldeCalan](#)

May 2015

Link to the article in [French](#) (216 p.)

With a view to the 2017 presidential elections in France, a plea by Institut Montaigne for cuts in public spending, including some international comparisons. Proposed measures cover areas such as healthcare, unemployment insurance, housing, welfare and subsidies to enterprises.

College of Europe

L'Européanisation des politiques d'innovation en France : une révolution copernicienne? - Le cas de la région Rhône-Alpes

by Martina Barbero [@MartinaBarbero1](#)

May 2015

Link to the article in [French](#) (49 p.)

A research into how EU policies promote innovation in regions, with a focus on traditionally centralised France and on strong regions such as the Rhône-Alpes.

GERMANY

Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung

Antisemitismus heute: Eine Bestandsaufnahme im Frühjahr 2015

by Johannes Heil

May 2015

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

A snapshot on anti-semitism in Germany today, despite the difficulties in measuring attitudes correctly. The authors argue, *inter alia*, that German citizens of foreign origin need to be aware of and share the responsibility for the history of the country, and that awareness of the Jewish element in German culture should be promoted.

Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (Friedrich Ebert Foundation)

Die rechtliche Anerkennung des Islams in Deutschland

by Riem Spielhaus and Martin Herzog

May 2015

Link to the article in [German](#) (25 p.)

An overview of options for the recognition of Islam in Germany, including alternatives to the habitual status of churches as organisations under public law (*Körperschaft des öffentlichen Rechts*).

GREECE

Centre for European Policy Studies

CEPS published various short papers in May on the situation in Greece. Although overtaken by [events](#), still relevant as background.

Why Greece is different

by Daniel Gros

22 May 2015

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

A parallel currency for Greece

by Thomas Mayer

20 May 2015

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

TRAC: a market-based tax on capital flight as an alternative to Grexit

by Daniel Gros

7 May 2015

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

HUNGARY

Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (Friedrich Ebert Foundation)

Desperate search for the lost popularity: governmental campaign against refugees and migrants in Hungary

by Attila Juhász and Péter Krekó

May 2015

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

The authors expect the recent radicalisation of Fidesz's rhetoric on issues such as immigration and the death penalty will not be raise the popularity of the governmental party; it will however help Jobbik legitimise its political stance and get closer to the mainstream of politics.

NETHERLANDS

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

A treaty banning nuclear weapons and its implications for the Netherlands

by Sico van der Meer [@SicovanderMeer](#)

May 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (20 p.)

International support for a new multilateral treaty banning nuclear weapons is increasing. What implications would such a treaty have for the Netherlands? This policy brief describes the legal and political context of such a treaty and examines the implications of two scenarios: one in which the Netherlands will join such a treaty, and one in which it will remain outside such a treaty. Without discussing the feasibility of such a treaty or the advisability for the Netherlands to join or not, it concludes that any decision in this regard will be a political choice rather than a clear-cut best option.

POLAND

Polski Instytut Spraw Międzynarodowych (Polish Institute of International Affairs)

Prospects for Polish–U.S. defence industrial cooperation

by Anna Pochylska and Marcin Terlikowski [@MTerlikowski](#)

12 May 2015

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

A call for Poland to drop unrealistic assumptions regarding defence industrial cooperation with the US, despite the fact that the US has become the top importer of Polish defence material.

Poland's policy towards the Arctic: key areas and priority actions

by Michał Łuszczuk, Piotr Graczyk, Adam Stępień [@adamlapland](#) and Małgorzata Śmieszek

6 May 2015

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

While admitting that Poland has neither vital nor direct political and economic interests in the Arctic, the authors argue that its involvement in international cooperation in that region may improve national security as well as enhance Poland's international standing, especially in the EU, European and transatlantic dimensions.

Fondation Robert Schuman

Andrzej Duda is elected President of the Republic of Poland

by Corinne Deloy

27 May 2015

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

The regular post-election analysis by Fondation Robert Schuman in its European Election Monitor series. Outgoing head of State Bronislaw Komorowski (Civic Platform, PO) did not succeed in making good the gap that was created after the first round of the presidential election and was beaten in the second round on 24th May with 48.45% of the vote by Andrzej Duda (Law and Justice, PiS) who won 51.55% of the vote. Independent candidate Pavel Kukiz, a rock singer, actor and former regional MP for Lower-Silesia, was the other surprise in the first round of the election.

UNITED KINGDOM

Policy Network

Britain's cosmopolitan future: how the country is changing and why its politicians must respond

by Jeremy Cliffe [@JeremyCliffe](#)

14 May 2015

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

A new Policy Network paper on the big-picture demographic, social and economic changes that influenced the British election of 2015 and that will shape the elections of 2020, 2025 and beyond.

Centre for Policy Studies

Unleashing the sharing economy

by Adam Memon [@AdamMemonCPS](#) and Tim Knox [@TimkCPS](#)

11 May 2015

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

The sharing economy, one of the UK's fastest growing sectors, entails a host of new companies which are using information technology to allow consumers, other businesses and the public sector to make better use of their existing resources, assets and skills. The authors call for the Government to promote the sharing economy as a tool to save save hundreds of millions of pounds for the public sector, provided the complexity and burden of tax on the sector is reduced.

The triple challenge facing Britain's oil and gas sector

by Adam Memon [@AdamMemonCPS](#), Angeliki Terpou [@AngelikiTerpou](#) and Tim Knox [@TimkCPS](#)

5 May 2015

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

Britain's oil and gas industry contributes about £24 billion in Gross Value Added to the economy and employs approximately 240,000 people directly and within the wider supply chain. Oil and gas, which supplies more than 70% of the UK's total primary energy, is evidently still an important sector for the UK. However, in many respects, the industry is in long term decline. Production, revenues and its contribution to GDP have all fallen. The sector now faces three immediate challenges to its success: a rising cost base, the impact of the sharp decline in prices and a burdensome fiscal regime.

Fondation Robert Schuman

Should the UK withdraw from the EU: legal aspects and effects of possible options

by Jean-Claude Piris

5 May 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (13 p.) and [French](#) (14 p.)

An analysis of legal and political context of a possible withdrawal from the EU, by Jean-Claude Piris, former Director General of the Council Legal Service. He concludes that "for the UK, the adoption by the EU of reasonable reforms, without revising the EU Treaties, appears to be the only realistic solution, both politically and legally".

Centre for European Reform

A ten-point plan to strengthen Westminster's oversight of EU policy

by Agata Gostyńska [@AgataGostynska](#)

27 May 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (11 p.)

A stronger role for national parliaments in EU affairs is called for by many, in the UK and elsewhere. This paper goes into some detail on practical ways in which Westminster's scrutiny of EU policy could be improved, including a less partisan set-up of the Commons European scrutiny committee, more contacts between British MPs and MEPs, and plenary debates with the Prime Minister ahead of each European Council.

SECTION 4 - EU POLICIES

JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS

Sachverständigenrat deutscher Stiftungen für Integration und Migration (Expert Council of German Foundations on Integration and Migration)

The European asylum crisis: towards collective reception and fair quotas

by Jan Schneider [@Jan_Schneider](#) and Steffen Angenendt

May 2015

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

The increasing number of asylum applications necessitates joint European action to relieve pressure from the heavily affected Member States: refugees from crisis-torn countries like Syria, Eritrea and Somalia, whose citizens are frequently granted refugee status, could be directly admitted. In order to ensure a fair allocation of asylum-seekers, the EU would first have to agree on a proportional quota system. This paper refers back to a model for calculating reception quotas originally put forward in 2013, based on economic strength, population, size of territory and unemployment rate of Member States.

Bertelsmann Stiftung

Die Arbeitsintegration von Flüchtlingen in Deutschland. Humanität, Effektivität, Selbstbestimmung

by Dietrich Thränhardt

26 May 2015

Link to the article in [German](#) (47 p.)

This study shows that the backlog of asylum cases is greater in Germany than in any other EU Member State, a situation that makes it much more difficult for refugees to find jobs. According to it, 221.195 refugees in Germany were still waiting for a final decision on their case at the end of 2014. And that figure has continued to increase – by 10 percent in the first two months of this year, according to Eurostat.

Fondazione ISMU – Iniziative e Studi sulla Multietnicità (Initiatives and Studies on Multi-ethnicity)

The external dimension of EU asylum policy: taking speed or fading away?

by Roberto Cortinovis

May 2015

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

This paper analyses the role of the EU as a global actor in the field of asylum. It starts by describing the broader framework on which EU external action in the field of asylum is based, looking in particular at the legal competences assigned by the Treaties and the main strategic documents adopted so far. Then three areas of action of the external dimension are analysed: Regional protection programs, the Joint EU resettlement Program and Humanitarian visas and external processing of asylum claims. The paper concludes by pointing at Member States' lack of commitment and political will, inter-institutional tensions, and overlaps between EU and national initiatives as the main challenges to address in order for the EU to increase coherence and visibility of its external action in the field of asylum.

Polski Instytut Spraw Międzynarodowych (Polish Institute of International Affairs)

Mobile EU citizens or migrants? Assessing the Polish diaspora in Norway

by Marta Stormowska [@MStormowska](#)

4 May 2015

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

Between 2004 and 2014, the number of Poles in Norway grew tenfold. Poles have become the biggest minority in Norway, bringing economic benefits for both countries but also social challenges. Whereas the effects of migration for sending and receiving countries differ, there are many areas in which cooperation could bring mutual benefits. Such cooperation based on the respect of the fundamental freedom of EU citizens' free access to the labour market should lead to better integration of migrants. However, the biggest challenge in this respect lies in embracing the diversity of flows occurring within the free movement framework, ranging from short term stays to permanent settlements.

Istituto Affari Internazionali

Migrations through and from Libya: a Mediterranean challenge

by Mattia Toaldo [@mattiatoaldo](#)

May 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (20 p.)

This paper investigates the dynamics of migration through and from Libya, focusing on the economics and politics of illegal trafficking. It discusses EU and Member State policies on Mediterranean migration through Libya and argues that the externalisation of push-backs is neither desirable nor realistic. Finally, the paper proposes an overhaul of the current system with the aim of building partnerships with local actors and multilateral institutions, while also creating legal corridors for migration into Europe.

European Muslims: caught between local integration challenges and global terrorism discourses

by Anna Triandafyllidou [@triandafyllidou](#)

May 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (16 p.)

After the positive vibrations that the Arab Spring sent around Europe in 2011, today we are witnessing a reversal of that positive trend. The escalation of violence and insecurity in the region is sending shock waves across Europe and North America. Several thousand young people, a tiny, albeit dramatically visible, part of the European Muslim community have joined ISIS forces in Syria to fight a jihadist war. This paper argues that, while the weaknesses and tensions of integration policies exist and may have intensified since the start of the new century, the seeds of minority Muslim youth recruitment in Europe has more to do with today's global-local connections rather than with failed integration.

Migration Policy Institute

Rethinking global protection: new channels, new tools

by Kathleen Newland

April 2015

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

Two new approaches in particular have the potential to reinvigorate the protection regime. One involves empowering refugees to use their skills and energies to provide for their own livelihoods, by granting them the right to work. The second approach would open channels of international mobility that might include labour migration schemes, family reunification with relatives already

settled elsewhere, and international study and training programs, which would help refugees achieve both security and self-sufficiency.

From dependence to self-reliance: changing the paradigm in protracted refugee situations

by T. Alexander Aleinikoff

May 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (16 p.)

The author argues for long-term development solutions and a new narrative in addressing protracted displacement, one that emphasizes refugees' potential to contribute to host and origin communities through their own human capital, transnational connections, and dedicated international assistance. While the development potential of granting refugees the right to work in their host country has been demonstrated, many host governments are still reluctant to do so, and taking such solutions to scale will require the buy-in of both donor and host governments as well as development agencies.

From refugee to migrant? Labor mobility's protection potential

by Katy Long [@mobilitymuse](#)

May 2015

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

This report considers the extent to which labour migration is being used—or could be used in the future—to strengthen the international refugee protection regime and facilitate durable solutions for more refugees. The report also outlines two possible ways that policymakers could facilitate refugees' freedom of movement: initiatives that take advantage of existing migration pathways and regional freedom-of-movement protocols, and development of temporary and permanent refugee-focused labour migration programs.

Before the boat: understanding the migrant journey

by Jacob Townsend [@jacobrtownsend](#) and Christel Oomen [@ChrisInDenHaag](#)

May 2015

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

This report argues that to develop effective policy in the area of illegal migration, policymakers must recognize the driving forces behind migrants' decisions and movements through a comprehensive understanding of smuggling networks and the migrants who utilize them. At the moment, the knowledge base suffers from a number of limitations, including a "destination bias" that views developments from a destination-country perspective. There is a lack of understanding of the way migrants make decisions, as their personal risk assessment models are often much more nuanced and far-sighted than the current evidence acknowledges. Policymakers should also consider the structure and economy of smuggling networks, which could help locate weak spots and pressure points.

COMPETITIVENESS (INTERNAL MARKET, INDUSTRY, RESEARCH AND SPACE)

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

Junker's investment plan: what results can we expect?

by Martin Myant

May 2015

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

There has been a fall in investments in several EU Member States and the need to revive economic growth is often highlighted. Therefore, the European Commission has presented a plan for 315 billion euro of new investment. This analysis discusses this plan and finds that the

investment supported is likely either to be much less than hoped for, or to be biased towards safer projects in higher income countries, increasing rather than reducing divergences across the EU. The plan could be improved by setting clearer objectives and criteria, increasing its scale and, above all, by allowing some relaxation of the strict budget rules applied within the eurozone.

College of Europe

State aid to infrastructure: do competitively selected operators obtain an undue advantage?

by Phedon Nicolaides and Nadir Preziosi

5 May 2015

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

This paper reviews several cases where the Commission presumed that competitively selected operators of large infrastructure projects derived an undue advantage from state aid. The paper argues that competitive selection of operators is indeed capable of eliminating any advantage above market rates of return or market rates of cost of capital. It demonstrates, both theoretically and with the use of numerical examples, that concession fees take into account any aid that is granted to the owners of infrastructure.

Progressive Policy Institute

The blame game: multinational taxation in an era of knowledge

by Michael Mandel [@MichaelMandel](#), Paul Weinstein and Sarah O'Byrne [@SarahEOByrne](#)

18 May 2015

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

US-based companies such as Google, McDonalds, Starbucks, Apple, and Microsoft are being attacked by European politicians for not paying their fair share of taxes. For example, in March 2014 Google was hit by a French tax assessment. In November 2014, UK lawmakers accused Google, Amazon, and Starbucks of using convoluted accounting methods to reduce their tax liabilities. The feeling that US multinationals—especially digital giants—are 'getting away with something' has fuelled a concerted effort by developed countries to rewrite the global tax system.

TRANSPORT/TELECOMMUNICATIONS/ENERGY

VoteWatch Europe

How will MEPs shape EU copyright law?

by Doru Frantescu [@dorufrantescu](#)

29 May 2015

Link to the article in [English](#)

In May, the European Commission put forward the long-awaited guidelines for a digital strategy. Intellectual property seems to be one of the most hotly debated areas and which lines up impressive lobby efforts on both sides of the reform. On the one hand, those who want a greater access of the public at large to goods and services produced by artists, writers, designers, film and music producers etc. On the other hand, those who hold these rights fight for keeping their intellectual property as much and as long as possible and oppose a reform that would diminish their negotiating power in relation to their consumers. This analysis by Votewatch.eu maps the cleavage within the European Parliament.

Elinkeinoelämän tutkimuslaitos (Research Institute of the Finnish Economy)

Machines in a cloud – or a cloud in machines? Emerging new trends of the digital platforms in industry and society

by Juri Mattila [@JuriMattila](#) and Timo Seppälä [@timoiseppala](#)

18 May 2015

Link to the article in [Finnish](#) (20 p.)

In the beginning of the 1990's, various fragmented information networks of the Internet were integrated. As a result, the commercial utilization of the Internet boomed, creating completely new business models and economic structures in the process. A similar reaction is now anticipated from the digitalization of industry and society at large. However, the big question is, how can all the separately structured, isolated systems be fused into one seamless network of systems? So far the problem has mainly been addressed from the stand-point of centralized and decentralized system architectures. This analysis notes, however, that completely new and innovative technological approaches, such as block chain technology, are emerging to address this problem.

Brookings Institution

Brookings Doha energy forum report 2015

18 May 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (30 p.) and in [Arabic](#) (23 p.)

From the rapid fall in oil prices to the conflicts that have threatened key energy sources and transit routes in the Middle East and North Africa, the global energy landscape has shifted dramatically over the past year. The change of the price of a barrel of crude oil can carry profound implications for government policies and company decisions around the world, from efforts at subsidy reform to shale oil extraction. Understanding the interplay between key geopolitical events and energy markets remains crucial.

Terra nova

Baisse des prix du pétrole : aubaine économique, défi écologique

by Antoine Guillou [@antoineguillou](#), Aurélien Saussay [@aureliensaussay](#), Cellule chiffrage de Terra Nova and Charles Boissel

12 May 2015

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

A study into the reasons for the decline in oil prices since the second half of 2014, with proposals to avoid that it blocks the energy transition.

Jacques Delors Institute - Berlin

Capacity mechanisms in the EU: nationalizing energy security?

by Jekaterina Grigorjeva [@jek_grigorjeva](#)

21 May 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (20 p.), in [French](#) (20 p.) and in [German](#) (20 p.)

In order to answer the question whether capacity mechanisms represent a cure of the energy-only market or an impediment towards the internal energy market, this policy paper draws attention towards the potential impacts of the national interventions on the European level and comes to the following conclusions: (1) Only compatible capacity mechanism designs with explicit participation models will allow for an effective 'co-existence' of the national capacity mechanisms and the European internal energy market; (2) the Energy Union is about optimization of resources and infrastructure on the European level. The realization of the need of co-operation in addressing the current problems is still missing among the Member States; (3) Protection of the old national

equilibrium will not solve the issues faced by the Member States but only postpone the progress towards a more sustainable European energy sector.

Institute for Security and Development Policy

After the deal: the EU and Iran's energy promise

by Ozan Serdaroglu

8 May 2015

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

The EU has played an instrumental role in negotiating the interim agreement on Iran's nuclear program. This paper argues that while the prospective lifting of sanctions under a final deal brings with it the potential for the EU to diversify its energy supply, uncertainties and challenges remain in tapping into Iran's huge natural gas reserves.

EMPLOYMENT/SOCIAL POLICY/HEALTH/CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies

It's our job: reforming Europe's labour markets

by Eoin Drea [@EoinDrea](#) and Siegfried Mureşan [@SMuresan](#)

May 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (95 p.)

This research, based on an analysis of six Member States, provides a set of recommendations designed to reflect the current characteristics of the EU labour market. The Martens Centre recommends: (1) EU employment policies should be simplified and better coordinated; (2) Clearly defined actions should be introduced to further improve labour mobility; (3) The focus of policymaking should be switched from combating unemployment to creating jobs; and (4) It is possible to finance the recovery by bridging the gap between investment and reform.

Institute for Public Policy Research

European employers' perspectives on long-term unemployment, recruitment and public employment services

by Luke Raikes [@lukeraikes](#) and Bill Davies

4 May 2015

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

Based on surveys in five European countries, this report explores employers' views on a range of issues related to long-term unemployment – their attitudes towards the unemployed, especially on skills and employability, and the effectiveness of their contact with public employment services.

Istituto Affari Internazionali

Creating a Union with a "human face": a European unemployment insurance

by Daniele Fattibene [@danifatti](#)

May 2015

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

A European Unemployment Insurance (EUI) for the EMU would be a feasible and effective tool to cushion the impact of asymmetric shocks. It would have had a deep stabilisation effect during the last recession, stimulating aggregate demand and reducing the pressure to cut fiscal stabilisers in a pro-cyclical way. Fiscal, institutional, legal and statistical problems can be tackled, without reducing the generosity of the scheme. If implemented the EUI would finally give a "human face" to

the EU integration process, with policies that have a far-reaching impact in the everyday lives of the EU's citizens.

Centre for European Policy Studies

The case for a European unemployment benefit scheme

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

19 May 2015

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

The authors argue that the European economic governance system needs to be equipped with a supranational stabiliser that would kick-in automatically in the event of an economic downturn, to avoid unduly burdening national public finances. In their view, the option of creating an unemployment benefit system for the euro area should be given serious consideration.

College of Europe

Free movement of persons: the mirage of social security schemes

by Roxana Nedelescu [@NedelescuRoxana](#)

May 2015

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

The purpose of this paper is to address the issue of social security benefits that jobseekers, nationals of other Member State, residing in another Member States are entitled to, as well as the economic implications of free movement of persons and labour market access. It aims to disentangle labour mobility welfare effects and "benefit tourism", looking in particular at the UK social security system and analysing the policy framework that governs the free movement of people across EU Member States.

Institut für Weltwirtschaft Kiel (Kiel Institute for the World Economy)

How to deal with inequality welfare system challenges and European responses

by Andreas Friedl, Dennis Görlich [@degoerlich](#), Sebastian Horn, Christiane Krieger-Boden and Matthias Lücke

May 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (35 p.)

This paper seeks to identify innovative ways to limit inequality in households' disposable incomes and living standards, while keeping welfare systems fiscally sustainable. It focus on the welfare systems of EU countries in comparison, to better understand their key features.

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

The impact of living and working longer on pension income in five European countries: Estonia, Finland, Hungary, the Netherlands and Poland

by Elena Jarocinska

20 May 2015

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

This paper analyses the impact of working and living longer on pension incomes in five European countries and assess the impact of policy reforms on the financial well-being of the elderly. The paper shows the diversity of the policy measures taken in these countries. Furthermore, it analyses the financial incentives for working longer and postponing claiming pension benefits and it assesses the attractiveness of these options. Lastly, it studies how increases in life expectancies and survival probabilities affect pension incomes.

Bertelsmann Stiftung

Scaling social impact in Europe

by Christiana Weber and Arne Kröger

May 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (72 p.)

An analysis of scaling strategies put in place by European social entrepreneurs and their success factors. A total of 358 social enterprises in six European countries were surveyed for this quantitative study, which aims to serve as a decision-making tool that can help social enterprises choose the scaling strategy that is right for them.

Pew Research Center

Family support in graying societies: how Americans, Germans and Italians are coping with an aging population

21 May 2015

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

This report aims at understanding intergenerational relations in three countries that are undergoing rapid aging – the US, Germany and Italy. Parallel surveys were administered in these three countries, the greyest of the West's advanced economies, to explore the ways in which families are coping or providing support across generations as they experience this major demographic shift.

European Policy Centre

One year after the Youth Guarantee: policy fatigue or signs of action?

by Claire Dhéret [@cdheret](#) and Martina Morosi [@MartinaMo12](#)

27 May 2015

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

In April 2013, the EU Council called on EU Member States to establish Youth Guarantee (YG) schemes, ensuring that "all young people under the age of 25 years receive a good-quality offer of employment, continued education, apprenticeship or traineeship within a period of four months of becoming unemployed or leaving formal education". This policy brief assesses the implementation of the YG and provides suggestions on how to renew a sense of enthusiasm for such an ambitious tool across Europe.

Foundation for European Progressive Studies / Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (Friedrich Ebert Foundation)

Gender as symbolic glue: the position and role of conservative and far right parties in the anti-gender mobilizations in Europe

by Alice Blum, Gaël Brustier [@Gaelbrustier](#), Petra Ďurinová, Anikó Félix, Weronika Grzebalska, Eszter Kováts, Andrea Pető, Maari Põim [@poim_maari](#)

21 May 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (148 p.)

This publication critically analyses anti-gender discourses in European far right and conservative party programmes and the role of the respective parties in shaping the discourse and mobilisations. It looks at five case studies: France, Germany, Hungary, Poland, and Slovakia, also offering a chronological overview.

Chatham House - The Royal Institute of International Affairs

Reviewing interventions for healthy and sustainable diets

by Rob Bailey [@ChathamRob](#) and David Ross Harper

May 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (26 p.)

Human obesity has reached pandemic proportions, the environmental impacts of food production are unsustainable and the costs are increasingly being borne by low- and middle-income countries where poor nutrition and overconsumption is rising. This paper considers the global policy options for encouraging healthy and sustainable diets.

Corporate Europe Observatory

A toxic affair - How the chemical lobby blocked action on hormone disrupting chemicals

by Stephan Horel [@stephanehorel](#)

May 2015

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

A militant but well-documented overview of lobbying efforts on the legislation on endocrine disruptors.

ENVIRONMENT

European Policy Centre

The Emission Trading Scheme reform: will the Commission's proposal save the system?

by Jørgen Knud Henningsen

29 May 2015

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

The EU Emission Trading Scheme (ETS), proposed by the Commission in 2001, entered into force in 2005. It was the flagship instrument of an ambitious policy aiming to reduce the emission of greenhouse gasses in the EU by making emission allowances a freely tradable 'financial commodity'. However, in recent years, the cracks in the system have begun to show as the price of these CO₂ emission allowances has dropped. This paper argues that the envisaged ETS reform may not be enough to address the system's shortcomings, and that there should be a more open discussion about its potential if it is to contribute to the EU's goal of a largely de-carbonised economy by 2050.

Deutsches Institut für Wirtschaftsforschung (German Institute for Economic Research)

Modelling a market stability reserve in carbon markets

by Anne Schopp, William Acworth [@will_acworth](#), Daniel Huppmann and Karsten Neuhoff

May 2015

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

This paper examines under which conditions a cap-and-trade mechanism can deliver a dynamically efficient abatement pathway and contribute to a robust investment framework. For this it develops a numerical model that includes differentiated objective functions of different market participants for holding emission allowances based on their banking strategy. If the surplus of allowances is large, as currently observed in the EU ETS, the equilibrium market outcome can deviate from an efficient abatement pathway and performance of the policy is reduced against a set of key criteria. The model is applied to assess design options of quantity and price based market stability reserves as discussed in Europe. Both price and quantity based mechanisms can improve the performance of the EU ETS against key criteria.

Centre for European Policy Studies

Scanning the options for a structural reform of the EU Emissions Trading System

by Stefan Schleicher, Andrei Marcu, Angela Köppl, Jürgen Schneider, Milan Elkerbout, Andreas Türk and Alexander Zeitlberger

19 May 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (68 p.)

This paper provides a comprehensive overview and analysis of different options to reform the EU ETS. The options discussed include changes to address the rigidity of supply on the auctioning side, as well as reforms to add flexibility to free allocation. Additionally, other options that may enhance the functionality of the EU ETS are covered, drawing on examples and practices in other carbon-pricing mechanisms around the world.

How do stakeholders view the EU ETS? Diversity and differentiation of interests

by Noriko Fujiwara, Chara Karakosta, Aleksander Szpor, Andreas Tuerk and Erwin Hofman

8 May 2015

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

The EU ETS has been subject to a series of proposed reform, such as back-loading allowances for auctions, creating a market stability reserve, and long-term structural reform. Based on a stakeholder consultation process, this document gives an overview of perceptions held by major stakeholders in five Member States (Poland, Greece, Austria, Hungary and the Netherlands). It highlights the diversity of their views across sectors and across countries on different aspects of the ETS.

Paris 2015: what's in it for the EU?

by Andrei Marcu with contributions from Alexandra Deprez, Susanne Dröge, Liz Gallagher, Arthur Gradziuk, Sebastian Oberthür and Thomas Spencer

8 May 2015

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

This paper reviews the wider context of UN Climate Change Conference to take place in Paris in December 2015. It looks not only at the geopolitical shifts that have taken place on the road to Paris, but also at the interests of the EU both as far as its domestic climate policy is concerned, as well as its role as a diplomatic 'soft power'. The paper represents the joint vision of the members of the EU Think Tank Platform for Paris 2015 (TT2015). More information available on the website: <http://www.ttc2015.com/>.

Institut français des relations internationales

China's coming of age on climate change: just in time for Paris?

by Aurélie Faure-Schuyer and John Seaman [@johnfseaman](#)

May 2015

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

The upcoming Paris climate conference (COP21) is opening the door to a new post-2020 climate regime in which China and other large emitters will have to provide strong evidence of their domestic efforts in addressing global warming in the next century. China's domestic climate policy remains consistent in favouring robust action to reduce the country's projected emissions trajectory and its impact on climate change. Nevertheless, there are doubts regarding China's willingness to make commitments beyond what it has already announced in the November 2014 agreement and the role it will ultimately play in Paris this December.

Foundation for European Progressive Studies / Fabian Society

Bringing it home. Making a global deal on climate change a reality

by Ed Wallis

6 May 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (82 p.)

The author is confident that a global deal can be reached at the upcoming Paris climate conference in December this year. But whether or not the latest in a series of UN negotiations can keep global temperature rises to 2°C will ultimately be up to us. Public pressure is crucial to securing a stretching deal. Yet there is currently no sense that climate change is high on the political or public 'to-do' list.

EDUCATION/YOUTH/CULTURE/SPORT

Notre Europe - Jacques Delors Institute

Erasmus Pro: for a million "young European apprentices" by 2020

by Jacques Delors, Henrik Enderlein [@henrikenderlein](#), Pascal Lamy, Enrico Letta [@EnricoLetta](#), François Villeroy de Galhau, António Vitorino, Jean-Michel Baer and Sofia Fernandes

12 May 2015

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

65 years ago, Robert Schuman observed that "Europe will be built through concrete achievements which first create a de facto solidarity". In this paper, the authors call upon European leaders to rapidly implement a new mobility program for apprenticeships – Erasmus Pro – which would allow a million young Europeans to obtain a professional qualification in another EU country by 2020.

Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (Friedrich Ebert Foundation)

Herkunft = Zukunft?

by Ringo Wagner

May 2015

Link to the article in [German](#) (140 p.)

A discussion of (lacking) social mobility in Germany, and of how family background dictates opportunities and outcomes in health-related and educational choices.

Islamic feminism – A contradiction in terms?

by Ambar Ahmad

May 2015

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

The discourse on Islamic feminism has generated a language that many young women are able to draw upon while challenging patriarchal norms, by arguing that these have nothing to do with Islam and everything to do with tradition. Their insistence on following what is 'Islamic' rather than familial or cultural can potentially enable them to recover long obfuscated rights.

SECTION 5 - FOREIGN AFFAIRS

FOREIGN AND SECURITY POLICY

Notre Europe - Jacques Delors Institute

Neighbourhood policy: more or no more?

by Eneko Landaburu

27 May 2015

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

On the occasion of the consultations launched by the European Commission on the future of the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP), the author takes a stand on the ENP and suggests ways to improve its inner functioning and efficiency.

Fondation Robert Schuman

The new European neighbourhood policies require a differentiated and politically driven approach

by Michel Foucher and Gilles Lepasant

19 May 2015

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

The authors believe that the radically new geopolitical context typified amongst other things by the Arab rebellions and a new Russian domestic and foreign policy has changed the situation. This new context however must not prevent an analysis of the successes and shortfalls of this policy, including the assumption that countries on the edge of Europe should share the same framework and prospects simply because they are close.

Egmont – Royal Institute for International Relations

The Common Security and Defence Policy: national perspectives

by Daniel Fiott [@DanielFiott](#) (ed.)

19 May 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (115 p.)

"When one looks at the present state of the CSDP, one cannot help but look on with disenchantment", states Pierre Vimont in his foreword to this collective paper. And yet, from the essays assembled here, one cannot but conclude that European defence is not only indispensable, but possible.

Istituto Affari Internazionali

Eserciti in miniatura? La spesa militare di Francia, Gran Bretagna e Germania al tempo della crisi

by Valerio Briani

May 2015

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

A comparison of defence spending in France, UK and Germany, in view of their military ambitions. The paper argues that these countries risk building 'mini-armies', with modern equipment but a on a scale that makes them hardly employable.

European Union Institute for Security Studies

Defence budgets in Europe: downturn or U-turn?

by Olivier de France [@olivierdefrance](#)

13 May 2015

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

After Germany, the Netherlands, Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Romania and the Baltic states, France has announced it is planning to raise national defence spending from 2016 onwards. The significance of such commitments should not be downplayed. Defence expenditure has been shrinking in Europe for the best part of two decades, and public spending has fallen sharply with the onset of the financial crisis in 2008. The current efforts to boost defence budgets do more than simply buck the trend: they look like they will have a visible effect on real spending over coming years in some key European states. Yet such reports should also not be overblown: what this buys Europe in terms of output is as yet uncertain. In parallel, some European countries have in fact embarked on further cuts.

Foreign Policy Centre

Governing non-traditional security threats by transforming States. Trends and challenges

by Shahar Hameiri [@ShaharHameiri](#) and Lee Jones

May 2015

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

The authors examine international community responses to 'non-traditional' security threats – transboundary issues such as pandemic diseases, transnational crime, drug smuggling and people trafficking. They argue that the primary focus of the security response involves attempts to change the behaviour of individual states' domestic institutions and networking them across borders with their counterparts and international agencies. While this approach is seen as a way of avoiding international political conflict, they argue that the outcomes of these apparently technocratic interventions are shaped by domestic political struggles in target states. To attain better outcomes, the international community needs to be more aware of the domestic political impact of their interventions and build supportive coalitions with powerful domestic groups.

Forum for research on Eastern Europe and Emerging Economies

Evaluating the political man on horseback – Coups and economic development

by Erik Meyersson [@emeyersson](#)

25 May 2015

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

This paper examines the development effects of military coups. Coups overthrowing democratically elected leaders imply a very different kind of event than those overthrowing autocratic leaders, and these differences relate to the implementation of authoritarian institutions following a coup in a democracy. Although coups taking place in already autocratic countries show imprecise and sometimes positive effects on economic growth, in democracies their effects are distinctly detrimental to growth. Moreover, when coups overthrow democratic leaders, they fail to promote economic reforms, stop the occurrence of economic crises and political instability, as well as have substantial negative effects across a number of standard growth-related outcomes including health, education, and investment.

GEOPOLITICS AND STRATEGY

Barcelona Centre for International Affairs

The foreign policy of Greece's SYRIZA-ANEL coalition government: an early appraisal

by Ioannis N. Grigoriadis [@ingrigoriadis](#)

May 2015

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

This paper aims to explore the extent to which the rise of the SYRIZA-ANEL coalition government to power as a result of the 25 January 2015 parliamentary elections could affect Greek foreign policy in the Eastern Mediterranean, in particular the Cyprus issue, Greece's bilateral relations with Turkey and energy developments in the Eastern Mediterranean.

College of Europe

The European Union against a BRICS Wall? The case of the Syrian crisis

by Mayya Romanova

May 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (51 p.)

This paper seeks to contribute to the debate on whether the BRICS are emerging into a coherent political bloc that can challenge the EU as a global actor. The Syrian crisis, which erupted in 2011 and is still ongoing, is chosen as a case study. In order to examine and compare the positions of the BRICS and the EU, the study conducts an analysis of their official foreign policy discourses and their voting patterns in the UN between March 2011 and March 2015. The analysis shows that while the BRICS have strongly opposed military intervention, their overall positions were not very cohesive. The main conclusion is that the BRICS have not (yet) developed into a bloc able to challenge the EU.

Miami-Florida European Union Center / Consejo Argentino para las Relaciones Internacionales

New Atlantic community: the European Union, the US and Latin America

by Joaquín Roy (ed.) [@JoaquinRoy](#)

13 May 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (216 p.)

The proceedings of a conference on "A New Atlantic Community: The EU, the US and Latin America" organized by Jean Monnet Chair of the University of Miami in February 2015. The main topics and themes were the TTIP to be agreed between the EU and the US and its impact on Latin America, the relations between the EU and Latin America, and the overall issues of regional integration and economic cooperation in the Western Hemisphere.

EASTERN PARTNERSHIP

Latvijas Ārpolitikas institūts (Latvian Institute of International Affairs)

Three different faces of "soft power": the Baltic States and Eastern Neighborhood between Russia and the EU

by Toms Rostoks [@TomsRostoks](#) and Andris Spruds [@AndrisSpruds](#) (eds.)

2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (258 p.)

This publication aims to provide a conceptual (re)definition of the "soft power" projected by both the EU and Russia in the shared neighbourhood. It has a special focus on Ukraine, Moldova and

Georgia. It also examines the experience of the Baltic States, which, despite being full-fledged members of the EU, still remain an area of interaction and contestation.

Center for European Enlargement Studies

Eastern Partnership beyond the Riga Summit: rethinking cooperation

by Zsuzsanna Végh (ed.)

May 2015

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

To remain a relevant actor in the post-Soviet space able to promote its values while fostering political and economic relations with its neighbours, Brussels and the Member States need to review and reform their approach to the eastern neighbourhood. Recognizing this necessity, the European Commission and the EEAS recently initiated a review process of the EU's neighbourhood policy as a whole. The present position paper seeks to contribute to this process and add to the discussion on how the EU and its Member States should shape their approach to the region in the future.

Österreichische Gesellschaft für Europapolitik (Austrian Society for European Politics)

The future of the Eastern Partnership: strategic changes or continued drifting

by Novák Tamás

13 May 2015

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

The EU's traditional model (financial incentives in exchange of good governance), its "soft power" has proved to be inefficient in the Eastern Partnership. The question as to how the EU can contain Russia while balancing the preservation of its role and goals in the region and keeping an open dialogue with Russia remains open. As a foreign policy actor, the EU is far from being a global power. In order to get international reputation in foreign policy, success in resolving regional issues has to come first. If the EU, however, is not unified in maintaining a strongly supported common foreign policy towards the region and it is unable to offer EU membership perspectives to a country like Ukraine, the risk of disappointment of the pro-western population and political elite will likely be on the rise.

Polski Instytut Spraw Międzynarodowych (Polish Institute of International Affairs)

Georgia after the Riga Eastern Partnership summit

by Teona Turashvili and Konrad Zasztowt [@KZasztowt](#)

21 May 2015

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

Georgia is seen as one of the most advanced EaP members in terms of adoption of European standards. The country is quite successful in terms of building a democratic and transparent state, which is both rare and sets an important precedent in the post-Soviet region. Still, such positive changes in Georgia are not irreversible, and many reforms are only at the initial stage. The EU should offer more support, and encourage the government in Tbilisi in reforming state institutions. Priority should be given to the justice sector, public administration, and local government in order to secure democratic governance and a fair political environment for further transformation. Moreover, the EU should also increase support for Georgia's civil society, which is the most efficient "whistle-blower" in the event of bad practices such as corruption, cronyism or use of prosecutors and the judiciary against political opponents.

Belarusian Institute for Strategic Studies

Belarusians are in favour of urgent reform in the areas that matter

by Andrei Yeliseyeu

25 May 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (4 p.), in [Belarusian](#) (4 p.) and in [Russian](#) (4 p.)

The priority areas for the population in terms of reforms have not changed since last year. However, compared to 2014, the share of Belarusians in favour of immediate reforms has grown.

Geopolitics and reforms: who do reformers have to rely on?

by Dzianis Melyantsou

21 May 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (3 p.) and in [Russian](#) (4 p.)

Amid economic challenges and crisis in Ukraine, the Belarusians keep showing consistent isolationist sentiment.

Belarus's population: they want reforms, but they are not ready to deal with consequences

by Alena Artsiomenka

20 May 2015

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

Structural reforms alter the balance of winners and losers in society and for this reason pose significant political risks. In 2015, the Belarusian authorities were once again faced with a thorny dilemma: to seek anaesthetics in the form of external resources that would enable the country to postpone urgent reforms, or resolve to start putting in place the necessary reforms (primarily, the reduction in support for the public sector) and thus compromise their popularity. When choosing the latter option, the authorities naturally have to understand the potential response of the population and general stance of the Belarusians on reforms.

Economic reforms during the crisis? Response of the population and limits of political stability

by Aliaksandr Autushka-Sikorski

25 May 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (5 p.), in [Belarusian](#) and in [Russian](#) (5 p.)

Structural economic reforms are normally accompanied by so-called transformational recession—a period of marked contraction of production, slower GDP growth, and accompanying challenges, such as reductions in real incomes of households and growth of unemployment.

DEVELOPMENT

Overseas Development Institute / European Centre for Development Policy Management / Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik (German Development Institute)

European report on development 2015: combining finance and policies to implement a transformative post-2015 development agenda

May 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (191 p.) and to the executive summary in [English](#), in [French](#), in [German](#), in [Spanish](#) and in [Portuguese](#)

The data presented in this report suggest that a more comprehensive approach to financing for development is needed. Domestic public resources have grown rapidly over the last decade and are the largest source of finance for all country income groupings. International public finance has also increased but is declining in relative importance. Domestic private finance has shown the

fastest growth but is still low at low levels of income. International private finance has been highly volatile compared to the other flows. Innovative finance is promising but is yet to take off at scale. It is clear that there is a need to think about all types of finance for development and aid is only a small but pivotal source of finance.

ENLARGEMENT

Evropski pokret u Srbiji (European Movement in Serbia) / Slovenská spoločnosť pre zahraničnú politiku (Slovak Foreign Policy Association) / Institut pro evropskou politiku EUROPEUM (EUROPEUM Institute for European Policy) / Central European University - Center for EU Enlargement Studies / Ośrodek Studiów Wschodnich (Centre for Eastern Studies)

European integration of the Western Balkans - Can the Visegrad Group countries serve as role models?

by Jelica Minić (ed.)

May 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (92 p.)

This collection of papers from four "new" EU member countries (the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia) and one candidate country (Serbia) deals with the results of the great EU expansion in 2004 and its impact on internal reforms in the Visegrad Group countries, as well as related adjustments within the EU. The project aimed to identify practical lessons for Serbia and the Western Balkans which could make the EU enlargement process towards this region faster and more efficient.

Wiener Institut für Internationale Wirtschaftsvergleiche (The Vienna Institute for International Economic Studies)

Policy options for economic growth and competitiveness of Kosovo

by Mario Holzner [@MarioHolzner](#)

May 2015

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

Kosovo growth dynamics are encouraging but the level of economic activity is very low. Mass unemployment hints at macro-imbalances. Net transfers from migrants are pivotal for covering the huge trade balance deficit, as manufacturing exports are almost non-existent. Wages are low but increasing well ahead of productivity. The lack of an exchange rate policy is a substantial impediment. Transport infrastructure is of average, weak Balkan quality and the energy infrastructure is dismal, even for Balkan standards. The good news is that fiscal space is abundant and overall external indebtedness low as well. Apart from various institutional reforms, conventional policy recommendations comprise mostly supply-side measures that are effective in the medium to long run.

Group for Legal and Political Studies

Potential migrant's profile: who are the Kosovars most willing to migrate?

by Arbëresha Loxha and Delfinë Elshani

May 2015

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

A survey from March 2015 on perceptions of migration in Kosovo. The paper offers policy recommendations to mitigate the factors of migration toward the EU countries.

Visa liberalisation process and the way forward: suggestions for a strategic approach to the political dialogue with Brussels

by Ebba Lekvall [@EbbaLekvall](#)

May 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (15 p.)

This policy analysis examines Kosovo's visa liberalisation process and related issues. It also presents recommendations for the government on how to move towards the goal of visa liberalisation.

Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (Friedrich Ebert Foundation)

Fortschritt trotz Stillstand: Bosnien-Herzegowina rückt näher an die EU, ohne den Reformstau zu beenden

by Judith Illerhues

May 2015

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

A review of progress and blocking factors in the European integration of Bosnia and Herzegovina in light of the new EU focus on economic reform. The author notes that the new government's commitment to reform is still difficult to assess, especially as the scene is dominated by strong veto players.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE

Istituto Affari Internazionali

Boosting TTIP negotiations: a value chain approach

by Alessandro Giovannini and Umberto Marengo [@UmbeMarengo](#)

May 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (26 p.)

This paper intends to offer a new perspective for the EU on how to look at TTIP negotiations and boost them. By using a trade-in-value-added approach, the paper provides useful indications to the negotiating parties in order to focus on those areas which are really able to deliver much needed economic benefits. TTIP negotiations should mainly be focused on reducing cost and improving logistics along the production chains of the firms that have production lines across the Atlantic.

The geopolitical impact of TTIP: a Transatlantic fortress or an open platform?

by Miriam Sapiro [@miriamsapiro](#)

May 2015

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

The TTIP presents more than an opportunity to boost trade and investment between the US and Europe and cement the US-EU economic alliance. According to the author, it represents a chance to reassert US and European leadership in developing new global trade rules and, at the same time, establish an open platform that can embrace other countries sharing a common commitment to trade liberalization.

Centre for European Policy Studies

The Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership: the services dimension

by Patrick Messerlin

8 May 2015

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

This report examines the main facets of the debate around the service sector dimension of the TTIP. The main argument of the paper is that the service sector dimension of the TTIP will only bring substantial welfare gains if the negotiating parties are convinced that they need to undertake domestic reforms to improve the performance of their service sectors and that TTIP is an essential instrument to buttress and boost these reforms.

Институт за пазарна икономика (Institute for Market Economics)

The potential effects of TTIP on Bulgaria: facts versus fallacies

April 2015

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

The Institute notes the growing importance of the American market for Bulgarian producers of goods and services. The balance of mutual trade remains positive for Bulgaria while the export to the United States is 1,5 times higher than the import from that country. The export of goods as well as services from Bulgaria to the US has been increasing with double-digit values in the past five years as the US is now ranking amongst the primary export markets for Bulgaria outside of the EU. This increase is even more impressive considering the fact that 50% of the goods exported are subject to tariffs.

Leuven Centre for Global Governance Studies

The EU and China in the WTO: what contribution to the international rule of law? Reflections in light of the raw materials and rare earths disputes

by Matthieu Burnay and Jan Wouters

May 2015

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

The aim of this paper is to examine the contribution of the EU-China strategic partnership to the rule of law at the international level, in the particular context of the WTO. More specifically, it analyses the EU's relationship with China in the context of the WTO's Dispute Settlement Mechanism (DSM), hypothesizing that the use the two strategic partners make of the DSM contributes to the enhancement of the international rule of law. The main argument is that the practical use of the DSM by the EU and China reinforces the international rule of law in international trade. Such practice nevertheless also demonstrates that the heritage of China's Accession Protocol and its overall implementation in the DSM challenge some important aspects of the international rule of law, in particular the clarity and equality before WTO law.

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

Transatlantic market integration, business and regulation: building on the WTO

by Bernard Hoekman and Petros C. Mavroidis

May 2015

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

Regional trade agreements such as the TTIP could significantly affect the world trading system. How and to what extent will these agreements generate gains from trade and reduce transatlantic trade costs? And what will they mean for third parties? This policy brief reviews some of the recent

analyses and discusses how the TTIP could usefully draw on the experience in the WTO, to enhance transparency, and the scope for third parties to raise issues related to regulatory barriers to trade.

CHINA

European Union Institute for Security Studies

Countering terrorism: an area for EU-China cooperation?

by Mathieu Duchâtel and Alice Ekman [@alice_ekman](#)

29 May 2015

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

Ever since the release of the 2013 'EU-China 2020 Strategic Agenda for Cooperation', counter-terrorism officially features in bilateral meetings. The section on peace and security, for instance, states the need to 'hold special consultations on issues of anti-terrorism at an appropriate time'. The EU statement released after the October 2014 ASEM meeting declared that China and the EU 'reviewed the situation in the Middle East, northern Africa and the Sahel [...] and agreed to increase cooperation to counter the common threat of extremism and terrorism in these regions'. However, no concrete roadmap for bilateral cooperation in this area has yet materialised.

CUBA

Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (Friedrich Ebert Foundation)

Talking about a revolution: Entspannungspolitik und ihre Folgen für Kuba

by Sarah Ganter [@sarahsoutlook](#)

May 2015

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

A review of Cuba's reform process, focusing on the property regime of strategic assets and on the (still missing) measures to flank economic reform. The author concludes that Cuba's future model of a relationship between State and market is still unclear.

ISRAEL

European Policy Centre

Balancing realism and vision - The prospects of EU-Israel relations in times of change and uncertainty

by Eran Etzion [@eranetzion](#) and Andrea Frontini [@AndFrontini](#)

28 May 2015

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

In this paper, the authors assess the state of play and the future prospects of EU-Israel relations in the light of recent domestic and regional political developments. They argue that, despite frequent cacophony and recurring stalemates, the EU-Israel partnership still has the potential to pursue shared strategic objectives. The two sides have to realign their relations, taking into account new realities and common challenges in the Middle East and Northern Africa region, and the current state of the Middle East Peace Process.

JAPAN

German Marshall Fund of the United States

Waking up to geopolitics: a new trajectory to Japan-Europe relations

by Sarah Raine and Andrew Small [@ajwsmall](#)

May 2015

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

This report argues that the coming years provide a window of opportunity for Europe and Japan to put their relationship on a new trajectory. It argues that much of the process of transformation for the Europe-Japan relationship is already underway. Policy-makers in Europe and Japan alike often lack awareness of the full array of developments, whilst the institutionally diffuse nature of this progress can make it difficult for these protagonists to appreciate the bigger picture. The priority is not only to "do more" but also to find greater synergy between the initiatives that already exist.

MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

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

Der Aufschwung kurdischer Politik. Zur Lage der Kurden in Irak, Syrien und der Türkei

by Günter Seufert (ed.)

May 2015

Link to the article in [German](#) (87 p.)

The author looks at the rise of Kurdish politics in Iraq, Turkey, Syria. He calls for a new, more differentiated European policy towards the Kurds, which does not necessarily mean embracing all the claims made by Kurdish actors.

RUSSIA

Chatham House - The Royal Institute of International Affairs

A 'new Cold War'? Abusing history, misunderstanding Russia

by Andrew Monaghan [@CHRussiaEurasia](#)

May 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (16 p.)

An increasingly prevalent 'new Cold War' narrative is impairing Western understanding of today's Russia and its role in European security.

Ulkopoliittinen instituutti (Finnish Institute of International Affairs)

Venäjänsotilasdoktriinit vertailussa: Nykyinen versio viritettiin kriisiajan taajuudelle

by Katri Pynnöniemi [@Pynnoniemi](#) and James Mashiri [@jamesmashiri](#)

May 2015

Link to the article in [Finnish](#) (90 p.)

This report examines the main changes in Russia's military doctrine, and their implications for foreign and security policy. The main conclusion of the analysis is that with the update, the military doctrine has been adjusted to meet the needs of a crisis period. The doctrine's description of current world politics at large reflects the way Russia seeks to define global phenomena as a struggle between value systems and models of development. The new wordings emphasise the dynamics between external military threats and Russia's internal stability.

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

Russia's economic troubles – a perfect storm of falling oil prices, sanctions and lack of reforms

by Torbjörn Becker

May 2015

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

Russia is a very significant supplier of energy to the EU and an important destination for exports from the EU. The Russian economy is now facing serious challenges as a result of falling oil prices, sanctions and several years without reform. In this European Policy Analysis, the author discusses the driving forces of the Russian economy and the important links Russia has to the EU. It is concluded that Russia still faces serious economic challenges, and part of the solution to this would be to rebuild ties with its important partners in the EU and the rest of Europe by contributing to an end to the conflict in Eastern Ukraine.

Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies

An unholy alliance: the European far right and Putin's Russia

by Antonis Klapsis [@AntonisKlap](#)

May 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (75 p.)

European far-right parties have developed close relationships with Russia, based both on ideology and strategy. These parties see in President Putin the model of a strong, conservative leader who defends traditional values and opposes the decadent West. Since most far-right parties are at the same time anti-American and against European integration, they also see a close relationship with Russia as a necessary foothold in order to achieve the gradual disassociation of their countries from Euro-Atlantic institutions. The Kremlin views these parties as possibly being useful to expand Russia's geopolitical influence.

Polski Instytut Spraw Międzynarodowych (Polish Institute of International Affairs)

Turkey's rise as a reluctant ally faced with the Russian threat

by Pinar Elman [@PinarElman](#)

15 May 2015

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

Turkey's low-level involvement in the Ukrainian conflict, shaped by security concerns and economic needs, yet at the same time its consolidating dependence on Moscow, and its optimistic opportunism, increasingly raise concerns about possible prospects of a Turkish pivot away from the Euro-Atlantic community. But even while distancing itself from NATO, it may be in Turkey's interests to rebalance its policy by supporting the stability of Ukraine and closer cooperation with the EU.

Back to the difficult past: Central and Eastern Europe's relationship with Russia

by Anna Maria Dyner [@Anna_M_Dyner](#)

19 May 2015

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

This paper looks at the political, economic and strategic implications of Russia's increased assertiveness in Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) for states in the region. The author first looks at Russia's aggression in Ukraine, arguing that it shows Russia's desire to maintain a sphere of influence in the CEE region. She then examines what this means for states in the region, how they should design their relations with Moscow and how both NATO and EU could support their CEE member states in their efforts to deal with a more assertive Russia.

Fundación para las relaciones internacionales y el diálogo exterior (Foundation for International Relations and Foreign Dialogue)

Conflicting aims, limited means: Russia in the Middle East

by Mark N. Katz

May 2015

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

This paper looks at Russia's interests in the Middle East and examines why it is difficult for Moscow to pursue them. In particular, the author identifies four factors that hinder Russia's influence in the Middle East: 1) the interests Moscow pursues in the region are often in conflict with one another; 2) the environment has become more difficult for Russia since the outbreak of the Arab spring in 2011; 3) the means available to Moscow for pursuing its interests in the region are limited; and 4) the actions of regional actors – including Moscow's allies – often impede the achievement of Russian aims.

European Union Institute for Security Studies

Sanctions against Russia: evasion, compensation and over-compliance

by Cameron Johnston

13 May 2015

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

This commentary discusses the ways in which Russian companies that are targeted for international economic sanctions have managed to evade these measures. The methods include altering share structures, concealing factual ownership through proxy companies, and changing ownership to close associates or family.

Barcelona Centre for International Affairs

Misunderstandings and tensions, a new normality in EU-Russia relations?

by Nicolás de Pedro [@nicolasdepedro](#) and Elina Viilup [@ElinaViilup](#)

May 2015

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

The dialogue between the EU and Russia is strongly conditioned by the lack of understanding generated by divergent dominant narratives. The debates on Russia (and the Ukrainian crisis) within the EU are also affected by a great tangle of interests, opposing visions, stereotypes and disinformation. In order to overhaul the EU's stance on Russia, there is a need for a better understanding of Moscow's objectives and strategic approaches as well as of its perceptions.

Bertelsmann Stiftung

EU-Russia relations in the context of the eastern neighbourhood

by Elena Korosteleva

May 2015

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

This paper briefly examines EU-Russia relations in the context of the Eastern neighbourhood. Both the EU and Russia's ambitions for the eastern region have evolved into two competing region-building projects underpinned by differing strategies, norms, instruments, and actors. The author contends that the EU must make an effort to acknowledge and engage with the actors over the region, in order to develop cooperative strategies, based on shared interests, international norms and compatible instruments for the advancement of economic and political convergence across the region.

Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (Friedrich Ebert Foundation) / Институт мировой экономики и международных отношений Российской академии наук (Institute of World Economy and International Relations of the Russian Academy of Science)

Russia and East Central Europe after the cold war: a fundamentally transformed relationship

by Andrei Zagorski (ed.)

May 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (427 p.)

This book reviews and documents the transformation of bilateral relations between East Central European countries and Russia between the end of the cold war and the outbreak of the current Ukraine crisis. It proceeds from the overhaul of the fundamentals of these relations following the collapse of communism in Europe, including renegotiating basic treaties governing bilateral relations or negotiating border treaties by Baltic states, and Soviet/Russian troop withdrawal.

SOUTH CAUCASUS

European Policy Centre

The South Caucasus: between integration and fragmentation

by Mehmet Ögütçü, Fuad Chiragov [@FChiragov](#), Vusal Gasimli [@VusalGasimly](#), Kornely Kakachia [@Kornely09](#), Reshad Karimov [@ReshadK](#), Andrey Makarychev, Farhad Mammadov [@Farhad Mammadov](#), Gulshan Pashayeva, Amanda Paul [@amandajianepaul](#), Dennis Sammut [@dennissammut](#), Zaur Shiriyev [@ZaurShiriyev](#) and Cavid Veliyev

21 May 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (110 p.)

Situated at the intersection of Eurasia's major transport and energy corridors, South Caucasus is an important geostrategic region. Although Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia have been independent for more than two decades, they have chosen very different geostrategic paths since the collapse of the Soviet Union, leaving the region more fragmented and volatile than ever. In this book, various authors offer a deep and broad understanding of the developments in the South Caucasus, analyse the different foreign trajectories that each of the three states is following, and highlight the impact of external actors' policies.

UKRAINE

Istituto Affari Internazionali

General Zhukov and the cyborgs: a clash of civilisation within the Ukrainian armed forces

by Rosaria Puglisi

May 2015

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

The eruption of war in the Donbas has brought under everyone's eyes what has been evident to Ukrainian defence analysts for years about the Ukrainian army: undertrained, underequipped and underfunded. The uncertain conduct of operations and the tragic defeats suffered by the Ukrainian forces have highlighted a growing rift within the political and military leadership, a clash between a Soviet-style resource management and operation planning, and a more open and horizontal approach. Against the background of a dramatically altered security environment, and within the framework of the consolidation of democracy in post-Maidan Ukraine, the modernisation of the Ukrainian army and the finalisation of the unfinished defence reforms are urgent.

Brookings Institution

Off to a shaky start: Ukrainian government responses to internally displaced persons

by Elizabeth Ferris [@Beth Ferris](#), Suleiman Mamutov, Kateryna Moroz and Olena Vynogradova
13 May 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (37 p.)

Internal displacement is a new phenomenon in Ukraine. Until March 2014, the country's experience with forced migration had been limited to relatively small numbers of refugees. The first wave of internal displacement occurred in March 2014 and in one year the official number of registered internally displaced persons (IDPs) has climbed to over 1,2 million. This study on the Ukrainian government's response is intended to provide guidance to the government and its supporters to respond to the challenges of IDPs, both in the emergency phase and in the longer-term. And unfortunately experience suggests that displacement is likely to become long-term.

Central European Policy Institute

Ukraine reality check: small steps instead of big promises (after the Riga summit)

19 May 2015

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

More than a year after Maidan, and six months since the formation of a new so-called unity government in Kyiv, some positive news are coming from Ukraine: political legitimacy and central authority have been strengthened, civil society is highly engaged in governing, and some steps towards "de-oligarchization" are being taken.

Centre for European Policy Studies

A household energy-saving initiative for Ukraine

by Michael Emerson [@Michael1254O](#) and Vladimir Shimkin
21 May 2015

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

This paper is a proposal for funding energy-saving investments by a combination of loans and – for poor households – grants. This proposal would also generate geo-political benefits since if Ukraine approached European energy-efficiency standards, it would no longer have to import gas.

SPECIAL FOCUS - GERMANY AND THE OTHERS

Institute of International and European Affairs

Germany & Russia: a difficult partnership

by Pádraig Murphy

May 2015

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

Relations between Germany and Russia stretch back over a thousand years. Through the years, these near neighbours have had a complex relationship - one that is currently fraught, as Germany, with her partners, attempts to resolve the Ukraine crisis. This paper contextualises the current tensions between these two nations by briefly sketching the historical development of the relationship from the Middle Ages to the current relationship between Chancellor Merkel and President Putin.

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

Under new auspices - New models of cooperation for Franco-German energy relations

by Franca Diechtl and Severin Fischer [@FischerSeverin](#)

20 May 2015

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

France and Germany have both been pursuing the goal of energy transformation for some time, albeit in different ways. As the German energy transition gathers steam, the authors see plenty of good reasons to foster even closer cooperation on matters of energy policy, and in doing so, help bridge some of the gaps in the Franco-German relationship.

Bertelsmann Stiftung / Pew Research Center

Germany and the United States: reliable allies but disagreement on Russia, global leadership and trade

7 May 2015

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

The Pew Research Center, in association with the Bertelsmann Foundation, surveyed publics in the US and Germany to examine American and German attitudes toward the role historical memory plays in the relationship, views about each other as reliable allies, their relationship with Russia, and efforts to negotiate a TTIP. According to the survey, Germans and Americans overwhelmingly see one another as reliable allies – despite different views on the approach towards Russia, Germany's role in the world and TTIP.

German Marshall Fund of the United States

Longstanding partners in changing times: report of the Task Force on the future of German-American relations

by Karen Donfried, Derek Chollet [@derekchollet](#) and Daniela Schwarzer [@D_Schwarzer](#)

May 2015

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

Germany and the US have been steadfast allies for 60 years, but their bilateral ties would benefit from a reassessment of what binds them and why continued strong cooperation benefits both sides. An interdisciplinary group of experts and stakeholders was assembled for a weekend in Germany to reassess the fundamentals of the German-American relationship and make recommendations to renew and strengthen bilateral ties. This report reflects their findings.

REGARDS CROISÉS

LOOKING AT BREXIT FROM SINGAPORE

European Union Centre in Singapore

To leave or not to leave? Contentious debates on the United Kingdom's membership of the European Union

by Loke Hoe Yeong [@lokehoeyeong](#)

May 2015

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

While attempting to offer a balanced coverage of the debates on Brexit, this background brief nevertheless seeks to offer a fact-based assessment of the merits of the UK leaving the EU, or otherwise. Economic considerations, rather than ideological motivations, are therefore the key here. A separate section charts out the economic relations between the UK and Singapore, a key political and economic partner of the UK in Asia, to discuss the potential international impact of Brexit.
