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Dear Readers,

Welcome to issue 35 of the Think Tank Review compiled by the EU Council Library* ([click to share on Twitter](#)). It references papers published in April 2016. As usual, we provide the link to the full text and a short abstract.

Think tanks have been prolific in many fields this month. Let us mention just a few to give you a taste of what you can find in this broad selection of papers.

This TTR has a special focus on social issues in the European Union, particularly poverty, these being of interest to many researchers. The [ImPRovE](#) project has given rise to a handful of articles on scenarios for reducing poverty in Belgium, Greece and the UK, as well as a detailed report on the Europe 2020 social inclusion indicators. With the same objective of looking for solutions, Caritas Europa identifies the main causes of poverty, inequality and social exclusion and formulates recommendations to improve the situation in Europe in its report 'End poverty in Europe – Our solutions to make it happen'. We also take a closer look at employment and the situation on the labour market. The Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS) has published an article that scrutinises eight European countries in terms of their multi-tiered regulation of unemployment benefits in the context of a hypothetical European Unemployment Benefit Scheme. A European Policy Centre discussion paper touches on labour mobility, focusing on the posting of workers within the EU. If any of these articles kindles your interest, go to the special focus section of our TTR and read on.

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In Section 1 (EU Politics and Institutions) we would like to draw your attention to two papers in particular: one on an EU mechanism on democracy, the rule of law and fundamental rights, where the authors assess the need and possibilities for the establishment of an EU scoreboard, and another, entitled 'Future Left', which compiles a collection of essays on the reasons why mainstream political parties are in decline in Europe.

Lately the EU bubble has seemed to be consumed by the topic of referenda. It will therefore come as no surprise that we have included in Section 3 (EU member states) several articles on the consultative Dutch referendum on the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement, as well as on the UK referendum on its membership of the EU. In the Netherlands sub-section, the Robert Schuman Foundation, the Centre for European Policy Studies and the East European Security Research Initiative Foundation analyse the results of the Dutch referendum. The 'Bremain/Brexit' question

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dominates the UK sub-section. We invite you to familiarise yourselves with the vast range of scenarios and analyses presented by both camps ahead of the vote on 23 June.

Nevertheless, member states do not live on referenda alone. In Spain and Greece pension system reform appears to be a more pressing matter. 'The Greek pension tragedy: a case of failure in governance' by Platon Tinios from the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung is a title that speaks for itself. Financial governance is also the main concern in the Italian section. The LUISS School of European Political Economy provides readers with an in-depth analysis of the Italian government's doings in terms of the economy. Also worth mentioning are two articles touching on Islamic finance, a topic which has been largely off the radar until now. The Hellenic Foundation for European Foreign Policy describes the state of affairs in Greece, while the Center for Social and Economic Research reports on a more general, institutional level.

In Section 5 (Foreign Affairs) we would like to draw your attention to the articles on the conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh in the sub-section on Eastern Europe and Central Asia. Four publications study the recent tension between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

Last but not least, we would like to point out two articles that particularly drew our interest. 'Status of market economy to China: what political answers can be given to this legal straitjacket?' by the Robert Schuman Foundation (Section 5, sub-section China) elaborates on a hot topic of debate in Brussels, that could be summarised in the question: what effects will the expiry of the anti-dumping measures set out in China's WTO accession protocol have for the EU economy?

Another must-read in this edition is 'The long march towards the EU: candidates, neighbours and the prospects for enlargement' (Section 5, sub-section Enlargement Process). In this article, Konrad Niklewicz from the Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies considers the options for further EU enlargement, including ending enlargement altogether, offering a reduced membership status and keeping enlargement alive under strict conditions.

It was our intention to keep the introduction short and we do believe we have succeeded, given the amount of excellent material that has not been mentioned here but can still be discovered in this compilation. We hope we have met the needs of readers wanting to get their hands on the latest EU-related papers published by think tanks all over the world.

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

The next Review will be out in June 2016, with papers published in May 2016.

<p>For readers from outside the General Secretariat, the Library is in the Justus Lipsius building, at JL 02 GH, Rue de la Loi 175, 1048 Brussels. It is open to Council officials, staff of other EU institutions and Permanent Representations of member states. Members of the public may use the library for research purposes.</p>

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SECTION 1 - EU POLITICS AND INSTITUTIONS	11
SECTION 2 - ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS	15
SECTION 3 - EU MEMBER STATES	19
SECTION 4 - EU POLICIES	29
SECTION 5 - FOREIGN AFFAIRS	38
SPECIAL FOCUS - POVERTY AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC ASPECTS	57
MISCELLANEOUS	60
REGARDS CROISÉS	62

SECTION 1 - EU POLITICS AND INSTITUTIONS

Centre for European Policy Studies

An EU mechanism on democracy, the rule of law and fundamental rights..... 11

College of Europe

Participatory democracy in the EU: obstinate or obsolete?..... 11

Leuven Centre for Global Governance Studies

The many facets of parliamentary involvement and interaction in EU external relations..... 11

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

The parliamentarisation of the EU's economic policy..... 12

The unsustainability of independent fiscal institutions..... 12

Adviesraad Internationale Vraagstukken (Advisory Council on International Affairs)

Differentiated Integration: different routes to EU cooperation..... 12

The future of Schengen..... 12

Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (Friedrich Ebert Foundation)

Foundation of the nation: how political parties and movements are radicalising others in favour of conservative family values and against tolerance, diversity, and progressive gender politics in Europe..... 13

Fabian Society

Future Left..... 13

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

Sicherheit delegieren : EU-Agenturen in der inneren und äußeren Sicherheit..... 13

Föderalismus statt Separatismus: Politische Instrumente zur Lösung von Sezessionskonflikten in Europa..... 13

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

Humanitarian aid policy in the EU's external relations: the post-Lisbon framework..... 14

LUISS School of European Political Economy

A proposal for Europe..... 14

SECTION 2 - ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

Notre Europe - Jacques Delors Institute

Investment in Europe: making the best of the Juncker plan (with case studies on digital infrastructure and energy efficiency)..... 15

Institute for Fiscal Studies

The budget of the European Union: a guide..... 15

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

Correcting external imbalances in the European economy..... 15

European Political Strategy Centre

The European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI): maximising its potential..... 16

Foundation for European Progressive Studies

Demand effects of financialisation and changes in functional income distribution in the EU..... 16

Centre for European Policy Studies

Flexibility versus stability - A difficult trade-off in the eurozone..... 16

Is there a need for additional monetary stimulus? Insights from the original Taylor rule..... 16

Institutions and growth in Europe..... 17

CEPII - Centre d'Etudes prospectives et d'Informations internationales	
<i>A European disease? Non-tradable inflation and real interest rate divergence</i>	17
Center of European Policy Studies / LUISS School of European Political Economy	
<i>Fine-tuning the use of bail-in to promote a stronger EU financial system</i>	17
Terra nova	
<i>Union bancaire inachevée : danger !</i>	17
SAFE - Sustainable Architecture for Finance in Europe	
<i>Lost in translation? ECB's monetary impulses and financial intermediaries' responses</i>	18
<i>Euro area shadow banking activities in a low-interest-rate environment: a flow-of-funds perspective</i>	18
Jacques Delors Institute - Berlin / Bertelsmann Stiftung	
<i>The economic costs of non-Schengen. What the numbers tell us</i>	18
SECTION 3 - EU MEMBER STATES	
AUSTRIA	
Österreichische Institut für Internationale Politik (Austrian Institute for International Affairs)	
<i>Österreichs Umgang mit autokratischen Staaten</i>	19
BELGIUM	
Egmont – Royal Institute for International Relations	
<i>Why Belgium needs a Special Operations Command</i>	19
CROATIA	
Ekonomski institut, Zagreb (Institute of Economics, Zagreb)	
<i>Tougher than the rest? Relationship between unemployment and crime in Croatia</i>	19
FINLAND	
Elinkeinoelämän tutkimuslaitos (Research Institute of the Finnish Economy)	
<i>Pakotteiden vaikutus Suomen vientiin Venäjälle</i>	20
FRANCE	
Centre international de formation européenne	
<i>Politique: la singularité française en Europe</i>	20
GERMANY	
Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (Friedrich Ebert Foundation)	
<i>Serbia and Germany: from suspicion to trust</i>	20
German Marshall Fund of the United States	
<i>The United States in German foreign policy</i>	21
Institut der deutschen Wirtschaft Köln (Cologne Institute for Economic Research)	
<i>Vordergründig robust, hintergründig anfällig: IW-Konjunkturprognose Frühjahr 2016</i>	21
European Policy Centre	
<i>German macro: how it's different and why that matters</i>	21
Vodafone Stiftung Deutschland (Vodafone Foundation Germany)	
<i>Nachhilfe für die Integration</i>	21
GREECE	
Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung	
<i>The Greek pension tragedy: a case of failure in governance</i>	22
Ελληνικό Ίδρυμα Ευρωπαϊκής και Εξωτερικής Πολιτικής (Hellenic Foundation for European Foreign Policy)	
<i>Embracing Islamic finance in Greece. A preliminary analysis</i>	22
ITALY	
LUISS School of European Political Economy / London School of Economics and Political Science	
<i>Italy's public finances: you can't have it all!</i>	22
NETHERLANDS	
Centre for European Policy Studies	
<i>The Dutch referendum on the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement: legal options for navigating a tricky and awkward situation</i>	23
Fondation Robert Schuman	
<i>The Dutch reject the Association Treaty between the EU and Ukraine</i>	23
East European Security Research Initiative Foundation	
<i>The Dutch referendum on the EU association agreement with Ukraine: how Ukraine-EU extended trade deal became a vote about everything else</i>	23

POLAND

Polski Instytut Spraw Międzynarodowych (Polish Institute of International Affairs)

EU pressure insufficient to gain U.S. visa waiver for Poles 23

SLOVAKIA

European Trade Union Institute

Economic transition, partisan politics and EU austerity: a case study of Slovakia's labour market policies..... 24

Slovenská spoločnosť pre zahraničnú politiku (Slovak Foreign Policy Association)

Slovakia: (re)discovering of the international crisis management..... 24

SPAIN

Fundación de Estudios de Economía Aplicada

From Bismarck to Beveridge: the other pension reform in Spain..... 24

UNITED KINGDOM

European Policy Centre

Britain and Europe: a new settlement?..... 25

Institute of Economic Affairs

Breaking up is hard to do: Britain and Europe's dysfunctional relationship..... 25

Fabian Society / Foundation for European Progressive Studies

Argument or organisation? The battle over membership of the European Union 25

Centre for European Reform

The economic consequences of leaving the EU: the final report of the CER commission on Brexit 2016..... 26

Europe after Brexit: unleashed or undone?..... 26

Istituto Affari Internazionali / Osservatorio di politica internazionale

L'accordo sui nuovi rapporti fra Regno Unito ed Unione europea. Contenuto ed implicazioni..... 26

LUISS School of European Political Economy

Brexit is an underrated risk..... 26

LUISS School of European Political Economy / London School of Economics and Political Science

Beyond pride and prejudice: the impact of Brexit on the rest of the EU..... 27

Institute of International and European Affairs

What's in a phrase? The United Kingdom and ever closer union 27

Institut der deutschen Wirtschaft Köln (Cologne Institute for Economic Research)

Brexit – The economic impact: a meta-analysis 27

The Bruges Group

Emergency exit : a look at what can be once we are free..... 27

Adam Smith Institute

Stuck in the middle with EU: how global regulators are killing the value of EU membership..... 28

UK PLC: Britain's debt time bomb 28

Demos

Building companionship: how better design can combat loneliness in later life..... 28

Policy Network / Bertelsmann Stiftung

Young people at risk: challenges and policy options for the UK..... 28

SECTION 4 - EU POLICIES

JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS

Centre for European Policy Studies

The cost of non-Europe in the area of organised crime..... 29

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

The EU and US criminal law as two-tier models..... 29

MIGRATION AND REFUGEE CRISIS

European Council on Foreign Relations

Paying the price: the cost of Europe's refugee crisis 29

Bear any burden: how EU governments can manage the refugee crisis 30

Deals without borders: Europe's foreign policy on migration 30

European Policy Centre

Migration panorama. Schengen in the spotlight: a Europe with or without borders? 30

Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (Friedrich Ebert Foundation)

Refugee migration – A crisis for the Nordic model?..... 30

Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung (Heinrich Böll Foundation)

Gewinne der Integration. Berufliche Qualifikation und Integrationstempo entscheiden über die langfristigen fiskalischen Kosten der Aufnahme Geflüchteter..... 30

Euro-Mediterranean Study Commission	
<i>How can the EU border be better managed? How to balance EU control strategies and at the same time guarantee refugee protection.....</i>	31
<i>The migration crisis: issue or opportunity?</i>	31
Fondation Robert Schuman	
<i>The challenge of illegal immigration in the Mediterranean.....</i>	31
Fondazione ISMU – Iniziative e Studi sulla Multietnicità (Initiatives and Studies on Multi ethnicity)	
<i>Migrations and policy cycle in the UK: overview of recent trends</i>	31
Notre Europe - Jacques Delors Institute	
<i>A jobseeker's visa for third-country nationals</i>	32
Migration Policy Institute	
<i>Managing religious difference in North America and Europe in an era of mass migration.....</i>	32
TERRORISM	
European Institute of the Mediterranean / Euro-Mediterranean Study Commission	
<i>Terrorist threat in the Euro-Mediterranean region.....</i>	32
International Centre for Counter-Terrorism - The Hague	
<i>The foreign fighters phenomenon in the EU – Profiles, threats & policies.....</i>	32
Royal United Services Institute / Chatham House - The Royal Institute of International Affairs / International Centre for Counter-Terrorism - The Hague	
<i>Toolkit for mental health experts and social workers in dealing with lone-actor terrorism</i>	33
Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung	
<i>The return of the terror tourists: foreign terrorist fighters as a challenge for Germany and Europe.....</i>	33
European Political Strategy Centre	
<i>Towards a 'Security Union': bolstering the EU's counter-terrorism response</i>	33
AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES	
Institute for European Environmental Policy	
<i>Learning the lessons of the greening of the CAP</i>	33
COMPETITIVENESS (INTERNAL MARKET, INDUSTRY, RESEARCH AND SPACE)	
Jacques Delors Institute - Berlin	
<i>De jure freedom of movement and de facto mobility in the EU Internal Market.....</i>	34
Bruegel	
<i>The European Union's growing innovation divide.....</i>	34
Zentrum für Europäische Wirtschaftsforschung (Centre for European Economic Research) / Inova+ / TNO	
<i>Mapping the regional embeddedness of the NMP programme.....</i>	34
European Centre for International Political Economy	
<i>Competition, growth and regulatory heterogeneity in Europe's digital economy.....</i>	34
Institut der deutschen Wirtschaft Köln (Cologne Institute for Economic Research) / College of Europe	
<i>SME financing in the EU: moving beyond one-size-fits-all</i>	35
TRANSPORT/TELECOMMUNICATIONS/ENERGY	
Nederlands Instituut voor Internationale Betrekkingen - Clingendael (Netherlands Institute of International Relations)	
<i>EU transition towards green and smart mobility</i>	35
Bruegel	
<i>Energy across the Mediterranean: a call for realism.....</i>	35
Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung (Heinrich Böll Foundation)	
<i>Sustainable energy security: a transatlantic opportunity.....</i>	35
Oxford Institute for Energy Studies	
<i>Do we have aligned and reliable gas exchange prices in Europe?.....</i>	36
Centre for European Policy Studies	
<i>The EU power sector needs long-term price signals</i>	36
<i>A roadmap to enhanced regional energy policy: cooperation in south east Europe</i>	36
European Centre for International Political Economy	
<i>Assessing the solar energy dispute between the European Union and the People's Republic of China</i>	36
ENVIRONMENT	
Bruegel	
<i>Financial risks and opportunities in the time of climate change</i>	37
Leuven Centre for Global Governance Studies	
<i>The global governance system for climate finance: towards greater institutional integrity?.....</i>	37

Chatham House - The Royal Institute of International Affairs	
<i>Post-Paris: taking forward the global climate change deal</i>	<i>37</i>
Ecologic Institute	
<i>Proposals for reforming the EU effort sharing decision</i>	<i>37</i>
SECTION 5 - FOREIGN AFFAIRS	
FOREIGN AND SECURITY POLICY	
Ulkopoliittinen instituutti (Finnish Institute of International Affairs)	
<i>Europe's new political engine: Germany's role in the EU's foreign and security policy.....</i>	<i>38</i>
Fundación Alternativas	
<i>A new step towards a common European defence</i>	<i>38</i>
German Marshall Fund of the United States	
<i>For a "new realism" in European defense: the five key challenges an EU defense strategy should address.....</i>	<i>38</i>
Deutsche Gesellschaft für Auswärtige Politik (German Council on Foreign Relations)	
<i>A new Helsinki needed? What security model for Europe? Papers from the December 2015 Germany-Poland-Russia dialogue.....</i>	<i>39</i>
International Centre for Counter-Terrorism - The Hague	
<i>Transitioning from military interventions to long-term counter-terrorism policy.....</i>	<i>39</i>
Nederlands Instituut voor Internationale Betrekkingen - Clingendael (Netherlands Institute of International Relations)	
<i>The parliamentary dimension of defence cooperation</i>	<i>39</i>
European Union Institute for Security Studies	
<i>EUISS yearbook of European security 2016</i>	<i>39</i>
<i>Envisioning European defence – Five futures</i>	<i>40</i>
Rahvusvaheline Kaitseuringute Keskus (International Centre for Defence Studies)	
<i>Strengthening the strategic balance in the Baltic Sea area</i>	<i>40</i>
GEOPOLITICS AND STRATEGY	
European Union Institute for Security Studies	
<i>Towards an EU global strategy – Consulting the experts</i>	<i>40</i>
College of Europe	
<i>A global strategy for a global player? Shaping the EU's role in the World.....</i>	<i>40</i>
<i>The BRICS' new development bank and the EU's options</i>	<i>41</i>
Barcelona Centre for International Affairs	
<i>Atlantic future. shaping a new hemisphere for the 21st century: Africa, Europe and the Americas.....</i>	<i>41</i>
Liechtenstein Center on Self-Determination	
<i>Emerging European security challenges</i>	<i>41</i>
Center for Strategic and International Studies	
<i>The European Union in a reconnecting Eurasia</i>	<i>41</i>
Chatham House - The Royal Institute of International Affairs	
<i>Humanitarian engagement with non-state armed groups.....</i>	<i>42</i>
<i>Global risks and the challenges for G20 coordination - A growth agenda for China's 2016 presidency.....</i>	<i>42</i>
NATO Energy Security Centre of Excellence	
<i>Energy security: operational highlights.....</i>	<i>42</i>
TRADE	
Nederlands Instituut voor Internationale Betrekkingen - Clingendael (Netherlands Institute of International Relations)	
<i>Who is afraid of European economic diplomacy?.....</i>	<i>42</i>
Centre for European Reform	
<i>Shaping 21st century trade: TTIP, global standards and multilateralism</i>	<i>43</i>
Corporate Europe Observatory	
<i>Investment court system put to the test - New EU proposal will perpetuate investors' attacks on health and environment.....</i>	<i>43</i>
European Centre for International Political Economy	
<i>The EU's trade with emerging markets: climbing the value-added chain and growing IP intensity?.....</i>	<i>43</i>
Centre for European Policy Studies	
<i>Tomorrow's silk road: assessing an EU-China Free Trade Agreement.....</i>	<i>43</i>

DEVELOPMENT

Real Instituto Elcano (Elcano Royal Institute)

Los desafíos del desarrollo sostenible en América Latina: estableciendo prioridades y definiendo la contribución española 44

European Centre for Development Policy Management

Monitoring and reporting on policy coherence for sustainable development: the example of Switzerland 44

ENLARGEMENT PROCESS

Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies

The long march towards the EU: candidates, neighbours and the prospects for enlargement..... 44

Group for Legal and Political Studies

The Serbian media and the dialogue: has there been an evolution in how Serbian media perceive Kosovo? 45

Barcelona Centre for International Affairs

Kosovo: the limits of international post-conflict governance 45

AFRICA

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

Vom "umfassenden" zum "integrierten Ansatz". Notwendige Schritte zur Weiterentwicklung der EU-Außenbeziehungen am Beispiel der Sahelzone und des Horns von Afrika..... 45

International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance

Democracy-building in conflict-affected and fragile states: the role of the African Union..... 46

ASIA-OCEANIA

LSE IDEAS

Changing waters: towards a new EU Asia strategy..... 46

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

Indonesia in ASEAN : regional leadership between ambition and ambiguity..... 46

CHINA

Fondation Robert Schuman

Status of market economy to China: what political answers can be given to this legal straitjacket?..... 47

Norsk Utenrikspolitisk Institutt (The Norwegian Institute of International Affairs)

China's political priorities in the Nordic countries: from technology to core interests..... 47

Ośrodek Studiów Wschodnich (Centre for Eastern Studies)

Niezbędny partner drugoplanowy. Europa w polityce Chin w okresie rządów Xi Jinpinga 47

EASTERN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

Trans European Policy Studies Association

The frozen conflicts of the EU's Eastern neighbourhood and their impact on the respect of human rights 48

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

A forgotten conflict: escalation in Nagorno Karabagh. Unpredictable effects of 'the no peace, no war' situation 48

Consejo Argentino para las Relaciones Internacionales

Nuevos enfrentamientos entre Armenia y Azerbaiyán..... 48

Egmont – Royal Institute for International Relations

Armenia, Azerbaijan and the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict: why the 'black garden' will not blossom any time soon..... 48

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Real Instituto Elcano (Elcano Royal Institute)

La difícil coyuntura económica en América Latina..... 49

Consejo Uruguayo para las Relaciones Internacionales

América Latina: amenazas a la seguridad, debilidad del Estado y oportunidades para el terrorismo internacional y el crimen organizado 49

MIDDLE EAST/NORTH AFRICA (MENA)

Ελληνικό Ίδρυμα Ευρωπαϊκής και Εξωτερικής Πολιτικής (Hellenic Foundation for European Foreign Policy) / Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung

The eastern Mediterranean in 2020: possible scenarios and policy recommendations..... 49

Overseas Development Institute

Migration in Libya: transit zone or final destination?..... 49

International Centre for Counter-Terrorism - The Hague

Salafi Jihadist violence in Egypt's north Sinai: from local insurgency to Islamic State province 50

Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung

From local actor to global threat: the so-called Islamic State (IS) in Iraq and Syria..... 50

Jihad instead of democracy? Tunisia's marginalised youth and Islamist terrorism..... 50

International Crisis Group	
<i>Steps toward stabilising Syria's northern border</i>	50
Istituto Affari Internazionali	
<i>Why youth empowerment can sustain Tunisia's democratic consolidation</i>	51
Carnegie Europe	
<i>Between peril and promise. A new framework for partnership with Tunisia</i>	51
RUSSIA	
Svenska institutet för europapolitiska studier (Swedish Institute for European Policy Studies)	
<i>The EU and Russia: managing the new security environment in the wider Europe</i>	51
Transatlantic Academy	
<i>Why Russia's economic leverage is declining</i>	52
<i>Isolation and propaganda: the roots and instruments of Russia's disinformation campaign</i>	52
<i>The in-betweeners: the Eastern Partnership countries and the Russia-West conflict</i>	52
European Council on Foreign Relations	
<i>Putin's downfall: the coming crisis of the Russian regime</i>	52
Chatham House - The Royal Institute of International Affairs	
<i>Agents of the Russian World: proxy groups in the contested neighbourhood</i>	53
European Union Institute for Security Studies	
<i>Russian futures: horizon 2025</i>	53
Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik (German Institute for International and Security Affairs)	
<i>Zivilgesellschaft in Russland und der Ukraine : Divergierende Kontexte und ihre Implikationen</i>	53
TURKEY	
Transparency International	
<i>National Integrity System assessment: Turkey</i>	53
Türkiye Ekonomi Politikaları Araştırma Vakfı (Economic Policy Research Foundation of Turkey)	
<i>Syrians in Turkey: unemployment and social cohesion</i>	54
<i>How does the Syrian refugee crisis affect public health in Turkey?</i>	54
Deutsche Gesellschaft für Auswärtige Politik (German Council on Foreign Relations)	
<i>The Turkish time machine - The resurfacing Turkish-Kurdish question and its regional impact</i>	54
Center for American Progress	
<i>A Kurdish autumn becomes Turkey's long winter</i>	54
Center for Strategic and International Studies	
<i>Turkey in a reconnecting Eurasia</i>	55
UKRAINE	
Carnegie Europe	
<i>Fine-tuning EU support for Ukrainian democratization</i>	55
<i>Fighting a culture of corruption in Ukraine</i>	55
<i>Ukraine's indispensable economic reforms</i>	55
Chatham House - The Royal Institute of International Affairs	
<i>Can Ukraine achieve a reform breakthrough?</i>	56
Transatlantic Academy	
<i>The West's response to the Ukraine conflict: a Transatlantic success story</i>	56
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	
Chatham House - The Royal Institute of International Affairs	
<i>US election note: Russia policy after 2016</i>	56
Center for American Progress	
<i>Updating U.S.-Saudi ties to reflect the new realities of today's Middle East</i>	56
SPECIAL FOCUS - POVERTY AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC ASPECTS	
RAND Europe	
<i>The role of the European Social Fund in supporting childcare provision in the European Union</i>	57
Poverty Reduction in Europe: Social Policy and Innovation (ImPRovE)	
<i>The Europe 2020 social inclusion indicators: main conclusions of the ImPRovE project on validity, methodological robustness and interrelationships</i>	57
<i>Scenarios for reducing poverty in Belgium, Greece and the United Kingdom</i>	57
<i>The design of in-work benefits: how to boost employment and combat poverty in Belgium</i>	58
Caritas Europa	
<i>End poverty in Europe - Our solutions to make it happen</i>	58

LUISS School of European Political Economy	
<i>Should inequality be the primary concern for Europe's political economy?</i>	58
European Policy Centre	
<i>The revision of the Posted Workers Directive: towards a sufficient policy adjustment?</i>	58
Bertelsmann Stiftung	
<i>Arbeitsmarktintegration von Flüchtlingen: bestehende Praxisansätze und weiterführende Empfehlungen</i>	59
Centre for European Policy Studies	
<i>Institutional moral hazard in the multi-tiered regulation of Unemployment and Social Assistance Benefits and Activation - A summary of eight country case studies</i>	59
MISCELLANEOUS	
Barcelona Centre for International Affairs	
<i>Monarquías democráticas parlamentarias</i>	60
Mannheimer Zentrum für Europäische Sozialforschung (Mannheim Centre for European Social Research)	
<i>Die Politikpräferenzen der Wähler und die Wahrnehmung von Parteipositionen als Bedingungen für den Parteienwettbewerb um Wählerstimmen</i>	60
Case - Centrum Analiz Społeczno-Ekonomicznych (Center for Social and Economic Research)	
<i>Zarządzanie ryzykiem w instytucjach wykorzystujących muzułmańskie produkty finansowe</i>	60
International Centre for Black Sea Studies	
<i>Science, technology & innovation in the Black Sea: moving forward</i>	61
REGARDS CROISÉS	
EU INTEGRATION SEEN FROM RUSSIA	
Российский совет по международным делам (Russian International Affairs Council)	
<i>Four scenarios for European integration</i>	62
FRANCE SEEN FROM SPAIN	
Real Instituto Elcano (Elcano Royal Institute)	
<i>Francia en el puzzle europeo: retos y oportunidades para España</i>	62
AUSTRIA SEEN FROM HUNGARY	
MTA Közgazdaság- és Regionális Tudományi Kutatóközpont - Világgazdasági Intézet (Centre for Economic and Regional Studies HAS - Institute of World Economics)	
<i>Az állam és a magánvállalatok viszonya az osztrák gazdaságban</i>	62

SECTION 1 - EU POLITICS AND INSTITUTIONS

Centre for European Policy Studies

An EU mechanism on democracy, the rule of law and fundamental rights

by Petra Bárd, Sergio Carrera, Elspeth Guild and Dimitry Kochenov with thematic contribution by Wim Marneffe [@wimmarneffe](#)

April 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (247 p.)

The EU is founded on a set of common principles of democracy, the rule of law, and fundamental rights, as enshrined in Article 2 of the Treaty on the EU. Whereas future member states are vetted for their compliance with these values before they accede to the Union, no similar method exists to supervise adherence to these foundational principles after accession. This paper assesses the need and possibilities for the establishment of an EU Scoreboard, as well as its related social, economic, legal and political 'costs and benefits'.

College of Europe

Participatory democracy in the EU: obstinate or obsolete?

by Luis Bouza García [@luisbouzagarcia](#)

April 2016

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

The EU is not the first supranational organisation to establish structured relations with civil society, nor the first polity to try to address its problems of legitimacy by institutionalising mechanisms of citizen participation. However, the EU is the only supranational institution to have used the notions of participatory democracy and to have created mechanisms allowing for individual citizens' direct participation in policy-making. This paper reviews the agenda on participation in the last 15 years, attempts to conceptualise the evolving goals and limited results the EU has sought and provides some ideas for bringing the focus towards what these mechanisms can actually produce.

Leuven Centre for Global Governance Studies

The many facets of parliamentary involvement and interaction in EU external relations

by Kolja Raube [@KoljaRaube](#) and Jan Wouters

April 2016

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

Building upon the concept of a 'multilevel parliamentary field', which conceptualizes parliamentary action and cooperation in the EU, this paper analyses whether parliaments have become resigned or rather resilient actors in EU external action since the entry into force of the Treaty of Lisbon. Parliamentary resources ('ability') as well as parliamentary involvement ('attitude') are analysed in various fields of EU external action that are subject to distinct institutional arrangements, decision-making modes and instruments, namely the common foreign and security policy, the common commercial policy and human rights.

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

The parliamentarisation of the EU's economic policy

by Adriaan Schout [@adriaanschout](#) and Jan Marinus Wiersma

29 April 2016

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

Within this article the authors describe the increasing role of the EP in economic governance. Using mostly informal mechanisms, the EP is setting in motion an incremental process towards further control. Even though the formal role of the EP in economic governance is still limited, Europe's political union seems to draw ever closer.

The unsustainability of independent fiscal institutions

by Arnout Mijs [@ArnoutMijs](#)

22 April 2016

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

Since the economic and financial crises, the EU is stepping up its efforts to develop credible and reliable independent fiscal institutions (IFIs). As a result EU IFIs are mushrooming in the member states. In this policy brief the governance framework surrounding the IFIs is assessed. How are IFIs managed, does this correspond with what we know about effective governance frameworks, and what does this tell us about the direction of European integration – European centralisation or decentralised network management –? Are there sufficient safeguards in place that will ensure the sustainability of the IFIs' development, effectiveness and efficiency ?

Adviesraad Internationale Vraagstukken (Advisory Council on International Affairs)

Differentiated Integration: different routes to EU cooperation

April 2016

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

'Differentiated integration' appears to be the latest buzzword: a solution to the stagnation afflicting European policy development, a remedy to cure all the prevailing ills. This report assesses what consequences a future increase in flexible integration could have on the EU's institutional architecture and governability.

The future of Schengen

March 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (31 p.) and in [Dutch](#) (29 p.)

In the context of refugee crisis a fierce debate has erupted on Schengen. Some have declared 'Schengen' to be dead now that a number of countries have implemented permissible temporary restrictions and reintroduced internal border controls. Some member states are openly discussing the idea of a 'mini-Schengen' would be excluded. In this report the problems in the way the Schengen system functions are identified and recommendations are made to enhance cooperation based on solidarity in Schengen and to improve management of the external borders.

Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (Friedrich Ebert Foundation)

Foundation of the nation: how political parties and movements are radicalising others in favour of conservative family values and against tolerance, diversity, and progressive gender politics in Europe

by Andreas Kemper

21 April 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (43 p.)

Europe is currently witnessing the formation of a movement in favour of conservative family values and against tolerance, diversity, and progressive gender politics. Furthermore, for a considerable time now, these initiatives against the right to abortion, "gender", and the rights of same-sex couples have not only been embedded in the activities of splinter political parties and civil society groups, but they also now represent a critical mass of representatives in the EP. The EP elections in May 2014 strengthened the so-called parties of fear, which prey on the fear of citizens: fear of the euro, immigration, criminality, and the demise of the traditional family, write the author.

Fabian Society

Future Left

by Andrew Harrop [@andrew_harrop](#) and Ed Wallis

13 April 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (158 p.)

Right across Europe, mainstream political parties are in retreat. New currents on left and right are confronting the political establishment, and forcing social democrats to face up to some existential questions. What does a fast-changing economy mean for political movements forged in the workplaces of the industrial age? Can traditional parties reinvent themselves for a more pluralist, less deferential democracy? How can the left nurture new forms of solidarity in a more individualistic society? This collection of essays is a search for answers.

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

Sicherheit delegieren : EU-Agenturen in der inneren und äußeren Sicherheit

by Daniela Kietz [@dankietz](#) and Nicolai von Ondarza [@NvOndarza](#)

April 2016

Link to the article in [German](#) (52 p.)

Europol, Frontex and the European Defence Agency reflect the trends in European governance, delegating wide range of tasks to independent agencies. Especially when dealing with the refugee crisis and in fighting terrorism EU agencies are the focus. Given this extremely sensitive to fundamental rights and far into acting in national sovereignty activities, the delegation of such powers needed in the field internal and external security of a special legitimacy. Four EU agencies are examined in this study to determine which skills they possess, how they should be controlled and actually are and how they perform their duties.

Föderalismus statt Separatismus: Politische Instrumente zur Lösung von Sezessionskonflikten in Europa

by Sabine Riedel

April 2016

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

In different EU countries secessionist movements calling for national independence for their regions. Such separatist aspirations device also the project of European integration under pressure. In the present study an instrument is introduced, with the aid of separatism could be overcome, namely the model of the State or the Federation. As access to this subject is an

analysis of federalism plans that international mediators have presented to overcome secessionist conflicts in the EU neighbourhood space.

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

Humanitarian aid policy in the EU's external relations: the post-Lisbon framework

by Peter Van Elsuwege [@P_VanElsuwege](#), Jan Orbie [@janorbie](#) and Fabienne Bossuyt
April 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (70 p.)

This report recalls the incremental development of a EU humanitarian policy, and decrypt the ramifications of its 'constitutionalisation'. Bringing out the tension between the specificity of humanitarian aid, in terms of status, principles and objectives, and the general coherence imperative which governs the EU external action; the analysis also identifies several ways to address its implications.

LUISS School of European Political Economy

A proposal for Europe

by Oliviero Pesce
5 April 2016

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

Several of the provisions and fundamental principles of the EU are still unrealized but need to be put into effect if the EU is to have a positive, more creative and prosperous future. Restrictive norms have been strictly adhered to and enforced by the most powerful political forces, despite the fact that such policies have caused the damages that we all can see. By contrast, more positive alternative policies have been neglected. Yet it is precisely these more positive policies which most faithfully reflect the real objectives and constitute the real foundation of the various Union Treaties and laws.

SECTION 2 - ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

Notre Europe - Jacques Delors Institute

Investment in Europe: making the best of the Juncker plan (with case studies on digital infrastructure and energy efficiency)

by Eulalia Rubio [@eulaliarubio](#), David Rinaldi [@Rinaldi David](#), and Thomas Pellerin-Carlin [@Thomas Pellerin](#), foreword by Enrico Letta [@EnricoLetta](#)

March 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (184 p.)

This report analyses the strengths and weaknesses of the [Juncker Plan](#). Based on the Plan's preliminary results, experts' opinions, experiences with similar instruments and two case studies, this report identifies various short-term implementation risks that can threaten the success of the Plan within its initial three-year period and formulates policy recommendations to address such risks. The main conclusion is that the Plan will not be sufficient to close the current EU investment gap – and therefore should be complemented by other actions to boost investment.

Institute for Fiscal Studies

The budget of the European Union: a guide

by James Browne [@captainbrown](#), Paul Johnson and David Phillips

April 2016

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

This report is the first of several that the IFS will produce in the run up to the EU referendum that will look at these public finance and budgetary issues. The authors set out the EU's budget process, describe the EU's different sources of revenue and items of expenditure and evaluate the rules underlying these, and compare the contributions and receipts of the 28 EU member states and their overall net positions. By bringing the information together and explaining it in a clear and concise way, the authors hope this 'guide' helps demystify the EU budget and how it works.

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

Correcting external imbalances in the European economy

by Doris Hanzl-Weiss and Michael Landesmann

April 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (54 p.)

This paper examines current account developments in different country groups amongst the lower- and medium-income European economies both prior to the crisis and following it. The Baltic countries, the Western Balkan as well as the Southern EU countries (Greece, Portugal and Spain) showed rather dramatic deteriorations in their current accounts prior to the outbreak of the financial crisis in 2008/2009, while in the Central and Eastern European countries current account deficits never exploded. What drove current account developments before the crisis and have external imbalances been sustainably corrected?

European Political Strategy Centre

The European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI): maximising its potential

6 April 2016

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

This note highlights the success of the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI) in addressing the "investment gap" that the EU faces. The note also suggests possible ways in which EFSI could evolve as a tool. These are grouped under three blocks: 1) a sectorial extension of EFSI, 2) an increase in EFSI's size, and 3) making EFSI a permanent addition to the funding options of the EU.

Foundation for European Progressive Studies

Demand effects of financialisation and changes in functional income distribution in the EU

by Engelbert Stockhammer and Rafael Wildauer

25 April 2016

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

This paper investigates the effects of changes in the distribution of income and wealth on private aggregate demand, which consists of consumption, investment and net exports. Estimates are based on a panel of 12 EU countries covering the period 1980-2011. The finding lends support to the hypothesis of the existence of an inherently unstable debt-driven growth model for many countries.

Centre for European Policy Studies

Flexibility versus stability - A difficult trade-off in the eurozone

by Paul De Grauwe [@pdegrauwe](#) and Yuemei Ji

April 2016

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

This paper provides empirical evidence that suggests that the biggest shocks in the eurozone were the result of business-cycle movements. These were relatively well synchronised, except for their amplitude. The authors argue that efforts to stabilise business cycles should be strengthened relative to the efforts that have been made to impose structural reforms, with consideration given to the implications for the governance of the eurozone.

Is there a need for additional monetary stimulus? Insights from the original Taylor rule

by Cinzia Alcidi, Matthias Busse [@matthias_busse](#) and Daniel Gros

April 2016

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

This article finds that while consumer prices are flat, broader price indices do not show any sign of impending deflation: the GDP deflator is increasing in the US, Japan and the euro area by about 1.2-1.5%. Nor is the real economy sending any deflationary signals either: unemployment is at record lows in the US and Japan, and is declining in the euro area while GDP growth is at, or above potential. Thus, the overall macroeconomic situation does not give any indication of an imminent deflationary spiral. The authors conclude that economic conditions are slowly normalising; so should monetary policy.

Institutions and growth in Europe

by Klaus Masuch, Edmund Moshhammer and Beatrice Pierluigi

April 2016

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

According to this study, the quality of national institutions seems to enhance the long-term GDP performance across a large sample of countries, also including OECD countries outside Europe. Overall, the results tend to support the call for structural reforms in general and reforms enhancing the efficiency of public administration and regulation, the rule of law and the fight against rent-seeking and corruption in particular.

CEPII - Centre d'Etudes prospectives et d'Informations internationales

A European disease? Non-tradable inflation and real interest rate divergence

by Sophie Piton

28 April 2016

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

This paper studies the contribution of real interest rate divergence to the dynamics of the relative price of nontradables within Europe. Based on a model by De Gregorio et al. (1994), it shows that the real interest rate fall in the euro area periphery following the single currency's inception induced an increase in the relative price of nontradable goods. Using a new dataset, it documents the dynamics of the tradable and the non-tradable sectors over 1995-2013 and the expansion of the non-tradable sector in the periphery before the euro crisis.

Center of European Policy Studies / LUISS School of European Political Economy

Fine-tuning the use of bail-in to promote a stronger EU financial system

by Stefano Micossi, Ginevra Bruzzone and Miriam Cassella

22 April 2016

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

This paper discusses the application of the new European rules for burden-sharing and bail in in the banking sector, in view of their ability to accommodate broader policy goals of aggregate financial stability. It finds that the Treaty principles and the new discipline of state aid and the restructuring of banks provide a solid framework for combating moral hazard and removing incentives that encourage excessive risk-taking by bankers. The paper concludes by showing that existing rules do contain the flexibility required to accommodate aggregate policy requirements in the general interest, and outlines a public support scheme for the precautionary recapitalisation of solvent banks that would be compliant with EU law.

Terra nova

Union bancaire inachevée : danger !

by Laurence Scialom [@LaurenceScialom](#)

5 April 2016

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

This paper underlines how urgent it is to move towards the consolidation of a full and protective banking union: strengthening the capitalization of banks, harmonization of lease instruments and in national laws relating to the resolution, restructuring of European banking groups for the implementation point resolution single entry, adoption of a European deposit insurance. The tasks are numerous, heavy. Yet Europe seems to be under the illusion that banking union protects us from a serious banking crisis.

SAFE - Sustainable Architecture for Finance in Europe

Lost in translation? ECB's monetary impulses and financial intermediaries' responses

by Günter Beck, Hans-Helmut Kotz and Natalia Zabelina

April 2016

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

This paper, employing flow-of-funds data, documents for the euro area that a trend towards non-bank (not necessarily more 'market'-based) intermediation has occurred. This is, however, a fairly recent development, substantially weaker than in the US. Nonetheless, analysing the response of euro area bank and nonbank financial intermediaries to monetary policy impulses, the authors find some notable behavioural differences between mainly deposit-funded and more 'market'-based financial intermediaries.

Euro area shadow banking activities in a low-interest-rate environment: a flow-of-funds perspective

by Günter Beck and Hans-Helmut Kotz

April 2016

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

Employing flow-of-funds data for the euro area's non-bank banking sector, the authors take stock of recent developments in this part of the financial sector. They examine to which extent low interest rates have had an impact on investment behaviour. The results reveal a declining role of banks (and, simultaneously, an increase in non-bank banking). Overall intermediation activity, hence, has remained roughly at the same level. They also suggest that non-bank banks have tended to take positions in riskier assets (particularly in equities). In line with this observation, balance-sheet based risk measures indicate a rise in sector-specific risks in the non-bank banking sector (when narrowly defined).

Jacques Delors Institute - Berlin / Bertelsmann Stiftung

The economic costs of non-Schengen. What the numbers tell us

by Anna auf dem Brinke [@Anna_adB](#)

20 April 2016

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

Schengen stands for border-free travel and has been a European success story. But the agreement from 1995 has come under considerable pressure from two sides: the unprecedented influx of refugees and the threat of terrorism. A number of countries in the Schengen area have introduced temporary border controls. While it is unclear how these measures would solve the two challenges and whether or not a better European solution to the problem could be found, it is certain that border checks would impose economic costs.

SECTION 3 - EU MEMBER STATES

AUSTRIA

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

Österreichs Umgang mit autokratischen Staaten

by Heinz Gärtner, Vedran Dzihic, Jan Pospisil, Cengiz Günay and Andrej Zwitter

April 2016

Link to the article in [German](#) (54 p.)

In IR-literature, it is argued that democratic states show more peaceful behaviour to one another, because cooperation and interdependence is more developed in their internal constitution. More recent work has examined the cooperative behaviour of autocracies. In this article the question is central what relations a neutral small state, like Austria, should develop with authoritarian regimes. The focus is on the dilemma between a policy of isolation or integration.

BELGIUM

Egmont – Royal Institute for International Relations

Why Belgium needs a Special Operations Command

by Alexander Mattelaer

April 2016

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

The setting up of a Special Operations Command constitutes a key element of the ongoing Belgian defence reforms. This article aims to put the present demand for special operations forces in its historical context and to engage in the discussion on how to structure and employ this special instrument of policy.

CROATIA

Ekonomski institut, Zagreb (Institute of Economics, Zagreb)

Tougher than the rest? Relationship between unemployment and crime in Croatia

by Vedran Recher

April 2016

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

In this paper, the relationship between unemployment and crime is analysed. A panel of twenty Croatian counties over the years 1998-2013 is used to estimate the effect of unemployment on the rates of various groups of property and violent crimes. According to the theory of economics of crime, increase in unemployment leads to higher crime rates. A fixed-effects model, including time- and county-specific effects and several covariates, is estimated. The results show there is no impact of unemployment on aggregate property crimes. For all violent crimes bar rapes, the results oppose the theory and intuition. The unexpected results are discussed in the context of the Croatian-specific macro-environment.

FINLAND

Elinkeinoelämän tutkimuslaitos (Research Institute of the Finnish Economy)

Pakotteiden vaikutus Suomen vientiin Venäjälle

by Birgitta Berg-Andersson and Markku Kotilainen

14 April 2016

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

In this article the authors analyse the effects of the EU sanctions on Finnish exports to Russia. Finland's merchandise exports to Russia have decreased by 44% between 2012 and 2015. Major part of this is due to the collapse of the oil prices and due to the related depreciation of the Russian Rouble. Both have weakened the purchasing power of Russian enterprises and households, especially with respect to foreign goods and services. The sanctions set due to the Ukrainian crisis have strengthened this decline. It is concluded that the sanctions set by the EU towards Russia have had a rather small effect on Finnish exports to Russia.

FRANCE

Centre international de formation européenne

Politique: la singularité française en Europe

by Eddy Fougier [@eddyfougier](#)

1 April 2016

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

In this article the author makes an analysis of the political model and the political culture in France, to understand the French identity crisis and France's inability to implement structural reforms, which could give a chance to revive economic growth and eventually reduce unemployment as happened in most other European countries.

GERMANY

Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (Friedrich Ebert Foundation)

Serbia and Germany: from suspicion to trust

by Nenad Milenović, Goran Nikolić, Predrag Aranđelović and Nikola Jovanović

4 April 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (78 p.) and in [Serbian](#) (72 p.)

In a time when the term crisis is increasingly used to describe the situation in which Europe permanently finds itself, it is becoming more difficult to find those willing to support the further expansion of European borders. Today, the success of Europe's framework is not measured solely by its social product, but rather its capacity and mechanisms to respond to global challenges. Serbia's accession to the EU is precisely one of those historical events or processes when certain perceptions are created or crucially changed in regard to the manner in which a great power (Germany) treats a small country (Serbia).

German Marshall Fund of the United States

The United States in German foreign policy

by Hans Kundnani [@hanskundnani](#)

14 April 2016

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

In this article an analysis is made of the relations between Germany and the US in the context of the NSA scandal. It is argued that the NSA scandal should be seen as a catalyst rather than a cause of the current crisis in relations. The rift has much deeper roots that go back to the end of Cold War. In the 15 years since 9/11, Germans have become increasingly sceptical of US ideas on strategy and economics. The real difference between then and now is not so much the existence or level of anti-Americanism, but the strategic situation in which Germany finds itself. Germany, which defines itself as a Friedensmacht, or force for peace, is now much less likely than in the past to accede to US demands or succumb to US pressure.

Institut der deutschen Wirtschaft Köln (Cologne Institute for Economic Research)

Vordergründig robust, hintergründig anfällig: IW-Konjunkturprognose Frühjahr 2016

by Michael Grömling and Oliver Stettes

25 April 2016

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

In this publication, the authors present a prognosis on the German economy. Superficially the German economy appears astonishingly robust. In 2016 real GDP in Germany is expected to grow by an annual rate of 1.5%, in 2017 it will be 1.25%. Employment will continue to rise and the national budget will stay in the black. However, this steady development is to a large extent the result of a boom in consumption encouraged by special factors: On the one hand, low energy prices and financing costs are boosting private spending. On the other hand, the German economy is being stimulated by additional public expenditure on the accommodation and integration of refugees. However, without these exceptional phenomena German business activity would be on the verge of stagnation as exports are slowed by the weakness of the global economy, the authors conclude.

European Policy Centre

German macro: how it's different and why that matters

by David Cobham, Panicos O. Demetriades, Lars P. Feld, Brigitte Granville, Bernd Hayo, Florian Neumeier, Jacques Mélitz, Charles Wyplosz and Fabian Zuleeg

29 April 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (99 p.)

Do the macroeconomics of the German political establishment really differ from standard western macroeconomics? The authors all sought out to discover whether or not there is something unique about German macroeconomics, and in what ways it differs from standard western macroeconomics.

Vodafone Stiftung Deutschland (Vodafone Foundation Germany)

Nachhilfe für die Integration

April 2016

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

No one knows how many refugees will ultimately remain in Germany, but one thing is certain: many of them are children and adolescents. This offers a great opportunity, as the education system can help them in integration and prepare them for the labour market which urgently needs

skilled professionals. This report argues that the education system should be strengthened, and that there needs to be coordination of volunteer organizations which will be fundamental in achieving successful integration.

GREECE

Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung

The Greek pension tragedy: a case of failure in governance

by Platon Tinios [@ptinios](#)

14 April 2016

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

This report gives an analysis of the Greek pension system reform. The author concludes that failures in improving the system is due to the 'technology of governance', a political malfunction, rather than to technical issues.

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

Embracing Islamic finance in Greece. A preliminary analysis

by Evangelos Venetis [@Venetise](#)

April 2016

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

Nowadays Islamic finance is gradually becoming an important part of the international financial system. During the ongoing financial crisis, the role of Islamic finance for the stabilization of the international financial system appears to be strong and promising due to its ethical principles and religious foundation. This analysis focuses both on the quantitative and qualitative examples of the economic upheaval in the eurozone and Greece and explores the prospects of introducing and developing possible prospects of Islamic finance in the Greek economy.

ITALY

LUISS School of European Political Economy / London School of Economics and Political Science

Italy's public finances: you can't have it all!

by Lorenzo Codogno

5 April 2016

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

On 10 April 2016, the Italian government unveiled its budgetary projections (Economic and Financial Document, which includes the Stability Programme to be delivered to Brussels), including new projections for economic growth and public finances. In this article the author offers an analysis of the challenges the Renzi government will face in fiscal policy in the forthcoming period.

NETHERLANDS

Centre for European Policy Studies

The Dutch referendum on the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement: legal options for navigating a tricky and awkward situation

by Guillaume Van der Loo

April 2016

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

In this article the author looks at the legal implications of the advisory referendum on the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement held in the Netherlands on 6 April 2016.

Fondation Robert Schuman

The Dutch reject the Association Treaty between the EU and Ukraine

by Corinne Deloy and Pascale Joannin [@PJoannin](#)

12 April 2016

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

In this article the authors focus on the reasons behind the 'no' vote in the Dutch consultative referendum on the Association Treaty between the EU and Ukraine. Secondly, they reflect on how the Netherlands will possibly extricate themselves from this situation.

East European Security Research Initiative Foundation

The Dutch referendum on the EU association agreement with Ukraine: how Ukraine-EU extended trade deal became a vote about everything else

by Zuzana Novakova [@Zuzana_Novakova](#)

April 2016

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

The Dutch referendum about the EU Association Agreement with Ukraine leads to uncharted waters on several fronts. 6 April 2016 is the first time when an electorate of one EU member state gets a direct say on an external EU agreement. This brief provides an overview of the referendum's (i) legal and political background, (ii) state-of-play, including the argumentation of its main proponents and (iii) future prospects as the situation opens a range of new questions for the Netherlands, the EU and Ukraine in an unprecedented context.

POLAND

Polski Instytut Spraw Międzynarodowych (Polish Institute of International Affairs)

EU pressure insufficient to gain U.S. visa waiver for Poles

by Marek Wąsiński [@mfwasinski](#)

April 2016

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

Citizens of all but five EU countries (Poland, Bulgaria, Romania, Croatia and Cyprus) can travel to the US for 90 days for non-immigrant purposes without needing to apply for a visa. However, US citizens may travel to all EU member states visa-free. This lack of reciprocity in visa policy is one of the relics of the Cold War that is a thorn in Poland-US relations not only from the political perspective, but regarding business as well. In this article the authors makes an analysis of the EU efforts to gain US Visa Waiver for Poles.

SLOVAKIA

European Trade Union Institute

Economic transition, partisan politics and EU austerity: a case study of Slovakia's labour market policies

by Stefan Domonkos

21 April 2016

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

This paper provides an overview of labour market policies in the Slovak Republic, from the beginning of the post-socialist transition to the recent period, characterised by growing pressure for fiscal stringency from the EU. It investigates the differences between the prevalent trends in labour market policies before and after 2010 and it finds little difference between them.

Slovenská spoločnosť pre zahraničnú politiku (Slovak Foreign Policy Association)

Slovakia: (re)discovering of the international crisis management

by Samuel Goda [@samuel_goda](#)

April 2016

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

The main aim of this publication is to revive the discussion of experts on international crisis management and the role of international institutions such as NATO, the EU and the OSCE in this field, and to contribute to ongoing discussions on rethinking (or reaffirming) Slovak interests in the changing broader security environment. Also, it offers up-to-date data and analysis on Slovak crisis management activities, providing a broader international audience with a window into Slovakia's engagement in crisis management, in line with its national laws and strategies.

SPAIN

Fundación de Estudios de Economía Aplicada

From Bismarck to Beveridge: the other pension reform in Spain

by José Ignacio Conde-Ruiz and Clara I. González

April 2016

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

The aim of this paper is to analyse the potential consequences of a type of pension system reform that is at a very incipient stage in Spain but that could have a significant impact if it were fully implemented. This reform, called 'silent reform' because it is imperceptible to citizens in its early stages, basically consists in increasing maximum pensions in line with inflation instead of wage or productivity growth. This policy is reducing the replacement rate only for high earning workers and increasing the redistributive component of the system. This paper is the first to quantify and evaluate the potential consequences of this type of reform in Spain.

UNITED KINGDOM

European Policy Centre

Britain and Europe: a new settlement?

by Graham Avery, Robert Cooper, Andrew Duff [@AndrewDuffEU](#), Peter Goldsmith, David Hannay, Kirsty Hughes, Quentin Peel, Fraser Cameron, Brendan Donnelly, David Edward, Heather Grabbe, Malcolm Harbour, Caroline Lucas and Stephen Wall

28 April 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (94 p.)

The Brexit referendum on 23 June is of the utmost importance for the future of both Britain and the EU, yet so far there has been an alarming lack of strategic vision and positive narratives about Britain's historical and future role within Europe. This publication draws on past experience to make the case for more positive British engagement with the EU. Contributions from fourteen prominent Britons who have extensive first-hand experience of the EU institutions provide important insights into events which have shaped – and still shape – our Union.

Institute of Economic Affairs

Breaking up is hard to do: Britain and Europe's dysfunctional relationship

by Patrick Minford and J.R Shackleton (eds.)

18 April 2016

Link to the publication in [English](#) (350 p.)

The authors of this book were asked - in the context of the Brexit discussion - to examine a particular policy field and determine, from an economic or political economy point of view, what the appropriate role of international institutions should be. They were then asked to relate this to the reality that exists under the status quo or that might exist if Brexit occurred. In doing this, the volume has three objectives. First, it provides an analysis of the role that international institutions should play in the economic life of a free society. Second, the authors implicitly lay out what a renegotiation agenda ought to look like if a country (whether Britain or not) wishes to reform the EU in a liberal direction, now or at some future time. Third, the authors provide a framework within which the practical options of remaining with a reformed EU and Brexit can be analysed.

Fabian Society / Foundation for European Progressive Studies

Argument or organisation? The battle over membership of the European Union

by Olivia Bailey [@livbailey](#)

3 April 2016

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

The EU referendum is a battle of arguments and organisation. 'Leave' can win if they get their emotive arguments heard, and 'Remain' can win if they turn out their underwhelmed voters. This report presents the main findings and conclusions from a poll which explored attitudes and arguments about the referendum campaign. It reveals that the race is on a knife-edge.

Centre for European Reform

The economic consequences of leaving the EU: the final report of the CER commission on Brexit 2016

by John Springford [@JohnSpringford](#), Simon Tilford [@SimonTilford](#), Christian Odendahl [@COdendahl](#), Philip McCann and Philip Whyte

April 2016

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

Britain will hold a referendum on its membership of the EU on 23 June 2016, three years after Prime Minister David Cameron announced his 'renegotiation and referendum' strategy. In 2013, after David Cameron's announcement, the Centre for European Reform invited leading economists, journalists, business people and EU experts to form a commission to discuss the economic consequences of withdrawal from the EU. This report is an update of the commission's final report, which includes further evidence about the degree of economic integration between Britain and the rest of the EU; the changes in the relationship between the UK's financial sector and the eurozone; and the impact of immigration from the EU on British wages and employment.

Europe after Brexit: unleashed or undone?

by Ian Bond [@CER_IanBond](#), Sophia Besch, Agata Gostyńska-Jakubowska, Rem Korteweg [@CER_Korteweg](#), Camino Mortera-Martinez [@CaminoMortera](#) and Simon Tilford [@SimonTilford](#)

April 2016

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

This paper presents an analysis of the impact on the Union (as well as on Britain) in case the UK votes to leave the EU.

Istituto Affari Internazionali / Osservatorio di politica internazionale

L'accordo sui nuovi rapporti fra Regno Unito ed Unione europea. Contenuto ed implicazioni

by Ettore Greco

22 April 2016

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

This note describes the main elements of what was agreed in the decision concerning a 'New Settlement for the UK within the EU' reached at the European Council on 18-19 February 2016, focusing on the new provisions and mechanisms laid down by the agreement and their major implications for relations with the UK and, more generally, for future arrangements in the EU.

LUISS School of European Political Economy

Brexit is an underrated risk

by Carlo Bastasin

13 April 2016

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

In this article the author briefly summarizes the standard background information on Brexit, reflects on the composition of the Brexit positions in the political and public debate, and considers the consequences of a leave.

LUISS School of European Political Economy / London School of Economics and Political Science

Beyond pride and prejudice: the impact of Brexit on the rest of the EU

by Lorenzo Codogno

8 April 2016

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

This report assesses the impact of a possible Brexit on the rest of the EU. It concludes that it is not obvious if the EU would lose or gain from Brexit. In theory, judging from trade and investment flows, Brexit should have less of a negative impact on the rest of EU than the UK. Some service sector businesses could potentially be relocated to the EU, and the area could divert foreign direct investment from the UK. However, financial market volatility, uncertainty, and loss of confidence in the EU project could pose an immediate and severe risk.

Institute of International and European Affairs

What's in a phrase? The United Kingdom and ever closer union

by Tony Brown

14 April 2016

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

In recent times, the phrase "ever closer union" has become a pivotal part of the British Eurosceptic argument against the UK's continued membership of the EU. But the phrase, as expressed in the Treaties, is by its nature ambiguous and open to interpretation: for some, it is critical to an understanding of the nature of European integration; for others, little more than a 'straw man'. In this paper the author examines the origins and development of "ever closer union", from the post-war period to the present day.

Institut der deutschen Wirtschaft Köln (Cologne Institute for Economic Research)

Brexit – The economic impact: a meta-analysis

by Berthold Busch and Jürgen Matthes

13 April 2016

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

Numerous studies have investigated the possible impact of a withdrawal of the UK from the EU. However, these were based on different methods and assumptions (as well as probably different intentions), and the authors come to rather different conclusions. Therefore, the implications of leaving the EU are also an important topic for economic researchers in order to find out what the true ramifications might be. Against this background, this report is intended to give an understandable overview of existing studies and provide a classification and a basic evaluation for the general public.

The Bruges Group

Emergency exit : a look at what can be once we are free

by Marcus Watney

April 2016

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

In this article the author argues that it isn't going to be sufficient to grumble about how incompetent, dictatorial and corrupt the EU is. He has the objective to show convincingly that outside the EU people will be more free and more in control of their own lives; that freedom is something to be positively desired and pursued, and that liberty is priceless and so cannot be measured in pounds and euros. He argues that we need to focus the debate on exactly how the

new co-operative alignment of sovereign states that eventually replaces the EU is likely to be structured.

Adam Smith Institute

Stuck in the middle with EU: how global regulators are killing the value of EU membership

by Roland Smith [@WhiteWednesday](#)

25 April 2016

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

An increasing number of EU regulations are made at the global level and not by the EU bureaucracy, which mainly performs a 'wholesaler' role, enforcing rules without creating them anew. The UK often does not have a full voice at the global level because of the EU's need for a 'common position'. In the modern world, trading is increasingly organised at the global level. It involves bodies ranging from private sector rule-making organisations such as the ISO, to various quasi-governmental institutions under the UN and the WTO. This has had a growing effect on the logic (or lack of it) for remaining in the EU and it also informs the debate on what Out looks like.

UK PLC: Britain's debt time bomb

by Nigel Hawkins

18 April 2016

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

This article addresses the Big Numbers in the Whole of Government Accounts – in effect, the UK Government PLC - which were recently issued for the 2013/14 fiscal year. The size of some of the declared liabilities is truly staggering. The author finds that Britain's government liabilities go far beyond the national debt. In order to ensure stability in security in public finances into the future, he argues that the government must cut back further, as well as selling off some of its assets.

Demos

Building companionship: how better design can combat loneliness in later life

by Claudia Wood and Jo Salter

April 2016

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

This report focuses on how loneliness in later life can be combated through creating more connected communities and better design of retirement housing.

Policy Network / Bertelsmann Stiftung

Young people at risk: challenges and policy options for the UK

by Daniel Sage [@djsage86](#)

April 2016

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

The UK, despite a marked labour market improvement in recent years, still faces a wide range of challenges in tackling disadvantage and social exclusion among young people. The risk of child poverty and material deprivation has risen in recent years and the UK fares significantly worse on such measures compared to similar EU countries. In this article the author compiles the most relevant UK findings from the Bertelsmann Stiftung's [Social Inclusion Monitor](#). The policy brief focuses specifically on the challenges faced by young people in the UK and on the policy options available at UK and EU level to address them.

SECTION 4 - EU POLICIES

JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS

Centre for European Policy Studies

The cost of non-Europe in the area of organised crime

by Sergio Carrera, Elspeth Guild, Lina Vosyliūtė, Amandine Scherrer [@Scherrer_A](#) and Valsamis Mitsilegas with the participation of Mirja Gutheil, Gareth Harper, Quentin Liger, James Eager and Solveig Bourgeon

April 2016

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

This paper examines the costs of non-Europe in the field of organised crime. It provides an interdisciplinary analysis of the main legal/ethical, socio-political and economic costs and benefits of the EU in policies on organised crime. It offers an in-depth examination of the transformative contribution that the EU has made, in terms of investigation, prosecution and efficiency, to trans border operational activities and the protection of its citizens' rights. Finally, it seeks to answer the questions of what are the costs and benefits of European cooperation and what forms of cooperation would bring more European added value.

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

The EU and US criminal law as two-tier models

by Maria Kaiafa-Gbandi

April 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (158 p.)

This report adds an interesting perspective to the debate on EU criminal law by comparing its evolution with the development of a federal criminal law regime in the US. Despite the wide differences found in EU and US governance the author finds several aspects in the comparison which contribute to deepening the understanding for EU criminal law.

MIGRATION AND REFUGEE CRISIS

European Council on Foreign Relations

Paying the price: the cost of Europe's refugee crisis

by Sebastian Dullien [@SDullien](#)

28 April 2016

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

EU member states' reaction to the refugee crisis has been uncoordinated and ad hoc. As a result, some countries risk being overwhelmed by the refugee inflow and its costs, while others contribute little relative to their means. As a whole, the EU could easily afford to take in, shelter, feed and integrate into its labour market many more refugees than it has so far. This paper makes the case for a European Refugee Union under which funding, organisation and regulation of refugee flows would be centralised at the European level. This would help each refugee in a more economically efficient way, so that more could be offered protection.

Bear any burden: how EU governments can manage the refugee crisis

by Susi Dennison [@sd270](#) and Josef Janning [@JJ52](#)

28 April 2016

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

To restore Europe's solidarity in the face of the refugee crisis, it is vital that each country not only plays its part, but is seen to play its part. This paper dispels the misconceptions around the crisis by setting out a fuller picture of what each member state is doing, finding that some, like the UK, do more than their domestic narrative suggests. Some states, however, are not contributing much.

Deals without borders: Europe's foreign policy on migration

by Angeliki Dimitriadi

4 April 2016

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

Europe has long relied on outsourcing the responsibility for managing migration to other countries. But its failure to offer real incentives to its partners means that these deals have done little to address irregular migration at the external borders. As the refugee influx has continued, Europe has been forced to call on its neighbours for urgent help to reduce numbers. The result is the recent EU-Turkey deal – a quick fix that may face insurmountable problems in implementation.

European Policy Centre

Migration panorama. Schengen in the spotlight: a Europe with or without borders?

by Andreia Ghimis [@afghimis](#), Robert Goebbels, Sylvie Guillaume, Aleksej Heinze, Radko Hokovský, Nick Malkoutzis, Yves Pascouau [@YPascouau](#)

12 April 2016

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

This multi-authored publication focuses on the consequences of the refugee and migration crisis on the Schengen area and the concept of a borderless union in order to build a comprehensive picture on the manifold challenges and possible consequences of maintaining and/or returning to internal border controls among Schengen countries.

Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (Friedrich Ebert Foundation)

Refugee migration – A crisis for the Nordic model?

by Anne Britt Djuve [@annebrittdjuve](#)

8 April 2016

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

The influx of refugees was subject of particular attention also in the Nordic countries. Issues that were especially discussed involved consequences for the individual welfare states as well as effects on the Nordic model in general. Here, a joint discussion between the Nordics about strategies and measures is required urgently, according to the author.

Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung (Heinrich Böll Foundation)

Gewinne der Integration. Berufliche Qualifikation und Integrationstempo entscheiden über die langfristigen fiskalischen Kosten der Aufnahme Geflüchteter

by Holger Bonin

April 2016

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

By using the instruments of generational accounting, this analysis tries to uncover how much has the current humanitarian immigration influenced the sustainability of German public finances and

thus increased the problems associated with demographic change. The net long-term financing needs, connected to the receiving of refugees and the aging of the local population have been juxtaposed by the author. The presented simulations depict a range of possible developments of the situation.

Euro-Mediterranean Study Commission

How can the EU border be better managed? How to balance EU control strategies and at the same time guarantee refugee protection

by Xavier Aragall [@xaaragall](#)

5 April 2016

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

For 2016, the UNHCR foresees that one million refugees and migrants could be attempting to reach Europe by using the Eastern corridor, namely Eastern Mediterranean and Western Balkan routes. This paper reviews already existing policy proposals and programmes, to explore how the EU can effectively manage a million entries per year, i.e., differentiate those that are unauthorised entries while at the same time guarantee and fulfil the refugee protection and migrant rights.

The migration crisis: issue or opportunity?

by Anna Di Bartolomeo

11 April 2016

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

This paper contends that the EU policies have been inadequate in addressing the magnitude of the ongoing refugee crisis. Thus, it recommends some options that the EU could consider such as better recognizing the economic and demographic need of migrants, opening more regular channels of migration to the EU, managing migration flows at origin, pursuing rationale and long-term integration policies, enhancing migrants' resources and strengthening cooperation programmes with origin countries.

Fondation Robert Schuman

The challenge of illegal immigration in the Mediterranean

by Jean-Dominique Giuliani

14 April 2016

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

The issue of migration is causing turmoil in the domestic policies of the EU's member states. Protest movements have taken hold of it, challenging both government action and the European institutions. Simplistic ideas are flourishing, criticising the Schengen Agreements, the inefficacy of national and European policies. Reality however is very different: Europe is facing a significant challenge that it will only be able to overcome with time. It requires constant effort, courage, imagination and certainly the reject of slogans.

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

Migrations and policy cycle in the UK: overview of recent trends

by Pierre Georges Van Wolleghem

12 April 2016

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

Spearhead of multiculturalism in Europe, the UK has considerably moved its position on immigration and integration policies over the 2000s'. Whereas in the 1990s' the topic did not attract much attention, it increasingly did in the 2000s', rushing its way onto government's agenda and

pushing policies towards more civic integration policy and less multiculturalism. This paper proposes an overview of the current situation and last policy developments. It presents some of the last developments brought about by the Cameron administration before turning to evidence-based policy-making in the UK; or how the UK makes sure policy tackles its purposes.

Notre Europe - Jacques Delors Institute

A jobseeker's visa for third-country nationals

by Yves Pascouau [@YPascouau](#)

28 April 2016

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

The EU is facing an unprecedented migration and refugee crisis against a very difficult political backdrop, particularly on the issue of labour immigration. This paper proposes to further the debate on the basis of a three-fold observation. Labour immigration is the "poor relation" of the EU's migration policy. It does not feature prominently in the EU's bilateral relations with its closest neighbours. Lastly, control-based policies developed in recent years are actually contributing to the illegal immigration and trafficking networks they claim to be fighting against.

Migration Policy Institute

Managing religious difference in North America and Europe in an era of mass migration

by Demetrios G. Papademetriou, Richard Alba, Nancy Foner and Natalia Banulescu-Bogdan

April 2016

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

This paper focuses on the different policy frameworks and practices governing Muslim integration in North America and Europe, to offer a window into how receiving governments and societies manage fundamental change in an era of large-scale, and at times massive, immigration. It concludes with recommendations on ways governments can manage immigration more effectively, turning the influx of culturally different newcomers from a challenge into an opportunity.

TERRORISM

European Institute of the Mediterranean / Euro-Mediterranean Study Commission

Terrorist threat in the Euro-Mediterranean region

by Amal Mukhtar (ed.), Fouad Ammor, Dalia Ghanem-Yazbeck and Patrycja Sasnal

April 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (84 p.)

This paper analyses the threat coming from terrorist groups with a focus on the issue of foreign fighters' recruitment by Daesh, Al-Nusra Front, and Al Qaeda.

International Centre for Counter-Terrorism - The Hague

The foreign fighters phenomenon in the EU – Profiles, threats & policies

by Bibi van Ginkel [@bibivanginkel](#) and Eva Entenmann [@evaente](#) (eds.)

1 April 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (149 p.) or link to the executive summary in [English](#) (8 p.)

Despite the widespread media attention for foreign fighters in Europe, very little is known about the phenomenon itself, something also evidenced by the lack of a single foreign fighter definition across the EU. In this study this gap is addressed by analysing not only the numbers and characteristics of foreign fighters across the EU, but also how the Union and member states assess the threat of foreign fighters as well as their policy responses regarding security, preventive

and legislative measures. The report also outlines a series of policy options aimed both at the EU and its member states.

Royal United Services Institute / Chatham House - The Royal Institute of International Affairs / International Centre for Counter-Terrorism - The Hague

Toolkit for mental health experts and social workers in dealing with lone-actor terrorism

by Edwin Bakker and Jeanine de Roy van Zuijdewijn [@JeanineRvz](#)

28 April

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

The aim of this paper is to draw out practical implications for mental health practitioners and social workers in dealing with Lone-Actor Terrorism. It is not intended to provide a profile of lone-actor terrorists, but rather to offer guidance that may be of use to practitioners in Europe (and beyond), supporting the development of strategies to detect and deal with potential lone-actor terrorists and to understand the possible risk posed by persons of interest.

Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung

The return of the terror tourists: foreign terrorist fighters as a challenge for Germany and Europe

by Kristina Eichhorst [@KEichhorst28](#)

4 April 2016

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

This article examines the causes of the phenomenon of foreign terrorist fighters and evaluates the best strategy for Germany and Europe to address the challenge.

European Political Strategy Centre

Towards a 'Security Union': bolstering the EU's counter-terrorism response

20 April 2016

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

'There is no freedom without security,' Wilhelm von Humboldt famously said. The terrorist attacks in Paris and Brussels, just as the earlier ones in Madrid and London, were a brutal reminder that central pillars of the EU, such as the 'area of freedom, security and justice', are being challenged. That is why the time is ripe for a genuine 'Security Union'.

AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES

Institute for European Environmental Policy

Learning the lessons of the greening of the CAP

by Kaley Hart, David Baldock [@David_Baldock](#) and Allan Buckwell

April 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (77 p.)

The purpose of this report is to consider some of the lessons that can be learned from the introduction of green payments into Pillar 1 of the CAP in the 2013 reform. It reviews the original rationale for greening Pillar 1 and the many alterations made to the proposals during the negotiation process. It then provides an overview of the potential environmental impacts of these measures and highlights some of the challenges of determining their environmental additionality. Finally, it offers some preliminary thoughts on some possible future options for greening, with a focus on alternative means of delivering improved environmental management across the farmed countryside in the EU-28, considering the environmental, administrative and political pros and cons of each option.

COMPETITIVENESS (INTERNAL MARKET, INDUSTRY, RESEARCH AND SPACE)

Jacques Delors Institute - Berlin

De jure freedom of movement and de facto mobility in the EU Internal Market

by Nathalie Spath and Paul-Jasper Dittrich [@paul2jasper](#)

18 April 2016

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

The free movement for workers and self-employed is one of the four freedoms of the EU and guarantees theoretically a high labour mobility within the Union. However, the numbers show that the de facto mobility of workers is comparatively low, in spite of the de jure right to free movement. Especially the euro area would profit from a higher mobility. In this study the authors identify the main barriers which European workers face and give recommendations for a higher mobility.

Bruegel

The European Union's growing innovation divide

by Reinhilde Veugelers [@R_Veugelers](#)

7 April 2016

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

There is a significant divide between the EU countries with the greatest capacity to innovate, and those with the least capacity to innovate. A particular weak spot for the EU is corporate investment in research; in this area, the intra-EU divide is growing. As the business sector is responsible for the persistent R&D intensity gap between the EU and the US and Asia, the persistent failure of lagging EU countries to catch up in this area provides much of the explanation for the EU's weak performance compared to other economies.

Zentrum für Europäische Wirtschaftsforschung (Centre for European Economic Research) / Inova+ / TNO

Mapping the regional embeddedness of the NMP programme

by David Anciaux, Eurico Neves [@ecneves](#), Frans van der Zee [@Fransvanderzee](#), Annelieke van der Giessen, Christian Rammer and Maikel Pellens [@maikellpellens](#)

April 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (54 p.)

The aim of this study is to analyse how research and innovation activities, funded by the Nanosciences and Nanotechnologies, Materials, New Production Technologies and the Industrial Biotechnology themes in the Seventh Framework Programme for Research ([FP7 NMBP](#)), are embedded at a regional level and how the activities linked to local and regional networks and clusters, and to what extent and in what way these activities impacted at the regional level.

European Centre for International Political Economy

Competition, growth and regulatory heterogeneity in Europe's digital economy

by Matthias Bauer [@MatBauerEcon](#) and Fredrik Erixon [@FredrikErixon](#)

11 April 2016

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

Digital underperformance, as frequently ascribed to Europe, is argued to be a consequence of the superior performance of US technology companies. This paper diagnoses Europe's economy from the viewpoint of digital expansion, and analyses the economics of slow growth in the digital economy.

Institut der deutschen Wirtschaft Köln (Cologne Institute for Economic Research) / College of Europe

SME financing in the EU: moving beyond one-size-fits-all

by Markus Demary [@DemaryMarkus](#), Joanna Hornik and Gibran Watfe [@GibranWatfe](#)

13 April 2016

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

The proposal for a European Capital Markets Union carries large potential economic benefits from enhancing the financing possibilities for SMEs. By deepening the capital markets and strengthening cross-border integration, the European Commission hopes to stimulate economic growth and boost employment. This paper discusses to what extent these goals can be achieved, in light of the complex business environment of European SMEs.

TRANSPORT/TELECOMMUNICATIONS/ENERGY

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

EU transition towards green and smart mobility

by Paul Hofhuis, Michiel Luining [@LuiningMichiel](#) and Jan Rood

15 April 2016

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

With this report the authors aimed to provide input for discussion at the informal EU interministerial meeting of Ministers of Transport and Environment in Amsterdam on 14 April 2016. The authors propose an innovative longer-term integrated approach by both the EU, member states, local authorities and other stakeholders, applying the full potential of innovations in the technological domain as well as regarding governance instruments.

Bruegel

Energy across the Mediterranean: a call for realism

by Simone Tagliapietra [@TagliapietraBxl](#) and Georg Zachmann [@GeorgZachmann](#)

28 April 2016

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

Trade links between southern Mediterranean countries (SMCs) are very limited and they trade mainly with the EU. Energy represents more than half of SMC exports to the EU. While the regional energy relationships were developed on a bilateral basis, the EU's Mediterranean energy policy has followed a regional approach, aimed at harmonising energy policies and regulatory frameworks in the region on the path to a Euro-Mediterranean energy market. This approach has proved unproductive and should change, write the authors.

Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung (Heinrich Böll Foundation)

Sustainable energy security: a transatlantic opportunity

by David Livingston and Jeffrey Feldman

25 April 2016

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

This report demonstrates the interconnectivity of the different dimensions of energy policy. The report breaks down the policy silos, providing a comprehensive overview of some of the myriad of issues that any 21st century energy order faces.

Oxford Institute for Energy Studies

Do we have aligned and reliable gas exchange prices in Europe?

by Beatrice Petrovich

April 2016

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

This paper assesses whether the main European energy exchanges provide a reliable price reference for traded gas. Exchanges are viewed as performing a vital role in the development of a traded commodity market and provide the important functions of: price discovery, price transparency, supply/pricing flexibility, physical balancing and financial risk management.

Centre for European Policy Studies

The EU power sector needs long-term price signals

by Fabio Genoese [@FabioGenoese](#), Eleanor Drabik and Christian Egenhofer [@CEgenhofer](#)

April 2016

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

This report examines how electricity markets can be designed to provide long-term price signals, thereby reducing the cost of capital for these technologies and allowing for a more efficient transition. It finds that current market arrangements are unable to provide long term price signals.

A roadmap to enhanced regional energy policy: cooperation in south east Europe

by Anna Dimitrova, Christian Egenhofer [@CEgenhofer](#) and Arno Behrens

April 2016

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

This paper explores the potential of regional approaches to European energy policies to improve the effectiveness of EU energy policy objectives in South East Europe and the EU at large.

European Centre for International Political Economy

Assessing the solar energy dispute between the European Union and the People's Republic of China

by Sylvain Plasschaert

1 April 2016

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

In the spring of 2012, the EU and China got embroiled in a tense dispute about trade in the growing solar energy field. The surge in EU imports of such goods from China prompted a group of EU-located producers of solar equipment to request trade defence measures from the European Commission. After conducting investigations the Commission imposed a provisional anti-dumping duty on such imports in June 2013 while threatening to impose significantly heavier levies on solar panel imports from China if no satisfactory arrangement could be found before 6 August 2013. Close to that deadline, an amicable 'understanding' was reached, whereby China agreed to reduce its overall quantity of exports to the EU and put a floor price on those exports. Thus, a major trade conflict about the largest contested trade volume ever was averted.

ENVIRONMENT

Bruegel

Financial risks and opportunities in the time of climate change

by Dirk Schoenmaker and Rens van Tilburg [@RensvanTilburg](#)

22 April 2016

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

Real economic imbalances can lead to financial crisis. The current unsustainable use of our environment is such an imbalance. Financial shocks can be triggered by either intensified environmental policies, clean-tech breakthroughs, or the economic costs of crossing ecological boundaries. Financial supervisors and risk managers have so far paid little attention to this ecological dimension, allowing systemic financial imbalances resulting from ecological pressures to build up. Inattention also leads to missed economic and financial opportunities from the sustainability transition.

Leuven Centre for Global Governance Studies

The global governance system for climate finance: towards greater institutional integrity?

by Emilie Bécault [@EmilieBecault](#) and Axel Marx

April 2016

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

The aim of this report is to take a closer look at how the emerging regime for climate change financing currently fares in terms of institutional integrity, a term which refers to whether an institution or set of institutions actually live up to its publicly proclaimed values and goals. Rather than proposing a normative framework based on a set of key principles and values relevant to the regulation of climate-related financial transfers from developed to developing countries, this contribution instead, seeks to give an overview of some of the basic challenges that confront the quest for greater integrity in the operation of the global climate finance system, concentrating on issues of normative contestation, institutional fragmentation, and unequal geographical scope.

Chatham House - The Royal Institute of International Affairs

Post-Paris: taking forward the global climate change deal

by Rob Bailey [@ChathamRob](#) and Shane Tomlinson

April 2016

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

This paper considers Paris's achievements and imperfections, as well as the emergent global regime that COP21 has delivered. In addition, it identifies key implications for future climate action.

Ecologic Institute

Proposals for reforming the EU effort sharing decision

by Nils Meyer-Ohlendorf [@EcologicBerlin](#), with contributions from Ralph Bodle, Matthias Duwe [@Matthias_Duwe](#), Ennid Roberts and Ana Frelih-Larsen

22 April 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (54 p.)

The purpose of this paper is to bring the Effort Sharing Decision (ESD) reform discussion to the level of technical detail. Using the current ESD as a general starting point, the paper proposes specific wording of a new ESD in legal language. It also discusses criteria that guide the reform proposals.

SECTION 5 - FOREIGN AFFAIRS

FOREIGN AND SECURITY POLICY

Ulkopoliittinen instituutti (Finnish Institute of International Affairs)

Europe's new political engine: Germany's role in the EU's foreign and security policy

by Niklas Helwig [@NHelwig](#)

11 April 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (224 p.)

At the beginning of this decade, the EU's foreign and security policy was leaderless, while several crises put Europe under pressure. The economically strong Germany had to become Europe's new political engine. The way in which Germany took up its new and unusual role and the implications that German leadership has for the EU's foreign and security policy are analysed in this report.

Fundación Alternativas

A new step towards a common European defence

by José Enrique de Ayala Marin

April 2016

Link to the article in [Spanish](#) (77 p.) and to the abbreviated article in [English](#) (41 p.)

Although as many as 34 civilian and military operations have been conducted during the 16 years in which the CSDP has been active, this instrument is far from being sufficient to meet the EU's security requirements. Of the various areas in which the CSDP must now be strengthened, the most important is Command and Control. Promoting the creation of this structure and participating in its realisation should be one of the priorities of those member states, including Spain, that are in favour of strengthening the CSDP as part of a process of political convergence.

German Marshall Fund of the United States

For a "new realism" in European defense: the five key challenges an EU defense strategy should address

by Claudia Major and Christian Mölling [@Ce_Moll](#)

7 April 2016

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

The idea of developing an EU defence strategy is gaining traction. To reinvent the EU as a credible defence actor, the next moves should be driven by a "new realism." The initial step is a baseline assessment of today's defence and industrial capabilities, where they will stand in 2030, and which improvements are possible. Flagship projects such as integrating NATO's Framework Nation concept into the EU and launching a big European unmanned aerial vehicle program can help to implement such a new approach, while also offering short term political boost.

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

A new Helsinki needed? What security model for Europe? Papers from the December 2015 Germany-Poland-Russia dialogue

by Stefan Meister (ed.)

April 2016

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

The Germany-Poland-Russia dialogue Workshop held at the DGAP in December 2015 focused on security. The three short papers included here, provide brief analyses of how the security situation is currently perceived in each of the three countries.

International Centre for Counter-Terrorism - The Hague

Transitioning from military interventions to long-term counter-terrorism policy

by Sergei Boeke [@SergeiBoeke](#), Jeanine de Roy van Zuijdewijn [@JeanineRvz](#) and William Maley
14 April 2016

Link to the report on Mali in [English](#) (64 p.), link to the report on Afghanistan in [English](#) (62 p.) and link to the report on Libya in [English](#) (58 p.)

In this project the authors attempted to identify factors and best practices to transform a broad military intervention into a more limited counter terrorism policy. The research project had three main objectives: alleviate the threat from terrorist groups, reinforcing host nation capacity, addressing the causes of radicalisation and violent extremism. The project focused on assessing how military interventions can best prepare the ground for an effective long term counter-terrorism policy, looking at three case studies: Libya, Afghanistan and Mali.

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

The parliamentary dimension of defence cooperation

by Anne Bakker, Margriet Drent [@Margriet_Drent](#) and Lennart Landman [@LennartLandman](#)
4 April 2016

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

The role of parliaments is a neglected factor in the development of European defence cooperation. This is clearly in need of rectification as parliaments have a crucial role in making deeper defence cooperation a success. In this report the authors reflect on the crucial role that parliamentarians have in bringing politics back into the CSDP and to the need to defend defence in parliament and towards the general public. The report's final section is devoted to the interparliamentary dimension that needs strengthening and looks into the workings of the Interparliamentary Conference and the parliamentary dimension of cluster cooperation.

European Union Institute for Security Studies

EUISS yearbook of European security 2016

by Thierry Tardy [@thierrytardy](#)

19 April 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (234 p.)

The EUISS Yearbook of European Security (YES) 2016 is the Institute's annual publication compiling key documents and data related to the EU's external action for the year 2015. In addition to updated data on instruments and policies covered in the previous editions, YES 2016 provides new information on, inter alia, CSDP and JHA agencies, the European Defence Technological and Industrial Base, the Battle Groups, and EU Delegations.

Envisioning European defence – Five futures

by Jan Joel Andersson, Sven Biscop, Bastian Giegerich, Christian Mölling [@Ce Moll](#), and Thierry Tardy [@thierrytardy](#)

13 April 2016

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

This paper outlines five possible future scenarios for European defence. The aim is to develop plausible and coherent descriptions of what European defence might look like a decade or two from now in order to point out the choices and decisions that need to be made today. A key assumption underpinning these hypotheses is that the future of European defence will be of Europeans' own making rather than the outcome of external pressures and events.

Rahvusvaheline Kaitseuringute Keskus (International Centre for Defence Studies)

Strengthening the strategic balance in the Baltic Sea area

by Kalev Stoicescu and Henrik Praks [@HenrikPraks](#)

April 2016

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

The Defence Committee of the Riigikogu (Estonian Parliament) commissioned ICDS to conduct a study on the strategic balance in the Baltic Sea region with aim to contribute, in the run up to the Warsaw Summit, to the discussion on the optimum Alliance military posture in the region. Russia follows an increasingly aggressive anti-Western policy of revisionism and has become a direct and open threat to NATO. The authors argue that Russian threat has to be clearly acknowledged, treated as a strategic long-term challenge and taken fully into account in NATO's defence planning and future posture in the Baltic Sea area.

GEOPOLITICS AND STRATEGY

European Union Institute for Security Studies

Towards an EU global strategy – Consulting the experts

14 April 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (114 p.)

The EUISS – in close cooperation with the Strategic Planning Division of the EEAS – has carried out a wide-ranging outreach and consultation process involving the broader expert community represented by think tankers and academics from across Europe (and beyond). As part of this process, the EUISS asked 50 well-known analysts and commentators to give their opinion in less than 1,000 words on the priorities that the forthcoming EU Global Strategy should address and how. The resulting contributions are collectively reproduced in this volume and offer a rich selection of independent views intended to nurture the drafting of the strategy.

College of Europe

A global strategy for a global player? Shaping the EU's role in the World

by Domhnall O'Sullivan

April 2016

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

Times of crisis are not usually associated with deep reflection. Yet, at a moment when it is assailed by a range of concrete problems, the EU is finalizing a wide-ranging 'EU Global Strategy on Foreign and Security Policy'. As it was for its predecessor, the 2003 European Security Strategy, the very process of drafting such a document is a welcome exercise in strategic cooperation. The author considers that the EU should aim for a strong guiding document. In order to achieve this, three strategic dilemmas at the heart of Europe's foreign policy personality need to be untangled.

The BRICS' new development bank and the EU's options

by Balazs Ujvari [@balazs_iravju](#)

April 2016

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

This contribution focuses on China's and its BRICS partners' aspiration to counter the traditional bodies of global economic governance through the establishment of parallel structures. More specifically, it assesses the challenge that the BRICS-led New Development Bank poses to the EU in the field of development policy.

Barcelona Centre for International Affairs

Atlantic future. shaping a new hemisphere for the 21st century: Africa, Europe and the Americas

by Jordi Bacaria [@bacaria_jordi](#) and Laia Tarragona [@LaiaTarragona](#) (eds.)

March 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (157 p.)

This monograph is part of the Atlantic Future project, financed by the European Commission's 7th Framework Programme. The monograph provides a synthesis of the project, along with its main results and an update on the research work carried out over the past three years. It is intended to reach an interested public, academics and political and economic decision-makers, who will be able to see the Atlantic Space as a laboratory for globalisation and for the multilateral solutions with which to face the world's new challenges.

Liechtenstein Center on Self-Determination

Emerging European security challenges

April 2016

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

The LISD convened a special Liechtenstein Colloquium, "Emerging European Security Challenges," in Triesenberg, from 12-15 November 2015. The event brought together senior diplomats, academics, policy-makers, experts and representatives of European civil society and NGOs. The objective of the colloquium was to examine the interactions between and the various effects of three key crises—the Ukraine war, the war in Syria, and the European refugee crisis—for broader regional, EU, and international security. This report reflects the substance of these discussions and includes an updated Chair's Addendum.

Center for Strategic and International Studies

The European Union in a reconnecting Eurasia

by Marlene Laruelle

30 April 2016

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

This paper examines the full scope of EU interests in the South Caucasus and Central Asia and analyses the broad outlines of EU engagement over the coming years. It is part of a six-part CSIS series, "Eurasia from the Outside In," which includes studies focusing on Turkey, the EU, Iran, India, Russia, and China.

Chatham House - The Royal Institute of International Affairs

Humanitarian engagement with non-state armed groups

by Andrew MacLeod, Claudia Hofmann [@Cl_Hofmann](#), Ben Saul [@profbensaul](#), Joshua Webb and Charu Lata Hogg

April 2016

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

Non-state armed groups need to be engaged for the sake of the people who live in the territories they control. The contributions in this collection frame four aspects of why such an approach is both necessary and exigent.

Global risks and the challenges for G20 coordination - A growth agenda for China's 2016 presidency

by Stephen Pickford

April 2016

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

This paper argues that the current situation requires more, not less, international cooperation, and that relying on supply-side policies and structural reforms without measures also to increase demand will not be sufficient to deliver growth. Monetary policy is reaching the limits of its ability to stimulate demand, as interest rates are near or at zero (or even negative) in key economies. This paper therefore advocates that the G20 promote coordinated and substantial fiscal stimulus to rekindle demand and support growth.

NATO Energy Security Centre of Excellence

Energy security: operational highlights

April 2016

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

The threats to critical energy infrastructure are at the centre of this issue of 'Energy Security: Operational Highlights' with a particular focus on the attacks coming from the cyber space and from violent non-state actors such as so called "Islamic State", or DAESH. Furthermore, in order to reduce the risks related to the field of energy on which its societies and its operations depend, NATO works towards significantly improving the energy efficiency of the military and valuably contributes to this dimension of energy security.

TRADE

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

Who is afraid of European economic diplomacy?

by Maaïke Okano-Heijmans and Francesco Saverio Montesano

5 April 2016

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

In this article the authors emphasize the necessity of a coordinated approach in the EU regarding economic diplomacy.

Centre for European Reform

Shaping 21st century trade: TTIP, global standards and multilateralism

by Christian Odendahl [@COdendahl](#) and Rem Korteweg [@CER_Korteweg](#)

April 2016

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

This policy brief outlines what makes the TTIP a new type of trade deal. It discusses how EU-US regulatory co-operation could lead to global standard setting, and what TTIP could mean for world trade and investment, the future of the multilateral trading system and third countries.

Corporate Europe Observatory

Investment court system put to the test - New EU proposal will perpetuate investors' attacks on health and environment

by Natacha Cingotti [@c_natacha](#), Pia Eberhardt [@pia_eberhardt](#), Nelly Grotefendt, Cecilia Olivet [@CeOlivet](#), Scott Sinclair and Helen Burley [@helenburley1](#)

April 2016

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

The Commission assured that its new approach to investment protection – outlined in the Investment Court System proposal put forward in the TTIP negotiations - would "protect the governments' right to regulate and ensure that investment disputes will be adjudicated in full accordance with the rule of law." This study puts that promise to the test by examining five of the most controversial ISDS cases from recent years.

European Centre for International Political Economy

The EU's trade with emerging markets: climbing the value-added chain and growing IP intensity?

by Matthias Bauer [@MatBauerEcon](#) and Fredrik Erixon [@FredrikErixon](#)

21 April 2016

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

International trade is a powerful force of societal transformation. Trade agreements not only stimulated trade; they have improved the quality and integrity of domestic economic and political institutions. This view on trade as a force of institutional development and societal transformation has been reinforced in the recent decade when the routes to the world market for developing countries have been through global supply and value chains of multinational firms. This paper examines whether the trade profile of fast-growing emerging economies reflects the broader theory that has underlined thinking about trade: when these countries grow, do they expand their import from developed countries in the direction of high value-added goods in order to get access to technology and knowledge that they cannot produce as efficiently at home?

Centre for European Policy Studies

Tomorrow's silk road: assessing an EU-China Free Trade Agreement

by Jacques Pelkmans, Weinian Hu, Federica Mustilli [@f_mustilli](#), Mattia Di Salvo, Joseph Francois, Eddy Bekkers, Miriam Manchin, Patrick Tomberger

April 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (326 p.)

This study offers an independent, wide-ranging and in-depth analysis of a possible Free Trade Area (FTA) between the EU and China. The design of the FTA is suggested to be 'deep and comprehensive', with extensive qualitative evidence in nine different domains of such a FTA, including investment. In addition, it provides a cutting-edge quantitative impact analysis.

DEVELOPMENT

Real Instituto Elcano (Elcano Royal Institute)

Los desafíos del desarrollo sostenible en América Latina: estableciendo prioridades y definiendo la contribución española

by Diego Sánchez-Ancochea [@dsanco](#)

5 April 2016

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

This document identifies the main challenges for Latin America: inequality, transformation of production, environmental protection and reducing violence. It emphasizes the interrelation between all the factors and the need to strengthen state action to address them. The document also makes some proposals to design the Spanish cooperation agenda in the region, stressing the importance of setting clear priorities and seek coherent interventions at different levels.

European Centre for Development Policy Management

Monitoring and reporting on policy coherence for sustainable development: the example of Switzerland

by Jeske van Seters [@JeskeVanSeters](#)

19 April 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (73 p.)

Switzerland is committed to promote Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development (PCSD). This paper proposes a structured and thorough approach, with a focus on three Swiss PCSD priority areas: food security, migration and development, and illicit financial flows.

ENLARGEMENT PROCESS

Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies

The long march towards the EU: candidates, neighbours and the prospects for enlargement

by Konrad Niklewicz [@konradniklewicz](#)

April 2016

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

Seven consecutive enlargements, spanning over half a century, have provided geopolitical stability in Europe and facilitated trade and economic growth. Currently, the EU is considering further expansion towards the Western Balkans and Turkey. In this process, the EU is weighing fundamental values against security concerns, public scepticism in some member states and past experience of letting in countries that were not prepared. In addition the economic, security and refugee crises are making the EU more cautious about enlarging further. The present paper considers options for further EU enlargement, including ending enlargement altogether, offering a reduced membership status ('membership minus') and keeping enlargement alive under strict conditions.

Group for Legal and Political Studies

The Serbian media and the dialogue: has there been an evolution in how Serbian media perceive Kosovo?

by Lowell West [@lowell_west](#)

12 April 2016

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

This report examines the attitudes of the Serbian media towards Kosovo and how those attitudes have changed as the dialogue has progressed. Changes would indicate that the dialogue has changed either how the Serbian media thinks or how they perceive changes in their audience's opinion. While this report will not examine this question, it is an important issue to keep in mind. In either case, it would show that the dialogue has caused a change in how the Serbian media views Kosovo and a resolution of the conflict between Kosovo and Serbia.

Barcelona Centre for International Affairs

Kosovo: the limits of international post-conflict governance

by Pere Vilanova

March 2016

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

Kosovo showcases the limits, in terms of transformative and democratisation goals, of the top-to-bottom approach that drives international policymaking, including European policy in the Balkans. Serbian nationalism's narrative is a story based on several myths deliberately built on the reformatting of some historical facts and the neglect of others. Kosovo has been one of the most expensive international peace building and state-building efforts: it deserves constant and serious debate and evaluation. UNMIK mission marked a clear change in strategic thinking inside the UN about its role in international interventions and in building stable post-conflict states.

AFRICA

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

Vom "umfassenden" zum "integrierten Ansatz". Notwendige Schritte zur Weiterentwicklung der EU-Außenbeziehungen am Beispiel der Sahelzone und des Horns von Afrika

by Ronja Kempin [@RonjaKempin](#) and Ronja Scheler [@RonjaScheler](#)

April 2016

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

In June 2016, the new Global Strategy of the EU will be presented. Considering EU's action in the Sahel and the Horn of Africa, where it is particularly active, the authors suggest that the formal establishment of rules between the EEAS and the European Commission outlining who determines the priorities and makes decisions is needed. The results of the study suggest the development of a comprehensive approach by three measures: First, regional strategies should be immediately supplemented by action plans. Secondly and in parallel, a team with direct competence: "Representative for the implementation of regional strategies" should be created in the EEAS. Third, EEAS and Commission should develop a "strategic budget", with which the priority projects of the EU's external action could be financed.

International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance

Democracy-building in conflict-affected and fragile states: the role of the African Union

by Khabele Matlosa [@MatlosaKhabele](#)

16 April 2016

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

The African Union (AU) has made considerable strides in its efforts towards democracy promotion and peacebuilding since 2000, when it adopted its Constitutive Act. This Act brought about an interesting paradigm shift away from the doctrine of non-interference to one of paying attention to human rights abuses within its member states. As a result, the AU has evolved a robust normative framework that has been instrumental in assisting most of its member states emerging from extended war and violent conflict. The real value of these normative frameworks does not lie in AU member states signing up to these norms alone. Instead, it is to be found in political commitment and policy reforms through effective implementation of these norms at the national level.

ASIA-OCEANIA

LSE IDEAS

Changing waters: towards a new EU Asia strategy

by Olivia Gippner (ed.)

April 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (108 p.)

The EU-Asia relationship has changed, from development assistance to cooperation – and possibly competition. This report explores an overhaul of the EU's 2001 Asia Strategy, more important than ever in the context of Asian economic growth and the US 'pivot'. Can the EU expand its role in Asian institutions and non-traditional security, acting a neutral arbiter in this volatile region? The report includes contributions from practitioners and academics on EU relations with ASEAN, Australia, Burma, India, Japan, Korea, and China. This Special Report was produced as part of the [Dahrendorf Forum - Debating Europe](#), a joint initiative by the Hertie School of Governance, LSE, and Stiftung Mercator.

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

Indonesia in ASEAN : regional leadership between ambition and ambiguity

by Felix Heiduk [@FelixHeiduk](#)

April 2016

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

Supporting regional integration processes within the context of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) is an integral component of Brussels' strategic interest in South-East Asia. Hereby, Indonesia is perceived as a key partner for Europe. There are indications, however, that Indonesia seems to be turning away from ASEAN under the administration of the current president, Joko Widodo ("Jokowi"). A new narrative has recently emerged in Jakarta that seeks to prioritise Indonesia's national interests in all aspects of the country's international affairs over long-standing hallmarks of Indonesia's international politics. This research paper traces the role that ASEAN has played in Indonesian foreign policy – from the fall of Suharto up to the present day.

CHINA

Fondation Robert Schuman

Status of market economy to China: what political answers can be given to this legal straitjacket?

by Charles de Marcilly [@Charles2M](#) and Angéline Garde

19 April 2016

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

Imports and exports combined, trade of the EU with China totals 1 billion € per day. Chinese exports are subject to specific conditions set when it entered the WTO in 2001, with the individual agreement of the member states and according to the decision making rules of this international organisation. The formal reason behind this at the time was that China did not meet the criteria to be a market economy; this led to the temporary introduction of specifically restrictive anti-dumping measures. These measures will come to an end on 11 December 2016. The main question is not about whether China is a market economy – it is not – but what the effects of the expiry of the measures set out in its WTO accession protocol will be.

Norsk Utenrikspolitisk Institutt (The Norwegian Institute of International Affairs)

China's political priorities in the Nordic countries: from technology to core interests

by Jerker Hellström [@JerkerHellstrom](#)

April 2016

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

Chinese policymakers have identified a number of priorities that motivate them to observe and interact with the Nordic countries. This report focuses on China's political priorities in the five Nordic countries during 2007-2013. It is based on an analysis of official statements, academic papers and reports from think-tanks, as well as interviews conducted with Chinese diplomats and Nordic officials and scholars in the Nordic capitals during the autumn of 2013. The author draws the conclusion that China's overarching Nordic wide priorities include four main areas: to utilise the Nordic region as a sounding board and door opener; to acquire technology and know-how; to promote China's core interests; and to improve perceptions of China.

Ośrodek Studiów Wschodnich (Centre for Eastern Studies)

Niezbędny partner drugoplanowy. Europa w polityce Chin w okresie rządów Xi Jinpinga

by Marcin Kaczmarek [@M_Kaczmarek](#)

April 2016

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

Chinese elite do not regard Europe as an equal partner and are convinced of their own superiority and the growing asymmetry in mutual relations. Internal divisions within the EU further strengthen the Chinese sense of power. At the same time, Europe remains the largest economic partner of China and the "economic pillar" of Chinese growth in the international arena. Beijing seeks to maintain the openness of Europe to the Chinese economy, especially in relation to Chinese exports, the transfer of technology to China for investment and diversification of foreign exchange reserves held. At the same time Beijing attaches great importance to maintaining the existing non-alignment of Europe on two issues: China's vital interests and Sino-US relations.

EASTERN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

Trans European Policy Studies Association

The frozen conflicts of the EU's Eastern neighbourhood and their impact on the respect of human rights

by András Rác

April 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (43 p.)

The present study provides a detailed overview of the actual human rights situation in the frozen conflict regions of EU's Eastern neighbourhood, namely in Crimea, Transnistria, Abkhazia, South Ossetia and Nagorno-Karabakh. The focus of the analysis is on the access to the justice system, as well as on the abilities of the de jure or de facto authorities to administer justice. Particular attention is paid to Crimea because the rapidly worsening human rights situation there affects far more people than the population of the other four frozen conflicts combined. International community actions, as well as the role of civil society in protecting human rights are also analysed.

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

A forgotten conflict: escalation in Nagorno Karabagh. Unpredictable effects of 'the no peace, no war' situation

by Leila Alieva

April 2016

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

This note analyses the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and the impact of the current situation.

Consejo Argentino para las Relaciones Internacionales

Nuevos enfrentamientos entre Armenia y Azerbaiyán

by Paulo Botta

April 2016

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

This article analyses the recent escalation of tension between Armenia and Azerbaijan over Nagorno-Karabakh.

Egmont – Royal Institute for International Relations

Armenia, Azerbaijan and the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict: why the 'black garden' will not blossom any time soon

by Tobias Schumacher

19 April 2016

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

After the recent escalation of fighting between Azerbaijan and Armenia-backed separatist forces of the self-proclaimed Republic of Nagorno-Karabakh, the South Caucasus has re-emerged in the international spotlight. The author analyses the prospects of the recently concluded ceasefire agreement mediated by Russia.

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Real Instituto Elcano (Elcano Royal Institute)

La difícil coyuntura económica en América Latina

by Federico Steinberg [@Steinbergf](#) and José Pablo Martínez |

25 April 2016

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

After more than a decade of intense economic expansion, underpinned by high commodity prices in the booming world trade and abundant liquidity, changing global economic context and the lack of progress in terms of productivity, Latin America has plunged in a deep crisis that has caused serious macroeconomic imbalances and threatens the achievement of important social gains. Reforms are necessary to carry out the transformation of the model of production. However, governments can't afford them at present, due to the limited capacity of actions available.

Consejo Uruguayo para las Relaciones Internacionales

América Latina: amenazas a la seguridad, debilidad del Estado y oportunidades para el terrorismo internacional y el crimen organizado

by Javier Bonilla Saus [@JBonillaSaus](#) and Andrés Riva Casas [@RivaCasas](#)

19 April 2016

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

In this paper the authors pass in review the aspects which constitute a threat to security in Latin America: drug trafficking, narco-guerrillas, organized crime, terrorism, as well as the particular destabilizing influence on the rule of law institutions generated by the extraordinary dynamism of China.

MIDDLE EAST/NORTH AFRICA (MENA)

Ελληνικό Ίδρυμα Ευρωπαϊκής και Εξωτερικής Πολιτικής (Hellenic Foundation for European Foreign Policy) / Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung

The eastern Mediterranean in 2020: possible scenarios and policy recommendations

by Thanos Dokos (ed.)

April 2016

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

This paper deals with the eastern Mediterranean in 2020. It employs scenarios and includes policy recommendations. Findings are based on a conference organised by ELIAMEP and Konrad Adenauer Stiftung in Athens on "The Eastern Mediterranean in 2020: Possible Scenarios and Policy Recommendations". The conference was organised in cooperation with the EU Institute for Security Studies (EUISS) and with the support of NATO's Public Diplomacy Division.

Overseas Development Institute

Migration in Libya: transit zone or final destination?

by Eva Svoboda

April 2016

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

Since the start of the Arab Spring in 2011, North Africa and in particular Libya has become a point of departure for people attempting to make the perilous sea journey to Europe. Dramatic images of people in unseaworthy boats continue to capture the media's attention, but these images obscure the long road – both in terms of distance and time – that many refugees and migrants endure

before reaching Libya's shores, let alone Europe. What challenges do these migrants face during their journey, what support do they receive along their journey and how can international organisations better protect and support migrants?

International Centre for Counter-Terrorism - The Hague

Salafi Jihadist violence in Egypt's north Sinai: from local insurgency to Islamic State province

by Zack Gold [@ZLGold](#)

14 April 2016

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

Militancy in Egypt's North Sinai governorate was compounded in November 2014 when Ansar Bayt al Maqdis ("Supporters of Jerusalem", ABM), the main salafi jihadist organisation in Sinai, swore allegiance to the group that calls itself the Islamic State. This paper closely inspects ABM/Wilayat Sinai and ways in which the group changed over three phases of its existence: from the 2011 uprising to Morsi's 2013 ouster, from that point until the group's pledge to IS in 2014, and since the emergence of Islamic State affiliate Wilayat Sinai. This in-depth documentation is meant to serve as a case study of the impact that affiliating with IS has on local salafi jihadist groups.

Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung

From local actor to global threat: the so-called Islamic State (IS) in Iraq and Syria

by Malte Gaier

4 April 2016

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

With the onset of the crises in Syria and Iraq, the political environment in the Levant has continued to sustain a steep security decline since 2011. The dreaded prospect of spill overs into neighbouring countries at the beginning has now become a reality. The self-styled Islamic State and other international militant Islamist groups operating as belligerents in the Syria and Iraq crisis constitute a grave long-term challenge for the international community.

Jihad instead of democracy? Tunisia's marginalised youth and Islamist terrorism

by Edmund Ratka and Marie-Christine Roux [@marichroux](#)

4 April 2016

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

Five years ago, Tunisians brought down their authoritarian regime, triggering a series of protests and transformation processes in the Arab World, which in turn had a great impact on Europe. Tunisia remains to be the only country in the region that has successfully transitioned from authoritarian rule to democracy. Notwithstanding, radicalization among young people is posing a threat to the country's democratic transition, as many feel barred from the country's life. Thus, for many of those lacking prospects, "jihad" – whether abroad or at home – is rendered an ostensibly luring alternative.

International Crisis Group

Steps toward stabilising Syria's northern border

8 April 2016

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

This report assesses the risk of further escalation and spill over of the Syrian conflict. It is concluded that Turkey is confronting both an ever-more implacable insurgency of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) as well as advances in Syria of PKK affiliates like the People's Protection Units. Should this continue, likely results include intensified bloodshed in south-east Turkey, a significant blow to the Turkish economy and expansion of violent instability into currently calm

areas of western Turkey and north-east Syria. The Islamic State , always keen to seize opportunity from chaos, has both incentive and capacity to help engineer it.

Istituto Affari Internazionali

Why youth empowerment can sustain Tunisia's democratic consolidation

by Pietro Marzo

13 April 2016

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

This paper focuses on youth contribution within the process of the transition to democracy in Tunisia, with the aim of describing how youth empowerment is the key to sustaining the consolidation of democracy and avoiding the risk of regression.

Carnegie Europe

Between peril and promise. A new framework for partnership with Tunisia

by Marwan Muasher [@MarwanMuasher](#), Marc Pierini [@MarcPierini1](#), and Alexander Djerassi

April 2016

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

Tunisia's inclusive democratic development and its resolve against terrorism have won widespread admiration. But five years after the revolution, internal headwinds and regional whirlwinds continue to bedevil the country, jeopardizing its democratic transition. Tunisians are still waiting for the social and economic grievances that provoked the 2011 revolution to be addressed. To halt the country's troubling trajectory, address its socioeconomic challenges, and help achieve the revolution's aims of prosperity, freedom, and dignity, Tunisia and its international partners need a new approach—a Framework for Partnership that couples Tunisian-led reform actions with coordinated and intensified international assistance.

RUSSIA

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

The EU and Russia: managing the new security environment in the wider Europe

by Derek Averre

April 2016

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

This paper focuses on the fundamental challenges facing the EU arising from the Ukraine conflict and Russia's more assertive foreign policy approach in general. The authors consider how Russia's intervention in Ukraine affects Europe's rules-based security environment, analyse Moscow's policy in the EU-Russia neighbourhood and its implications for the EU's own role in the region and examine how the EU and its member states are addressing the challenges posed by Russia. Finally, they pose a question: how do the European powers both 'deter' and 'engage' Putin's Russia?

Transatlantic Academy

Why Russia's economic leverage is declining

by Chris Miller

April 2016

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

Despite the Kremlin's desire to reassert influence over its neighbours, Russia's economic leverage in Eastern Europe is declining. After more than a decade of using trade and energy cut-offs to pressure its neighbours to accept its political aims, the Kremlin's tools of economic coercion are losing their effectiveness. This article examines the reasons behind Russia's diminishing ability to use gas, sanctions and boycotts as a political bargaining chip.

Isolation and propaganda: the roots and instruments of Russia's disinformation campaign

by Stefan Meister

April 2016

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

This paper analyses the means for "soft," non-military Russian influence in the post-Soviet sphere and the EU which include export media such as the television broadcaster RT and the media platform Sputnik, the targeted expansion of informal financial networks, and funding and support for left- and right-wing populist political parties and organizations. The paper argues that the EU can protect itself by reinforcing its own soft power and improving governance within Europe, standing firm on sanctions, improving its knowledge base on Russia and the other post-Soviet states, and taking steps to improve pluralism in the Russian-language media space.

The in-betweeners: the Eastern Partnership countries and the Russia-West conflict

by Nelli Babayan [@NelliBabayan](#)

April 2016

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

One of the overlooked drivers of the Russia-West conflict is the domestic politics of the states in-between the EU and Russia, and one big winner, at least in the short term, is illiberalism. The article argues that Western support to Eastern Partnership countries should continue and be enhanced in return for tangible political and economic reforms. The West should pursue further economic investment and closer security cooperation by providing technical assistance and expertise, especially in border control when necessary. Clear communication of the West's policies and principles, and the benefits of these for local communities, is important in an environment where local media may be constrained in its freedom, Kremlin-controlled channels have wide reach, and yet there is also noticeable support for the EU.

European Council on Foreign Relations

Putin's downfall: the coming crisis of the Russian regime

by Nikolay Petrov

19 April 2016

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

This article argues that Russia's current regime will not last long. In the author's view, the tumultuous events in Ukraine in 2014 reduced the country's possible trajectories to a single one – a path that will quickly lead to the collapse of the Putin government if there is no radical change in its course.

Chatham House - The Royal Institute of International Affairs

Agents of the Russian World: proxy groups in the contested neighbourhood

by Orysia Lutsevych [@Orysiaua](#)

April 2016

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

This paper focuses on the subversive and more opaque dimension of Russia's efforts through non-state actors, particularly NGOs, and how these help promote the concept of the Russian World (*Russkiy Mir*) as a geopolitical tool. It examines the agents of Russian influence that often operate in the public space, ostensibly independent but in reality controlled and funded by the Russian state; and outlines the impact of their activities on the former Soviet space, with a particular focus on Ukraine. Additionally, it offers an assessment of how Russia's use of soft power may continue to evolve, as well as suggestions for counterbalancing this influence and promoting democratic development in the countries that are targeted.

European Union Institute for Security Studies

Russian futures: horizon 2025

by Hiski Haukkala [@HiskiHaukkala](#) and Nicu Popescu [@nicupopescu](#) (eds.)

7 April 2016

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

A group of prominent analysts and experts on Russia have sought to predict how Russia is likely to evolve over the next decade. At the moment the danger of getting things wrong is perhaps particularly high. From regional wars, refugees and their impact on the EU, to the falling oil price and Russia's infatuation with military power as a quick fix to its foreign or domestic policy problems – the strategic environment is not simply unpredictable, but dangerously volatile.

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

Zivilgesellschaft in Russland und der Ukraine : Divergierende Kontexte und ihre Implikationen

by Susan Stewart

April 2016

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

This paper analyses and compares the different organisations of civil society in Ukraine and Russia. While there is a lot of scepticism about the autonomy of Russia's organisations, the Ukrainian organisations are often viewed positively. Their relationships with government, industry and society as a whole are often changing. In Ukraine, due to the state's weakness, civil society actors assume certain governmental functions. Germany already aims to promote the post-Soviet civil societies and the author argues that this approach could be more effective if it were tailored to the specific contexts of Russia and Ukraine.

TURKEY

Transparency International

National Integrity System assessment: Turkey

by Umut Gündüz, Pelin Erdoğan and Yalın Hatipoğlu

April 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (274 p.)

This National Integrity System Assessment presents a holistic picture of Turkey's institutional landscape with regard to its capacity to function, its compliance with good governance principles, and its performance in the fight against corruption. Within this framework the analysis identifies

weaknesses and shortcomings affecting the whole system, as well as institution-specific areas of concern. Of the 15 institutions assessed, 11 were classified as "weak" and only four rated as high as "moderate".

Türkiye Ekonomi Politikaları Araştırma Vakfı (Economic Policy Research Foundation of Turkey)

Syrians in Turkey: unemployment and social cohesion

by Esra Özpınar, Yasemin Satır Çilingir and Ayşegül Taşöz Düşündere
April 2016

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

Integration of Syrian refugees living in Turkey to the labour market carries a risk with regards to social cohesion. The statistics indicate that there is the possibility of local and refugee labour force with similar education levels to compete for jobs in the labour market. This study discusses the effects of Syrian refugees on regional employment levels, as well as social perceptions that may be influenced by these effects, and their importance with regards to social cohesion.

How does the Syrian refugee crisis affect public health in Turkey?

by Esra Özpınar
April 2016

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

This paper attempts to provide an account of Syria's public health indicators prior to and after the civil war, outline the health policies that Turkey conducts within the frame of migration policies, and analyse Turkey's and Syria's immunization rates for selected diseases. As such, the purpose of the study is to point out areas related to health of refugees in the context of Turkey's public health and to discuss what can be practically done in the field.

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

The Turkish time machine - The resurfacing Turkish-Kurdish question and its regional impact

by Kristian Brakel [@kristianbrakel](#)
April 2016

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

The author analyses the current state of play in Turkish-Kurdish relations. He goes on to assess the possibility of international powers entering into the conflict to mediate and re-instigate the peace process.

Center for American Progress

A Kurdish autumn becomes Turkey's long winter

by Aslı Aydintaşbaş [@asliaydintasbas](#)
19 April 2016

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

Turkey is at a crossroads in terms of its regional direction. Will it define itself as a moderate Islamist democracy or an illiberal Sunni regime? Turkey's relationship with its Kurdish minority is central to this larger question. Ankara must define the exact nature of its relationship with the Kurds, and there is no longer a simple national solution to a transnational question.

Center for Strategic and International Studies

Turkey in a reconnecting Eurasia

by Ünal Çeviköz

April 2016

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

This article examines the full scope of Turkish national interests in the South Caucasus and Central Asia and analyses the broad outlines of Turkish engagement over the coming years. It is part of a six-part CSIS series, "Eurasia from the Outside In", which includes studies focusing on Turkey, the EU, Iran, India, Russia, and China.

UKRAINE

Carnegie Europe

Fine-tuning EU support for Ukrainian democratization

by Richard Youngs [@YoungsRichard](#)

April 2016

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

Since the Euromaidan anti-government protests in 2013–2014, Ukraine has made some progress along the path of democratization. The country's government has stalled on many reform imperatives, however, and has recently been mired in a debilitating political crisis. The EU needs to intensify its support for Ukraine's still-fragile democracy. While the EU and its member states have rolled out a wide range of democracy support initiatives during the last two years, there is scope to make these policies more effective. The EU can most significantly improve the impact of its reform assistance through more focused conditionality, support for a broader process of decentralization, and wider civic engagement.

Fighting a culture of corruption in Ukraine

by Thomas De Waal [@Tom_deWaal](#)

19 April 2016

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

"Corruption" is an inadequate word to describe the condition of Ukraine. Since the country achieved independence in 1991, the problem is not that a well-functioning state has been corrupted by certain illegal practices; rather, those corrupt practices have constituted the rules by which the state has been run. Ukraine's political system is best described as state capture.

Ukraine's indispensable economic reforms

by Pierre Vimont

29 April 2016

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

Economic reform is central for today's Ukraine. The capacity of the Ukrainian nation to deliver a modern and efficient economy, if achieved, would constitute the winning asset in the West's current struggle with Russia in Eastern Europe. Success on the economy would represent the most convincing argument Ukraine could offer to all those who doubt the country's ability to stand as a modern and efficient state. Producing tangible economic results is the best way to dispel these doubts.

Chatham House - The Royal Institute of International Affairs

Can Ukraine achieve a reform breakthrough?

by John Lough and Iryna Solonenko

April 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (26 p.) and in [Ukrainian](#) (28 p.)

This paper analyses the forces that are holding back reforms and those that are propelling them forward. The analysis also considers the importance of external factors in the reform process.

Transatlantic Academy

The West's response to the Ukraine conflict: a Transatlantic success story

by Ulrich Speck [@uli_speck](#)

April 2016

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

This article analyses how European countries and the US, together with partners such as Canada and Japan, have responded to the Ukrainian challenge with a high degree of unity and consistency. By using coercive means such as sanctions coupled with diplomacy, the West has helped Ukraine to resist Russian aggression. At the same time it has sent a strong message to Moscow and other capitals that the West continues to support core international rules such as territorial integrity and sovereignty, and is ready to invest a considerable amount of energy in holding up these norms.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Chatham House - The Royal Institute of International Affairs

US election note: Russia policy after 2016

by Jacob Parakilas [@Jparakilas](#)

April 2016

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

Managing the US' relationship with Russia will be one of the major geopolitical challenges for the next president. While President Barack Obama's first term was a relatively calm period for the two countries, characterized most notably by American attempts to 'reset' the relationship, since 2013 tensions between the two countries have increased to their highest level since the end of the Cold War.

Center for American Progress

Updating U.S.-Saudi ties to reflect the new realities of today's Middle East

by Brian Katulis [@Katulis](#), Rudy deLeon [@rdeleoncap](#), Peter Juul [@neoluuj](#), Mokhtar Awad [@Mokhtar_Awad](#), and John Craig

April 2016

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

The authors argue that the next president of the US should start a new bilateral strategic dialogue with Saudi Arabia. The goal of this dialogue should be the establishment of joint goals on the countries' shared interests, including regional security and domestic Saudi economic and governance reforms.

SPECIAL FOCUS - POVERTY AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC ASPECTS

RAND Europe

The role of the European Social Fund in supporting childcare provision in the European Union

by Emma Harte, Joanna Hofman [@JoannaBHofman](#) and Anastasia Sikiaridi [@anasikiar](#)

April 2016

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

This article discusses the role that the European Social Fund plays in supporting childcare provision in the EU. Specifically, it looks at some of the Operational Programmes from the current funding cycle (2014–2020) which incorporate an element of childcare into their plans. In addition, it categorises and compiles different examples of ESF funded projects from across the EU, which relate to childcare, from the previous 2007–2013 funding cycle, with the aim of encouraging new applicants to access the ESF.

Poverty Reduction in Europe: Social Policy and Innovation (ImPRovE)

The Europe 2020 social inclusion indicators: main conclusions of the ImPRovE project on validity, methodological robustness and interrelationships

by András Gábos and Tim Goedemé [@TimGoedeme](#)

April 2016

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

In 2010, heads of state and government agreed on the Europe 2020 poverty reduction target. The target is measured on the basis of a composite indicator, including income poverty, severe material deprivation and very low work intensity. In this paper, the authors summarise the main findings and conclusions of a series of studies carried out in the [ImPRovE project](#), with regard to the quality of the three underlying indicators and their cross-sectional, longitudinal and dynamic relationships. By doing so, they point to relevant policy conclusions and areas for further improvement of the indicators and poverty research.

Scenarios for reducing poverty in Belgium, Greece and the United Kingdom

by Tim Goedemé [@TimGoedeme](#), Holly Sutherland, Paola De Agostini, Chrysa Leventi, Manos Matsaganis, Dieter Vandelannoote and Gerlinde Verbist

April 2016

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

In this paper, the authors outline three strategies for identifying effective policy reform packages for reducing income poverty in Europe: (1) reversing regressive reforms and using measures of 'poverty reduction / public budget trade-offs' to identify efficient and effective policy reforms; (2) up scaling existing policies; (3) breaking down policies into their elementary parts and combining policy options systematically for identifying the most effective policy design. All three strategies make use of the European micro simulation [EUROMOD](#). The authors illustrate them with case studies of the UK, Greece and Belgium, three countries with a very different welfare state trajectory, and social outcomes. The paper shows that all three strategies are useful for identifying policy packages that work, and for producing evidence for more effective poverty-reducing policy reform packages. They also highlight the most important limitations of their approach.

The design of in-work benefits: how to boost employment and combat poverty in Belgium

by Dieter Vandelannoote and Gerlinde Verbist

April 2016

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

In-work benefits have received increased attention over the past decades in OECD countries, as a core part of making-work-pay policies. They have two main objectives: on the one hand, increase employment by creating additional financial rewards for remaining in work or for taking up a low-paid job. On the other hand, reduce poverty by increasing incomes of disadvantaged groups of workers and their families. The authors evaluate the impact of different design components on work incentives and poverty indicators by building step-by-step a stylised working tax credit. The focus of this analysis is Belgium.

Caritas Europa

End poverty in Europe - Our solutions to make it happen

by Jose Manuel Fresno, Cornelia Rauchberger [@corneliarauchb](#), Alia Chahin [@aliachahin](#) and Skye Bain

April 2016

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

This report, based on evidence collected by Caritas organisations across Europe, identifies concrete causes of poverty, inequality, and exclusion rampant in European societies and formulates recommendations to address them. This report presents the main problems facing groups of people at risk of poverty and social exclusion, indicating what the most urgent political action required of policy makers is. It highlights a set of fundamental rights that people experiencing poverty and social exclusion are least able to access. Chapter 3 applies Caritas' grassroots experiences to the assessment of current policy tools that may have the potential to reduce poverty and social exclusion, while chapter 4 draws important conclusions, forming the basis for Caritas Europa's Policy Recommendations.

LUISS School of European Political Economy

Should inequality be the primary concern for Europe's political economy?

by Carlo Bastasin [@CarloBastasin](#)

28 April 2016

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

The sense of decline gripping the middle class is stoking radicalism and eroding the consensus for democracy and a unified Europe. It is important to acknowledge and address the implications of a destabilized middle class, reassuring voters of the long-term prospects for average individuals in a tumultuous economic and social landscape.

European Policy Centre

The revision of the Posted Workers Directive: towards a sufficient policy adjustment?

by Claire Dhéret [@cdheret](#) and Andreia Ghimis [@afghimis](#)

20 April 2016

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

Labour mobility within the EU continues to be a limited phenomenon. This concerns both long-term intra-EU mobility and more temporary forms of mobility such as posting of workers, i.e. workers posted to another member state in the framework of cross-border service provision. Yet, despite the limited nature of posting, this topic is far from being absent from the public and political debates. This discussion paper, published in the context of the Dutch Presidency and the ongoing

negotiations of a revised Directive on posted workers, focuses on these questions while proposing some concrete solutions for a fairer policy framework.

Bertelsmann Stiftung

Arbeitsmarktintegration von Flüchtlingen: bestehende Praxisansätze und weiterführende Empfehlungen

by Jutta Aumüller

13 April 2016

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

This study examines existing programs for integrating refugees into the job market. It also makes recommendations for developing the programs further. Currently, the programs are designed to get refugees working as quickly as possible. For the programs to succeed, the relevant institutions and organizations must be able to respond appropriately to the newcomers' needs, and efficient, networked structures must be established that include refugees in regular vocational training and job placement programs.

Centre for European Policy Studies

Institutional moral hazard in the multi-tiered regulation of Unemployment and Social Assistance Benefits and Activation - A summary of eight country case studies

by Frank Vandenbroucke and Chris Luigjes with Donna Wood and Kim Lievens

April 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (89 p.)

This paper studies eight countries in which the regulation of unemployment benefits and related benefits and the concomitant activation of unemployed individuals has a multi-tiered architecture. It assesses their experiences and tries to understand possible problems of 'institutional moral hazard' that may emerge in the context of a hypothetical European Unemployment Benefit Scheme.

MISCELLANEOUS

Barcelona Centre for International Affairs

Monarquías democráticas parlamentarias

by Alfred Stepan, Juan J. Linz and Juli F. Minoves

April 2016

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

In this article, the authors propose a three-part ideal-type typology that distinguishes between "ruling monarchy", "constitutional monarchy", and what they call "democratic parliamentary monarchy" (DPM). For them, the defining characteristic of a DPM is that only the freely elected parliament forms and terminates the government. In a constitutional monarchy, by contrast, there is a strong element of dual legitimacy in that parliament and the monarch need each other's support in order to form or terminate a government. In still greater contrast, in ruling monarchies the monarch can often unilaterally form or terminate the government. Moreover, each of these three types comes with its own set of patterns concerning the rule of law, constitutional constraints on the monarch, the status of parliament, and the relative autonomy of the judiciary. This article is a translation by CIDOB of the article "[Democratic Parliamentary Monarchies](#)" originally published in the Journal of Democracy in April 2014.

Mannheimer Zentrum für Europäische Sozialforschung (Mannheim Centre for European Social Research)

Die Politikpräferenzen der Wähler und die Wahrnehmung von Parteipositionen als Bedingungen für den Parteienwettbewerb um Wählerstimmen

by Franz Urban Pappi, Anna-Sophie Kurella and Thomas Bräuninger

April 2016

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

Agreement between policy supply by parties and policy demand by voters offers the electorate criteria for voting and provides parties with an informative basis for campaigning. Survey researchers measure such agreement on ideological scales like left-right or policy scales that address presumably important issues. When respondents deliver judgments about party positions on scales presented to them and when they report their own attitude on these scales, perceptual biases are frequent. Respondents often underestimate the distance to parties they like while they tend to overestimate the distance to parties they dislike. The authors apply a Bayesian implementation of the Aldrich-McKelvey factor analytic scaling procedure to derive "true" but latent party positions from respondents' answers.

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

Zarządzanie ryzykiem w instytucjach wykorzystujących muzułmańskie produkty finansowe

by Katarzyna Czupa

April 2016

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

Islamic finance is one of the most rapidly growing sectors in recent years. During the last decade the global value of Islamic assets has grown at yearly the pace of 10-12%. Sharia compliant products, which are not based on the interest rate, has also become popular in non-Muslim countries, namely in the EU members states and in the US. Therefore, it is essential to address some practical aspects of use of these instruments such as risk management. The publication discusses characteristics of Islamic finance, financial risk that is included in main contracts and methods of its management (including practices of institutions that use Islamic financial products).

International Centre for Black Sea Studies

Science, technology & innovation in the Black Sea: moving forward

by Zefi Dimadama (dir.) [@ZefiDimadama](#)

April 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (67 p.)

This publication reflects the outcome of the 8th International Black Sea Symposium on "Science, Technology & Innovation in the Black Sea: Moving Forward". It contains chapters on: cooperation among member states of the BSEC in the field of science and technology; the organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation and the EU's defence industries and more. Furthermore the publication contains a section on science, gender and innovation.

REGARDS CROISÉS

EU INTEGRATION SEEN FROM RUSSIA

Российский совет по международным делам (Russian International Affairs Council)

Four scenarios for European integration

by Nikolay Kaveshnikov

11 April 2016

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

In recent years, the number of academic studies and political opinions on the desired future of the EU has grown significantly. Despite the diversity of these opinions, they can conditionally be divided into one of four options: more Europe, less Europe, consolidation of Europe, flexible Europe. Each of these scenarios is aimed at achieving a certain image of future that is desirable for some political powers in the EU and barely acceptable for others. The ongoing systemic crisis is forcing the EU elites to choose *finalité* for European integration – a choice that they had managed to avoid for several decades.

FRANCE SEEN FROM SPAIN

Real Instituto Elcano (Elcano Royal Institute)

Francia en el puzzle europeo: retos y oportunidades para España

by Raquel Montes Torralba [@montestorralba](#)

26 April 2016

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

This article analyses the French European policy during the most recent years of the government of François Hollande, the main features of its foreign policy and the possible strategies for the presidential elections of 2017. The conclusions indicate some possible recommendations for Spain.

AUSTRIA SEEN FROM HUNGARY

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

Az állam és a magánvállalatok viszonya az osztrák gazdaságban

by Kőrösi István

April 2016

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

This article analyses the economic role of the state and the relationships between public and private sector in Austria, where the state ownership structures and institutions play an essential role in influencing the behaviour of economic agents, according to the author.