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Dear Readers,

Welcome to issue 43 of the Think Tank Review compiled by the EU Council Library* ([click to share on Twitter](#)). It references papers published in January 2017. As usual, we provide the link to the full text and a short abstract.

This issue has a special focus on US-Russia relations, with think tanks focusing on the future of US-Russia relations, Russia and disinformation, and the US, Russia and the world.

February's issue contains an abundance of publications under the 'EU politics and institutions' heading, with substantial papers on EU-related referendums, the election of the new president of the European Parliament, European integration and populism, and the implications of Brexit for reforming seat allocation in the European Parliament.

In the 'Economic and Financial Affairs' section, readers will find articles on reforming Economic and Monetary Union, the European fiscal union, structural reforms in the euro area, and Brexit and the EU budget, as well as a paper on European Union financial regulation, Banking Union, Capital Markets Union and the UK.

Readers with a special interest in France, Germany and Spain will find a rich selection of content in the 'EU Member States' section. A large number of papers are also devoted to the consequences of Britain's vote on EU membership. To name just a few among the many substantial contributions: flexible differentiation after Brexit, negotiation phases and scenarios, the Europeans and the consequences of Brexit, Prime Minister Theresa May's Brexit speech of 17 January 2017, Brexit and agricultural policy, the energy sector implications of Brexit, and UK foreign and security policy after Brexit. We also include an analysis published in Politico entitled *13 things you didn't know about Brexit* ([full article here](#)).

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This month the 'EU policies' section contains an enormous variety of papers. We draw your attention to the subsections on migration, space and energy issues. On migration, a number of think tanks explore in detail the integration of immigrants, and there is a report on the situation of refugees on the Western Balkan route. In addition, Frontex has just published its Risk Analysis for 2017 (link to [full report here](#)).

European space policy is covered by a contribution on the historical perspective, specific aspects and key challenges, as well as a paper on the impact of the digital revolution on space players and policies in Europe. On energy, we recommend papers about the theft of refined oil products around the globe, the pros and cons of solar electricity, clean energy transition and industrial strategy, the future of gas in decarbonising European energy markets, and Turkey's role in natural gas.

Under 'Foreign Affairs', the wide range of topics include the role of cyber in deterrence and defence, artificial intelligence and the future of warfare, Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO), reforming NATO's partnerships, economic and financial cooperation between Albania and Serbia, and the EU as a mediator.

Finally, we would like to share with readers the outcome of the [SUMMIT Dissemination Conference](#) which took place at the European Academy Berlin on 16 and 17 January 2017. A highlight was the keynote speech by Jim Cloos, Deputy Director-General at the General Secretariat of the European Council, entitled '[The European Council: Anchor in stormy times?](#)'.

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

The next Review will be out in March 2017, with papers published in February 2017.

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SECTION 1 - EU POLITICS AND INSTITUTIONS

Bruegel

Is Brexit an opportunity to reform the European Parliament?

by Robert Kalcik [@RKalcik](#) and Guntram B. Wolff [@GuntramWolff](#)

January 2017

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

Brexit offers a political opportunity for the European Parliament to reform the allocation of seats to member states. This paper explores different options for reform and their implications for equality of representation and distribution of seats to countries, within the constraints set by the EU treaties.

European Policy Centre

Will Brexit revive the Franco-German engine?

by Yann-Sven Rittelmeyer [@YSRittelmeyer](#)

26 January 2017

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

With national elections in sight in France and Germany, could Brexit re-start the Franco-German engine of European integration? The challenges posed by the Brexit vote could reverse the centrifugal course of the EU, and the Franco-German couple could act as a unifying force in that context. The arrival of freshly-elected leaders in France and Germany could regenerate the duo if both countries adopt an attitude facilitating their cooperation and focus their attention on key priority topics. According to the author, if they manage to do so the UK's departure might just end up spelling good news for the EU.

After Schulz: the election of the new president of the European Parliament

by Andrew Duff [@AndrewDuffEU](#)

9 January 2017

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

This paper takes a closer look at the election of Martin Schulz's successor and discusses European Parliament's rules for the election.

Centre for European Policy Studies

Recent case law on external competences of the European Union: how member states can embrace their own Treaty

by Friedrich Erlbacher

January 2017

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

The challenges facing Europe today cannot be addressed without putting into practice one of the main objectives pursued by member states when concluding the Treaty of Lisbon: that the Union should be capable of acting as a strong and united player on the international scene, rather than as a coordination platform for 28 international policies. To ensure that the Union can play this role, member states must accept that the Union effectively exercises the competences that have been attributed to it. The author seeks to show that the conclusion of agreements by the Union alone neither leads to 'uncontrolled power creep by Brussels', nor to the disappearance of member states from the international scene.

Notre Europe - Jacques Delors Institute

A political European Commission through a new organisation "This Time it's Different". Really?

by Marine Borchardt

19 December 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (18 p.) and in [French](#) (20 p.)

This paper reviews the new political hierarchy in the Commission, the evolutions of the internal decision-making process and the cooperation between Vice-Presidents and Commissioners within the project teams. It concludes that the new organisation delivers on President Juncker's ambition to make the Commission more political. However, there are some misgivings that have to be solved, particularly concerning the implementation of the structure in practice.

European Parliament Think Tank

Referendums on EU matters

30 January 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (214 p.)

This study analyses the political and legal dynamics behind referendums on EU-related matters. It argues that we have entered a period of increasing political uncertainty with regard to the European project and that this new political configuration will both affect and be affected by the politics of EU-related referendums. It is clear that referendums on EU matters are here to stay and will continue to be central to the EU's future as they are deployed to determine the number of Member States within the EU.

Italian institute for international political studies

Europe 2017. Make it or break it?

by Franco Bruni, Sergio Fabbrini and Marcello Messori

23 January 2017

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

This paper proposes a way to conceptualise the reform of EU institutions, with the goal of creating a federal union (not a federal state) with supranationalisation of certain policies and a clearer distinction between supranational responsibilities and policies that Member States must enact with full autonomy.

LUISS School of European Political Economy

European integration & populism: addressing Dahrendorf's quandary

by Marco Buti and Karl Pichelmann

30 January 2017

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

At a time when populist parties are riding on the coat tails of a backlash against globalisation rooted in both economic and cultural causes, the European project seems to be the perfect culprit. Its decision-making process, while anchored in the representation of both Member States and the citizens, appears as even more disconnected than national institutions. Solving the inconsistencies and embracing the European project for what it is, namely a democratic endeavour to preserve and strengthen values shared by all European traditions, is even more essential in a time where international cooperation seems to be fading away.

Centre international de formation européenne

Beyond populism: why the European Union needs to engage into identity politics

by Matthias Waechter

10 January 2017

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

More or less all observers would agree that 2016 was a tough year, if not an *annus horibilis* for European integration, with the first case in its history of a member state deciding to leave the EU on the basis of a referendum and euro sceptical parties. Many journalists and academic analysts create a link between the faltering public support for European integration and an allegedly rising phenomenon in democratic politics: populism.

Avenir Suisse

Pour une revitalisation du fédéralisme suisse

by Lukas Rühli and Natanael Rother

January 2017

Link to the article in [German](#) (83 p.) and to the [summary in French](#) (36 p.)

Switzerland's federal state structure enjoys a high degree of acceptance among Swiss citizens in a globalized world. To secure this vital state function in the future, this study calls for the implementation of Intercantonal Tax Allocation 2 to fundamentally revitalise the fiscal nature of Swiss federalism. A comprehensive decentralisation strategy is intended to increase the cantons' fiscal autonomy, allowing for more fiscal decision-making at sub-federal levels.

SECTION 2 - ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

Bertelsmann Stiftung / Jacques Delors Institute - Berlin

Reforming Economic and Monetary Union: legislation and treaty change

by Federico Fabbrini

January 2017

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

This paper examines the legal mechanisms for reforming EMU - EU legislation, amendments to intergovernmental treaties concluded outside EU law, and EU treaty changes. It provides guidance on how to introduce several needed changes to EMU, suggesting that many reforms can be accomplished 'à traité constant', but that improving the EU institutional system ultimately requires changing the EU treaties.

Brexit and the EU budget: threat or opportunity?

by Jörg Haas [@jorg_haas](#) and Eulalia Rubio [@eulaliarubio](#)

16 January 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (18 p.), in [French](#) (19 p.) and in [German](#) (19 p.)

This paper estimates how Brexit would impact the EU's public finances. The authors draw up four scenarios that outline how the EU could react to the expected budget shortfall after Brexit and provide estimates of how the individual member states might be affected by the different options. They analyse the political implications of these four scenarios for the upcoming negotiations about the next Multiannual Financial Framework, which will start in 2018.

Centre for European Policy Studies

European fiscal union: economic rationale and design challenges

by Gilles Thirion

January 2017

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

Proposals for different types of elements of a fiscal union have flourished in recent years, both from academic and policy circles. Since a fiscal union could take a constellation of different forms, this paper first provides an analytical framework pinpointing the five key elements of a fiscal union. It takes stock of the existing features of EMU that embed some form of fiscal union, and then critically analyses the main arguments for and against further fiscal integration. Finally, it surveys the key proposals for a fiscal capacity and different types of Eurobonds.

European Policy Centre

Future of taxation in the single market

by Fabian Zuleeg [@FabianZuleeg](#) and Iva Tasheva

27 January 2017

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

This paper identifies the main obstacles the EU will have to overcome to develop a shared vision for the future of taxation in the EU and lays out a series of priority actions. It furthermore argues that even though tax reforms are no silver bullet to solve the manifold challenges the EU and its members are currently facing, transparent, fair and effective taxation is a pre-condition for enhancing social justice and building public trust, and the basis for modernising tax systems aiming to serve three equally important strategic goals: economic stability, social inclusiveness and environmental sustainability.

European Political Strategy Centre

Enter the data economy - EU policies for a thriving data ecosystem

11 January 2017

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

As the data revolution gains in speed, profoundly changing how value is created, data is and will increasingly be a decisive factor in the success or failure not only of businesses, but also of the economies that underpin them. Going forward, Europe needs to extend the regulatory and legal certainty afforded to personal data via the General Data Protection Regulation to the fast-growing area of non-personal data, and put in place a comprehensive policy blueprint to accelerate its performance in the global data economy, according to this paper.

Jacques Delors Institute - Berlin

How to make sense of the structural reform lists for the euro area

by Anna auf dem Brinke [@Anna_adB](#) and Henrik Enderlein [@henrikenderlein](#)

25 January 2017

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

To overcome low growth in Europe, the European Commission, the ECB, the IMF and the OECD have all called for more structural reforms. Taken together, the number of reform recommendations rank in the hundreds. This paper presents a structured summary of the key reform recommendations for the euro area, put forward three reform priorities for each euro area country and present an overview of the reforms on a single page.

Policy network / Sheffield Political Economy Research Institute / Foundation for European Progressive Studies

European Union financial regulation, Banking Union, Capital Markets Union and the UK

by Lucia Quaglia

January 2017

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

Following the international financial crisis and the sovereign debt crisis, the EU undertook major reforms in three key financial policy areas: financial regulation, Banking Union and Capital Markets Union. This paper examines the dynamics of these reforms by focusing on the preferences and influence of the UK in the policy process.

Real Instituto Elcano (Elcano Royal Institute)

La economía mundial ante 2017

by Federico Steinberg [@Steinbergf](#) and Miguel Otero-Iglesias [@miotei](#)

18 January 2017

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

This article analyses the prospects for global economic growth for 2017 and its main risks. It contextualises such risks in a longer term scenario in which the process of globalisation which has boosted the world economy in recent decades, appears to be experiencing some slowdown.

Deutsches Institut für Wirtschaftsforschung (German Institute for Economic Research)

The natural rate of interest and secular stagnation

by Guido Baldi and Patrick Harms

30 January 2017

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

In many advanced economies, there has been a declining trend in interest rates over the past thirty years. Since the financial crisis, interest rates have remained particularly low. Though a decrease in inflation explains part of the fall in nominal interest rates, there is also a clear downtrend in real interest rates. Against this backdrop, a debate has emerged over the factors that might have contributed to this decline. This report summarises the discussion on the underlying causes of the low interest rate environment and the potential for a period of secular stagnation.

The natural rate of interest I: theory

by Philipp König and Dmitry Chervyakov

January 2017

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

The term natural (or neutral) real interest rate refers to the equilibrium value of the real interest rate. As this equilibrium is usually conceived as a situation where inflationary or deflationary pressures have abated, the natural real interest rate is a key concept for central banks seeking to stabilize the general price level or targeting the rate of inflation. This paper provides a brief historical review of this concept and explains the relevance of the natural real rate for monetary policy analysis.

The natural rate of interest II: empirical overview

by Dmitry Chervyakov and Philipp König

January 2017

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

The concept of the natural rate of interest (NRI) dates back to Wicksell (1898) and has since then been highly debated in the economic literature. In practice, estimates of the NRI can be employed as a versatile tool for macroeconomic analysis and are a core element within the popular neo-Wicksellian (or New-Keynesian) framework. This paper reviews the advantages and shortcomings of the most popular measurement methods and presents an estimation of the NRI and the real rate gap based on the Laubach and Williams (2003) model.

The inflation targeting debate

by Malte Rieth

January 2017

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

Inflation targeting has become one of the most prominent monetary regimes around the globe. Proponents argue that it reduces the dynamic inconsistency problem of monetary policy and thereby stabilises prices, which in turn promotes growth. Opponents, on the other hand, say that by focusing on price stability inflation targeting neglects other important policy objectives, such as financial stability, and thereby contributed to the built up of the global financial crisis. This paper summarises the arguments made in the debate. It concludes that no consensus has emerged in the empirical literature about whether inflation targeting improves macroeconomic performance.

Austerity, inequality and private debt overhang

by Mathias Klein and Roland Winkler

17 January 2017

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

Using panel data of 17 OECD countries for 1980-2011, this paper finds that the distributional consequences of fiscal consolidations depend significantly on the level of private indebtedness. Austerity leads to a strong and persistent increase in income inequality during periods of private debt overhang. In contrast, there are no discernible distributional effects when private debt is low. This result is robust to alternative identifications of fiscal consolidations, to different ways of defining periods of private debt overhang, and to controlling for the state of the business cycle. The authors explore different channels through which their findings can be rationalised.

SAFE - Sustainable Architecture for Finance in Europe

SME funding without banks? - On the interplay of banks and markets

by Günter Franke and Jan Pieter Krahn

January 2017

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

The Capital Markets Union-project of the European Commission aims for an increase of market based debt financing of SMEs, complementing bank lending. This paper argues that rather than focusing on pure non-bank lending, a reasonable mix of bank and market-based financing should be considered. Banks are said to have a comparative advantage in critical lending functions such as credit screening, debtor monitoring and debt renegotiation. All forms of lending require a persistent skin-in-the-game of critical players in order to be effective. The regulator should insist on full disclosure of skin-in-the-game, thereby improving capital allocation and reducing systemic risks, according to the authors.

Estimation and model-based combination of causality networks

by Giovanni Bonaccolto, Massimiliano Caporin and Roberto Panzica

31 January 2017

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

Causality is a widely-used concept in theoretical and empirical economics. The recent financial economics literature has used Granger causality to detect the presence of contemporaneous links between financial institutions and, in turn, to obtain a network structure. According to the authors, the two contributions included in this paper: show how to use a linear factor model as a device for estimating a combination of several networks that monitor the links across variables from different viewpoints; and demonstrate that Granger causality should be combined with quantile-based causality when the focus is on risk propagation.

Optimal social security claiming behavior under lump sum incentives: theory and evidence

by Raimond Maurer, Olivia S. Mitchell, Ralph Rogalla and Tatjana Schimetschek

31 January 2017

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

People who delay claiming social security receive higher lifelong benefits upon retirement. The authors survey individuals on their willingness to delay claiming later, if they could receive a lump sum in lieu of a higher annuity payment. Using a moment-matching approach, the authors calibrate a lifecycle model tracking observed claiming patterns under current rules and predict optimal claiming outcomes under the lump sum approach. Their model predicts that early claimers under current rules would delay claiming most when offered actuarially fair lump sums, and for lump sums worth 87% as much, claiming ages would still be higher than at present.

Technology trade with asymmetric tax regimes and heterogeneous labor markets: implications for macro quantities and asset prices

by Giuliano Curatola, Michael Donadelli and Patrick Grüning

9 January 2017

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

The international diffusion of technology plays a key role in stimulating global growth and explaining co-movements of international equity returns. Existing empirical evidence suggests that countries are heterogeneous in their attitude toward innovation: some countries rely more on technology adoption while other countries rely more on internal technology production. European countries that rely more on adoption are also typically characterised by lower fiscal policy flexibility and higher labour market rigidity. The authors develop a two-country model – where both countries rely on R&D and adoption – to study the short-run and long-run effects of aggregate technology and adoption probability shocks on economic growth in the presence of the aforementioned asymmetries.

Centre d'Etudes et de Recherches sur le Développement International

Does it pour when it rains? Capital flows and economic growth in developing countries

by Jean-Louis Combes, Tidiane Kinda, Rasmané Ouedraogo and Patrick Plane

January 2017

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

This paper assesses the impact of capital inflows and their composition on the real exchange rate and economic growth in developing countries.

La Vie des Idées

The return of economic history?

by Guillaume Calafat and Éric Monnet

5 January 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (10 p.) and in [French](#) (9 p.)

The recent success of books on economic history – at a time when this specialism often seems disregarded in universities – coupled with parallel developments in both history and economics gives hope for new links between the two disciplines.

SECTION 3 - EU MEMBER STATES

Transparency International

Corruption Perceptions Index 2016

23 January 2017

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

Based on expert opinion from around the world, the Corruption Perceptions Index measures the perceived levels of public sector corruption worldwide. The findings are less than encouraging. Not a single country comes close to top marks, while over 120 countries score below 50 on the scale of 0 (highly corrupt) to 100 (very clean). This means less than a third of countries are even above the midpoint.

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

Causes and consequences of corruption – An overview of empirical results

by Dominik Enste [@DominikEnste](#) and Christina Heldmann

25 January 2017

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

Corruption is a main threat in many countries around the world. Therefore, the causes and consequences of corruption are analysed in various empirical studies. Since the results are quite mixed, the authors summarised the findings of the central empirical literature from the last two decades for a comprehensive overview.

AUSTRIA

Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung

Integrationspolitik in Österreich

by Natalie Herold

January 2017

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

In 2015, Austria took up the largest number of asylum seekers per capita after Sweden and responded with a plan of measures on refugee integration. With the establishment of an integration policy in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Austria has developed comprehensive integration strategies and has created institutional structures for their implementation.

CROATIA

Centar za društvena istraživanja Analitika (Center for Social Research Analitika)

The transformative role of the constitutional court of the Republic of Croatia: from the ex-Yu to the EU

by Sanja Barić

January 2017

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

Examining the work of the Croatian Constitutional Court, the paper aims to assess the extent of the Court's activism in the field of transitional constitutional justice and, consequently, the Court's successes and failures in promoting the legal transition from a socialist order to a modern constitutional democracy.

FRANCE

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

Frankreichs Landwirtschaft in der Krise - Fünf Handlungsempfehlungen zur Umgestaltung

by Marie-Cécile Damave

26 January 2017

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

Although France is Europe's leading agricultural producer, its agriculture is in need of reform. One of its weaknesses is a low competitiveness, especially with regards to Germany. As part of a restructuring process, the food processing industry would have to be expanded and the entire agricultural sector should be linked to the dynamism of the Paris Climate Conference.

Fondation pour l'innovation politique

La République des entrepreneurs

by Vincent Lorphelin

23 January 2017

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

Innovation policy reveals a lack of collective vision. Experts are at a loss to understand the transformations under way. This forces them to turn to the microeconomic mechanisms of these transformations, which are not limited to the digitization of enterprises, or to uberisation or collaborative systems. All these phenomena are the consequences of a single fact: the mutation of the economy itself.

Des startups d'État à l'État plateforme

by Pierre Pezziardi and Henri Verdier

17 January 2017

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

Since 2013, small teams with perfect control of digital codes have revived the values of meaning, autonomy and responsibility, too often absent from large organisations. In an exceptional frugality of means, they have produced digital public services that are highly praised by their users. By analogy with the methods of production and organisation of start-ups, the authors have called them "state start-ups". This experience is rich in lessons for the reform of the state as a whole. It can galvanise the entrepreneurs, emancipate the contributors who will create thousands of simplified channels, and giving enormous efficiencies.

Repenser notre politique commerciale

by Laurence Daziano [@LaurenceDaziano](#)

5 January 2017

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

At a time when protectionism is playing an increasingly important role in public debate in the US and in Europe, the opening to the world of the French economy, a prerequisite for its growth, cannot be called into question. Within the EU, trade policy, which is the exclusive competence of the EU, is also the subject of growing disputes. International trade is all the more a determining factor of the influence and rank of France in the world through the major multilateral negotiations. The aim of this paper is to create a coherent and ambitious set of reforms to rethink our trade policy and regain a central place in the new global economy.

Institut français des relations internationales / Friedrich Ebert Stiftung

France vs. Jihadism: the Republic in a new age of terror

by Marc Hecker and Elie Tenenbaum [@ElieTenenbaum](#)

January 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (22 p.) and in [Arabic](#) (251 p.)

This paper assesses the current state of the jihadist threat to France, as well as the French authorities' security response. With the upcoming presidential election, 2017 will be a decisive year for the country and terrorism will be at the heart of the campaign.

Institut français des relations internationales

Les mutations du renseignement militaire - Dissiper le brouillard de la guerre ?

by Joseph Henrotin

January 2017

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

Military intelligence has evolved significantly since 1990s when military intelligence was at the core of the "revolution in military affairs". However, because of the last two decades of military operations, this transformation has proved challenging. Confronted with increasingly complex opponents, Western armed forces have had to adopt the concept of "military interest intelligence", which widens the scope of its mission. In France, this transformation has borne many questions regarding intelligence organisation and capabilities at both the service and joint levels. Given current technological challenges, the future of military intelligence depends upon the amount of human and financial resources political and military leaders choose to allocate to this domain.

Institut Montaigne

The State, an impossible shareholder?

by David Azéma

January 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (38 p.) and in [French](#) (46 p.)

When considering the State as a shareholder, we must approach the issue on two levels. Before examining the performance of strategic and financial State shareholders, we should first question the relevance of public-sector involvement in the capital of commercial companies. The two questions are not, however, unrelated. Indeed, the inherent ability or inability of the State to act as a strategic or financial shareholder should be taken into account if we are to pragmatically assess whether the State should be given this role.

Un capital emploi formation pour tous - Contribution pour une véritable sécurisation des parcours professionnels

by Bertrand Martinot and Estelle Sauvat

January 2017

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

Our reflection on the reform of the labour market in France has long stumbled on the somewhat vague concept of "flexicurity". The underlying idea is to combine greater flexibility in the jobs management for companies with an enhanced security of career paths for workers. Indeed, despite some recent progress in France, notably with the introduction of individual rights to training from one job to another, it is clear that there is still a long way to go.

La Vie des Idées

Le laboratoire des politiques publiques - Réflexions sur la Garantie jeunes

by Jules Simha

3 January 2017

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

Public policies no longer seem to be able to do without social experimentation to prove their effectiveness. The example of the Youth Guarantee, analysed by the sociologist Jules Simha, shows, however, a misuse of this procedure and denies the idea of a rationalisation of public action.

Terra nova

Primaires de la droite et du centre : l'effet bocal

25 January 2017

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

Completed by a [postface by Alain Lipietz](#), this study explains how the organisation of the primary elections of the right and the centre sealed the election in a "sociological jar". The organisers have carefully targeted the audiences likely to participate, without being necessarily aware of the practical consequences of their decisions.

Que peut le numérique pour les territoires isolés?

by Élisabeth Bargès, Victor Bernard, Thierry Pech, Lionel Janin and Philippe Régnard

11 January 2017

Link to the article in [French](#) (91 p.)

Isolated territories have a feeling of being left out. The people who live there feel that the digital transition, this structural change in the whole of our productive, social and political fabric, is a threat. This report, drawn from a working group chaired by Elisabeth Bargès (Google France) and Thierry Pech (Terra Nova), makes the opposite bet. It outlines seven proposals for the digital transition in isolated territories to respond to an imperative of economic development and an ambition of social and civic inclusion.

GERMANY

Bertelsmann Stiftung

Open Data - Wertschöpfung im digitalen Zeitalter

by Wolfgang Ksoll [@woksoll](#), Thomas Schildhauer and Annalies Beck

January 2017

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

Open Data promises a higher value added but the extent of how great the potential really is, is disputed. Success stories from different countries show that Open Data brings benefits in many different areas. The fact that there is still a lot to be done in Germany in order to raise the value-added potential is suggested by the federal, state and municipal authorities.

Berufsausbildung in einer Einwanderungsgesellschaft: Umsetzungsstrategien für die Berufsausbildung in einer Einwanderungsgesellschaft

by Dieter Euler and Eckart Severing

January 2017

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

With more than half of registered asylum seekers under 25 years, and more than a quarter under 16, vocational education and training are of great importance for the integration of refugees. At the same time, greater importance should be given to the design of concrete concepts and measures to determine the preconditions for the fugitives to come to Germany.

Deutsches Institut für Wirtschaftsforschung (German Institute for Economic Research)

Industrie und industriennahe Dienstleistungen in der Region FrankfurtRheinMain

by Alexander Eickelpasch, Rainer Behrend and Doris Krüger-Röth

January 2017

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

The manufacturing industry has joined forces with industrial services. The aim of this study is to highlight the importance of industry and industrial services (Network industry) for the Frankfurt-Rhein-Main region.

Abschätzung von Effekten der Integration von Flüchtlingen: Kurzexpertise für das Bundesministerium für Arbeit und Soziales

by Stefan Bach, Peter Haan, Kristina van Deuverden, Björn Fischer, Herbert Brücker, Agnese Romiti and Enzo Weber

January 2017

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

This research project considers the overall effects of intensified efforts to integrate refugees into the German labour market, based on overall economic simulation model analyses. In this model, the authors simulate the integration into the labour market as well as the overall economic and fiscal effects of the refugees immigrating in 2015 by the year 2030.

The performance of immigrants in the German labor market

by Robert C.M. Beyer

January 2017

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

This paper details how immigrant workers initially earn on average 20% less than native workers with otherwise identical characteristics. The gap is smaller for immigrants from advanced countries, with good German language skills and with a German degree, and larger for others. Less success in obtaining jobs with higher occupational autonomy explains half of the wage gap. Immigrants are initially less likely to participate in the labour market and more likely to be unemployed.

Energiewirtschaftliches Institut an der Universität zu Köln (Institute of Energy Economics at the University of Cologne)

Price volatility in commodity markets with restricted participation

by Andreas Knauta and Martin Paschmann

January 2017

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

Analysing commodity market dynamics, the authors observe that price volatility increases with reduced contract duration. In this paper, the authors derive a theoretical model depicting the price formation in two markets with altering product granularity. Supplemented by empirical evidence from German electricity markets for hourly and quarter-hourly products, we find that the high price volatility is triggered by restricted participation of suppliers in the market for quarter-hourly products as well as by sub-hourly variations of renewable supply and demand. Welfare implications reveal efficiency losses of EUR 96 million in 2015 that may be reduced if markets are coupled.

Institut français des relations internationales

L'Europe après le Brexit : positions et perspectives allemandes

by Eric Bonse

January 2017

Link to the article in [German](#) (30 p.) and in [French](#) (32 p.)

The British decision in favour of Brexit affects Germany and the EU at a critical time. By making the "multiple crisis" of recent years more acute, Brexit asks tough questions: what should the EU be like without Britain? What is the objective of the process of European unification, its "objective"? And what role will Germany play?

Institut für Europäische Politik (Institute for European Politics)

Fundamentals of German European policy

by Katrin Böttger and Mathias Jopp

January 2017

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

This paper provides an overview of the evolution of German European Policy. The authors argue that even though German European policy - against the backdrop of numerous crises - has proven to be a of pragmatic, flexible nature, it nevertheless has largely maintained base lines of continuity. The paper reflects on how the membership of the EU has shaped Germany's capacity to act in the world over the past decades and outlines leitmotifs of Germany's European policy.

Institute for Public Policy Research

Lessons from Germany - Tenant power in the rental market

by Bill Davies, Charlotte Snelling, Ed Turner and Susanne Marquardt

January 2017

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

This paper explores the lessons policymakers can learn from Germany – a country in which renting is the dominant tenure and which appears able to offer both stability and security to its 40-million-plus tenants.

SAFE - Sustainable Architecture for Finance in Europe

Rent-seeking in elite networks

by Rainer Haselmann, David Schoenherr and Vikrant Vig

January 2017

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

The authors used a unique dataset on members of an elite service club in Germany to investigate how social connections in elite networks affect the allocation of resources. Specifically, they investigate credit allocation decisions of banks to firms inside the network. Using a quasi-experimental research design, they document misallocation of bank credit inside the network, with bankers with weakly aligned incentives engaging most actively in crony lending. Their findings, thus, resonate with existing theories of elite networks as rent extractive coalitions that stifle economic prosperity

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

"Krisenlandschaften" Konfliktkonstellationen und Problemkomplexe internationaler Politik

by Volker Perthes

20 January 2017

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

Germany's G20 Presidency (from 1 December 2016 to 30 November 2017) offers a real possibility to face nowadays challenges (rising populism, corruption, inequality, etc.), ensuring stability and improving viability for the future.

Transatlantic Academy

Berlin's new pragmatism in an era of radical uncertainty

by Stefan Fröhlich

25 January 2017

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

Donald Trump's election marks a pivotal moment for German foreign and security policy as it puts Washington's European allies under even more pressure to radically rethink their security. Instead of reacting with the usual mix of resignation and indecision, Germany and its European partners should overcome their own political malaise. The best way to do so will be to provide strong evidence of German (and European) engagement - particularly via higher defence contributions, a more assertive stance vis-à-vis China's trade and investment policies, and efforts to overcome bilateral trade imbalances.

Whither Germany? Why France matters

by Frédéric Bozo

31 January 2017

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

Since the post-war era, France's goal has been to anchor Germany in robust European and Atlantic institutions. Yet because Germany's international role has also been shaped by its environment, not least in the West, the Franco-German relationship has historically played a vital role in ensuring the country's European and Atlantic orientations. Germany's growing power and evolving international policies have led many to question the continuing relevance of the Franco-German partnership which, however, remains vital to steering Germany's role and ensuring its enduring commitment to the European project and the transatlantic alliance at a time when both are being tested as never before.

HUNGARY

Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung/Policy Solutions

Hungarian politics in 2016

by Gábor Győri, András Bíró-Nagy [@bironagyandras](#) and Zoltán Pogátsa

9 January 2017

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

This is a comprehensive overview of recent developments, events and trends in Hungary aimed at anyone who has an interest in the political, economic and social landscape of Hungary in 2016. It is important to stress that the review is not chronological and does not claim to be exhaustive in its scope, rather it focusses on five broad areas, presenting distinct developments in each. All sections conclude with a brief analysis of the issues which may come to the fore in 2017.

Külügyi és Külgazdasági Intézet (Institute for Foreign Affairs and Trade)

Information warfare in Hungary

by János T. Barabás

January 2017

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

This study explains the links between information warfare and energy policies in Hungary, as it became gradually a battleground of global information warfare due to changes in the region, such as the resurrection of Russian political ambitions in post-Soviet space, clashes of Russian and American energy and security interests in Central and Eastern Europe, the emergence of migration and turbulences in regional political relations.

Magyarország-kép az orosz és ukrán médiában, 2016-ban

by Tölgyesi Beatrix

January 2017

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

This report evaluates how a variety of Russian and Ukrainian media wrote about Hungary in 2016 and observes whether disinformation or information warfare were part of the media coverage. The study covered four Russian (RIA Novosti, Regnum, SputnikNews, RuBaltic) and Ukraine (UNIAN) news websites for six months.

IRELAND

Economic and Social Research Institute

A study of sub-minimum wage rates for young people

by Elish Kelly and Seamus McGuinness

18 January 2017

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

This study examines international practice on the extent to which sub-minimum wage rates are paid within National Minimum Wage (NMW) frameworks and how such wage rates are generally designed. The report also uses historical data from 2009 to examine the extent to which the estimated incidence of the NMW in Ireland varies according to the measurement approach adopted, and to identify broad characteristics of minimum wage employees and employers of minimum wage workers.

A social portrait of travellers in Ireland

by Dorothy Watson, Oona Kenny, Frances McGinnity and Helen Russell

17 January 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (111 p.)

This report finds that education is key to improving the employment and living circumstances of travellers. The authors draw on the full 2011 Census of Population to explore whether certain groups of travellers (in terms of gender, age and region) experience particularly high levels of disadvantage in four areas: education, employment, housing and health.

Institute of International and European Affairs

Celebrating 60 years Japan - Ireland diplomatic relations

11 January 2017

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

The year 2017 marks the 60th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Ireland and Japan. This report examines relations between Ireland and Japan across politics, economics, trade and investment, tourism, education and culture. It outlines the many aspects of the Ireland-Japan relationship and identifies steps that could be taken to further strengthen ties between the two nations in the years ahead.

ITALY

LUISS School of European Political Economy/The London School of Economic and Political Science

Italy's recent support to its banks: the start of a new wave of public intervention in the EU

by Lorenzo Codogno and Mara Monti

24 January 2017

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

The banking crisis in Europe has three distinct waves. The first was pure financial contagion from the sub-prime crisis in the US to toxic assets held in European bank portfolios. The second was equally intense, occurring amid the negative feedback loop between banks and sovereigns. The third is the lagged impact of the economic crisis on the quality of loan portfolios, which has just triggered intervention by the Italian government and may require additional public money across the EU. However, more than nine years since the sub-prime crisis started, it is striking that the EU is still facing banking problems.

LITHUANIA

Istituto Affari Internazionali

Towards the Energy Union: the BEMIP and the case of Lithuania

by Irma Paceviciute

24 January 2017

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

In the framework of the EU Energy Union, the Baltic Energy Market Interconnection Plan (BEMIP) represents one of the EU's key political platforms aiming to foster electricity and gas market integration in the Union's least interconnected Baltic region. The purpose of this paper is to measure the extent of the BEMIP's effectiveness in achieving energy sector integration by analysing the case of Lithuania in order to evaluate the Plan's coherence in addressing the EU's energy network deficiencies. The paper also examines the purposefulness of minimum electricity

and gas market interconnection requirements set by the EU and to which extent the Energy Union is successful in urging Member States to adopt long-term national energy and climate strategies.

POLAND

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

Restructuring Polish exports: lessons from the economic crisis

by Patryk Toporowski [@pattoporowski](#)

15 January 2017

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

The emerged economic instability in the EU since 2008 encouraged Polish exporters to seek the markets in third countries. Additionally, the Polish government stressed the promotion of domestic goods abroad as part of the country's development strategy and support exports towards extra-EU markets. This paper investigates how export patterns changed during the crisis and compare it with Poland's promotion policy.

La Vie des Idées

Le Juif à la pièce d'argent

by Ewa Tartakowsky

10 January 2017

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

In Poland, you can buy a strange lucky charm in order to become rich: it shows the image of a Jew holding a silver coin. But what does this popular re-appropriation of the figure of the Jew in the Polish context of the Shoah mean? And what is the conscious part of the anti-Semitic prejudices in this representation?

SPAIN

Fundación de Estudios de Economía Aplicada

Medidas para restaurar (o no) la sostenibilidad financiera de las pensiones

by José Ignacio Conde-Ruiz [@conderuiz](#)

January 2017

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

This work revises some of the proposals frequently offered as a solution to the problem of the financial sustainability of the Spanish pension system.

Los ingresos públicos en España

by José Ignacio Conde-Ruiz [@conderuiz](#), Manuel Díaz, Carmen Marín and Juan Rubio Ramírez

January 2017

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

This document analyses the evolution of government revenue in Spain in comparison to the EU 15 member states. The reporting period runs from 2007 to 2015.

La innovación y la I+D españolas en 2015. Una visión basada en las estadísticas del INE de 2016

by Juan Mulet Meliá

10 January 2017

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

This report analyses the statistics of innovation and R&D for 2015 in Spain. Data suggests that innovation and R&D in Spain have bottomed out in 2014 and in 2015 there was a slight rebound in investment in both activities for the first time since 2008.

La financiación regional en Alemania y en España: una perspectiva comparada

by Angel de la Fuente

January 2017

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

This note presents a comparison between German and Spanish regional funding system and its financial results. The work seeks to draw some lessons from the analysis of the experience of both countries that may be useful to improve their systems.

Real Instituto Elcano (Elcano Royal Institute)

España y la India: en busca de unas relaciones bilaterales más estrechas

by Rubén Campos Palarea [@RubenCamposP](#) and Jayshree Sengupta

26 January 2017

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

This document is a joint project of the Elcano Royal Institute of Spain and the Observer Research Foundation of India in the context of the commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries. It aims to analyse the current situation regarding bilateral relations, to identify the key areas in which there is potential for improvement and the obstacles to cooperation. In addition, it analyses the policy sectors that could be the key drivers for creating a climate of greater cooperation with a view to strengthen and broaden bilateral relations.

El nuevo contexto de la relación económica entre España y Arabia Saudí

by Gonzalo Escribano [@g_escribano](#)

12 January 2017

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

The deteriorating economic situation of Saudi Arabia, as well as the proposed adjustments and reforms to tackle it, constitute a new context for the bilateral economic relationship.

UNITED KINGDOM

Institute for Public Policy Research

Regionalising migration - The North East as a case study

by Chris Murray and Sarah Smart

January 2017

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

This report takes the North East as a case study: a region of England that faces acute demographic challenges, skills gaps and productivity and investment challenges, as well as local concerns around migration. The report sets out how a tailored, regionalised approach to migration could address some of these challenges, and ensure that in future migration complements the skills base of existing workers.

LSE IDEAS

Making the 'special relationship' great again?

by Tim Oliver [@timothyloliver](#) and Michael Williams

January 2017

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

Donald Trump's election poses uncomfortable questions for Britain about the future of the UK-US 'special relationship'. This paper looks at the core elements of the 'special relationship' that could be under strain and how Britain could be left between a Trump Rock and a Brexit Hard Place.

BREXIT

Barcelona Centre for International Affairs

Shapes of a Union: from ever closer Union to flexible differentiation after Brexit

by Pol Morillas [@polmorillas](#)

January 2017

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

According to the author, Brexit is certainly to blame, but the disintegration dynamics are present in many other national landscapes, with Euroscepticism, populism and political disaffection on the rise. Negotiations are used as a bargaining tool between member states, which pursue national goals in crisis scenarios up to dangerous levels of political brinkmanship. Today, differentiated integration is the rule rather than the exception in the EU. To emerge from the current impasse, a strategic reflection should be built on a new understanding of differentiated integration, based on flexible differentiation.

Institute of International and European Affairs

Brexit: a status report

by Brendan Halligan, Dáithí Ó'Ceallaigh, Tom Arnold, Catherine Day, John Palmer, Paul Gillespie, Tony Brown, Dan O'Brien, John McGrane, Terry Neill and Andrew Gilmore

January 2017

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

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on what is known about the UK's withdrawal, and highlight issues of concern for Ireland, the UK and the EU on the coming negotiations between the UK and the EU. It is intended to be a reference guide to what is known at this point about the process of the negotiation. It is not intended to be an opinion piece and hopefully it is written in a reachable style.

Policy Exchange

Clean Brexit

by Liam Halligan and Gerard Lyons

January 2017

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

In a major contribution to the public debate on Brexit, the authors have set out proposals for a 'Clean Brexit'. The paper proposes key negotiating principles for the Government to set out before it triggers Article 50.

Jacques Delors Institute - Berlin

BREXIT - Negotiation phases and scenarios of a drama in three acts

by Valentin Kreiling [@tineurope](#), Sophia Becker and Laura Maria Wolfstädter

25 January 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (22 p.) and in [German](#) (24 p.)

How will the Brexit negotiations unfold? The authors systematise the next steps in the process and examine the individual procedural requirements in order to analyse the legal and institutional context of Article 50 TEU.

Fondation Robert Schuman

The Europeans and the consequences of the Brexit

9 January 2017

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

Five months after the Brexit vote, right in the middle of a sustained electoral period (Spain, France and Germany) and whilst the first discussions between European partners have started, how are the Europeans reacting to the UK's exit of the EU? In a bid to provide the start of an answer to this issue, IFOP launched two survey waves in Europe: just after the British vote, and also at the end of November, when we might have legitimately wondered whether public opinion had managed to digest the British choice to "leave" and whether, on the contrary, increasing difficulties are perceived in the British choice, regarding both the EU and also the national economies.

European Policy Centre

How Europe sees Brexit

by Andrew Duff [@AndrewDuffEU](#)

24 January 2017

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

[Theresa May's speech](#) at Lancaster House on 17 January 2017 served to enlighten the rest of Europe about the kind of strategic partner they can expect Britain to be once it has left the EU. In this Discussion Paper, Andrew Duff examines how her speech was received in the rest of Europe, particularly in Berlin, and how her statements have impacted the Union's view on Brexit.

Centre for European Policy Studies

Theresa May's Brexit speech of 17 January 2017 – Decoding its clarity and ambiguity

by Michael Emerson [@Michael12540](#)

25 January 2016

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

PM May's speech on 17 January 2017 marked an important step on the way to Brexit, followed by the Supreme Court's decision on 24 January to require that Parliament authorise the triggering of Article 50, which will lead rapidly now to a short enabling Act. She announced the objective to negotiate a Comprehensive Free Trade Agreement (CFTA), combined with a Strategic Partnership to cover non-trade aspects of the future relationship. According to the author, an important omission from the Prime Minister's speech was any indication how the UK may want to control immigration from the EU.

Centre for Policy Studies

Brexit, agriculture and agricultural policy

by Richard Packer

January 2016

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

This publication reveals the huge potential agricultural policy has for Britain, both in the negotiations before Brexit and benefits afterward. It argues that, free to establish its own agricultural policy, Britain can take full advantage of the benefits of Brexit; including freedom from the payment of EU agricultural subsidies; the ability to establish national rules in policy areas such as plant and animal health and GM foods; and the simplification of the system of support payments to British farmers.

The Bruges Group

What it will look like: how leaving the EU and the Single Market can be made to work for Britain

January 2017

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

The report details the potential challenges the UK faces when it leaves the EU and explains how these problems can be addressed by the Government. This report deals with the top ten issues of withdrawal from the EU. It explains that specific, easily reached agreements on the mechanics of trade in both goods and services will not only resolve any problems that may arise when exporting to the EU but such arrangements will also protect and enhance our trade with the EU.

Centre for European Reform

What free movement means to Europe and why it matters for Britain

by Camino Mortera-Martinez [@CaminoMortera](#) and Christian Odendahl [@COdendahl](#)

January 2017

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

For years, Britons have faced a torrent of misleading media stories and statements from politicians about EU migration, portraying free movement as an absolute right giving rise to all sorts of abuses. Some of these stories were errors born of ignorance. Others were downright lies. But all of them contributed to Britain's vote to leave the EU.

CIVITAS - Institute for the Study of Civil Society

Mitigating the impact of tariffs on UK-EU trade

by William Norton

January 2017

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

British business need have little to fear from the tariff costs of being outside the Single Market. The UK would be well placed to introduce a series of measures that would, in line with a new UK industrial strategy, mitigate the costs of tariffs imposed by the rest of the EU.

Sheffield Political Economy Research Institute

British business strategy, EU social and employment policy and the emerging politics of Brexit

by Scott Lavery [@ScottLavery1](#)

31 January 2017

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

This paper advances a distinctive conceptual and empirical account of British business strategy in relation to the EU in the period before the June 2016 referendum. The paper is organised around two core questions. First, in what ways has British business attempted to secure its objectives in the past within the EU? Second, how might Brexit problematize this strategic orientation? In order to answer these questions, the article focuses specifically on the area of EU social and employment policy and British business strategy in relation to this policy field.

Institut français des relations internationales

The energy sector implications of Brexit

by Steve Pye, Carole Mathieu and Paul Deane

January 2017

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

In her speech of January 2017, Theresa May did set out negotiating principles, including not seeking membership of the Single Market. However, this will be a long negotiation with the 27 remaining Member States, with the UK facing at least 2 years of uncertainty regarding the outcome. In view of the most likely Brexit outcomes, this paper seeks to explore what the implications might be for energy and climate policy in the UK and the EU.

Oxford Institute for Energy Studies

Brexit's impact on gas markets: Brexit and security of supply for the UK and Ireland

by Thierry Bros [@thierry_bros](#)

January 2017

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

The future demand picture for gas is difficult to predict for both the UK and the EU. Brexit is coming at a time when UK North Sea gas production is in terminal decline and the main UK storage facility (Rough) is facing technical issues that will reduce its capacity with a possible extreme outcome, namely total decommissioning. These specific issues will make the Brexit negotiations even more difficult for the UK as far as gas is concerned.

Royal United Services Institute for Defence and Security Studies

UK Foreign and security policy after Brexit

by Malcolm Chalmers [@MChalmers_RUSI](#)

January 2017

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

By the middle of 2019 at the latest, UK will probably no longer be a member of the EU. The price of more national control over the instruments of foreign policy that this brings will be a significant decline in influence over the common European foreign policies. The UK's departure from the EU is likely to deepen the recent trend towards a security policy focused on national interest. Much will depend on Russia's response to the dual shocks in the UK and the US. If it were to redouble efforts to re-establish a sphere of influence on its western borders, perhaps as part of a wider bargain with President Trump over the heads of NATO allies, the pressure on the EU and the UK to deepen their defence cooperation would be considerable, potentially diluting any EU instinct to 'punish' the UK economically for Brexit.

La Vie des Idées

L'anomalie Brexit - Le siècle européen des Britanniques

by Laurent Warlouzet

31 January 2017

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

Faced with the imminence of a blunt rupture with the EU, the author shows that the complex relationship that the UK has with Europe is more the result of strategic cooperation, subject to the whims of history, than of a "natural" isolationism".

VISEGRAD GROUP

Barcelona Centre for International Affairs

Illiberal democracies in the EU: the Visegrad group and the risk of disintegration

by Pol Morillas (ed.) [@polmorillas](#)

January 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (76 p.)

According to this study, the Visegrad Group (V4) countries have largely shifted to self-described "illiberal democracies" that mark a turn away from political liberalism, with some countries consolidating extraordinary government prerogatives and limiting constitutional provisions that once nurtured an environment promoting the rule of law and a free and open society. These countries' disillusionment over the handling of recent crises has created a backlash in which the V4 is challenging the decisions made in Brussels while at the same time still benefiting greatly from EU membership, particularly through structural and cohesion funds.

Center for European Neighborhood Studies

Frontiers of democracy: embedding democratic values in Central and Eastern Europe - Good practices and limits of transferability

by Bogdan Mihai Radu and Zsuzsanna Végh (eds.)

January 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (128 p.)

This volume, focusing on embedding democratic values through the process of democratic transition in the four Visegrad countries (the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia) and in Ukraine and Moldova, is the outcome of the project titled "Frontiers of Democracy: Embedding Democratic Values in Moldova and Ukraine". Beyond a general overview about how democratic values become rooted in societies during transition and specifically during transition in Central and Eastern Europe, the chapters of this volume discuss youth political participation and socialisation, civic education, the role of media in democratisation and the development of values such as tolerance and diversity, or transparency and accountability.

Jacques Delors Institute - Berlin

Visegrad Four in Brexit negotiations: tale of two tables

by Jan Jakub Chromiec

4 January 2017

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

The Visegrad countries are facing two challenging negotiations: how to secure the best deal in future relations with the UK and how to influence the institutional response of the EU to Brexit. In this contribution, the author argues that the Visegrad countries converge on some issues of EU-UK

negotiations, but divisions within the group will prevent it from exerting influence on the future shape of EU institutions.

SECTION 4 - EU POLICIES

JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS

Fondation Robert Schuman

The free movement of people: principle, stakes and challenges

by Philippe Delivet

30 January 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (10 p.) and in [French](#) (11 p.)

The free movement of people is a fundamental acquis of European integration. Pinpointing difficulties such as external migratory pressure, fears of social dumping, slowing of the internal market, is vital if we are to provide pragmatic answers without endangering the founding principle. Free movement reveals a major challenge to the economic and social convergence which the EU has to overcome.

Fondation pour l'innovation politique

Vers la souveraineté numérique

by Farid Gueham

10 January 2017

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

At a time when the EU refines its policy of data protection, new power relations are writing daily the rules of a governance in genesis. The fundamental right guaranteed by Article 8 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, the protection of citizens' data, inside and outside Europe, revives the urgent need to delimit an international framework of sovereignties.

European Parliament Think Tank

From safe harbour to privacy shield: advances and shortcomings of the new EU-US data transfer rules

by Shara Monteleone [@mainsomma](#) and Laura Puccio

19 January 2017

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

The October 2015 Schrems judgment of the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) declared invalid the European Commission's decision on a 'Safe Harbour' for EU-US data transfer. The European Commission negotiated a new arrangement, known as Privacy Shield, and this new framework for EU-US data transfer was adopted in July 2016. This publication aims to present the context to the adoption of Privacy Shield as well as its content and the changes introduced.

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

Defending Europe - translating mutual assistance into action

by Anne Bakker

January 2017

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

This brief analyses how the EU's mutual assistance clause (Article 42.7) can be translated into action by looking into ways to improve commitment and coordination. It argues that while the member states should remain in the lead, the EU institutions should be involved in the article's implementation.

MIGRATION

Centre for European Policy Studies

The integration of immigrants and legal paths to mobility to the EU: some surprising (and encouraging) facts

by Elspeth Guild, Sergio Carrera and Ngo Chun Luk

January 2016

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

The integration of immigrants is an issue that has been of concern to a large number of EU member states and the European institutions themselves. In particular, the challenge of how to quantify or measure immigrant integration has been especially complicated. Thanks to recent data reported by the EU's statistical agency Eurostat, it is possible now to compare the experience of first- and second-generation immigrants with that of native-born EU citizens.

Migration versus mobility in EU external action towards Asia: a closer look at EU relations with China, India, the Philippines and Thailand

by Marco Stefan

27 January 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (69 p.)

This paper provides a state-of-the-art analysis of the EU's internal and external migration policies towards central and east Asian countries. It finds that these countries do not constitute a major source of irregular migration to Europe, but they manifest distinctly different socio-economic development prospects and enjoy different international relations statuses vis-à-vis the EU.

Deutsches Institut für Wirtschaftsforschung (German Institute for Economic Research)

Refugee integration: a worthwhile investment

by Stefan Bach, Herbert Brücker, Peter Haan, Agnese Romiti, Kristina van Deuverden and Enzo Weber

January 2017

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

The initial fiscal costs associated with refugee integration are quite high - but as more and more refugees join the labour force, a reduction in ongoing welfare costs and an increase in government revenue will result. The overall economic and fiscal impacts of investing in the labour market of the refugees who arrived in Germany in 2015 was assessed. The results show that investing in refugees' language skills and educational qualifications promises high returns.

European Stability Initiative

The refugee crisis through statistics - A compilation for politicians, journalists and other concerned citizens

30 January 2017

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

The report contains statistics about refugee crisis with special focus on year 2015. There are some information about refugees around the world, but the main focus is the EU in numbers such as main refugee nationalities, asylum claims, deaths at the high sea etc.

Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (Friedrich Ebert Foundation)

At the gate of Europe - A report on refugees on the Western Balkan route

by Šenada Šelo Šabić and Sonja Borić

January 2017

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

Between September 2015 and March 2016, approximately 700,000 migrants headed for Western Europe entered the territories of Macedonia, Serbia, Croatia, and Slovenia. All four countries served as transit routes for migrants on their way to Austria, Germany, and Sweden. An insignificant number of refugees applied for asylum in the four countries. Internal economic and political challenges, exacerbated by still unsolved bilateral issues and the legacy of the wars in the 1990s, continue to threaten regional stability. The recent migration crisis has only added to these tensions.

Istituto Affari Internazionali

Which crisis? Understanding and addressing migration

by Andrea Dessi

19 January 2017

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

This report summarises the proceedings of an international conference convened in the framework of the New-Med Research Network on 16 December 2016 in Athens. Experts debated various definitions of the "migrant and refugee crisis", examined the hardships and psychological traumas affecting migrants attempting to reach Europe and the EU's response to the crisis.

Migration Policy Institute

Constrained by its roots: how the origins of the global asylum system limit contemporary protection

by Randall Hansen [@ProfRAHansen](#)

January 2017

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

The report considers whether there are viable alternatives to territorial asylum, and explores how they might be implemented. Among the solutions proposed by the author: expanding resettlement, increasing financial responsibility sharing, and concentrating resources where most refugees can be found: in the Global South.

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

Die Saat geht nicht auf. EU-Handels- und -Agrarpolitik können strukturelle Fluchtursachen nicht beseitigen, sondern allenfalls abfedern

by Bettina Rudloff

25 January 2017

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

A lot of refugees from Nigeria, Eritrea, Senegal, Gambia, Guinea and Côte d'Ivoire came to Europe since the start of 2016. The countries they are coming suffer from serious political conflicts and economic difficulties. In many cases, however, these are also countries with which the EU already agreed on trade agreements a long time ago and where it supports agriculture and the supply of food. Therefore, it raises questions about how economic, food crisis and conflicts are connected and the role of European trade and agricultural policy in the fight against the causes of migration.

AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES

Centraal Planbureau (CPB Netherlands Bureau for Economic Policy Analysis)

VAT and agriculture: lessons from Europe

by Sijbren Cnossen

31 January 2017

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

Little has been written about the treatment of agriculture under the value added tax (VAT). This article attempts to fill the void by surveying and evaluating the situation in the Member States of the EU and some other countries.

European Parliament Think Tank

The EU's General Food Law Regulation: an introduction to the founding principles and the fitness check

by Tarja Laaninen

25 January 2017

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

This paper gives an overview of the act underpinning EU food-chain legislation: the General Food Law Regulation (Regulation (EC) No 178/2002). It describes the objectives and principles, obligations and requirements set out in the food law regulation, used procedures, description of the structure and role of the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA). It concludes with a short description of the forthcoming fitness check of the General Food Law Regulation and a glimpse at the topics likely to be discussed in the coming months.

COMPETITIVENESS (INTERNAL MARKET, INDUSTRY, RESEARCH AND SPACE)

Deutsches Institut für Wirtschaftsforschung (German Institute for Economic Research)

Upstream monopoly and downstream information sharing

by Pio Baake and Andreas Harasser

January 2017

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

The paper analyses a vertical structure with an upstream monopoly and two downstream retailers. Demand is uncertain but each retailer receives an informative private signal about the state of the demand. Authors constructed an incentive compatible and *ex ante* balanced mechanism which induces the retailers to share their information truthfully. Information sharing can be profitable for the retailers but is likely to be detrimental for social welfare.

Fondation Robert Schuman

In support of a European Code of Business Law

by Paul Bayzelon and Elise Bernard

23 January 2017

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

To overcome the difficulties it faces, the EU has to prove that the integration process is still dynamic and that it can meet the needs of its citizens. The communities' historic competences in the single market justify action in the business area; harmonisation in this field is a logical continuation of the market's liberalisation. Indeed, it is difficult to create a true economic area if similar rules are not applied to all of the players.

European Parliament Think Tank

European space policy: historical perspective, specific aspects and key challenges

by Vincent Reillon [@vreillon](#)

30 January 2017

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

This publication aims to provide an overview of European space policy based on an historical perspective of the involvement of the EU in the field. The in-depth analysis focuses on the role played by the different EU institutions and the European Space Agency in defining and implementing a space policy in Europe and the current issues and challenges.

Institut français des relations internationales / OCP Policy Center

New Space: l'impact de la révolution numérique sur les acteurs et les politiques spatiales en Europe

by Laurence Nardon [@LaurenceNardon](#)

January 2017

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

The European space industry has for many years been confronted with the challenges of digital technology and is faced with new players coming from the digital, mainly American start-ups or giants from Silicon Valley. This points out the need for a coordinated action by the European states not only to curb the power of major American groups but also to protect the common market in order to hope one day to see European groups playing a major role in the digital economy on space actors.

TRANSPORT/TELECOMMUNICATIONS/ENERGY

Centre for European Policy Studies

European leadership in 5G

by Colin Blackman [@ColinRBlackman](#) and Simon Forge

December 2016

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

The report examines the concept for 5G, how it might fit in the future telecommunications landscape, the state of play in R&D in the EU and globally, the possible business models and the role of standards and spectrum policy, to assess the EU's strategic position.

Atlantic Council

Downstream oil theft - global modalities, trends, and remedies

by Ian M. Ralby

January 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (116 p.) and to the [summary](#) (8 p.)

This report is the first comprehensive study of the theft of refined oil products around the globe. It provides insight into the modalities and trends in oil theft, the culprits responsible, the stakeholders affected by illicit activities, and recommendations that could change the dynamics.

Deutsches Institut für Wirtschaftsforschung (German Institute for Economic Research)

Prosumage of solar electricity: pros, cons, and the system perspective

by Wolf-Peter Schill, Alexander Zerrahn and Friedrich Kunz

January 2017

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

The authors examined the role of prosumage of solar electricity. They devised a qualitative account of arguments in favour of and against prosumage and gave an overview of prosumage in Germany. Prosumage will likely gain momentum as support payments expire for an increasing share of PV capacities after 2020. They modelled possible system effects in a German 2035 scenario. The conclusion is that policymakers should not unnecessarily restrict prosumage, but consider system and distributional aspects.

E3G

The clean energy transition and industrial strategy - Developing a coherent approach

by Simon Skillings [@skillingssa](#) and Nick Smailes

January 2017

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

This note contains some preliminary high level thinking how the UK's government's action to promote a clean energy transition can be aligned with its emerging industrial strategy. There appears to be a number of areas where strategic action by government can deliver multiple benefits spanning both the transformation of the energy system and the industrial strategy. There is, therefore, a strong case for making this alignment an explicit driver of the approach to building a long term industrial strategy. The note also sets out some proposals for how this initial thinking could be developed and refined.

Energiewirtschaftliches Institut an der Universität zu Köln (Institute of Energy Economics at the University of Cologne)

Tender frequency and market concentration in balancing power markets

by Andreas Knauta, Frank Obermuellera and Florian Weisera

January 2017

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

Balancing power markets ensure the short-term balance of supply and demand in electricity markets and their importance may increase with a higher share of fluctuating renewable electricity production. While it is clear that shorter tender frequencies are able to increase the efficiency compared to a weekly procurement, it remains unclear in which respect market concentration will be affected. Authors find that shorter time spans of procurement are able to lower the costs by up to 15%. While market concentration decreases in many markets, they identify cases in which shorter time spans lead to higher concentration.

Turkey's role in natural gas – becoming a transit country?

by Istemi Berk and Simon Schulte

January 2017

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

This paper analyses the possible future role that Turkey can play in European natural gas markets. The authors employ a global gas market simulation model, COLUMBUS, to assess the outcomes of different scenarios concerning natural gas supply routes to Europe through Turkey up to 2030. The results imply simply that under current conditions, Turkey's role would be of only minor importance. In accordance with various scenarios presented in this study, Turkey's role is seen at

its most important when European demand increases and Russia exerts power in the European markets.

Oxford Institute for Energy Studies

The OPAL exemption decision: past, present, and future

by Katja Yafimava [@katyafimava](#)

January 2017

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

This paper focusses on the OPAL pipeline dispute and raises the question on whether the legal/regulatory framework should be used to obstruct the transportation of Russian gas.

The future of gas in decarbonizing European energy markets: the need for a new approach

by Jonathan Stern

January 2017

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

In this paper the author reviews in detail the problems which gas continues to face in Europe, and highlights the potential impact on all parts of the gas value chain. The author suggests that it is the fragmentation of the gas industry, and the different incentives within each sector, which is partly to blame for the lack of a coherent message from the industry as a whole.

Ústav mezinárodních vztahů (Institute of International Relations Prague)

Energetické vztahy EU a Írán: příležitosti a překážky pro dodávky zemního plynu

by Lukáš Tichý

23 January 2017

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

Iran, with the largest gas reserves in the world is an alternative supplier of gas to EU countries, which is one of the largest energy consumers. To export gas from Iran to the EU through pipelines or as LNG currently there are obstacles of technical, economic, energy, political, regional and security nature. According to the author, the EU would have to define its energy strategy priorities for gas supplies and strengthen in this direction energy relations with Iran. Similarly, the Czech Republic and the Visegrad countries should strive to improve energy cooperation with Iran.

EMPLOYMENT/SOCIAL POLICY/HEALTH/CONSUMER AFFAIRS

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

Contextual determinants of citizens' support for gender equality in leadership positions across Europe

by Katja Möhring and Céline Teney

January 2017

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

This article constitutes a comparative study of citizens' support for affirmative action policies using the example of a binding legal gender quota for company board positions. The study focusses on the contextual level and analyses how factors related to political institutions and social structure shape individuals' attitudes as well as the gap in the attitudes toward such interventionist measures between target and non-target group members.

Deutsches Institut für Wirtschaftsforschung (German Institute for Economic Research)

Financial sector: banks fall behind and now have a lower proportion of women on executive and advisory boards than insurance companies

by Elke Holst [@elkeholst](#) and Katharina Wrohlich

January 2017

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

Women are still in the clear minority among the financial sector's top decision-making bodies. Since 2010, when the discussion about the gender quota for supervisory boards gained momentum, growth has been relatively flat. Extrapolating from the past decade, supervisory boards of banks would need 50 years for the ratio of women to men to be equal. Gender parity in executive boards would be reached in 80 years. The proportion of women on executive boards remained very low overall as it reached roughly ten percent at insurance companies and eight percent at banks.

Top decision-making bodies in large companies: gender quota shows initial impact on supervisory boards; executive board remains a male bastion

by Elke Holst [@elkeholst](#) and Katharina Wrohlich

January 2017

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

The gender quota for supervisory boards that has been mandatory since January 2016 has shown an initial impact. Their proportion increased by a solid four percentage points to more than 27 percent. However, the calculations based on the top 200 companies also showed that in companies in which the supervisory board already consisted of one-third women, the proportion hardly increased or did not increase at all. The gap between supervisory and executive boards has also widened because growth in the latter has flattened. To forestall a tightening of the law, companies should ensure more balanced gender representation on all executive levels.

Effectiveness of early retirement disincentives - individual welfare, distributional and fiscal implications

by Timm Bönke, Daniel Kemptner and Holger Lüthen

January 2017

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

In aging societies, information on how to reform pension systems is essential to policy makers. This study scrutinises effects of early retirement disincentives on retirement behaviour, individual welfare, pensions and public budget. The authors find that retirement behaviour is strongly influenced by the level of disincentives. Their estimates also suggest that similar levels of net public returns, if achieved by indiscriminating pension cuts, are associated with individual welfare losses that are more than twice as high.

No gender difference in willingness to compete when competing against self

by Coren L. Apicella [@corenapiella](#), Elif E. Demiral and Johanna Mollerstrom

January 2017

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

The authors report on two experiments investigating whether there is a gender difference in the willingness to compete against oneself (self-competition), similar to what is found when competing against others (other-competition). They find no evidence of a gender difference in the willingness to self-compete and explore the roles of risk and confidence and suggest that these factors can account for the different findings. Finally, the authors document that self-competition does no worse than other-competition in terms of performance boosting.

European Parliament Think Tank

Digital skills in the EU labour market

by Monika Kiss

19 January 2017

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

This publication aims to provide a general overview of digital (IT-related) skills, their subgroups, and the digital literacy of persons in the EU. Particular emphasis is given to the digital skills of vulnerable social groups and the state of the digital skills offered on the labour market. This presentation is followed by an overview of EU-level actions undertaken in this domain and an outline of possible solutions and best practices at Member State level aimed at improving the current situation.

Bruegel

Why is it so hard to reach the EU's 'poverty' target?

by Zsolt Darvas [@ZsoltDarvas](#)

January 2017

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

The 'poverty' target set by the European Commission aims to lift "over 20 million people out of poverty" between 2008 and 2020 in the EU27. Progress to date against this target has been disappointing. The paper focuses on the question why it is so hard to reach the Europe 2020 'poverty' target and what the poverty indicator actually measures.

College of Europe

Towards a European pillar of social rights: upgrading the EU social acquis

by Sacha Garben, Claire Kilpatrick and Elise Muir

January 2017

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

The European Commission has recently launched a 'European Pillar of Social Rights'. This policy brief contributes to the reflection on 'social Europe' through a focused and realistic fourfold proposal for adopting (1) a Directive for the Protection of Dependent Workers, ensuring the application of the existing EU social and labour law measures to all dependent workers (2) a Protection against Precarious Work Directive, (3) a Directive for the Enforcement of Workers Rights and (4) a Declaration safeguarding the integrity of the social acquis as an EU floor for worker protection.

Institut de relations internationales et stratégiques

La santé en 2016, le véritable conflit oublié

by Anne Sénéquier

26 January 2017

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

With the new year beginning it is easy to remember some of the highlights of 2016. One will more easily tend to forget what happened in the field of health. In Europe, and for the first time since 1969, we lost life expectancy, Intelligence Quotient points and that the death rate because of alcohol increased in 2016.

Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung

Von Zika und Ebola: was wir aus gesundheitskrisen lernen sollten

by Daniela Braun [@braun_daniela](#)

January 2017

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

Health crises such as Ebola and Zika will be the rule rather than the exception in the future. The international community should implement extensive reforms that have been developed after the Ebola crisis. Germany has taken a leading role in the global health policy and can contribute with its partners to strengthen the international health architecture.

Centre for European Policy Studies

A European unemployment benefits scheme: lessons from Canada

by Donna E. Wood

January 2017

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

In many federal political systems, responsibility for unemployment has a multi-tiered architecture, with competence for key elements such as unemployment insurance, social assistance, and the public employment service, dispersed across different orders of government. This paper tells the story of the long transformation of unemployment insurance into a federal responsibility in Canada, and seeks to identify lessons from Canada's experience that might help Europeans consider the potential of an EU-wide unemployment benefits scheme.

ENVIRONMENT

CEPII - Centre d'études prospectives et d'informations internationales

La politique commerciale au service de la politique climatique

by Lionel Fontagné and Jean Fouré

January 2017

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

This paper shows, based on simulations of a dynamic model of the global economy developed at CEPII, that trade policy alone is not a good tool to limit CO2 emissions, but that it can be complementary.

Ecologic Institute

Robust review and ratcheting up targets – EU climate policies after 2020

by Nils Meyer-Ohlendorf

4 January 2017

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

The Paris Agreement states that Parties will scale up their commitments with every consecutive nationally determined contribution. This paper shows how EU legislation can help implement this requirement.

Energiewirtschaftliches Institut an der Universität zu Köln (Institute of Energy Economics at the University of Cologne)

Competition and regulation as a means of reducing CO2 emissions: experience from U.S. fossil fuel power plants

by Christian Growitsch, Simon Paulus and Heike Wetzel

January 2017

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

Levels of CO2 emissions from electricity generation in the US have changed considerably in the last decade. This development can be attributed to two factors. First, the shale gas revolution has reduced gas prices significantly, leading to a crowding out of the more CO2-intensive coal for electricity generation. Secondly, environmental regulations have been tightened at both the federal and the state level. In this article, the authors analyse the relative CO2 emission performance across 48 states in the US using a two-stage empirical approach.

Sheffield Political Economy Research Institute

Rethinking the fiscal and monetary political economy of the Green State

by Dan Bailey

18 January 2017

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

The paper investigates an under-theorised contradiction in the political economy of the Green State. The contradiction identified centres upon the operationalisation of an interventionist state, the move beyond economic growth, and the deference afforded to the ceteris paribus conventions of state financing. The author argues that the three cannot co-exist harmoniously, given the ramifications of moving beyond growth for the fiscal capacity of the state.

EDUCATION/YOUTH/CULTURE/SPORT

Institut français des relations internationales

The prospects for Europe's youth in 2026 - mitigating risks and making use of opportunities

by Julie Hamann and Katja Borck (eds.)

January 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (7 p.), in [French](#) (8 p.) and in [German](#) (8 p.)

Youth unemployment rates in EU member states range from 7% to almost 50%. What must happen by 2026 to create more equal conditions for young people all over Europe? This question is all the more urgent as our understanding of work undergoes deep changes. Work has become more digital, more fluid, and more flexible, while also confronting different expectations in terms of work-life-balance and self-fulfilment.

SECTION 5 - FOREIGN AFFAIRS

FOREIGN AND SECURITY POLICY / DEFENCE

Atlantic Council

Cyber and deterrence - The military-civil nexus in high-end conflict

by Franklin D. Kramer, Robert J. Butler and Catherine Lotrionte

January 2017

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

This paper analyses the role of cyber in deterrence and defence - and specifically the military-civil nexus and the relationship between the Department of Defence, the civil agencies, and the key private operational cyber entities, in particular the Internet Service Providers and electric grid operators. The focus of the paper is on high-end conflict including actions by an advanced cyber adversary, whether state or non-state, and not on the "day-to-day" intrusions and attacks as regularly occur and are generally dealt with by governmental agencies and the private sector without military involvement.

Institut français des relations internationales

Cyberattaques et systèmes énergétiques: faire face au risque

by Gabrielle Desarnaud

31 January 2017

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

This study analyses the risks of cyber-attacks on European energy infrastructures, as well as their potential consequences, notably on power grids. It offers a comparative approach to the measures taken by different European countries to protect their industry and to collaborate at EU level.

Centrum Stosunków Międzynarodowych (Center for International Relations)

Information warfare in the Internet. Exposing and countering pro-Kremlin disinformation in the CEEC

by Antoni Wierzejski [@antwierze](#)

January 2016

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

The analysis of cases gathered in Polish online media demonstrates that pro-Kremlin propaganda is extensive and multi-channelled. The narratives and "big subjects" uncovered during the monitoring of over 50 websites involve, among others, the following messages: "Ukraine is falling apart", "NATO is provoking Putin", "NATO acts like Hitler", "NATO is a tool of America", "US will abandon Poland in case of a war", "Polish authorities are Russophobic", "Poland should join fellow Slavs", "Donald Trump is a great opportunity for Europe".

Chatham House - The Royal Institute of International Affairs

Artificial intelligence and the future of warfare

by Mary 'Missy' L. Cummings

January 2017

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

Both military and commercial robots will in the future incorporate 'artificial intelligence' (AI) that could make them capable of undertaking tasks and missions on their own. In the military context, this gives rise to a debate as to whether such robots should be allowed to execute such missions,

especially if there is a possibility that any human life could be at stake. To better understand the issues at stake, this paper presents a framework explaining the current state of the art for AI, the strengths and weaknesses of the technology, and what the future likely holds.

Egmont – Royal Institute for International Relations

Oratio pro PESCO

by Sven Biscop

23 January 2017

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

Everybody is talking about [Permanent Structured Cooperation](#) (PESCO) – will we finally do it now? And will we get it right? For if PESCO is activated only to launch initiatives that could also have been taken without it, the opportunity will be wasted. To bring real added value, PESCO must be sufficiently ambitious and make the step from cooperation to effective integration in defence.

Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung

Glimmer of hope for the Common Security and Defence Policy

by Olaf Wientzek

January 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (11 p.) and in [German](#) (12 p.)

One of the priorities of the EU is a commitment to enhanced cooperation in the area of the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP). The process initiated in September 2016 to further strengthen the CSDP includes pragmatic measures. In view of the security policy challenges the EU is facing, the proposals only represent a small step in the long run. Further steps in both institutional and operational terms are required to turn the CSDP into an effective instrument.

European Union Institute for Security Studies

European defence: the year ahead

by Daniel Fiott [@DanielFiott](#)

31 January 2017

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

The EU ended 2016 having agreed to a number of fresh initiatives designed to articulate a new level of ambition for security and defence. A specific plan on security and defence (SDIP) was published on 14 November 2016. Additionally, the European Commission published a European Defence Action Plan (EDAP) on 30 November 2016, and the EU and NATO agreed to act on the Joint Declaration they had signed at the Warsaw Summit in July by adopting conclusions for 42 action points on 6 December 2016. The EU therefore starts 2017 with a range of policy options to enhance defence cooperation: aligning these initiatives to produce coherent policy in the future is now a priority.

Dansk Institut for Internationale Studier (Danish Institute of International Studies)

Europe and the refugee situation - Human security implications

by Ninna Nyberg Sørensen, Nauja Kleist [@naukleist](#) and Hans Lucht [@hanslucht](#)

30 January 2017

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

The emphasis on combatting irregular migration and increasing both external and internal border control may have brought down the number of detected entries to Europe. Yet, these measures have created considerable unintended human security consequences for people on the move in search of security, survival or better livelihood opportunities. This report takes a closer look at

recent EU migration policy instruments (including the EU-Turkey deal) and reviews challenges for human security, for border security and for European geopolitical security.

German Marshall Fund of the United States

Border security in Eastern Europe: lessons for NATO and partners

by Hannah Thoburn [@HannahThoburn](#)

12 January 2017

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

The geopolitical dynamics in Europe are changing. Countries such as Georgia, Ukraine, and Moldova have undergone significant transformation processes since the collapse of the Soviet Union. However, history's aftermath continues to influence these states. The relatively young borders in Eastern Europe have been the stage of protracted conflicts. The three conflicts (in Ukraine, in Transnistria, in South Ossetia and Abkhazia) covered in this paper are all in different stages. This paper concludes with recommendations to interested parties as to how they might begin to move toward a satisfactory resolution of these conflicts and prevent the emergence of similar issues in the future.

Southern challenges and the regionalization of the Transatlantic Security Partnership

by Alexandra de Hoop Scheffer, Martin Michelot [@martinmichelot](#) and Martin Quencez

26 January 2017

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

Transatlantic powers remain highly reluctant to directly intervene in the security crises in MENA. Facing a multiplicity of crises and issues, transatlantic powers have often failed to adopt a proactive approach, and the case-by-case reactions have shown various degrees of success. Reliance on regional partners has not delivered desirable outcomes so far, and the transatlantic security partnership needs to redefine its strategy of outsourcing, while the discussions at the Warsaw NATO Summit should also serve as a basis for reflection.

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

Reforming NATO's partnerships

by Markus Kaim

9 January 2017

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

The paper examines NATO's capacity for adapting its institutions to the changed international security parameters. It uses a concrete example: the partnership formats that have become increasingly differentiated both regionally and functionally since the 1990s. Research into the way international security organisations change, or rather adapt, shows that a series of factors determines whether new security formats are decided and what specific shape they take.

Institute of International and European Affairs

Finding our bearings: European security challenges in the era of Trump and Brexit

by Patrick Keatinge

16 January 2017

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

The conventional view of Europe as a zone of peace, already shaken by Russia's annexation of Crimea in 2014, was further challenged by two generally unanticipated events in 2016: the Brexit and the election of Donald Trump as US President. This paper attempts to discern the direction of international security policy in 2017 and to set out the challenges for European security, and their implications for Ireland.

Real Instituto Elcano (Elcano Royal Institute)

2016 y la seguridad europea

by Carlos Miranda Elío

23 January 2017

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

In 2016 several developments took place that will determine the future of European security: the presentation of the EU Global Strategy, the EU-NATO joint declaration, the informal meeting in Bratislava and the election of Donald Trump as President of the US.

Külügyi és Külgazdasági Intézet (Institute for Foreign Affairs and Trade)

Az Egyesült Államok és Oroszország kapcsolatának hatása a Baltikum országaira - A reset elképzelése és eredménye

by Reinitz Katalin

January 2017

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

This report focuses on the impact of US-Russia relations on the Baltic countries and on the future policy of the Baltic countries on Western reintegration. The democratisation and the process of an independent foreign policy of all three Baltic states established effective and close contacts with the USA.

TERRORISM

International Centre for Counter-Terrorism - The Hague

Sketch of a social ecology model for explaining homegrown terrorist radicalisation

by Lorne L. Dawson

January 2017

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

This paper provides an initial argument for the merits of adopting a fairly straightforward ecological approach to organizing and extending our grasp of the social and social psychological factors influencing the career of potential jihadists.

Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (Friedrich Ebert Foundation)

Methods of preventing and combatting terrorism in the MENA region and in the West

January 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (209 p.) and in [Arabic](#) (251 p.)

Terrorism is by no means a new phenomenon. In the past few years, though, terrorist attacks with an Islamist background have surged. This publication tries to open an exchange on the topic and to contribute to it by presenting different views on the matter from several countries in the MENA region as well as from Europe, Russia and the US. The majority of the papers compiled in this publication were presented at an international conference held in Jordan in June 2016 entitled "Methods of Preventing and Combatting Terrorism in the MENA Region and the West" organised by FES Amman.

OCP Policy Center

Combattants terroristes étrangers: le temps des retours

by Abdelhak Bassou [@Jahilounya3rif](#)

January 2017

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

Terrorist organizations in the Middle East are reinforced by thousands of foreign terrorist fighters. Once defeat over these organisations has been achieved in the next coming years, foreign fighters will only have limited choices, including the likely one to return to their countries of origin. This paper explores the possible difficulties with this return concerning not only the countries of their return but the entire international community.

Le Sahel face aux tendances Al Qaeda et Daech: quel dénouement possible ?

by Abdelhak Bassou [@Jahilounya3rif](#) and Ihssane Guennoun

January 2017

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

The terrorist landscape in the Sahel is characterised by a multiplicity of actors who destabilise the countries of the region. Faced with this complexity of terrorist actors in the Sahel, this brief proposes to examine the situation by raising the veil on the system of allegiances, the relationship between the various groups, but also the role of state actors in their fight against these different terrorist cells.

Österreichische Gesellschaft für Europapolitik (Austrian Society for European Politics)

Eine islamische theologie europäischer prägung als integrationsinstrument im 21. jahrhundert

by Khalid El Abdaoui and Michael Kramer

11 January 2017

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

In order to be able to ward off the current threats of radical Islamic and anti-democratic groups, the experiences of individual European countries with regard to the training and teaching of Islamic theology must be taken up and institutionalised at European level. The necessary lessons must be drawn from the difficulties and shortcomings so far in order to develop a coherent dynamic training model based on an Islamic theology of European origin, Islamic religious instruction and religious education as a whole.

GEOPOLITICS AND STRATEGY

Barcelona Centre for International Affairs

El mundo en 2017: diez temas que marcarán la agenda internacional

by Eduard Soler i Lecha [@solerlecha](#) and Eckart Woertz [@eckartwoertz](#) (coord.)

January 2017

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

This paper selects ten themes which might determine the international agenda in 2017. The aim of this exercise is to help us navigate rough waters.

European Union Institute for Security Studies

The EU and the world: players and policies post-Lisbon - A handbook

by Antonio Missiroli (ed.)

25 January 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (211 p.)

This volume offers an overview of how the EU has evolved as a foreign policy actor especially since the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty, and includes analyses of the main players in the EU system and their interplay, conveying both past dynamics and present trends. The book examines both the broader institutional context and the specific CFSP/CSDP set-up. It describes the policies that underpin the EU's external action, as well as covering the geographical dimension and analysing the Union's array of 'strategic partnerships' throughout the world.

La Vie des Idées

The other election - The Secretary General of the United Nations and democratic debate

by Marieke Louis

16 January 2017

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

The name of the new UN Secretary-General, António Guterres, was revealed in October 2016. Although the transparency of this election has been celebrated, according to the author no democratic debate has really taken place concerning the programs of the different candidates, which have received very little press coverage.

OCP Policy Center

Multilatéralisme: quelle résonance (géo) politique pour l'acier ?

by Yves Jégourel [@YvesJegourel](#)

January 2017

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

This study examines the international political content in the investment and exchange strategies of the raw materials sector, notably the steel market.

Coopération contre la criminalité transnationale: cas de la zone de paix et de coopération de l'Atlantique sud – ZOPACAS

by Mostapha Mouzouni

January 2017

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

Cooperation against transnational crime in the North Atlantic region is highly institutionalised in the framework of regional organisations. The South Atlantic region, however, is less institutionalised. Yet the idea of establishing South-South security cooperation between Africa and Latin America is not new. In the 1980s, a Zone of Peace and Cooperation of the South Atlantic (ZOPACAS) was established, with the aim of promoting mutual assistance, peace, and security in the region. This report presents the causes of the organisation's failure, as well as its design and organisational deficits.

TRADE

Centre d'Etudes et de Recherches sur le Développement International

Using internal and external sources of information to reduce customs evasion

by Cyril Chalendar

January 2017

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

This paper aims to identify some factors that reduce evasion of customs duties in developing countries. Estimates first show that the more frequently a product is imported, the more customs fraud reduces. It argues that this result is indicative of the fact that customs officers use what they have learned from similar import declarations to better assess the compliance of declarations. Then, it shows that relying on an information provider seems to increase tax enforcement. Results indicate that pre-shipment inspections significantly reduce observed discrepancies in trade statistics. In line with previous studies, it finds that the semi-elasticity of evasion increases with the tax rate.

Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik (German Development Institute)

Assessing the legal and political implications of the post-Cotonou negotiations for the Economic Partnership Agreements

by Niels Keijzer [@keijzer_niels](#) and Lorand Bartels

January 2017

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

In 2016 the EU and the Africa, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Group of States intensified preparations for the upcoming negotiations on the arrangement for their relations after the Cotonou Agreement expires in 2020. This paper assesses the legal and political implications of the upcoming post-Cotonou negotiations on the Economic Partnership Agreements.

Towards "greening" trade? Tracking environmental provisions in the preferential trade agreements of emerging markets

by Axel Berger [@ax_berger](#), Clara Brandi [@ClaraBrandi](#), Dominique Bruhn and Manjiao Chi

January 2017

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

With the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the entry into force of the Paris Climate Agreement, the international community has *inter alia* pledged their commitment to economic development that is consistent with environmental sustainability. This paper focuses on the linkage between economic and environmental governance by tracking environmental provisions in preferential trade agreements (PTAs). The paper contributes to the literature on the design of PTAs, the linkage between trade and environment, as well as the role of emerging markets in global governance.

ENLARGEMENT PROCESS

Centar za Evropske Politike (European Policy Centre)

The Maltese Presidency of the Council of the EU: unbreakable ties with the candidate countries

by Sena Marić [@senamaric](#)

January 2017

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

The smallest EU member – Malta, finds itself in the midst of the upcoming events of 2017 while holding the EU's rotating Council Presidency. Malta will continue initiatives that were already put in

place such as migration, security, internal market and the EU's neighbourhood. However, as a small Mediterranean country, one of its main national interests will be further development of the EU's maritime policies. This paper focuses on the priorities of the Maltese presidency which should be considered by Serbian authorities, since they will be affecting the issues in which Serbia is directly involved.

Albanian Institute for International Studies

Economic cooperation between Albania and Serbia

by Elena Pici [@e_pici](#)

11 January 2017

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

This brief analyses the current dynamics of economic cooperation between Albania and Serbia by focusing on trade, energy, transportation, tourism and financial sector. The brief also recommends potential paths on which economic relations between Albania and Serbia could enhance bilateral economic cooperation. Overall the study aims serve as a guide for determining comparative advantages of each country and for developing strategic plans for sustainable regional economic cooperation.

Financial Cooperation between Albania and Serbia

by Elena Pici [@e_pici](#)

19 January 2017

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

This brief aims to present the current state of financial markets in Albania and Serbia. In addition, the research reckons the common projects and challenges faced by the two financial markets and assesses the future potential cooperation. Lastly, it provides some recommendations to increase the financial cooperation between Albania and Serbia, aiming for both markets to be integrated in the larger EU financial market.

Centar za društvena istraživanja Analitika (Center for Social Research Analitika)

Examining the role of constitutional courts in Post-Yugoslav transitions: conceptual framework and methodological issues

by Edin Hodžić

January 2017

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

This introductory paper in a working paper series presents the main doctrinal assumptions regarding the role of constitutional courts in democratic transitions and addressing methodological challenges of, and possible avenues for, assessing the role of constitutional courts in transitional contexts. The paper was produced within a regional research project that examines the contribution of constitutional courts to democratic transition in five successor states of the former Yugoslavia: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo, Macedonia and Serbia.

The role of the constitutional court of Serbia in the times of transition

by Tatjana Papić and Vladimir Đerić

January 2017

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

The paper explores the role of the Constitutional Court of Serbia in the process of democratic transition, unpacking its marginal and marginalised role in the constitutional political system, and discussing the impact of a number of internal and external factors on the Court's position and performance.

Promising early years: the transformative role of the Constitutional Court of Kosovo

by Dren Doli, Fisnik Korenica and Albana Rexha [@albanarexha](#)

January 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (71 p.)

This paper analyses the position and role of the Constitutional Court of Kosovo as a guardian of the nascent democracy in Kosovo, exploring the external and internal factors that have contributed to the Court's having strong voice and agency in the constitutional and political system of Kosovo.

The transformative role of the Macedonian Constitutional Court

by Marija Risteska and Emil Shurkov

January 2017

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

This paper explores the position, jurisdiction, institutional structure, operation and jurisprudence of the Macedonian Constitutional Court as a policymaker, analysing the "hit-and-miss" opportunities in its contribution to the state's democratic transition and consolidation.

College of Europe

How effective is the EU as a mediator? The case of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

by Thomas Coibion

January 2017

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

This paper aims to assess the effectiveness of the mediation endeavour of the EU in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM) since March 2015. The analytical part of this paper rests upon the identification of EU mediation objectives as defined in documents published before and during the mediation, notably the 2015 Pržino Agreement. The paper finds that the mediation process in the case of FYROM has been rather effective owing to the EU's mediator strategy and its high level of coherence. However, certain factors seem to have had a constraining impact on EU mediation effectiveness: very low levels of internal cohesiveness amongst the conflict parties and hence a high proclivity to spoiler problems, as well as the waning EU leverage as a result of the lack of a firm EU membership perspective.

Slovenská spoločnosť pre zahraničnú politiku (Slovak Foreign Policy Association)

Advocacy strategy for the EU integration of the Western Balkans -Guidelines

by Ana Marjanović Rudan, Belma Ćemalović, Dragan Đukanović, Hana Semanić, Jelica Minić, Marta Szpala, Megi Llubani, Michal Vít, Mila Brnović, Momčilo Radulović and Tomáš Strážay

November 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (168 p.)

This publication, developed by eight Western Balkan and Visegrad Group think tanks, is the first initiative of an advocacy strategy at promoting and speeding up their EU accession. It aims at supporting and facilitating EU enlargement to the Western Balkans. It offers practical guidelines for national administrations, parliaments and civil society organisations (CSOs) in order to encourage their advocacy efforts to accelerate accession to the EU and contribute to the development of positive perceptions of the region in the Brussels institutions, EU Member States, as well as the Western Balkans.

Istituto Affari Internazionali

The migration paradox and EU-Turkey relations

by Bianca Benvenuti [@BeyazBi](#)

17 January 2017

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

Since the beginning of the Arab uprisings in 2011 and as a result of growing instability in the region, migration transit through Turkey has become an increasingly pressing issue in Europe. The transit of migrants placed Turkey in a buffer position between the Middle East and Europe, and it soon assumed the role of guardian of the Schengen area, "protecting" it from irregular migration. This, combined with the exponential growth of irregular migration flows resulted in migration management becoming a key to the ostensible rapprochement between Turkey and the EU. However, as a result of many paradoxes, migration can also hamper Turkey-EU relations, as is already becoming obvious as relations took a turn for the worse since the summer of 2016.

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

Noch mehr Distanz zum Westen. Warum sich Ankara nach Moskau orientiert

by Günter Seufert

25 January 2017

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

A bloody coup attempt, the erosion of the rule of law as a reaction of the government, and a sequence of terrorist attacks have dramatically changed Turkey lately. Ankara's approach to Moscow raises the question whether the country is still a reliable partner of the West. Officially, Turkey remains a candidate for membership in the EU. But there has been a long talk about the dangers of an unstable and anti-Western Turkey for the EU. NATO is also worried about Turkey. Does the country remain in the Western camp?

İstanbul Politikalar Merkezi (Istanbul Policy Center)

Engaging Syrian communities: the role of local government in Istanbul

by Auveen Woods [@auveenwoods](#) and Nihal Kayalı

January 2017

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

The human effects of the Syrian crisis in Turkey are largely concentrated in urban areas, with an estimated 90% of refugees living in cities or towns rather than camps. Local governments are responsible for providing a number of services in their areas and often have to confront the challenges posed by these refugees. However, their responses to Syrian refugees differ greatly. This report highlights some of the ways in which the 39 municipalities in Istanbul have responded to the influx of refugees.

EASTERN PARTNERSHIP

Institut pro evropskou politiku EUROPEUM (EUROPEUM Institute for European Policy)

The European Union and Eastern Partnership: crises and strategic assessment

by Tomasz Stępniewski

25 January 2017

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

Seven years after the introduction of the EU and Eastern Partnership (EaP), its achievements, objectives and possibilities need to be revisited. The Ukraine crisis constitutes a challenge not only for Ukraine's security, but also more generally for the European and international security and

order. The situation in the eastern neighbourhood confirms that far-reaching changes are required. It will be difficult to reach a compromise on this issue among EU members if even the states under the EaP project failed to reach a consensus on whether or not the annexation of Crimea by Russia should be condemned.

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

The "Belarus factor" - From balancing to bridging geopolitical dividing lines in Europe?

by Tony van der Togt [@TonyvanderTogt](#)

January 2017

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

This report presents an analysis on how the "Belarus factor" could be interesting again in a wider regional perspective, as a result of the Ukraine crisis. The author sheds his light on EU-Belarus relations and the relationship with NATO. He also presents preliminary conclusions on the possible role of Belarus as mediator and how EU and NATO members could support such a role.

MIDDLE EAST/NORTH AFRICA (MENA)

Rand Europe

Against the rising tide: an overview of the growing criminalisation of the Mediterranean region

by Giacomo Persi Paoli and Jacopo Bellasio

24 January 2017

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

The geo-political situation on the southern coast of the Mediterranean has radically changed, and new challenges have emerged for the EU, US, and beyond. The US, EU and NATO continue to maintain a significant military presence in and around the Mediterranean, but military capabilities must be nested within a whole-of-government, international approach. This publication is part of a series of four RAND Perspectives each focusing on different challenges in the Mediterranean region. This report presents an overview of transnational criminal activities in the Mediterranean region, focusing in particular on three types of trafficking that are considered to be mostly linked with regional stability: (i) human smuggling and trafficking; (ii) arms trafficking; and (iii) drugs trafficking.

Troubled waters: a snapshot of security challenges in the Mediterranean region

by James Black, Alexandra Hall, Giacomo Persi Paoli and Richard Warnes

27 January 2017

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

The paper examines recent trends in regional security across four principal topics: Syrian civil war and its wider impact, the ongoing instability in Libya, the regional threat of terrorist activity and developments in regional defence capability. The last section offers a series of high-level reflections.

Cross-cutting challenges and their implications for the Mediterranean region

by Michael McNerney, Giacomo Persi Paoli and Sarah Grand-Clement

24 January 2017

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

New challenges are reshaping the international order, requiring government leaders to consider new strategies and tools that integrate diplomatic, economic and military instruments of power. Nowhere is this more evident than around the Mediterranean Sea, which has progressively returned as a region of global strategic interest where political tensions, armed conflict, economic

and social instability and transnational criminal networks demand solutions that cross traditional institutional boundaries of domestic and international policymaking.

Regional foreign policy dynamics and their implications for the Mediterranean Region

by Christopher S. Chivvis and Benjamin Fishman

24 January 2017

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

This paper overviews the roles of key regional actors from a political and foreign policy perspective and draws conclusions for US and European policy looking ahead. Just as the Mediterranean region is still evolving in response to the Arab uprisings, US and European foreign policy must adapt and find new instruments and avenues to influence these diverse countries. Three countries along the southern littoral pose particular policy challenges: Egypt, Tunisia and Libya. Conditions in these three states are intertwined and a coordinated approach is needed.

Istituto Affari Internazionali

Varieties of youth civic and political engagement in the South East Mediterranean: a comparative analysis

by Nadine Sika [@NadineS1](#)

23 January 2017

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

This paper analyses the research carried out in six South-East Mediterranean countries on the transformative potential of youth civic and political engagement. The report is divided into three main sections; the first is devoted to understanding the structural factors that favour and/or constrain youth participation in their polities and in their respective organisation, such as gender, class, "race"/ ethnicity and urban/rural differences. The second analyses the different types of youth activism and forms of youth mobilisation. The third part analyses the transformative role of organised youth, in different areas, such as their role in influencing public policies on employment and migration.

Atlantic Council

The end of Saudi Arabia's addiction to oil - Downstream industrial development

by Jean-Francois Seznec

January 2017

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

Saudi Arabia's leadership recently introduced an ambitious plan called Vision 2030 to move the country away from oil and toward a more diversified, modern economy. Fortunately, the economy is already much more diversified than often is reported, a fact obscured by the very high price of oil from 2000 to 2014. Since the mid-1970s, the Kingdom has developed chemical, metal, and fertilizer industries that are among the most advanced in the world. This study reviews the existing downstream industries in the public and private sectors, and what has made them so successful thus far. It also evaluates whether this industrial base can be put on steroids to fulfil the expectations of Vision 2030 in light of many of the challenges the Kingdom faces.

Post-Vienna: prospects for Iran's oil production and exports

by Sara Vakhshouri

6 January 2017

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

Since the 1979 revolution, recurring rounds of sanctions and eight years of war with Iraq have hammered Iran's oil production and export capacity. The entrance of the EU and US into an even more stringent sanctions regime in 2012 further crippled an already hamstrung industry. Now, as

the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) nuclear deal ushers Iran back into international energy markets, its oil and gas industry is poised to reach its full potential. This paper examines scenarios for Iran's full re-entry into international oil and gas markets.

International Crisis Group

Implementing the Iran nuclear deal: a status report

16 January 2017

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

The one-year-old Iran nuclear deal has succeeded in its goal of blocking nuclear proliferation and opening the door to Iranian economic recovery. But it remains in jeopardy unless both Washington and Tehran defend and extend the spirit as well as the letter of the accord. This report analyses the one-year record of implementation, draws lessons and offers suggestions for improving and sustaining an accord.

Carnegie Endowment for International Peace

Trump, the EU, and Iran policy: multiple pathways ahead

by Cornelius Adebahr

31 January 2017

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

With US President Donald Trump now in office, the campaign rhetoric that created anxiety and uncertainty around the globe is giving way to actual presidential policies. While candidate Trump did not elaborate much on his foreign policy agenda, he was very vocal about a few things: in addition to obliterating the self-proclaimed Islamic State and getting tough with China on trade, one of his highest priorities would be to "dismantle the disastrous deal with Iran." The 2015 agreement that put an end to Tehran deceiving the world about its nuclear program is thus in real danger.

European Council on Foreign Relations

After ISIS: how to win the peace in Iraq and Libya

by Hayder al-Khoei, Ellie Geranmayeh [@EllieGeranmayeh](#) and Mattia Toaldo [@mattiatoaldo](#)

4 January 2017

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

ISIS has suffered significant setbacks in both Iraq and Libya with the battles for Mosul and Sirte representing potential turning-points. However, both countries could again become breeding grounds for conflict and extremism, exacerbating European security and migration challenges. The new US administration is likely to invest less energy than its predecessors in strengthening political orders which provide stability. Iraq will need increased efforts on representative power-sharing, including deeper decentralisation, locally directed reconstruction, and security sector reform. In Libya, Europeans should focus on broadening the local and international coalition supporting the UN-backed political agreement, in part through economic tools.

Peripheral vision: how Europe can help preserve Tunisia's fragile democracy

by Hamza Meddeb

13 January 2017

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

Tunisia's periphery regions suffer from weak economic growth and high levels of poverty and unemployment – a legacy of decades of underinvestment. Regional conflict, terrorism and organised crime have led the government to crack down on security threats in the periphery regions. This has disrupted the informal and illegal economic networks on which much of the population relies and caused it to lose faith in the government. Europeans can radically alter the

terms of debate by offering Tunisia membership of the European Economic Area, galvanising change in support of its journey towards democracy and stability.

Euro-Mediterranean Study Commission

Transformation in Tunisia: the first five years

by W. Mühlberger (ed.), E. Cohen-Hadria, Sherin Gharib, Cengiz Günay, Isabel Schäfer and Stefano M. Torelli [@mideastorels](#)

January 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (124 p.)

This study is the outcome of the Working Package on "Transformation in Tunisia: The First Five Years", led by the Finnish Institute of International Affairs, in the framework for the EuroMeSCo ENI Project, co-financed by the EU and the European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed). It provides an overview of the essential features and challenges of the transition, crystallised in four pivotal problem areas, each covered by renowned experts.

Pourquoi la Tunisie produit-elle autant de jihadistes ?

by Jean-François Daguzan

27 January 2017

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

This brief was written in the framework of the EuroMeSCo Working Package "Transformation in Tunisia: The First Five Years", led by the Finnish Institute of International Affairs. In 2011, the Tunisian revolution raised the hopes of both the Arab world and the Western democracies. While demonstrating the example of a democracy under construction, this country saw the emergence of a violent discord which resulted, among other things, in the mobilisation of an exceptionally high number of voluntary combatants for "jihad lands". Yet, as argues the author in this article, the global geopolitical situation does not explain everything and specific historical, social and political features of this country must be examined.

European Institute of the Mediterranean

Neighbouring host-countries' policies for Syrian refugees: the cases of Jordan, Lebanon, and Turkey

by Luigi Achilli, Nasser Yassin [@nasseryassin](#) and M. Murat Erdoğan [@mmerdogan1103](#)

January 2017

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

The question of how neighbouring countries manage the socioeconomic challenges of incoming Syrian refugees needs assessment of the policies developed, over the past few years, by the governments of Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey, to tackle the embracement strategies and financial challenges, whether through international, humanitarian or bilateral aid or national resources. This paper is composed of three chapters, each dedicated to one of three afore mentioned countries.

Institut français des relations internationales

AQMI et Al-Mourabitoun: le djihad sahélien réunifié ?

by Marc Mémier

January 2017

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

At the end of 2015 the supreme Al-Qaida leader in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) Abdelmalek Droukhel announced a rally with Mokhtar Belmokhtar's group, Al-Mourabitoun. Why wishes Droukhel, who dismissed Belmokhtar from his squad in October 2012, him to join the organisation again? What interests does Belmokhtar has by reintegrating the hierarchy of his former group? How

will Droukhel integrate Belmokhtar in the organisational structure of AQIM? In order to answer these questions, this study looks at broader issues, from the reconstruction of jihadist forces in the Sahelian space to the struggle between AQIM and the Islamic State (IS).

Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung

Be fruitful and multiply! - Israel and its growing minorities

by Anna Jandrey and Eva Keeren Caro

January 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (13 p.) and in [German](#) (15 p.)

Since Israel was founded in 1948, it has defined itself simultaneously as both a Jewish and a democratic state. It is home to secular as well as ultra-Orthodox Jews, Muslims, Christians and Druze. However, due to diverging growth rates in the different populations, domestic and religious tensions have been developing.

Cato Institute

Does mass immigration destroy institutions? 1990s Israel as a natural experiment

by Benjamin Powell, J.R. Clark and Alex Nowrasteh [@AlexNowrasteh](#)

12 January 2017

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

Israel's population increased by 20% in the 1990s due to immigration from the former Soviet Union. These immigrants did not bring social capital that eroded the quality of Israel's institutional environment. The authors find that economic institutions improved substantially over the decade. Synthetic control methodology indicates that it is likely that the institutional improvement would not have occurred to the same degree without the mass migration. This case study indicates that immigrant participation in the political process is the main mechanism through which the migration caused institutional change.

AFRICA

Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik (German Development Institute)

Rising powers and the provision of transnational public goods - Conceptual considerations and features of South Africa as a case study

by Stephan Klingebiel

January 2017

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

The paper delineates three debates, which will be conflated: One line of discussion relates to public goods at transnational level. A second strand addresses the group of countries known as the 'rising powers' and the role these countries could play as regards a globalised common good. A third discussion thread analyses South Africa as a case study for the main rising power on the African continent. By creating connections between the lines of discussion, this paper drive forward the debates on how the role of rising powers can be conceptually repositioned in the light of a changing global context, and to explore how these countries can respond to global challenges.

European Centre for Development Policy Management

Matching means to priorities - Challenges for EU-Africa relations in 2017

by James Mackie [@JMackieECDPM](#), Matthias Deneckere [@MatthiasDen](#) and Greta Galeazzi [@greta_gale](#)

January 2017

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

This paper explores some of the political choices underlying the technical issues of financing for development and EU-Africa cooperation. It considers opportunities in 2017 for adapting EU external action policy and practice to today's challenges and it casts an eye forward to the Fifth EU-Africa Summit. It looks at ongoing efforts towards greater financial autonomy for the African Union (AU) and their potential to help deliver on the promises of Agenda 2063.

Institut français des relations internationales

Robert Mugabe in Zimbabwe: the endgame?

by Vittoria Moretti

January 2017

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

Despite his rapidly deteriorating health conditions and his advanced age, the 92-years-old President seems not having any intention to leave the helm of his sinking ship. The future ahead is filled with uncertainties for Zimbabwe, with a new wave of protests staged by opposition groups calling for electoral reforms, the announced plans to introduce bond notes in October sparking apprehensions from investors and citizens and growing factionalism within Zimbabwe African National Union - Patriotic Front (ZANU PF). This note provides the historical background of the present crisis; analyses the political dynamics in the ruling party and opposition circles and describes various potential developments from now to the 2018 elections.

ASIA-OCEANIA

Atlantic Council

India's energy needs and the Arab/Persian Gulf Atlantic Council

by Jean-Francois Seznec and Ramesh Pallakonda

January 2017

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

India's economy is increasing at the fastest rate in the world, now making it the globe's third largest user of crude oil. While India is benefitting from the low oil prices seen since mid-2014, it has few precious oil and gas resources of its own and will remain highly dependent on imports. The paper examines in some detail the present crude oil and natural gas situation in India and the role played by the Gulf producers, especially Iran and Saudi Arabia.

Bertelsmann Stiftung

Innovation in India: final report

by Wilfried Aulbur, Nitya Viswanathan and Roland Berger

January 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (136 p.)

This study illustrates the landscape of innovation in India and offers recommendations for establishing meaningful cooperation between Germany and India. Based on the assessment of India's current innovation ecosystem and its implications for Germany, the study develops a number of actionable recommendations for Indian and German companies, academia, and

policymakers to leverage the Indian innovation ecosystem. The study also derives recommendations on how Germany and India can work to create a synergistic innovation partnership.

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

Indien und die Nuclear Suppliers Group. Neu-Delhis Wunsch nach Einbindung in die nukleare Exportkontrolle wirft grundsätzliche Fragen auf

by Jonas Schneider

10 January 2017

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

India is targeting the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) to be recognised as a "normal" nuclear weapon. Two possibilities are envisaged: India does not have to meet any conditions, or an accession demands concessions from the country. Both variants have a complex impact on the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), cooperation in the NSG and the security of South Asia. Germany is already represented in the NSG and therefore also decides on India's application.

Institut de relations internationales et stratégiques

La politique étrangère indienne depuis 1991: vers une redéfinition du non-alignement ?

by Claire Giroir

18 January 2017

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

The question is whether the new Indian foreign policy, initiated in 1991 and reinforced by the current Indian Prime Minister, truly represents a complete rethinking of the tradition of non-alignment. Would the practice of "non-alignment" evolve into a strategy of "multi-alignment"? This study aims to explore and interpret the complex reconstructions of India's foreign policy, through a diachronic approach from the doctrine of non-alignment by Prime Minister Nehru to the foreign policy led by Narendra Modi.

Asia Foundation

Survey on access to land, tenure security and land conflicts in Timor-Leste

by Bernardo Almeida and Todd Wassel [@toddwassel](#)

December 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (43 p.) and to the [annex](#) (6 p.)

This study aimed to pilot an innovative land survey to provide quantitative data regarding land-related issues in Timor-Leste, in order to support the Timorese government and parliament in developing evidence-based land policies and legislation, as well as more informed advocacy of civil society. The results of this pilot in the municipalities of Dili (urban area only), Ainaro, and Ermera provide relevant evidence regarding access to land, land tenure security, and land-related conflict, as well as on the specific policy options taken in the current draft Land Law Package.

Institut français des relations internationales

L'énergie en Asie du Sud-Est: de l'intégration des réseaux à l'intégration des marchés

by Sylvie Cornot-Gandolphe

January 2017

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

Southeast Asia is one of the world's most dynamic regions and experiences strong economic and energy demand growth rates. In this context, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) is seeking to interconnect the electric grids and gas networks of the countries through two

initiatives, the Asean Power Grid and the Trans-Asean Gas Pipeline, in order to pool resources and optimise energy markets integration in the region.

Istituto Affari Internazionali

Japan's approach to Northeast Asian security: between nationalism and (reluctant) multilateralism

by Axel Berkofsky

27 January 2017

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

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe wants Japan to become a more "normal" country in terms of its security and defence policies. In order to achieve a new level of security-policy "normality", Abe has invested enormous political capital and resources in reinterpreting the country's war-renouncing constitution. Such fundamental changes to Tokyo's security agenda are the basis for Japan to expand old and establish new partnerships with countries such as Australia, India, the Philippines, Indonesia and Vietnam, in order to counter the potential threat posed by Chinese territorial expansionism in the South China Sea.

Northeast Asia's evolving security order: power politics, trust building and the role of the EU

by Elena Atanassova-Cornelis

16 January 2017

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

This paper examines the dynamics of competition and cooperation in Northeast Asia, and how they shape the evolving security order. It also pays close attention to what these current trends mean for the interests and role of the EU in this region. The paper argues that strategic uncertainties and geopolitical tensions underpin the power-based competitive approaches to the security order in Northeast Asia. At the same time, the growing economic interdependence and common concerns in the area of non-traditional security continue to drive trilateral cooperation between South Korea, Japan and China. From this perspective, the EU's know-how of confidence and institution building can stimulate the, still nascent, community-building efforts in Northeast Asia.

China's foreign policy in Northeast Asia: implications for the Korean peninsula

by Silvia Menegazzi

12 January 2017

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

China's relationship with the Korean Peninsula is key for Northeast Asia. Chinese President Xi Jinping took office in 2012. Since then, the strategy pursued by the new administration has been driven by the intent to strengthen political and economic ties with South Korea while maintaining a "wait and see" approach vis-à-vis North Korea's nuclear programme. Yet, growing tensions are imminent. Whereas in the past, leaders in Beijing have been keen to maintain a low-profile strategy towards the Korean Peninsula, China's interests are driven today by the need to guarantee security stability in Northeast Asia and, in particular, to assure that Chinese economic and political interests in the region will not be threatened.

Supporting NAPCI and trilateral cooperation: prospects for Korea-EU Relations

by Michael Reiterer

12 January 2017

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

The EU Global Strategy commits the EU to work towards cooperative regional orders and to pursue an integrated approach to conflicts: two parameters that fit well with the Northeast Asia Peace and Cooperation Initiative (NAPCI), in which the EU has participated as a dialogue partner since its inception in 2014. Although the Republic of Korea's Trustpolitik suffered a setback

because of the intensification of nuclear and missile tests by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the ideas for which NAPCI stands – engagement and cooperation – remain valid.

The EU and the Korean Peninsula: diplomatic support, economic aid and security cooperation

by Ramon Pacheco Pardo

12 January 2017

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

The EU has a policy of "critical engagement" with North Korea. This implies that Brussels should not discontinue relations with Pyongyang, but should take an approach in which "carrots" and "sticks" are mixed depending on the behaviour of Kim Jong-un's regime. This paper argues that Brussels should take a three-pronged approach. It should offer diplomatic support to South Korea's policy towards its northern neighbour, continue to provide economic aid to North Korea and engage in cooperation with partners seeking to counter Pyongyang's threats to international security.

Royal United Services Institute for Defence and Security Studies

Ready for peace? The Afghan Taliban after a decade of war

by Theo Farrell and Michael Semple

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

The paper has strong implications for both the analysis of the Taliban movement and the policy response to the Afghan conflict. First, analysis must be sufficiently nuanced to capture a wide range of Taliban positions on issues surrounding the conflict and the movement's future. Second, analysis should acknowledge that the Taliban are still in a process of transition, since the acknowledgement of the death of their original leader. Third, in making sense of the newly diversified Taliban thought, it is important to understand both the significance and limitations of dissenting ideas. In terms of policy, the findings suggest that a strategy of engagement with the Taliban's unitary official leadership may not be sufficient to achieve a deal. But the emergence of dissent within the movement offers both a threat and an opportunity for peace-making.

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Centre d'études et de recherches internationales

Amérique latine - L'année politique 2016

by Maya Collombon, Jacinto Cuvi, Olivier Dabène, Gaspard Estrada, Antoine Faure, Erica Guevara, Damien Larrouqué, Frédéric Louault, Antoine Maillet, Frédéric Massé, Kevin Parthenay, Eduardo Rios and Darío Rodriguez

January 2017

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

This publication of the Latin American and Caribbean Policy Observatory of the CERISciences Po. It offers keys to understanding the transformation of the continent. Regional integration in Latin America has begun to return to a strictly commercial dimension. Political themes such as the defence of democracy or defence seem no longer relevant.

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

Kubas Weg in den Post-Castrismus. Neue Rahmenbedingungen für die Zusammenarbeit

by Günther Maihold and Verónica Villarreal Muñoz

11 January 2017

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

With the death of Fidel Castro and the presidential nomination of Donald Trumps as President of the US, Cuba appears once again at a turning point. The overcoming of the leadership model tailored by the Castro brothers is a complex operation, and dealing with Cuba is not easy for its conversation partners in the West. The EU should pay close attention to the internal balance of power on the sugar island and adapt their cooperation expectations and offerings to the development of the uncertain transition of power from the Castro family to the successor generation. Flexible formats could be more promising than institutional models of collaboration.

CHINA

Chatham House - The Royal Institute of International Affairs

These three papers explore the feasibility of using China's Belt and Road initiative as a means to expand the use of the renminbi, both in the real economies of Belt and Road host countries and in the London offshore financial market.

The 'Belt and Road' initiative and the London market – The next steps in renminbi internationalization. Part 1: the view from Beijing

by Liu Dongmin, Gao Haihong, Xu Qiyuan, Li Yuanfang and Song Shuang

January 2017

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

The 'Belt and Road' initiative and the London market – The next steps in renminbi internationalization. Part 2: the view from London

by Paola Subacchi [@PaolaSubacchi](#) and Matthew Oxenford

January 2017

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

The 'Belt and Road' initiative and the London market – The next steps in renminbi internationalization. Part 3: framework for policy discussion

by Liu Dongmin, Gao Haihong, Matthew Oxenford, Xu Qiyuan, Song Shuang, Paola Subacchi [@PaolaSubacchi](#) and Li Yuanfang

January 2017

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

Brookings Institution

Will engaging China promote good governance?

by Jamie P. Horsley

January 2017

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

This paper introduces some of China's less-reported governance reforms, particularly the development of government transparency and public participation in decision making under the rubric of open government.

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

China's G20 Year and the new paradigm: emphasis on global governance pointing the way to 2017 and beyond

by Feride Inan

January 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (144 p.)

Germany has taken over the G20 presidency from 1st December 2016. This report is an overview of the broad G20 agenda emphasizing the Chinese presidency's contribution to this agenda. The report includes an analysis of G20 official documents, provides context to the G20 agenda and uses literature to shed light on ongoing debates in the international community. The report was written to better understand the G20 agenda under Chinese leadership and where the G20 stands in terms of its role in global economic governance with an aim to provide recommendations for the German G20 presidency and beyond.

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

China 4.0. Reaktionen in Partei und Gesellschaft auf die digitale Transformation

by David Schulze and Nadine Godehardt

10 January 2017

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

The development of the Chinese internet has attracted a lot of foreign observers in 2016. Record sales in international trade, far-reaching hacker attacks, gigantic investment programs for start-ups, a controversial Internet law and the increase in the state's internet network were responsible for that. China 4.0 stands equally for control and creativity. How does that fit together? How does the Chinese public discuss the opportunities and risks of digital transformation? And what does the new Internet Security Act, which will enter into force in June 2017, mean? New framework conditions will be created, which in the long term can define cooperation with China on digitization issues.

Chinas Kommunistische Partei vor Xi Jinpings zweiter Amtsperiode als Vorsitzender Im Spannungsfeld individueller Machtkonsolidierung und kollektiver Parteitraditionen

by Paul Joscha Kohlenberg

11 January 2017

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

In the Autumn of 2017, the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) will hold its nineteenth congress. In the official party documents the ethos of the party leader who is called "the core of the Central Committee" (CC) is emphasised. Xi Jinping, the Chinese President, chairman of the CCP, the Central Military Commission appears to be even more powerful than his predecessor. Some observers speculate about Xi's intention to move away from established party concepts such as collective decision-making within party circles. Because the principle of collective leadership has ensured political stability since the end of the Mao era, it is important to take this scenario seriously. However, the resistance of the collective party processes should not be underestimated.

Asia Centre

Not stopping cold: China's emerging strategies in the Arctic

by Marc Lanteigne

10 January 2017

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

In comparison with that of the eight states which border the Arctic Ocean, and other countries such as those in Western and Central Europe which have experienced long histories of exploration in the north circumpolar region, China's Arctic policy remains very much a work in progress. Although President Xi Jinping has greatly expanded its Arctic policies there is yet to be an issue-specific governmental plan published which outlines China's emerging interests in the Arctic (and the Antarctic). Until recently, Chinese policymakers were also somewhat reluctant to publically describe the country's Arctic affairs except in very broad dimensions.

Institut de relations internationales et stratégiques

The fight against terrorism "made in China"

by Alixia Nguyen

12 January 2017

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

Condemned just like the West, to live with the growing threat of Islamic terrorism and radical Islam, we can ask ourselves how is the Middle Kingdom organizing the resistance? Is it still playing the card of the "lone ride" by only caring about the national level? Or is China ready to open itself out into the world and fight alongside it against international terrorism? Evolution is the key to preservation, and this is why China provides itself with the means necessary to fight against organised terror: experts specifically trained to counter-terrorism and a legislative framework adapted to the new issues posed by the radical Islam threat.

RUSSIA

Carnegie Moscow Center / Carnegie Endowment for International Peace

Going to the people—and back again: the changing shape of the Russian regime

by Alexander Baunov [@baunov](#)

January 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (50 p.) and in [Russian](#) (46 p.)

Revolutionary or dynamic regimes around the world tend to encourage supporters to act independently, or even engage in decentralised violence. By contrast, more conservative, static regimes typically discourage and distrust such unplanned, spontaneous demonstrations of support. For most of Russian history, the country's leaders have employed a top-down political system. When Crimea was annexed in 2014, the Kremlin temporarily allowed more decentralised patriotic activism to rally support, but they soon saw the potential risks and reverted to more centralised political control. Russia's reinstated traditional conservative rule may seem dull, but, paradoxically enough, its return might prove beneficial to future reformers.

Център за изследване на демокрацията (Center for the Study of Democracy)

The wind that blows from the east: Russian influence in Central and Eastern Europe

5 January 2017

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

The topic of Russia's influence in Central and Eastern Europe has grown in significance after the eruption of the Ukrainian crisis in 2013. This brief, which summarises the key findings from the joint

study of the Center for the Study of Democracy and the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), presents a model for understanding the impact of Russia's economic influence in Central and Eastern Europe in five case study countries (Bulgaria, Hungary, Latvia, Serbia, and Slovakia), and its relationship to the region's general decline in governance standards.

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

Russia's evolving South Caucasus policy - Security concerns amid ethno-political conflict

by Sergey Markedonov

January 2017

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

The outbreak of fighting in April 2016 between Armenia and Azerbaijan over the breakaway republic of Nagorno-Karabakh introduced new uncertainty to the South Caucasus. Russia's policies are crucial here, just as they are in the region's other ethno-political conflicts, in Abkhazia and South Ossetia. This insider's perspective on the Kremlin's involvement in the South Caucasus highlights Russia's security concerns. The post-Soviet neighbourhood's different conflict zones require a differentiated approach.

Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung / Maison du Futur

Russia in Syria - Domestic drivers and regional implications

by Hanna Notte

January 2017

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

Over the past year, Russia has become an increasingly pivotal player in the Syrian war and, by extension, in the broader Middle East. Amidst the noise that Russia's impact in Syria has caused, the underlying drivers of its strategy – domestic, security and ideological – remain too often ignored. As a result, Russian decisions regarding Syria often seemed unpredictable and irrational to observers. However, in this paper the author argues that Russia's strategy and fundamental interests in Syria have been remarkably consistent over the past six years.

Külügyi és Külgazdasági Intézet (Institute for Foreign Affairs and Trade)

Az új orosz külpolitikai koncepció és információs biztonsági doktrína elemzése

by Tölgyesi Beatrix

January 2017

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

The Russian president Vladimir Putin has approved two important strategic documents at the end of 2016: the new foreign policy concept and the information security doctrine. The two documents show a similar trend. For this reason, and also because of the close dates of the two documents, the author discusses them together in this analysis.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Fondation Robert Schuman

The Trump Presidency: what consequences will this have on Europe?

by Arnault Barichella

16 January 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (11 p.) and in [French](#) (13 p.)

This paper aims to analyse the full extent of the challenge that Donald Trump's presidency represents for Europe. The second objective of this paper is to offer policy recommendations on

how the EU can manage Trump's presidency, turning adversity into opportunity in order to make the next four years a success for the Atlantic alliance. The goal of this paper is to highlight a strategy for the EU to remain visibly present on the world stage, making the most of the potential opportunities that could open-up in the next four years.

Atlantic Council

Superpartner: a US strategy for a complex world

by Alex Ward [@alexwardb](#)

11 January 2017

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

According to the article, Trump's team should adopt a "superpartner" strategy in which the US' ultimate aim is to be the world player other states call upon to coalesce a constellation of actors. In essence, the US must seek to be central to global efforts, but not necessarily to lead them.

A natural gas diplomacy for the new US administration

by Agnia Grigas [@AgniaGrigas](#)

26 January 2017

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

With the new US presidential administration of Donald Trump, a newly elected Congress, and the recent transformative developments in the US gas sector, a reassessment of the role of natural gas, energy policies, and impacts on international diplomacy are crucial. As the geopolitics of natural gas undergo significant shifts, the US has the opportunity to play the role of leader in the global gas markets with its newfound energy prowess as an emerging producer of natural gas and LNG (liquefied natural gas) exporter.

The outlook for energy under a Trump administration - Major volatility ahead

by David L. Goldwyn

January 2017

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

Oil, gas, and renewable energy markets will face high levels of uncertainty and potentially extreme volatility under a Trump administration in 2017. Some of these uncertainties flow from questions about the new administration's yet-undefined policies on energy production, trade, and climate policy. Others flow from the basket of national security risks that a new US President was destined to inherit. This document examines these uncertainties and their potential impacts in policy areas such as trade, conflict, climate change, and energy.

A non-state strategy for saving cyberspace

by Jason Healey [@Jason_Healey](#)

10 January 2017

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

As President Barack Obama has said, cyberspace is a lawless "Wild West". Because the internet was built on trust, not security, it is easier to attack others online than to defend against those attacks. This is a decades-old trend, dating back to at least the late 1970s. Prosperity for the US and the global economy is only assured if the US and like-minded nations, civil society, and other non-state actors all work toward a goal of making defence easier than attack.

Council on Foreign Relations

Evaluating the Obama administration's drone reforms

31 January 2017

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

The Barack Obama administration sought to create a lasting policy and legal framework to govern the use of lethal drones, but it is unclear how those principles - and especially their limitations - will survive in the Donald J. Trump administration. Nonetheless, elements that have broad support among military operators, such as a "near certainty" standard for targeted strikes, will likely survive. However employed, lethal drones should be part of a more comprehensive counterterrorism strategy, including updated, unambiguous legal authority from Congress.

Rebuilding trust between Silicon Valley and Washington

by Adam Segal [@adschina](#)

January 2017

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

Cybercrime is growing in volume and sophistication, and some governments have become more brazen in using cyber operations for espionage, coercion, and influence. The vast majority of these incidents are disruptive, designed to undermine trust in complex economic, political, and social institutions. Meanwhile, new vulnerabilities are developing with the emergence of the internet of things: millions of devices fitted with sensors that collect data and communicate over the internet. A future generation of attacks on the internet of things could cause widespread economic dislocation and physical destruction.

Carnegie Endowment for International Peace

Uncommon alliance for the common good: the United States and Japan after the Cold War

by James L. Schoff [@SchoffJ](#)

January 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (272 p.)

The three decade-old US-Japan alliance faced a major turning point in 1990, as the Cold War wound down and a central pillar of the relationship -containment of the Soviet Union- began to fall away just as bilateral trade competition was peaking. Despite this, the allies deepened security cooperation throughout the next quarter century, in addition to broadening collaboration in economics, technology, and diplomacy. At the current juncture of global uncertainty and diversified threats to prosperity, the allies should work to incorporate their full range of cooperation in more direct service of comprehensive national strategies, recognizing the unique ways that their alliance supports global stability and serves mutual interests.

Center of Strategic and Budgetary Assessments

Preserving the balance: a U.S. Eurasia defense strategy

by Andrew F. Krepinevich

19 January 2017

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

This paper focuses on the US' long-standing interest in preventing the rise of a hegemonic power on the Eurasian land capable of dominating its human, technical and material resources. Such a development would represent a major threat to US national security. The strategy presented in this paper calls for major changes in the US defence posture. Among them: shifting to a forward defence posture to the Western Pacific Theatre; taking on greater risk in the European and Middle East theatres; developing a competency in the ability to compete based on time; and last, include

developing and advancing persuasive strategic narratives to the American people, the citizens of allies and prospective strategic partners, and the revisionist powers' populations.

Center for Strategic and International Studies

U.S.-Sino relations in the Arctic: a roadmap for future cooperation

by Heather A. Conley

January 2017

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

The emergence of the Arctic as a region of political and economic opportunity adds a new dimension to US-China relations. Despite divergent priorities in the region, there are opportunities for greater cooperation. Both countries experience the physical challenges of climate change while investing in scientific research to gain a better understanding of a transforming Arctic. They both also seek cooperation through the Arctic Council and the International Maritime Organisation to promote governance in the region. For these reasons, among others, the US and China should create a more purposeful dialogue on a range of Arctic issues.

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

Amerikas Schwäche im globalen Wettbewerb mit China

by Josef Braml

23 January 2017

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

The fiercer competition between the world power of the USA and the emerging economic power of China will also affect Europe, and in particular its export-oriented leadership, Germany.

Chatham House - The Royal Institute of International Affairs

America's international role under Donald Trump

by Xenia Wickett [@xeniawickett](#) (ed.)

January 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (69 p.)

While there is great uncertainty about America's foreign policy after 20 January 2017, the environment in which Trump takes office is more concrete. Trump will face domestic as well as international constraints, from the role of Congress to the actions of other states. This report addresses the most significant axes of foreign policy for the new administration: defence, economic policy, trade, energy and climate change, China, Russia, the Middle East and North Africa, Europe, Afghanistan and Latin America.

German Marshall Fund of the United States

President Trump, the U.S. security guarantee, and the future of European integration

by Hans Kundnani [@hanskundnani](#)

17 January 2017

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

The election of Donald Trump as US president could have consequences for the internal dynamics within the EU and thus for the European project itself. Historically, the US security guarantee was the precondition for European integration. The question now is whether, given that the EU has not evolved into a full political union or become independent of the US in security terms, the new doubt about the security guarantee could lead to a process of disintegration. In order to respond to this new situation, Europeans will now need to demonstrate much greater creativity and flexibility than they have since the euro crisis began seven years ago.

Real Instituto Elcano (Elcano Royal Institute)

Trump: ¿el cisne negro?

by Sebastián Royo

9 January 2017

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

The election of Donald Trump as US President has been listed by many observers as a new Black Swan defined by Nassim Taleb as an event of low probability that could not be expected within the scope of regular expectations, because nothing in the past indicated that it was possible, but it has a major impact.

El sprint final de Barack Obama

by Carlota García Encina [@EncinaCharlie](#)

27 January 2017

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

Environment, Security Council, Guantánamo and cyberspace are some of the areas where Barack Obama has sought to take final decisions in which it has sought to give a final impetus to a legacy that did not know how to forge. Some have been symbolic, others will have a more permanent character and in most cases have been a direct message to his successor, Donald Trump.

Institut de relations internationales et stratégiques

L'Administration Obama et la question israélo-palestinienne: impasse, blocages et/ou manque de volonté politique ? Une analyse par le prisme onusien

by Amine Ait-Chaalal

11 January 2017

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

The Israeli-Palestinian issue is a focal point of international relations since the Second World War. This article wants to provide some insights in order to grasp the ins and outs of the situation at the end of the Obama presidency. In particular, it places the viewingpoint of the speeches of the American President in the framework of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

SPECIAL FOCUS: US - RUSSIA RELATIONS

Real Instituto Elcano (Elcano Royal Institute)

El poder de la influencia rusa: la desinformación

by Mira Milosevich-Juaristi [@MiraMilosevich1](#)

20 January 2017

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

The object of this analysis is disinformation as an asymmetric and indirect military method in the hybrid war that Russia pounds in Europe and US. Disinformation (deziformatsiya) as a Russian regime designed practice to mislead and confuse the opponent, influence and undermine its political, economic and military efficiency.

S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies

Countering the U.S. third offset strategy: Russian perspectives, responses and challenges

by Vasily Kashin and Michael Raska

January 2017

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

The report aims to ascertain the evolving contours of the Russian strategic thought and responses toward the Third Offset strategy. It argues that while the US Third Offset is a recent development, its core technological initiatives have been a significant cause of concern for Russia for a long time. In this context, Russian responses to counter these initiatives consist of two major elements. The first one is prioritizing the development of a wide array of both strategic and tactical nuclear weapons systems. The second element is to counter many US technological initiatives via similar indigenous programs, although more narrowly focused and smaller in scale. The key challenge for Russia, however, is a sustained resource allocation to translate these disruptive innovations into actual military capabilities.

Center for a New American Security

The future of U.S.-Russia relations

by Julianne Smith [@Julie_C_Smith](#) and Adam Twardowski

January 2017

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

The new US president will inherit a relationship with Russia fraught with more tension than at any point since the Cold War. Russia's 2014 invasion of Ukraine sparked fear that its belligerence could threaten the territorial integrity of NATO's eastern members while raising questions about NATO's ability to deter Russian aggression. In the Middle East, Russia obstructs US policy in Syria by arming the Assad regime and providing diplomatic cover for its assaults on US-backed Syrian rebels. With a blunt anti-western posture, acts of intimidation toward its neighbours, and a rapidly modernising military, Russia has plunged its relationship with the US into a crisis that threatens to destabilize the transatlantic community and undermine future opportunities for cooperation.

Dahrendorf Forum

US, Russia, and the world: the passing of empires

by Rodric Braithwaite

January 2017

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

The US remains the most powerful country in the world – that is not going to change in the foreseeable future, according to the author. However, its overwhelming military power, and the values of democracy and human rights for which it stands, can now successfully be challenged by states and non-state actors alike.

MISCELLANEOUS

Deutsches Institut für Wirtschaftsforschung (German Institute for Economic Research)

Who cares about social image?

by Jana Friedrichsen and Dirk Engelmann

24 January 2017

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

This paper experimentally investigates how concerns for social approval relate to intrinsic motivations to purchase ethically. Participants state their willingness-to-pay for both a fair trade and a conventional chocolate bar in private or publicly. A standard model of social image predicts that all increase their fair trade premium when facing an audience. The authors find that the premium is higher in public than in private only for participants who preferred a conventional over a fair trade chocolate bar in a pre-lab choice. This is captured by a generalised model where intrinsic preferences and the concern for social approval are negatively correlated.
