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Dear Readers,

Welcome to issue 46 of the Think Tank Review compiled by the EU Council Library* ([click to share on Twitter](#)). It references papers published in April 2017. As usual, we provide the link to the full text and a short abstract.

The 'EU politics and institutions' section includes an article about the use of social networks by populist movements as a platform for political communication and mobilisation. Other papers in this section focus on national referendums on European issues, Euroscepticism, the new European left and on defending Europe and the European Council's role in shaping a common future for the EU27.

The 'Economic and financial affairs' section presents papers on a divided Eurozone with conflicting interests on the reform of the Monetary Union, the European Fund for Strategic Investments as a new type of budgetary instrument and on tax evasion, money laundering and tax transparency in the EU overseas countries and territories.

In the 'EU member states' section, readers will find a rich selection of analyses on France, Germany and Portugal. It includes articles on the role of France as critical player in the future of Europe and on France and the future of European defence, as well as a variety of articles on social policies in Germany. Another paper on the Portuguese government solution as a catalyst for a deep transformation of left-wing parties at European level is also worth mentioning. The Library and Research team attended the event that launched this paper, a report on which will be posted soon on the Library Blog.

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In the 'EU policies' section, think tanks focus on migration, energy and social policy. On migration, readers will find articles relating to the Luxembourg court orders on the EU-Turkey refugee deal and to the EU's external migration policy. Regarding energy, we recommend articles on Brexit and the EU energy union, on energy and climate strategies of the EU and Turkey and on how the EU can support a regional gas hub in the Eastern Mediterranean. The social policy section has a variety of articles on subjects such as minimum income policies in EU member states, the overqualification of graduates in their early careers and the expansion or shrinkage of middle-class fortunes in Western Europe.

Under 'Foreign Affairs' the wide range of topics includes cross-border cooperation on security, support for Tunisia as a model in counter-terrorism cooperation and the nexus between organised crime and terrorism. The section also includes articles on EU region-building in the South Caucasus, three articles on the European Community's framing of the Mediterranean (1970-2017) and a paper on EU Cultural Diplomacy in the MENA region.

The 'Miscellaneous' section includes articles on the volume of messages of anti-Islamic hate on twitter and investigating the role of public online forums on mental health issues.

In addition, we would like to mention [the Eurobarometer survey](#) of the European Parliament. The survey examines the attitudes of Europeans two years ahead of the 2019 European elections, conducted through interviews with 27 901 EU citizens in 28 member states.

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

The next Review will be out in June 2017, with papers published in May 2017.

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

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SECTION 1 - EU POLITICS AND INSTITUTIONS

Notre Europe - Jacques Delors Institute / Fondation Robert Schuman

Defending Europe to defend real sovereignty

by Thierry Chopin

25 April 2017

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

The presidential campaign in France illustrated the extent to which the central issues of the debate all have a dimension which was at least as European as it was national: economic uncertainty, terrorism, migration crisis, climate challenge, rise in populist and extremist discourse, the role of France and Europe in the new global "disorder". In this paper, the author analyses the need of a clear political project, without going back to the "Europe of the past" and without coming to terms with national retrenchment.

Notre Europe - Jacques Delors Institute

National referendums on European issues: from clarification to frustration

by Yves Bertoncini [@ybertoncini](#)

4 April 2017

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

The recent succession of referendums that led to people saying "no to Europe" are leading to a radicalisation of political debate over the articulation between national democratic choices and belonging to the EU. The progressive shift from conciliation to contradiction, then from contradiction to confrontation, should prompt us to highlight which political conditions enable a better juncture between national referendums and European integration, not only to guarantee the smooth functioning of our democracies, but also the EU's ability to act effectively and legitimately.

Jacques Delors Institute - Berlin

Radical right and radical left Euroscepticism – A dynamic phenomenon

by Maurits J. Meijers

7 April 2017

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

In this paper, the author observes that Euroscepticism is a phenomenon which comes in different flavours and has changed significantly over time. In addition, the paper outlines the far-reaching consequences Euroscepticism can have for both EU politics within Member States and the process of EU integration as a whole.

Social networks and populism in the EU - Four things you should know

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

19 April 2017

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

Populist movements and parties across the EU have managed to use social networks as a platform for political communication. This has allowed them to communicate directly with a steadily growing number of followers and distribute their political content to a mass audience. Why are populists seemingly so successful in communicating their messages via social networks? In this paper, the author offers an interpretation of populism as a political communication strategy in Germany, Italy, France and Spain. The analysis shows that populists have managed to establish social networks as a communication and mobilization tool in all four countries.

Barcelona Centre for International Affairs

El populismo en Europa: ¿de síntoma a alternativa?

by Eckart Woertz [@eckartwoertz](#) (coord.)

April 2017

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

Liberal democracies are in a fragile situation. Simplistic populist messages, attempting to weaken the legitimacy of democratic institutions, can have a receptive audience in Europe. In some countries, such as France and Austria, populist parties have ceased to be marginal and have participated as serious contenders in national elections, and in Hungary and Poland they are already in the government.

La nueva izquierda europea: pragmatizar el asalto a los cielos

by Héctor Sánchez Margalef

April 2017

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

The new European left demonstrated its ambition to play a major role in the elections to the European Parliament in May 2014. The parties and political leaders included under the concept of new left share at least three common features. The first is that they have been particularly relevant in southern Europe countries (Greece, Portugal and Spain). The second is that they started as Eurosceptic and contrary to European integration as a project with a neoliberal agenda, but have ended up accepting it. The third is that these new parties have shown willingness to assume the wear and tear leading to government without putting so much emphasis on ideological purity.

Adam Smith Institute

The neoliberal mind - The ideology of the future

by Madsen Pirie [@MadsenPirie](#)

5 April 2017

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

The term Neoliberal has been used derisively by the Left as a catchall insult. It has served as a term of abuse to attack those who favour free markets and free trade, and as such, has lacked coherent content. Given the widespread use of the term, the time is overdue for a systematic account of what neoliberals actually believe. This paper aims to show the key facets of neoliberal thought, to show how and why they come to their worldview, and to set out their aims, priorities and their programme.

European Parliament Think Tank

From Bratislava to Rome: the European Council's role in shaping a common future for EU-27

by Ralf Drachenberg, Suzana Anghel and Conor McGlynn

April 2017

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

The aim of this paper is to assess the outcomes of the various EU-27 and European Council meetings in the period between the Bratislava summit of September 2016 and the Rome summit on 25 March 2017, in relation to the objectives laid out in the Bratislava Declaration and Roadmap. It also reflects on how the Rome Declaration and Bratislava process were shaped by the overall context of the growing concerns of EU citizens and their attitude towards the EU and demonstrates how the views of the different EU institutions and the various Member States have converged during this process, leading to a consensual Rome Declaration.

Demos

Governance by dashboard

by Jamie Bartlett [@JamieJBartlett](#) and Nathaniel Tkacz

April 2017

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

Data dashboards – interfaces which display complex data to a user, often displayed in real time, and typically drawn from multiple sources – are an increasingly important way in which government departments make decisions. This paper aims to sketch out the broad implications of dashboard governance, that is, of governing with and through dashboards.

SECTION 2 - ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

College of Europe

Financial systems and income inequality

by Joana Elisa Maldonado

April 2017

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

This paper examines the impact of financial systems on income inequality. In the debate on 'real' effects of financial systems, economic growth has been analysed in detail, while potential welfare effects on income inequality have been widely neglected. Against the background of a trend towards more market-based and less bank-based systems, this paper examines differences between financial systems in terms of income inequality in the EU.

Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (Friedrich Ebert Foundation)

The divided Eurozone: mapping conflicting interests on the reform of the Monetary Union

by Björn Hacker and Cédric M. Koch [@ckcedric](#)

April 2017

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

The euro crisis showed how incomplete and vulnerable the architecture of the Monetary Union is. Institutional reforms are slow or stalling due to divergent development perspectives for the Eurozone. This study analyses the conflicting interests among Member States involved in the recent reform process. Based on economic theory, a disagreement can be identified between a minority around Finland and Germany, which advocate a "stability union", and a majority around Italy and France striving for a "fiscal union". But an integration of the Eurozone cannot be achieved, as the "fiscal union" representatives lack coherence and unity and are struggling with economic problems.

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

Fiscal rules and other rule-based mechanisms in practice: introduction to case studies of four Member States

by Iain Begg [@IainBeggLSE](#), Alexandre Lucas Cole, Chiara Guerello, Guido Traficante [@guidotraf](#), Grzegorz Poniatoski [@gponiatowski1](#), Krzysztof Głowacki, Tomáš Domonkos, Ivana Šikulová and Viliam Páleník

13 April 2017

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

One of the most striking economic governance trends of recent years has been the increased resort to fiscal rules. In the EU as a whole, the number of fiscal rules recorded by the European Commission in its fiscal rules database has risen nearly tenfold since the early 1990s. Such rules have varied considerably across countries. This study analyses the fiscal rules that Poland has used to keep its fiscal policy disciplined and coordinated within the EU. The national case studies in this document provide a detailed examination of fiscal and other rules in four EU Member States: Italy, Poland, Slovakia and the UK.

Bruegel

From start-up to scale-up: examining public policies for the financing of high-growth ventures

by Gilles Duruflé, Thomas Hellmann and Karen Wilson [@BruegelKaren](#)

April 2017

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

This paper examines the challenge entrepreneurial companies face in going beyond the start-up phase and growing into large successful companies. It examines the long-term financing of these so-called scale-up companies, focusing on the US, Europe and Canada. It first provides a conceptual framework for understanding the challenges of financing scale-ups. It then shows some data about the various aspects of financing scale-ups in the US, Europe and Canada. Finally it raises the question of long-term public policies to support the creation of a better scale-up environment.

Regional and global financial safety nets: the recent European experience and its implications for regional cooperation in Asia

by Zsolt Darvas [@ZsoltDarvas](#)

April 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (57 p.)

This paper compares financial assistance programmes of four euro-area countries (Greece, Ireland, Portugal, and Cyprus) and three non-euro-area countries (Hungary, Latvia, and Romania) of the EU in the aftermath of the 2007/08 global financial and economic crisis - which were supported by the International Monetary Fund and various European financing facilities. It evaluates the programmes by assessing their success in creating conditions to regain market access, the degree of compliance with loan conditionality, and actual economic performance relative to programme assumptions.

Tackling Europe's crisis legacy: a comprehensive strategy for bad loans and debt restructuring

by Maria Demertzis [@mariademertzis](#) and Alex Lehmann

April 2017

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

This paper argues that efforts to reduce and remove non-performing loans (NPLs) from the balance sheets of creditors must simultaneously remove excess debt from the balance sheets of debtors. This is the only way to ensure that bank balance sheets are restored to health sustainably, and that both supply and demand for new credit revive.

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

Banking leverage procyclicality: a theoretical model introducing currency diversification

by Justine Pedrono

April 2017

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

The adjustments to global banks' balance sheets in the wake of the recent economic crisis have rekindled interest in the pro-cyclicality of banking leverage. This paper extends Adrian and Shin (2014) by allowing banks to hold assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currency. It investigates the pro-cyclicality of banking leverage relative to the currency diversification of banks' balance sheet. Therefore, it provides a complete theoretical framework that explains heterogeneity in financial cycles when focusing on currency exposures.

Centraal Planbureau (CPB Netherlands Bureau for Economic Policy Analysis)

Optimal tax routing: network analysis of FDI diversion

by Maarten van't Riet and Arjan Lejour

April 2017

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

The international corporate tax system is considered as a network and, just like for transportation, 'shortest' paths are computed, minimizing tax payments for multinational enterprises when repatriating profits. The authors include corporate income tax rates, withholding taxes on dividends, double tax treaties and the double taxation relief methods.

Centre for European Policy Studies

The European Fund for Strategic Investments as a new type of budgetary instrument

by David Rinaldi [@Rinaldi David](#) and Jorge Núñez Ferrer [@jnunez_ferrer](#)

April 2017

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

This paper provides an overview of the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI) as a budgetary instrument. A preliminary analysis of the quantitative impact of its first year and a half of activity is complemented by an outline of the corollary policies that can determine the success of EFSI. Taking into account the instrument's original mission, the preliminary evidence is encouraging and suggests that it is on track to attain expected targets.

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

Interconnectedness in the global financial market

by Matthias Raddant [@econ_mtr](#) and Dror Y. Kennett

April 2017

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

The global financial system is highly complex, with cross-border interconnections and interdependencies. In this highly interconnected environment, local financial shocks and events can be easily amplified and turned into global events. This paper analyses the dependencies among nearly 4 000 stocks from 15 countries. The returns are normalised by the estimated volatility using a GARCH model and a robust regression process estimates pairwise statistical relationships between stocks from different markets.

Sheffield Political Economy Research Institute

Frankfurt, Paris and Dublin: post-Brexit rivals to the City of London?

by Scott Lavery [@ScottLavery1](#), Adam Barber, Sean McDaniel [@ SeanMcDaniel](#) and Davide Schmid [@davide_schmid](#)

April 2017

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

This paper assesses the strategic positioning of alternative financial centres in the aftermath of Brexit. It shows how three major rivals to the City are organising to attract 'low hanging fruit' from London.

European Parliament Think Tank

Tax evasion, money laundering and tax transparency in the EU overseas countries and territories ex-post impact assessment

by Isabelle Ioannides [@iioannides](#) and Jan Tymowski

April 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (180 p.)

This study aims to present the legal, political and institutional framework governing offshore practices in the Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs) of the EU, which fall under the sovereignty of four Member States: Denmark, France, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. It contains an opening analysis that defines the key concepts, including tax evasion, money laundering and tax transparency; outlines the scope of the study (to differentiate the OCTs from other places often mentioned within the context of offshore financial services); and briefly describes the particular case of Greenland.

Role of advisors and intermediaries in the schemes revealed in the Panama Papers

April 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (57 p.)

The use of offshore entities that facilitate money laundering, tax avoidance and tax evasion undermines the fair distribution of the tax burden in onshore jurisdictions. The Panama Papers shed some light on the activities that are usually conducted in secrecy, with the disclosure of information on 213 634 offshore entities in jurisdictions such as the British Virgin Islands, Panama and the Seychelles. This analysis assesses the role of advisors (tax experts, legal experts, administrators, investment advisors) and intermediaries (law firms, accounting firms, trust companies, banks, etc.) involved in the phases of the identified decision-making cycle.

Deutsches Institut für Wirtschaftsforschung (German Institute for Economic Research)

Long term growth perspectives in Japan and the euro area

by Christian Dreger

April 2017

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

Euro area countries and Japan are confronted with similar challenges. Potential output is on a falling trend in the euro area, and the decrease started well before the financial crisis. In Japan, low output growth is a striking feature since many years, despite the unconventional monetary policy stance and massive fiscal stimulus programs provided by the government.

La Vie des Idées

Cinq mythes sur la sortie de l'euro

by Grégory Claeys [@gregclaeys](#)

4 April 2017

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

Some parties now propose that France should leave the euro zone. The author shows that such an exit would indeed be cataclysmic for the economy of the country.

Adam Smith Institute

Killing the cash cow. Why Andy Haldane is wrong about demonetisation

by Kevin Dowd

3 April 2017

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

This article shows that one of the most significant developments in economic policy in recent years has been a gradually escalating government war against cash. At first sight, one might think that there is nothing too much to worry about: we are merely talking about technocratic issues related to payments technologies and the implementation of monetary policy, and cashless payments systems are already both commonplace and spreading. The reality is rather different.

Fondation Robert Schuman

Some truths about the euro - The euro, "this wretch, this mangy brute, the source of all misfortune"

by Jean-Paul Betbèze

April 2017

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

We recognise the donkey in the "Animals sick of the pest": the source of the virus according to La Fontaine. The graph presented by Marine Le Pen during the TV debate between the five candidates on 20th March 2017 illustrates a modern donkey – the euro – the source of Europe's ills. The graph could/intends to show a link of cause and effect between the euro and the desindustrialisation of the euro zone's major economies, namely France, Italy and Spain, except for Germany, which benefited from it. This very simple approach deserves some credit since it allows us to comment and criticize.

SECTION 3 - EU MEMBER STATES

AUSTRIA

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

Aktuelle entwicklungen und trends in den regionen Mittelost-/Südosteuropas und des Donauraums

by Helmut Hiess and Roman Römisch

April 2017

Link to the article in [German](#) (98 p.)

The study analyses recent trends and developments in the Central and East European (CEE) and Southeast European (SEE) countries and their implications for Austrian regional policy. The aim of the study is to contribute to the evaluation of current Austrian and European regional policy instruments and to the Austrian preparation of the post-2020 EU Cohesion policy.

CROATIA

Ekonomski institut, Zagreb (Institute of Economics, Zagreb)

The effect of personality traits on online privacy concern

by Bruno Škrinjarić, Jelena Budak and Mateo Žokalj

April 2017

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

The aim of this paper is to analyse if and how personal characteristics of Internet users affect their concern for privacy. The theoretical framework consisting of the Big Five theory of personality traits has been used to test the variations in online privacy concern. The model includes a range of other variables that might affect online privacy concern, such as sociodemographic factors, cultural values and computer literacy. The empirical analysis is based on survey data collected in 2016 on a large sample of 2 060 Internet users in Croatia.

FRANCE

Brookings Institution

France: a critical player in a weakened Europe

by Philippe Le Corre [@PhLeCorre](#)

April 2017

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

This paper assesses the presidency of François Hollande (2012-2017) and looks at the state of France as a significant actor on the world stage and as a leading member of the EU and the trans-Atlantic alliance. Finally, it looks at France's domestic condition, and how it could impact Europe and the Western world, especially the US.

Fondation Robert Schuman

France and its European turmoil

by Jean-Dominique Giuliani [@JD_Giuliani](#)

April 2017

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

Europe is a thorn in France's side. The electoral campaign in view of the presidential election has

brought together 11 candidates. None of them is happy with the EU. There is something specific about French politics. This presidential election has highlighted all of its negative aspects. Might the election of a new president show us its positive sides and transform them into a new national dynamic that is more favourable towards Europe?

Friends of Europe

Crunch time – France and the future of European defence

by Paul Taylor

April 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (174 p.)

This study takes a comprehensive, whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach to the topic of security. It is divided into four chapters which cover, for example, the French defense cooperation and defense industry, the Islamist nexus as well as challenges related to cybersecurity. It also includes a comprehensive take on France's strategic options under the new presidency: will France become a lone ranger, or will it take the lead in developing the European pillar of NATO?

Institut Montaigne

Sécurité nationale: quels moyens pour quelles priorités?

by Nicolas Baverez

April 2017

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

Safety, together with unemployment, is now the main concern of the French: 46% of them place the fight against terrorism at the top of national priorities. This awareness of the French citizens is legitimate and coherent. It is commensurate with the risks that weigh today on democracies, especially on France, and on the increase of threats.

Peterson Institute for International Economics

Supply-side policies in the depression: evidence from France

by Jérémie Cohen-Setton [@cohensetton](#), Joshua K. Hausman and Johannes F. Wieland

April 2017

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

The effects of supply-side policies in depressed economies are controversial. This study presents time-series and cross-sectional evidence that these supply-side policies, in particular the 40-hour law, contributed to French stagflation. However, these results are inconsistent both with the standard one-sector new Keynesian model and with a medium scale, multi-sector model calibrated to match the cross-sectional estimates.

Terra nova

Le fait syndical en entreprise : une feuille de route réformatrice pour les années qui viennent

by Christophe Clayette, Florence Dodin, Alain Gergaud [@alain_gergaud](#), Marylise Léon [@MaryliseLeon](#) and Martin Richer [@richer_martin](#)

20 April 2017

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

This article highlights the reasons why trade union activity in a company must be defended, responds to objections, prejudices and resistance which limit its development and makes concrete proposals to guarantee its effectiveness and legitimacy.

GERMANY

Bruegel

The global decline in the labour income share: is capital the answer to Germany's current account surplus?

by Bennet Berger and Guntram Wolf

April 2017

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

This paper links the major divergences between the three largest euro-area countries in terms of unit labour costs and current accounts, to the broader debate on labour income shares. It shows that Germany, like the US and Japan, has experienced a significant decline in the share of national income that goes to labour and suggests that capital and labour have been complements.

Deutsches Institut für Wirtschaftsforschung (German Institute for Economic Research)

Reading between the lines: using media to improve German inflation forecasts

by Benjamin Beckers, Konstantin A. Kholodilin and Dirk Ulbricht

April 2017

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

In this paper, the predictive ability of automatic and expert-rated media sentiment indicators for German inflation is examined. It suggests that sentiment indicators are competitive in providing inflation forecasts against a large set of common macroeconomic and financial predictors. Sophisticated linguistic sentiment algorithms and business cycle news rated by experts perform best and are superior to simple word-count indicators and autoregressive forecasts.

German Marshall Fund of the United States / Transatlantic Academy

Multilateralism in one country: the isolation of Merkel's Germany

by Gideon Rachman [@gideonrachman](#)

18 April 2017

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

If Merkel looks out from the chancellor's office in Berlin, there seems to be trouble on every horizon. Collectively, the situation threatens to revive the old German nightmare of being a large, isolated power at the centre of Europe. The common thread connecting all these challenges to Germany's global position is that many of Germany's most important partners are re-embracing nationalism and challenging core elements of the liberal, internationalist consensus to which Germany remains wedded.

Deutsches Institut für Wirtschaftsforschung (German Institute for Economic Research)

Fathers, parental leave and gender norms

by Ulrike Unterhofer and Katharina Wrohlich

April 2017

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

Social norms and attitudes towards gender roles have been shown to have a large effect on economic outcomes of men and women. In this paper, it is analysed whether the introduction of the fathers' quota in Germany in 2007, that caused a sharp increase in the take-up of parental leave by fathers, has changed the attitudes towards gender roles in the grandparents' generation.

Do women in highly qualified positions face higher work-to-family conflicts in Germany than men?

by Anne Busch-Heizmann and Elke Holst [@elkeholst](#)

April 2017

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

Changing employment conditions lead to new chances, but also new risks for employees. In the literature, increasing permeability between occupational and private life is discussed as one special outcome of this development that employees must face, especially those in highly qualified positions. Drawing on existing research, the authors investigate in how far women and men in those positions differ in their perceived work-to-family conflicts (WFC), considering the mediating role of gender specific job opportunities.

The effects of flexible work practices on employee attitudes: evidence from a large-scale panel study in Germany

by Claudia Kröll and Stephan Nüesch

April 2017

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

The effects of flexible work practices on the work attitudes (job satisfaction and turnover intention) and non-work attitudes (leisure satisfaction and perceived health) of employees are explained based on representative large-scale German panel data.

Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung (Heinrich Böll Foundation)

Zur Sache! Was die AfD wirklich will

April 2017

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

Against "old parties", "genderism" and "system media" - the AfD presents itself as if it were the only alternative. But what alternative would that be?

Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin für Sozialforschung (Social Science Research Center Berlin)

Be a man or become a nurse: comparing gender discrimination by employers across a wide variety of professions

by Dorothea Kübler, Julia Schmid and Robert Stüber

April 2017

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

The study investigates gender discrimination and its variation between firms, occupations, and industries with a factorial survey design (vignette study) for a large sample of German firms. It is observed that women are evaluated worse than men on average. Discrimination against women varies across industries and occupations, and is strongest for occupations with lower educational requirements and of lower occupational status.

Hanns-Seidel-Stiftung (Hanns Seidel Foundation)

Die Diskussion um eine Leitkultur - Hintergrund, Positionen und aktueller Stand

by Reinhard Meier-Walser

April 2017

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

What is meant by the term "Leitkultur"? What is it for or against? What content (religious, political, legal, etc.) "Leitkultur" has? Who defines these contents? These and other questions related to the topic of "Leitkultur" are controversial since the discussion emerged at the end of the 1990s. It is therefore worth taking a look back at their background and genesis. In a second step, the various

definitions and viewpoints are reconstructed in the context of the course of the discussion. In a third step, the current situation is reflected with a view to further perspectives.

Jacques Delors Institute - Berlin

A forward-looking agenda for Poland and Germany in Europe

by Jan Jakub Chromiec

12 April 2017

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

The dangerous global political situation forces Poland and Germany to cooperate more closely. In this paper, a future-oriented German-Polish agenda is proposed. The goal should be to switch from confrontation mode to a mode of cooperative assertiveness.

HUNGARY

Centre for European Policy Studies

The open society and its enemies: an attack against CEU, academic freedom and the rule of law

by Petra Bárd

April 2017

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

This paper argues that the EU's approach of 'keeping problem children in the family' has proved to be dysfunctional in recent years. It argues that backsliding by a member state in the rule of law is a European matter and that European institutions must react accordingly by employing diplomatic and legal sanctions against any country undermining the EU's foundational values. Instead of watching an autocratic regime reinforce itself with EU money, they should make use of all available instruments, including the power of the purse.

IRELAND

Institute of International and European Affairs

Capital constraints: balancing the EU fiscal rules with Ireland's capital investment needs

by Tim Costello

April 2017

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

Despite efforts by the European Commission to provide guidance to Member States on the flexibility built in to the existing rules of the Stability and Growth Pact, there remains discourse in Ireland and elsewhere in Europe regarding the constraints of the EU fiscal rules and the need for greater capital expenditure by governments. The objective of this discussion paper is to examine the main arguments that have been made as to whether or not fiscal rules contain an anti-investment bias that deters governments from pursuing large public spending projects.

NETHERLANDS

Centraal Planbureau (CPB Netherlands Bureau for Economic Policy Analysis)

Tax arbitrage incentives for mortgage prepayment behavior: evidence from Dutch micro data

by Stefan Groot and Arjan Lejour

April 2017

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

This paper exploits a set of Dutch micro data to analyse the response in prepayment behaviour to

changes in incentives for prepaying. The paper shows that the effect of mortgage interest rates on the value of prepaying a mortgage (also taking taxes and returns on savings into account) is equivalent to a change in the tax rate on financial wealth.

PORTUGAL

Foundation for European Progressive Studies / Fundação Res Publica

The Portuguese government solution: the fourth way to Social-Democratic politics?

by Ana Rita Ferreira [@arita_ferreira](#)

February 2017

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

Since November 2015 Portugal is embodying an historic experiment of a left-wing Government led by Prime Minister António Costa, from the Socialist Party with the parliamentary support of the Left Bloc (Bloco de Esquerda), the Portuguese Communist Party and the Greens. Can the Portuguese government example be a catalyst for a deeper transformation at the European level and inspire a new strategy and a new agenda to Europe's Left? And can the radical left and the centre left find more points of unity than of division also in other European countries?

ROMANIA

Expert-Grup

Between expectations and reality

by Eugen Ghilețchi [@eghiletchi](#)

April 2017

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

In 2014, the domestic banking system was shaken by one of the biggest internal crises in the country's history. The bank fraud that resulted in the theft accounting for 12% of the GDP was the consequence of flawed corporate governance in some banks, of dysfunctions and lack of coordination among state institutions, including the ones in charge of ensuring financial stability, as well as the consequence of ill-intentioned decision-makers in state institutions and banks.

SLOVAKIA

European Parliament Think Tank

Gender equality policies in Slovakia

by Silvia Porubanová

14 April 2017

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

The Slovak Republic addresses equality between women and men both in its national legislation and relevant strategic materials and documents. With the aim to strengthen institutional support for women and development of effective policies and programmes, the Slovak Republic made necessary changes in legislation and adjusted policies to better facilitate creation of conditions for effective implementation of systematic measures at the institutional level. These have been essential in the effort to achieve gender equality and eliminate gender inequalities in the society.

SPAIN

La Vie des Idées

¿Qué podemos? - Un parti en puissance

by Héloïse Nez

11 April 2017

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

The vitality of Podemos is an exception in Europe. Can the Spanish movement survive its institutionalization? Is its positioning above the right-left cleavage still relevant? To these questions, the answers sometimes can be contradictory.

Fundación de Estudios de Economía Aplicada

La reforma fiscal pendiente

by Jorge Onrubia [@JorgeOnrubia63](#)

18 April 2017

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

This article provides some recommendations on the general lines which should guide a forthcoming tax reform for Spain.

Perfilado de parados: una propuesta de herramienta para los servicios públicos de empleo

by Florentino Felgueroso, José Ignacio García-Pérez, Sergi Jiménez-Martín and Brindusa Anghel

24 April 2017

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

This document presents a proposal to develop a statistical tool enabling a diagnosis of the employability of jobseekers registered in the public employment services.

Precio de la vivienda, empleo y PIB en España

by Javier Andrés

10 April 2017

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

This paper analyses the influence of financial and market shocks on the recent developments of the aggregated output and employment in the Spanish economy.

UNITED KINGDOM

Institute of Economic Affairs

Sea change: how markets & property rights could transform the fishing industry

by Richard Wellings [@RichardWellings](#) (ed.)

April 2017

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

Following Brexit, politicians have the chance to unshackle the UK from damaging fisheries policies and reformulate the system to the benefit of fishermen, consumers and the environment. The British fishing industry has been in continuous decline in recent decades. This report argues that subsidies for the fishing industry should be phased out and replaced with market mechanisms to protect fisheries.

Institute for Public Policy Research

Devo digital: digital skills for the northern powerhouse

by Grace Blakeley [@graceblakeley](#)

25 April 2017

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

A huge opportunity will be lost if the north of England is unable to provide sufficient talent to facilitate the continued growth of the digital sector. This report puts forward recommendations that would help the North to address its digital skills gap, in order to remain competitive in a post-Brexit environment.

The 'not quite managings': the depth of income crisis in the UK

by Darren Baxter [@DarrenBaxter](#) and Miatta Fahnbulleh

4 April 2017

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

Households in income crisis, who cannot afford to pay two or more of their essential bills, are having to make the choice between heating their homes or buying food. This report argues sets out the lessons that should be learned from the fuel bank model, and highlights the need for government to begin to measure income crisis with the intention of understanding and addressing the underlying problems.

The inbetweeners: the new role of internships in the graduate labour market

by Carys Roberts [@carysroberts](#)

16 April 2017

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

The decline in the proportion of graduates entering high-skilled work has led to a rise in internships, offering interns experience in the workplace and employers a cheap form of labour. This report addresses the problems this is creating in the labour market, and puts forward policies to prevent internships becoming a barrier - rather than an aid - to social mobility.

Autonomy in the right place: school governance reform in Scotland

by Jessica Shields and Russell Gunson [@russellgunson](#)

3 April 2017

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

As the Scottish government reviews the governance structures and processes of Scottish schools, this report considers what reforms to school governance could have a positive effect on attainment, including what evidence there is for a gap between denominational and non-denominational schools. It also makes recommendations for how decision-making powers over education should be devolved to the local level as default.

BREXIT

Centre for European Reform

Brexiting Swiss-style: the best possible UK-EU trade deal

by John Springford [@JohnSpringford](#)

24 April 2017

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

Since Britain voted to leave the EU, the 27 other member-states have made 'no cherry-picking' their mantra. The UK will not be allowed to pick the parts of the single market it likes (such as trade

and investment) and avoid the parts it does not (such as free movement and the supremacy of EU law). For her part, Prime Minister Theresa May insists that free movement and the supremacy of the European Court of Justice will end. This brief outlines the best possible trade deal for Britain and the EU, given each side's red lines.

Institute for Public Policy Research

Striking the right deal: UK–EU migration and the Brexit negotiations

by Marley Morris [@MarleyAMorris](#)

28 April 2017

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

It is in the nation's interest for the government to seek a new agreement on UK–EU migration as part of the forthcoming Brexit negotiations. This article tests the options against the UK's progressive settlement criteria, and proposes a negotiating strategy for the government as discussions begin.

Fondation Robert Schuman

Brexit disillusionment or the revelation of the cost of leaving the Union

by Jérôme Gazzano and Andi Mustafaj

May 2017

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

On 29th March 2017 in application of article 50 of the Treaty on European Union (TEU) the European Council officially received notification on the part of the UK of its intention to leave the EU. This separation will occur, if agreement on a postponement is not found on 29th March 2019 at the latest.

European Parliament Think Tank

The impact of the United Kingdom's withdrawal from the European Union on Scotland, Wales and Gibraltar

by Michael Keating

26 April 2017

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

Upon request by the AFCO Committee, the Policy Department for Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs has commissioned this analysis on the impact of Brexit on the devolved territories of Scotland and Wales as well as the Overseas Territory of Gibraltar which also looks at how Brexit might affect their future status within the UK as well as their relations with the EU.

Real Instituto Elcano (Elcano Royal Institute)

La propuesta de cosoberanía para Gibraltar: beneficios para todos

by Martín Ortega Carcelén [@globalmartin](#)

11 April 2017

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

After the Brexit referendum, Spain submitted to the UK a negotiating proposal on Gibraltar, which includes a joint sovereignty, dual nationality for Gibraltarians and respect of their autonomy. The Gibraltarians who voted to remain in the EU, could use the opportunity of this solution.

E3G

Brexit scenarios - The implications for energy and climate change

by Shane Tomlinson

April 2017

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

The formal process of Brexit has started after the official submission of Article 50 on the 29 March 2017. There is massive uncertainty on how the negotiations over the next two years will unfold. The outcome of this negotiation will have major impacts for all areas of policy between the EU and UK, including energy and climate change. Scenario analysis provides an opportunity to explore how progress in the overall negotiations may impact specific policy areas.

European Policy Centre

Northern Ireland and Brexit: the European Economic Area option

by Brian Doherty, John Temple Lang, Christopher McCrudden, Lee McGowan, David Phinnemore [@DPhinnemore](#) and Dagmar Schiek

7 April 2017

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

The UK's withdrawal from the EU poses many challenges for Northern Ireland. Because of its geographical location (sharing a land border with another EU country) and distinct socio-political context (joint EU membership as a mechanism to reduce concerns over nationality and sovereignty), Brexit may turn out to be more problematic for Northern Ireland than it is for the rest of the UK.

SECTION 4 - EU POLICIES

JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS

Centre for European Policy Studies

It wasn't me! The Luxembourg Court orders on the EU-Turkey refugee deal

by Sergio Carrera, Leonhard den Hertog [@LdenHertog](#) and Marco Stefan

April 2017

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

This report argues that the EU institutions purposefully circumvented the democratic and judicial checks and balances as laid down in the EU Treaties.

Jacques Delors Institute - Berlin

The EU's external migration policy: towards win-win-win partnerships

by Nicole Koenig [@Nic_Koenig](#)

6 April 2017

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

This policy paper assesses the EU's crisis-born approach, reviews policy changes and questions whether the new partnerships are truly of mutual benefit.

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

Global migration governance im Zeitalter gemischter Wanderungen: Folgerungen fuer eine entwicklungsorientierte Migrationspolitik

by Steffen Angenendt and Anna Koch

April 2017

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

The development impacts of global migratory movements depend on their political design, and development-promoting framework conditions require intensive and binding cooperation with the partner countries of development cooperation. However, international cooperation in refugee and migration policy is summarized as "Global Migration Governance". There are currently discrepancies regarding the content and institutional development of this area. According to the authors, a normative and institutional reorganisation of global migration policy is needed.

AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES

European Parliament Think Tank

Small-scale fisheries and "Blue Growth" in the EU

by Kim Stobberup, María Dolores Garza Gil, Aude Stirnemann-Relot, Arthur Rigaud, Nicolò Franceschelli and Roland Blomeyer

April 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (156 p.)

This study presents an overview of Blue Growth emerging industries and investigates the linkages with the traditional maritime activity of fisheries with emphasis on small-scale fisheries. Positive synergies are investigated as well as possible opportunities (and threats) that Blue Growth can or should offer to small-scale fisheries and coastal communities in the context of economic growth, employment and innovation.

COMPETITIVENESS (INTERNAL MARKET, INDUSTRY, RESEARCH AND SPACE)

Centraal Planbureau (CPB Netherlands Bureau for Economic Policy Analysis)

Knowledge diffusion across regions and countries: evidence from patent citations

by Wiljan van den Berge [@wvdberge](#), Jonneke Bolhaar and Roel van Elk

April 2017

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

Universities and research institutions play an important role in producing knowledge. Through scientific research articles, patents, and licenses, this knowledge spreads to companies and other organisations. Often contacts are needed to gather the implicit knowledge that helps in applying and building on new ideas. This paper analyses the role of physical distance in knowledge spill overs from European universities and research institutions to companies. The analysis shows that the chance that a company builds on the knowledge produced at a university declines with the distance to a university.

European Council on Foreign Relations

Europe's digital power: from geo-economics to cybersecurity

by Stefan Soesanto [@iiyonite](#)

18 April 2017

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

The digital space is highly contested, with many competing strands and areas of activity. In the EU there is no clear approach to how to govern this space. This paper puts forward an understanding of digital power which rests on, first, the strength of the digital economy and, second, cyber capability. It is still the case that creating strong digital economies and strengthening cyber capability each remain important concerns for key stakeholders, and that across the European economy many growth opportunities remain to be seized.

TRANSPORT/TELECOMMUNICATIONS/ENERGY

Atlantic Council

Reform of the global energy architecture

by David Goldwyn and Phillip Cornell

April 2017

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

Between September and December 2016, the Atlantic Council convened a high-level task force to examine the state of international energy governance, and to determine if and how the prevailing institutional regime could benefit from reform. This paper represents the outcomes of those discussions - outcomes that are designed primarily to support decision-making within a new American administration, but also ones that are intended to resonate for practitioners of international energy policy across the globe.

E3G

Brexit and the EU Energy Union - Keeping Europe's energy and climate transition on track

by Jonathan Gaventa [@jonathangaventa](#)

April 2017

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

This report maps out the key risks for the EU-27 on climate and energy from the Brexit process, and a way forward for building Europe's Energy Union after Brexit. So far, there has been relatively

little political focus on energy and climate change. This is an unfortunate oversight: European citizens rank climate change as a key security risk, and investment in clean energy and low carbon technologies is central for the economic development of Europe. A positive approach is needed that both protects the EU's Energy Union and climate ambition, and recognises Europe's climate transition as core to Europe's future energy relationships and the future of Europe itself.

Real Instituto Elcano (Elcano Royal Institute)

Energía y clima en 2017: volatilidad contenida, implementación climática e incertidumbre política

by Gonzalo Escribano [@g_escribano](#) and Lara Lázaro [@lazarotouza](#)

5 April 2017

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

The main factors for 2017 in the area of energy and climate are: a more restrained volatility in oil prices and the implementation of increasingly ambitious climate policies in a context of political uncertainty.

Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung (Heinrich Böll Foundation)

Die Energiewende als europäisches Projekt: Chancen, Reibungspunkte, Handlungsoptionen

by Katharina Umpfenbach [@UmpfenbachK](#)

April 2017

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

In politically tense times, the EU is discussing the further development of its energy and climate policy after 2020. From the German perspective, the negotiations on the legislative package offer the opportunity to promote a pan-European energy market and to shape the European framework. The study shows that the further development of the European internal market is a prerequisite for the successful implementation of the energy market. Without a further link with the European neighbours the expansion of renewable energies in Germany will become significantly more expensive and inefficient.

European Council on Foreign Relations

Pipelines and pipedreams: how the EU can support a regional gas hub in the Eastern Mediterranean

by Tareq Baconi

21 April 2017

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

Large natural gas discoveries in the eastern Mediterranean have raised hopes that the region could serve EU energy needs, helping it to fulfil its goals of energy diversification, security, and resilience. Possible commercial and political hurdles are that Cyprus reserves are too small to be commercially viable and Israel needs a critical mass of buyers to begin full-scale production. Regional cooperation – either bilaterally or with Egypt – is the only way the two countries will be able to export.

Institut français des relations internationales

La stratégie des marges symétriques pour la conquête de nouvelles ressources pétrolières

by Benjamin Augé

April 2017

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

The giant discoveries of Jubilee in Ghana (Tullow Oil) and Liza in Guyana (ExxonMobil) accelerated exploration of the Atlantic basin. Oil tankers have since intensified their efforts. Crude

oil prices, which rose almost constantly between 2003-2014, have significantly increased risk-taking by oil companies. Oil discoveries in the offshore of some countries such as Ghana, have helped to strengthen the certainty of geologists, that deposits could also be found on the other side of the Atlantic. This note proposes to carry out an inventory of explorations on both shores of the Atlantic and to expose the new geological and geopolitical challenges for this type of exploration.

Istituto Affari Internazionali

Energy and climate strategies, interests and priorities of the EU and Turkey

by Lorenzo Colantoni, Dicle Korkmaz, Nicolò Sartori [@nsartori](#), Mirja Schröder, S. Duygu Sever [@sduygusever](#) and Suhnaz Yilmaz

March 2017

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

Energy is one of the sectors in which EU–Turkey cooperation could be most fruitful, possibly leading overall convergence through the common achievement of mutual interests in key areas – natural gas imports and diversification. This collaboration is undermined by the uncertainty over Turkey's position on these. This situation is partially balanced by both sides' participation in several platforms for energy cooperation on the bilateral and multilateral levels, which are aimed at the integration of the two polities' energy markets. Nonetheless, the overall energy framework still needs a strong policy boost to set it on a common path towards convergence.

Oxford Institute for Energy Studies

Turkey's gas demand decline: reasons and consequences

by Gulmira Rzayeva [@GulmiraRzayeva](#)

April 2017

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

Following the introduction of its Gas Market Law in 2001, gas demand in Turkey grew rapidly during the 2000s. Since then, however, growth has slowed dramatically as the government has come to regard its import dependence as a security risk. The country's new energy focus has been on the development of renewables, the use of domestically produced coal and the development of a nuclear programme. This paper provides a detailed sectoral breakdown of gas demand, and suggests that while consumption in the industrial and residential sectors may show some growth, gas use in the power sector is set to fall significantly.

EMPLOYMENT/SOCIAL POLICY/HEALTH/CONSUMER AFFAIRS

European Parliament Think Tank

Minimum income policies in EU Member States

by Chiara Crepaldi, Barbara da Roit, Claudio Castegnaro [@ccast_tweet](#) and Sergio Pasquinelli

April 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (171 p.)

This study provides updated facts and figures on minimum schemes across EU Member States since 2010, an overview of the evolution of poverty and social exclusion and a summary of recent debates across Europe.

Institute for Public Policy Research

Making inclusion work: how work-based learning can bring excluded groups closer to the workplace

by Alice Sachrajda [@AliceSachrajda](#) and Emma Burnell

25 April 2017

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

The experiences of the initiatives covered illustrate different ways in which training and labour market actors (educational institutions, employers and third sector organisations) engage in different forms of work-based learning to aid the integration of disadvantaged groups (who are sometimes suffering multiple disadvantages) into the labour market. They vary in their duration, from the newly established to initiatives that have developed over decades, and focus, and deal with diverse target groups.

Zentrum für Europäische Wirtschaftsforschung (Centre for European Economic Research)

Dynamics of overqualification: evidence from the early career of graduates

by Daniel Erdsiek

April 2017

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

This study analyses the persistence and true state dependence of over qualification, i.e. a mismatch between workers' qualifications and their jobs' educational requirements. Employing individual-level panel data for Germany, the author finds that over qualification is highly persistent among tertiary graduates over the first ten years of their career cycle. Accounting for unobserved heterogeneity, results from dynamic random-effects profit models suggest that only a small share of the observed persistence can be attributed to a true state dependence effect. Unobserved factors are found to be the main driver of the high persistence of over qualification.

Bertelsmann Stiftung

Wie zukunftsfähig sind unsere Sozialstaaten? Deutsch-französische Dialoge zum sozialen Europa

April 2017

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

The majority of the citizens of the EU want a strengthening of the social dimension in Europe. As a result, a majority of the population in both southern and northern Europe is ensuring that the EU guarantees minimum standards for social protection in all Member States (Vision Europe Summit 2015, opinion poll in eight European countries). However, social legislation is a responsibility of the national states, which have so far shown no great willingness to move towards a common European framework for financially very expensive national laws and regulations.

Pew Research Center

Middle class fortunes in Western Europe

by Rakesh Kochhar [@RakeshKochhar](#)

24 April 2017

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

The fortunes of the middle classes in Western Europe's largest economies are moving in opposite directions. From 1991 to 2010, the shares of adults living in middle-income households increased in France, the Netherlands and the UK, but shrank in Germany, Italy and Spain. These are among the key findings from this comparative, cross-national analysis using data from the Cross-National Data Center in Luxembourg. The study covers the period 1991-2010 for the following countries:

Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, the UK and the US.

Fabian Society

This Woman can - 1997, women and Labour

by Sally Keeble [@Sally_Keeble](#) (ed.)

7 April 2017

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

In 1997, a Labour government swept to power promising to transform the UK. This collection sets out some of the key achievements of the 1997 generation of Labour women. It also traces how they paved the way for today's women MPs.

ENVIRONMENT

Centre for European Policy Studies

The circular economy: a review of definitions, processes and impacts

by Vasileios Rizos [@vasileios_rizos](#), Katja Tuokko [@katjatuokko](#) and Arno Behrens

April 2017

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

Transforming the linear economy into a circular one is by no means an easy task. Such a change entails a transformation of our production and consumption patterns. Understanding these impacts is crucial for those engaged in designing future policies in the field. This paper reviews the growing literature on the circular economy with the aim of improving our understanding of the concept as well as its various dimensions and expected impacts. It further suggests that research on the circular economy is currently fragmented across various disciplines and there are often different perspectives and interpretations of the concept and the related aspects that need to be assessed.

Institute for European Environmental Policy

Integration approach to EU biodiversity financing

by Marianne Kettunen [@makettunen](#), Andrea Illes [@andreaailles](#) and Matt Rayment

3 April 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (171 p.)

For the EU to meet its goals of protecting and restoring biodiversity, the availability and effective delivery of adequate funding is essential. The current EU framework integrates conservation goals into its main funding mechanisms in a co-financing approach. This study identifies the shortcomings in the existing framework, which limit its conservation- and cost-effectiveness. The study finds funding levels must be significantly increased to meet conservation requirements.

SECTION 5 - FOREIGN AFFAIRS

FOREIGN AND SECURITY POLICY / DEFENCE

Atlantic Council

Our world transformed: geopolitical shocks and risks

by Mathew J. Burrows [@matburrows](#), David K. Bohl and Jonathan D. Moyer

April 2017

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

This study measures possible outcomes in terms of consequences for global gross domestic product (GDP), extreme poverty, middle-class growth, and country stability at a global level and, in specific cases, at regional and country levels. Comparing the geopolitical scenarios and their impacts provides a better sense of the scale of the different risks.

German Marshall Fund of the United States

Transatlantic fragmentations and policy adaptation: the security of Europe in 2025

by Rosa Balfour [@RosaBalfour](#), Matthew Bryza [@BryzaMatthew](#) and Jamie Shea

25 April 2017

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

This scenario-exercise looks at three different trends and their possible evolutions until 2025, aimed at presenting a credible vision for the future of transatlantic security cooperation. After the shocks of the Brexit referendum and the election of Donald Trump, and in the midst of a crucial electoral year in Europe, the terms of the transatlantic partnership are indeed put into question. On both sides of the Atlantic, the political landscape is defined by an acute feeling of uncertainty, and many share the idea that the current period constitutes a turning point in the history of the transatlantic partnership.

Cooperation in times of uncertain leadership

by Daniel Twining [@DCTwining](#), Peter Chase, Rod Hunter, Sarah Raine and Joanna Świątkowska

12 April 2017

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

The liberal world order that has been a central source of security and prosperity for the US, Europe, and Japan is under assault. This report seeks to outline an agenda for Japan–Europe–US cooperation on global trade, management of the political and economic risks of Chinese investment flows, engagement with a post-EU Great Britain, and defense against hostile influence operations and information warfare conducted by authoritarian states that seek to subvert democratic institutions.

Rahvusvaheline Kaitseuringute Keskus (International Centre for Defence Studies)

NORDEFECO: "Love in a cold climate"?

by Pauli Järvenpää [@PauliJarvenpaa](#)

3 April 2017

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

Nordic Defence Cooperation, or NORDEFECO, is a comprehensive framework of political and military cooperation, through which the five Nordic countries, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden, seek to enhance their operational capabilities and further strengthen national and regional stability and security. This paper provides a review of what has been done under the

auspices of NORDEFECO. It attempts to answer the questions of how NORDEFECO has evolved, what kinds of activities it includes today, and what it could morph into in the future.

TERRORISM

Euro-Mediterranean Study Commission

The European Union and the external dimension of security: supporting Tunisia as a model in counter-terrorism cooperation

by Stefano M. Torelli [@mideastorels](#)

28 April 2017

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

This paper analyses EU's counter-terrorism strategies in order to point out how the EU and its neighbourhood have traditionally dealt with violent extremist groups. The paper focuses on how EU countries and Tunisia are responding to the terrorist threat and proposes some suggestions in order to develop a broader agenda the EU and regional stakeholders can pursue together in order to overcome these violent extremism threats.

International Centre for Counter-Terrorism - The Hague

Extremist construction of identity: how escalating demands for legitimacy shape and define in-group and out-group dynamics

by J.M. Berger

April 2017

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

This paper examines how the white supremacist movement Christian Identity emerged from a non-extremist forerunner known as British Israelism. By examining ideological shifts over the course of nearly a century, the paper seeks to identify key pivot points in the movement's shift toward extremism and explain the process through which extremist ideologues construct and define in-group and out-group identities. Based on these findings, the paper proposes a new framework for analysing and understanding the behaviour and emergence of extremist groups.

The strategic logic of the "linkage-based" approach to combating militant Islamist propaganda: conceptual and empirical foundations

by Haroro J. Ingram [@haroro_ingram](#)

April 2017

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

This paper examines the strategic logic of the "linkage-based" approach by exploring its conceptual and empirical foundations. The framework's fundamentals of campaign planning are based on a historical analysis of successful propaganda strategies during conflict. Empirical research regarding how humans tend to interpret information and make decisions informs the strategy's campaign and message design guidelines.

Examining the nexus between organised crime and terrorism and its implications for EU programming

by Tuesday Reitano [@Tuesdayjaded](#), Colin Clarke and Laura Adal

April 2017

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

Although generally having been thought of as distinct threats, the interplay between terrorism and transnational organised crime (TOC) is evolving. Once regarded as simply co-existing, TOC and terrorist activities have the effect of reinforcing one another, transforming their relationship into one of symbiosis, in which it is increasingly difficult to meaningfully distinguish between the two. This

report examines the connection between organised crime and terrorism, and its implications for EU programming.

TRADE

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

EU trade regulations and imports of hygienic poultry

by Mahdi Ghodsi and Robert Stehrer

April 2017

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

Trade negotiations between the EU, on the one hand, and the US and Canada, on the other, have raised concerns of European consumers fearing food safety issues. Trade dispute settlements between these countries on food imports to the EU and remedies against the European Communities are other substantial factors governing the bilateral and multilateral trade policies between these countries. This study sheds light on various aspects of the particular issue of poultry imports to the EU during the period 1996-2014.

Notre Europe - Jacques Delors Institute

Trump trade: more bark than bite?

by Elvire Fabry [@elvirefabry](#)

21 April 2017

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

Since the election of the new US President Donald Trump, uncertainty surrounds the new direction that US trade policy will be taking. In this paper the author analyses the factors that will prevail in Washington's initiatives and outlines two scenarios allowing to decipher the way in which these various parameters might be played out: an aggressive economic nationalism or a protectionist megaphone with limited disruption.

DEVELOPMENT

Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (Friedrich Ebert Foundation)

Frieden fördern, Globalisierung gerecht gestalten: Nach innen und nach aussen

by Edelgard Bulmahn, Hans-Joachim Giessmann, Bodo Schulze and Andres Wittkowsky

April 2017

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

We are living in uncertain times. That is why it is more important than ever to focus our efforts on promoting peace, constructively addressing conflicts both internally and externally, and making the global framework conditions sustainable and fair.

European Parliament Think Tank

Possible impacts of Brexit on EU development and humanitarian policies

by Iliana Olivié [@iolivie](#) and Aitor Pérez

April 2017

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

Brexit could have a major impact on EU development and humanitarian policies. However, there are still uncertainties about the UK's new foreign policy approach and its repercussions on aid. The UK may act under three different scenarios (nationalist, realist, cosmopolitan) with different

consequences for EU aid. The EU could react to Brexit by adopting two distinct approaches to foreign policy and development cooperation: either limiting its role to that of a regional power or growing to become a global leader.

ENLARGEMENT PROCESS

Centar za Evropske Politike (European Policy Centre)

Towards a smart staff retention policy for the sustainable EU integration of Serbia

by Milena Lazarević, Dragana Bajić and Katarina Kosmina [@KosmiKatarina](#)

April 2017

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

Adequate administrative capacities are one of the crucial preconditions for a successful and sustainable membership of Serbia in the EU. However, experienced employees have been increasingly leaving their public administration jobs due to inadequate work conditions. The research project behind this study was initiated with the goal of assessing and understanding the intensity and causes of staff turnover, as well as factors of motivation and demotivation, and the overall job satisfaction of employees working on EU/IPA (Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance) jobs.

Centre for European Policy Studies

Why the EU should terminate accession negotiations with Turkey

by Steven Blockmans [@StevenBlockmans](#) and Sinem Yilmaz

19 April 2017

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

Rather than merely suspending accession negotiations in an attempt to keep up appearances, the EU should stand behind its core values and reset its relationship with the Republic of Turkey on a more credible and strategic footing, while pressing the regime on respect for human rights and working with civil society to keep the flame of 'deep' democracy alive.

EASTERN PARTNERSHIP

College of Europe

EU region-building in the neighbourhood: the Eastern Partnership's contribution in the South Caucasus

by Benedikt van den Boom

April 2017

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

The promotion of regionalisation is part of the foreign policy of the EU. However, a closer understanding of the mechanisms by which its policies work towards this goal is lacking. Taking the South Caucasus as a case, this paper asks how the Eastern Partnership contributes to region-building. The study adopts a four-layered understanding of region-building as the promotion of closer cross-border contacts. It induces three general hypotheses about the mechanisms of EU contributions to region-building.

Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung

New "borders" in Eastern Europe - Ukraine since the annexation of Crimea and the outbreak of the conflict in the Donbass

by Gabriele Baumann and Moritz Junginger [@MoritzJunginger](#)

April 2017

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

The principle of border inviolability within Europe was put into question in 2014 with the Russian annexation of Crimea and the breakout of the conflict in Eastern Ukraine. These events created two new "borders" in Eastern Europe: one de-facto national border in the case of Crimea and a frozen frontline in the case of the occupied territories in the Donbass. Both came into being in contravention of international law and are negatively impacting people in Ukraine.

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

From fiscal austerity towards growth-enhancing fiscal policy in Ukraine

by Tetiana Bogdan, Michael Landesmann, Vladimir Gligorov and Peter Havlik

April 2017

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

The study analyses the dynamics and the structure of Ukraine's public finances. It assesses the medium-term impact of fiscal austerity 2014-2016, examines fiscal sustainability and estimates further fiscal adjustment efforts. It evaluates the economic and social implications of current fiscal policies especially on education, health and other social indicators. It examines the benefits and costs of the medium-term budget for 2017-2019 with an emphasis on evolving challenges and puts forward policy recommendations aimed at a successful implementation of growth-enhancing economic reforms.

MIDDLE EAST/NORTH AFRICA (MENA)

Institute for European Studies

EU Cultural Diplomacy in the MENA region: a qualitative mapping of initiatives promoting regional cooperation

by Riccardo Trobbiani [@RiccardoTrob](#)

April 2017

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

This paper assesses the willingness, capacity and acceptance sustaining EU broadly-defined Cultural Diplomacy in the MENA region. The resulting qualitative mapping focuses on policies and initiatives which foster regional cooperation, both around the Mediterranean and among southern countries.

Российский совет по международным делам (Russian International Affairs Council)

Proposals on building a regional security system in West Asia and North Africa

by Timur Makhmutov and Ruslan Mamedov

April 2017

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

This paper presents proposals on building a regional security system in West Asia and North Africa. The authors propose to use the term "West Asia" to facilitate new views and approaches on the existing problems and bring economic and geographical interaction to the forefront of the relations between the external and regional actors and within regional actors themselves. The

authors emphasize the need to reorganize the economies of the states of the region, including the Arab Mashreq sub-region.

Istituto Affari Internazionali

The European Community framing of the Mediterranean (1970-1990)

by Sally Khalifa Isaac and Haidi Esmat Kares [@Haidi_kares](#)

18 April 2017

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

This paper examines the early phase of European construction of the Mediterranean during the 1970s and 1980s. It seeks to analyse how the European Community discursively constructed itself against the Mediterranean as a neighbouring space, and how it mapped the Mediterranean accordingly.

The EU's framing of the Mediterranean (1990-2002): building a Euro-Mediterranean partnership

by Pol Morillas [@polmorillas](#) and Eduard Soler i Lecha

18 April 2017

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

This paper looks into what was a defining phase for Euro-Mediterranean relations. In the 1990s the Mediterranean was presented as a source of threat, but also as a need for engagement due to proximity and interdependence. The Mediterranean was also seen as an opportunity and a responsibility. Through its engagement with the Mediterranean the EU emphasized its identity as a transformative actor, linking trade liberalization and political transformation. By looking at the institutional, political and intellectual debates of the 1990s, we can trace back some of the conceptualizations that still shape the European vision of the Mediterranean but also of itself.

The EU's constructions of the Mediterranean (2003-2017)

by Münevver Cebeci and Tobias Schumacher

18 April 2017

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

This report offers a critical discourse analysis of the EU's conception of the Mediterranean since 2003. It attempts to display how the EU's discourse on the region can be read as a boundary-drawing exercise; and how it produces and reproduces European and Southern Mediterranean identities and constructs the ideal European self against its imperfect Southern Mediterranean others. It also claims that the EU's approach towards the Mediterranean is rather securitized, depoliticizing and technocratic.

Carnegie Europe

The popular mobilization forces and Iraq's future

by Renad Mansour [@renadmansour](#) and Faleh A. Jabar

28 April 2017

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

In the fight against the self-proclaimed Islamic State, Iraq's fledgling security apparatus has fragmented into groups under, parallel to, and apart from the state. The largest organization outside direct government control is the Popular Mobilization Forces (PMF). Yet this organization remains divisive, poorly understood, and plagued by internal divisions, as it is both recognized by the state and at the behest of non-state leadership figures. Key challenges involving the PMF will shape Iraq's political and security future.

European Institute of the Mediterranean

Theorizing the role of experts in shaping Euro-Mediterranean politics, at a time of erosion of democratic legitimacy and emergence of contested issues

by Anna Longhini [@druke85](#)

April 2017

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

The main objective of this article is to understand if and how experts are contributing to shape EU foreign policy, with a specific focus on Euro-Mediterranean affairs. Empirically, the analysis is based on the study of a single case: the European Institute for the Mediterranean, understood as both a foreign policy think tank based in Barcelona (Spain) and the Secretariat of the EuroMeSCo Network.

Future of Syria

by M. Akgün, S. Tiryaki, F. Gaub, S. Kawakibi, J. Quero, E. Soler and E. Woertz

April 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (105 p.)

This study attempts to assess the post-conflict phase of Syria through its four chapters: state-building, political, structural, and legal issues; Syria's military post-conflict; Syria's economy and the war damage, possible peace keeping and reconstruction architecture; and reconciliation and minorities in Syria.

Centrum Stosunków Międzynarodowych (Center for International Relations)

Syryjska szachownica. Scenariusze przyszłości w 7. roku wojny

by Bruno Surdel [@BrunoSurdel](#)

12 April 2017

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

The first US military intervention since the beginning of the Syrian War means that the US is changing its foreign policy. President Trump has shown to the international community that unlike his predecessor, he will not hesitate to use weapons in conflicted areas. Retaliation for government troops that launched a chemical attack on rebels in the province of Idlib in early April is an important signal not only to President Assad but also to Russia, China and North Korea.

Real Instituto Elcano (Elcano Royal Institute)

Refugiados sirios en Líbano y Jordania: la solidaridad y sus límites

by María González-Úbeda Alférez [@gonzalez_ubeda](#)

18 April 2017

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

Syrians fleeing war and seeking refuge in Jordan and Lebanon face numerous difficulties caused mainly by the challenge that the huge influx of refugees creates for two countries with limited resources. It is becoming increasingly clear that without a greater commitment in implementing the international aid agreements reached at summits and meetings, both Lebanon and Jordan are facing an increasing domestic instability, which has an impact on their response to the refugee population.

Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (Friedrich Ebert Foundation)

From politics to policy: building regional resilience in West-Asia and North Africa

by Erica Harper and Adel Elsayed Sparr [@elsayedsparr](#)

April 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (141 p.)

The research for this study was conducted by the WANA Institute between 2015 and 2016 in the areas of human security, social justice, and sustainability. The chapters point to increased inter-sectorial collaboration being the key to crafting solutions for the developmental challenges facing the WANA region. Moreover, that by building resilience, empowering women, and promoting social justice, pathways towards prosperity and stability will be forged.

Bruegel

The political economy of Middle East and North Africa oil exporters in times of global decarbonisation

by Simone Tagliapietra [@TagliapietraBxl](#)

April 2017

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

Endowed with half of the world's known oil and gas reserves, the MENA region is a cornerstone of the global energy architecture. This architecture is currently undergoing a structural transformation, prompted by two different forces: decarbonisation policies and low-carbon technology advancements. The energy literature offers no comprehensive analysis of the potential impact of the global energy transformation on the MENA region. This paper seeks to fill this gap by investigating the following research question: are MENA oil exporting countries equipped to prosper in times of global decarbonisation?

International Centre for Counter-Terrorism - The Hague

Popular mobilization messaging

by James Garrison

April 2017

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

This paper examines the Iraqi Popular Mobilization Unit's (PMU) messaging on the organisation's website and social media platforms through early January 2017 to develop a more nuanced understanding of the PMU's outlook, both present and future. The paper discusses how the organisation promotes its core narrative: that it is a cross-confessional and patriotic force for the defence of all Iraqis against a brutal and evil IS. It addresses the PMU's use of messaging to refute the sectarian portrayal of the organisation and discusses how the PMU's messaging strategy implies a less threatening future for the organisation than is often anticipated.

EASTERN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

Atlantic Council

The Caspian Sea and Southern gas corridor: a view from Russia

by Bud Coote

25 April 2017

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

This report seeks to identify how Russia's approach to the Southern Gas Corridor and Caspian Sea division provide lessons for how to influence Russia's behaviour toward more competitive,

rather than monopolistic, practices. The analysis begins and ends with Russian objectives and policies in the Caspian Sea, which are integral to the development of the Southern Gas Corridor.

AFRICA

European Council on Foreign Relations

Bordering on crisis: Europe, Africa, and a new approach to crisis management

by Richard Gowan [@RichardGowan1](#)

28 April 2017

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

Strengthening European civilian crisis management mechanisms and mediating recurrent conflicts can help manage the sources of disorder in west Africa, the Sahel, and the Horn of Africa. Supporting the African Union and United Nations will be critical to achieving this; particular effort and resource should go towards helping UN Secretary-General António Guterres fix what he has called a "broke and failing" system. Taking early steps to tackle humanitarian crises is a chance to show the EU has not entirely lost a sense of strategic purpose and that it is able to meet moral and political imperatives to address human suffering.

European Centre for Development Policy Management

Conflict management under the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA)

by Sophie Desmidt [@SophieDesmidt](#) and Volker Hauck [@volker_hauck](#)

21 April 2017

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

This paper provides an analysis of the promotion of peace and security by African regional organisations through diplomacy, mediation and Peace Support Operations (PSOs) activities under the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA). It is directed towards a wider audience interested in the African Union (AU) and in the efforts by African regional organisations to promote peace and security on the continent. This work is also addressed to policy makers and practitioners seeking an update on existing information or a different lens to existing knowledge.

International Crisis Group

Burundi: the army in crisis

5 April 2017

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

Two years on, the Burundi crisis shows little sign of resolution. Political and ethnic polarisation are now tearing apart the integrity of the army, long seen as the primary achievement of the Arusha peace agreement in 2000 which brought an end to protracted civil conflict.

ASIA-OCEANIA

European Parliament Think Tank

The future of EU - ASEAN relations

by Xavier Nuttin

24 April 2017

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

Marking the 40th anniversary of the start of their dialogue ASEAN and the EU have agreed to work towards establishing a strategic partnership. While trade has always been the cornerstone of the relationship - ASEAN is the EU's third largest trade partner - the EU's ambition to expand its role

as a global actor demand increased engagement. Both sides face common challenges that can only be addressed through joint responses that involve all stakeholders. This study argues that strengthening the parliamentary dimension of the relationship would contribute to maintaining the momentum launched in 2012.

Institut français des relations internationales

Political targets: Womenomics as an economic and foreign relations strategy

by Linda Hasunuma [@LindaHasunuma](#)

25 April 2017

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

Four years have passed since Prime Minister Abe launched his Three Arrows of reform - 'Abenomics' - to revitalize Japan's economy. The first arrow targeted monetary policy; the second fiscal policy, and the third structural reform - including a measure aimed at reducing barriers to women's participation in the labour force; this part quickly became known in the media as 'womenomics'. This paper provides an overview of this womenomics strategy, and shows how a plan designed to mitigate Japan's demographic crisis and labour shortages also evolved into a foreign relations strategy to help manage Japan's reputation abroad on gender equality.

International Crisis Group

Afghanistan: the future of the National Unity Government

10 April 2017

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

Two and a half years after it was created to prevent the bitterly contested 2014 presidential election from plunging Afghanistan into turmoil, the future of the National Unity Government (NUG) is shaky, as is broader political stability. The NUG is beset with internal disagreements and discord and facing a resurgent insurgency. Several options are being discussed in Afghan and international circles for how best to tackle the political and constitutional tensions that, if left unresolved, would increase the risk of internal conflict and insecurity in an already fragile state.

Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin für Sozialforschung (Social Science Research Center Berlin)

Contextualized cosmopolitanism: human rights practice in South Korea

by Yoon Jin Shin

21 April 2017

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

Three prominent criticisms are directed against those engaging with human rights practice. First, the claim that human rights norms effectively erase the local in favour of an abstract universal; second, that human rights enterprises fail to appreciate its Western colonial continuities; and third, that the rights discourse functions predominantly in a top-down mode, drowning out the multitude of voices on the ground. Drawing on the dynamic aspects of human rights practices by and through the Constitutional Court of South Korea, this paper illustrates how such criticisms are too generalized.

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Consejo Uruguayo para las Relaciones Internacionales

Algunas reflexiones sobre el ingreso de la República Bolivariana de Venezuela al Mercosur, su desempeño como socio pleno y su actual situación de ¿cesación? en sus derechos como tal

by Ana María Pastorino

19 April 2017

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

In this paper, the author seeks to present certain issues related to the presence of Venezuela in Mercosur, since its 'forced' accession as a full member (alongside with the suspension of Paraguay) during the Summit of the Common Market Council in Mendoza (June 2012), until the current situation.

International Crisis Group

Mafia of the poor: gang violence and extortion in Central America

6 April 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (41 p.) and in [Spanish](#) (44 p.)

Born in the aftermath of civil war and boosted by mass deportations from the US, Central American gangs are responsible for brutal acts of violence, chronic abuse of women, and more recently, the forced displacement of children and families. By plaguing local businesses for protection payments, they reaffirm control over poor urban enclaves to fund misery wages for members. Reducing the impact of these schemes, replacing them with formal employment and restoring free movement across the Northern Triangle's urban zones would greatly reduce the harm of gang activity.

CHINA

Egmont – Royal Institute for International Relations

EU-China co-operation in global governance: going beyond the conceptual gap

by Balazs Ujvari [@balazs_iravju](#) (ed.)

5 April 2017

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

This paper aims to identify ways of overcoming the deadlock that often characterises EU-China co-operation in multilateral institutions and processes due to their differing interpretations of global governance. The paper draws on the perspectives of four Chinese experts of EU-China relations, each of which focuses on a particular policy domain when reflecting on how to render the co-operation of the two sides more effective in multilateral fora.

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

China's inroads into Central, Eastern, and South Eastern Europe: implications for Germany and the EU

by Jacopo Maria Pepe

1 April 2017

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

China's increased engagement in Central, Eastern, and South Eastern Europe has aroused concerns in Europe that China is pursuing a divisive strategy. Its primary goal, however, is to use the region as a gateway to Western Europe's markets while including the EU in its own Eurasian integration project. China's deepening involvement in the region could nevertheless increase

economic divisions within the EU as whole. As a trade triangle emerges involving China, Germany, and the Visegrad states, the "German-Central European manufacturing core" potentially stands to gain at the expense of the EU's Atlantic and southern European Member States.

RUSSIA

European Council on Foreign Relations

Crimintern: how the Kremlin uses Russia's criminal networks in Europe

by Mark Galeotti [@MarkGaleotti](#)

18 April 2017

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

Today, Russian criminals operate less on the street and more in the shadows: as allies, facilitators and suppliers for local European gangs and continent-wide criminal networks. This paper argues that European states and institutions need to consider Russian Based Organised Crime (RBOC) a security as much as a criminal problem, and adopt measures to combat it, including concentrating on targeting their assets, sharing information between security and law-enforcement agencies, and accepting the need to devote political and economic capital to the challenge.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Real Instituto Elcano (Elcano Royal Institute)

Los 100 primeros días de Trump

by David Blázquez Vilar [@david_blzqz](#)

28 April 2017

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

The first 100 days of Trump in the White House constitute an occasion to assess his main actions in domestic and external policy.

Fabian Society

The age of Trump - Foreign policy challenges for the left

by Ian Kearns [@IanKLabour](#) and Kate Murray (eds.)

13 April 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (113 p.)

The first months of Donald Trump's presidency have been turbulent ones. How should the left respond in these uncertain times? How does a progressive vision for the world fit with the challenges we now face? This collection of essays aims to set out some ways forward. In it, policy experts in the UK, Europe and the US, outline some of the most pressing issues we face, from climate change to nuclear proliferation and from conflict in the Middle East to international aid. They highlight how the Trump administration might bring its influence to bear in these areas, and how we need to respond.

Progressive Policy Institute

Building a new middle class in the knowledge economy

by Harry J. Holzer

7 April 2017

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

The election of Donald Trump to the presidency in 2016 has made policymakers and politicians in the US much more aware of an important demographic group – the white working class – than

before. Of course, even before the election, labour market analysts and demographers had been discovering that the economic and social outcomes among a large group of less-educated Americans – particularly men with high school or less education – were stagnating or deteriorating. In this paper, the author argues for a new set of pathways to the middle class in the US for those currently left behind in the American economy.

Cato Institute

Obama's foreign policy - Legacy and the myth of retrenchment

by John Glaser [@jwcglaser](#) and Trevor Thrall [@trevor_thrall](#)

24 April 2017

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

In this paper the authors provide an assessment of Obama's foreign policy legacy with an eye to correcting the narrative and placing Obama more accurately on the grand strategic spectrum. They argue that although Obama occasionally talked a very different game from his predecessor, his actions hewed far closer to the primacy playbook than they did to a strategy of restraint or retrenchment. With a few important exceptions, the differences between the foreign policies of Obama and George W. Bush were primarily differences in intensity, not in kind.

Istituto Affari Internazionali

Focus EuroAtlantico

by Riccardo Alcaro, Lorenzo Mariani [@llorenzomariani](#) and Nona Mikhelidze

12 April 2017

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

The review focuses on the first steps by the new US administration. During the campaign, President Donald Trump had created expectations of strong discontinuity with the traditional policy of cooperation with Europe that all previous US administrations had followed, even accounting for their sometimes significant differences. Three months into the Trump presidency, however, the elements of continuity with the past seem to prevail, on policies if not in the official discourse.

MISCELLANEOUS

Carnegie Europe / European Parliament Think Tank

Shrinking space for civil society: the EU response

by Richard Youngs [@YoungsRichard](#) and Ana Echagüe

21 April 2017

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

The EU has begun to design a multi-faceted response to the shrinking space for civil society. It is now one of the international actors most strongly committed to protecting human rights defenders (HRDs) from regimes' increasingly draconian attempts to quash civil society. Yet there are ways in which the EU's policies could be sharpened and broadened, so as to help the EU to address the more structural dimensions of the shrinking space problem. It needs to map out a clear strategic approach to tackle restrictions on civil society around the world.

Barcelona Centre for International Affairs

(Re)interpretando el islam en Europa

by Jordi Moreras [@jordimoreras](#) (coord.)

April 2017

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

This publication presents a new interpretative approach dedicated to Islam in Western Europe, which can no longer be seen as a consequence of the settlement of migrants from Muslim countries. All the contributions suggest a different way of thinking what represents today to be Muslim in Europe, which is no longer an expression of loyalty towards a cultural or national tradition but the expression of multiple memberships in diverse societies, complex and contradictory as are the European ones.

Demos

Toplines: Anti-Islamic hate on twitter

April 2017

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

This document contains the top-line results of independent research conducted by the Centre for the Analysis of Social Media at Demos. The research has measured the volume of messages on Twitter algorithmically considered to be derogatory towards Muslims over a year, from March 2016 to March 2017. This is part of a broad effort to understand the scale, scope and nature of uses of social media that are possibly socially problematic and damaging.

Investigating the role of public online forums in mental health

by Josh Smith [@Jphsmith](#), Jamie Bartlett [@JamieJBartlett](#), David Buck and Matthew Honeyman [@matt_h](#)

April 2017

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

This report seeks to investigate the large amounts of mental health related discussion taking place on public online forums, and to explore the potential for the use of computational techniques to provide robust, actionable insight from these conversations to a wide audience - from healthcare professionals and policymakers to those affected by mental health issues themselves. Furthermore, this study addresses the technical and ethical challenges posed by the collection and analysis of online forum data.