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Dear Readers,

Welcome to issue 47 of the Think Tank Review compiled by the EU Council Library* ([click to share on Twitter](#)). It references papers published in May 2017. As usual, we provide the link to the full text and a short abstract.

This issue has a special focus on Africa, with think tanks focusing on EU-Africa relations, the nexus between food and nutrition security, and migration, long-term investments in Africa, Japan's security policy in Africa and why Africa matters to US national security.

In the 'EU politics and institutions' section readers will find papers on European political advertising and on the impact of Brexit on the rights of EU citizens living in the UK and British citizens living in the EU27. Other papers in this section focus on right-wing populism in Europe and on coalition building in the EU.

The 'Economic and financial affairs' section contains articles on risk sharing and consumption- smoothing patterns in the US and the euro area, restoring growth in Southern Europe, the evolutionary paths towards a European Monetary Fund and on the role of innovation in the sharing economy.

In the 'EU Member States' section readers will find a rich selection of analyses on Germany, Spain and the UK. It includes articles on Indian high-skilled migrants and international students in Germany, defence expenditure in Spain and the damaging economics of UK employment regulation. The European Policy Centre has, together with local think tanks, published three national reports on the 'state of the Union' from a national perspective in Finland, Germany and Belgium. Finally, two articles on the Visegrád countries are included, focusing on the responses of the EU and the Visegrád countries to the post-2015 arrival of migrants and refugees and the foreign direct investment (FDI) promotion of the Visegrád countries in the era of global value chains.

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In the 'EU policies' section, think tanks mainly focus on four topics: migration, energy, health policy and climate policy. On migration, our readers will find articles on European information systems in the area of justice and home affairs, tackling irregular migration through development and asylum detention in Europe. Regarding energy, we recommend articles on UK–EU27 energy cooperation after Brexit, natural gas demand in Europe in the next 5-10 years and the Kremlin's gas games in Europe. Articles on health policy focus on the Sustainable Development Goal on Health (SDG3) and how we can afford it if we live to be a hundred. Finally, the section includes a selection of articles on climate policy, focusing on the security risks of water, climate and conflict and on greenhouse gas benchmarking for climate policy instruments.

In the 'Foreign affairs' section the wide range of topics include EU Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP), EU-NATO cooperation and building an effective European cyber shield. The section also includes articles on the new trade arrangements in the Asia Pacific region, the future of jobs and skills in the Middle East and North Africa, EU-South Korea security relations and women's leadership in Latin America as a key to growth and sustainable development.

The 'Miscellaneous' section includes articles on religious belief and national belonging in Central and Eastern Europe and on the spontaneous memorials after recent attacks across Europe.

Finally, we noticed an increase in the number of studies on the use of social media in politics. One of them is the study [Twinplomacy](#) by Burson-Marsteller which deals with the use of social media as a platform for world leaders for unconditional communication.

Another report we would like to mention is [The Future of Europe](#) by Vote Watch Europe that highlights how the EU governments behave in the Council and the power dynamics between them. Lastly, we would like to share the [2016 annual rapport of the Jacques Delors Institute](#).

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 July 2017, with papers published in June 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

Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies

We need to talk about the EU: European political advertising in the post-truth era

by Konrad Niklewicz [@konradniklewicz](#)

May 2017

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

According to the author, the EU institutions need to take up the gauntlet and start defending the European project. The purpose of this paper is to analyse potential new ways of 'advertising the EU'. The key assumption is that, whenever possible, EU institutions should follow best practices from the business sector since these have proved to be more effective in the current communication environment.

American Enterprise Institute

The case for a federal Europe

by Dalibor Rohac [@daliborrohac](#) and Federico Ottavio Reho

May 2017

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

According to this paper, a federalist approach of the EU would offers substantial promise in addressing the EU's central policy challenges and relieving the tensions brought about by the block's protracted crises. Conservatives and classical liberals should, according to the authors, embrace international federalism as a way to constrain the power and size of government. That would provide a new focal point for a reinvigoration of centre-right political platforms across Europe.

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

Από την ευρωπαϊκή ολοκλήρωση στην πολυεταξιακή Ευρώπη

by Filippa Chatzistavrou and Konstantinos Papanicolaou

15 May 2017

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

The European integration process is now at a particularly critical juncture in its history. The working paper sets out the most important internal and external challenges facing the EU, while it explores the conditions and preconditions under which a new European institutional architecture can emerge into the framework of differentiated integration, thus making easier the promotion of reinforced cooperation schemes between different groups of EU Member States.

European Parliament Think Tank / Fundación Alternativas

The impact and consequences of Brexit on acquired rights of EU citizens living in the UK and British citizens living in the EU-27

by Diego López Garrido [@DiegoLGarrido](#) and Antonio Fernández Tomás

2 May 2017

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

On the request of the AFCE Committee, the Policy Department for Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs commissioned this study, which examines the concept of acquired (or 'vested') rights in public international law, analyses the gradual establishment and evolution of

these rights and draws from case law as well as other precedents in order to establish the validity and force of acquired rights in customary and conventional international law.

Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (Friedrich Ebert Foundation)

Right-wing populism and authoritarian nationalism in the U.S. and Europe

by Thoman Greven

May 2017

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

Despite recent setbacks, right-wing populism continues to challenge liberal democracies. It can be read as a revolt of those who consider themselves losers of, or feel threatened by, socially unregulated globalization and/or cultural modernization. A common denominator of support for right-wing populism and authoritarian nationalism is a pessimistic outlook on life, which is exacerbated by the politics of fear and anger promoted by right-wing populist leaders, including the othering of ethnic minorities.

Gewerkschaften und Rechtsextremismus in Europa

by Richard Stöss

May 2017

Link to the article in [German](#) (112 p.)

The European growth of right-wing extremism and right-wing populism constitutes an increasing challenge for trade unions. Since the end of the 1990's it is known that right-wing parties also succeed at elections due to the voting behaviour of trade union members. The German trade union confederation published a closing report from the right-wing commission in 2000, which states that there is a trend and a distribution of xenophobic views amongst trade union members.

La Vie des Idées

Des politiques blancs comme neige

by Jens Ivo Engels, Silvia Marton and Frédéric Monier

9 May 2017

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

Several scandals are destabilizing democratic regimes since 1989: moralization of public life is an issue which needs to be addressed everywhere in Europe. Will the fight against corruption replace old ideological divisions?

Citoyen hackeur

by Clément Mabi [@C_Mabi](#)

2 May 2017

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

In order to increase citizen active involvement in politics, new structures are nowadays enabling individuals to "hack" democracy. Beyond words, can technology bring in-depth change to politics?

European Council on Foreign Relations

The invisible web – From interaction to coalition-building in the EU

by Josef Janning [@JJ52](#) and Christel Zunneberg

22 May 2017

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

The further development of Europe depends on the building of efficient coalitions – whether legally binding or informally arranged – through which new political initiatives for 'more Europe' can be

effectively put into practice. The expert EU28 Survey illustrates the complex network of relationships among EU Member States. However, the coalition geometry varies depending on the policy field, so that there are several political centres when looking at foreign policy or defence policy, at fiscal policy or economic and social policy.

EU coalition explorer

May 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (748 p.)

The EU Coalition Explorer presents the results of the EU28 survey conducted by ECFR in the 28 Member States of the European Union. It illustrates the expert opinions of several hundred respondents who work on European policy in governments and think tanks. The explorer creates a visual understanding of the views held by Europe's professional political class.

SECTION 2 - ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

Peterson Institute for International Economics

Governance and ownership of significant euro area banks

by Nicolas Véron

May 2017

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

European policymakers and analysts often appear to assume that most euro area banks are publicly listed companies with ownership scattered among many institutional investors, a structure in which no single shareholder has controlling influence and that allows for considerable flexibility to raise capital when needed. Such an ownership structure is indeed prevalent among banks in advanced countries such as Australia, Canada, the UK, and the US. The author shows, however, that listed banks with dispersed ownership are the exception rather than the rule among the euro area's significant banks, especially if one looks beyond the very largest banking groups.

Centre for European Policy Studies

Risk-sharing and consumption-smoothing patterns in the US and the euro area: a comprehensive comparison

by Cinzia Aldici, Paolo D'Imperio and Gilles Thirion

4 May 2017

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

This paper compares the capacity to smooth the impact of asymmetric shocks in the US and in the euro area and examines the various mechanisms through which the shock absorption occurs.

Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (Friedrich Ebert Foundation)

From crisis to cohesion - Restoring growth in Southern Europe

by Michael Dauderstädt

May 2017

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

On 25 March 2017, the EU celebrated the sixtieth anniversary of the Treaty of Rome. The Commission has published a white paper on the future of Europe, which, among other issues, addresses the questions of growth and cohesion in Europe. Growth in Europe, and specifically in the euro area, has been weak since the Great Recession of 2009. This poor performance of the euro area is caused by the crisis in Southern Europe, where GDP has fallen in three countries and grown only minimally in Italy. This paper summarises and slightly extends a larger study on growth strategies for Southern Europe.

European Parliament Think Tank / Centre for European Policy Studies

An evolutionary path towards a European Monetary Fund?

by Daniel Gros

3 May 2017

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

The paper explains that there is no need for Europe to replicate the IMF. The European Stability Mechanism (ESM) can provide the backstop for sovereigns, even without a financial contribution from the IMF. In this sense, the ESM already constitutes to a large extent a 'European Monetary Fund'. Other IMF functions such as surveillance and policy coordination should remain with the

European Commission, the Eurogroup and other existing bodies. The ESM will be called upon to act as a backstop only intermittently, in times of great financial market instability.

European Parliament Think Tank / The Graduate Institute

A European Monetary Fund?

by Charles Wyplosz

3 May 2017

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

The creation of a European Monetary Fund seems a natural next step to improve upon the European Stability Mechanism. This paper argues that such a step is neither necessary nor desirable.

European Parliament Think Tank

Implementation of the Stability and Growth Pact

by Jost Angerer and Luca Giusti

29 May 2017

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

This document gives an overview of key developments under the preventive and corrective arms of the Stability and Growth Pact (SGP) on the basis of (1) the latest Council decisions and recommendations in the framework of the SGP; (2) the latest European Commission economic forecast; and (3) the latest Commission Opinions on compliance of the Draft Budgetary Plans of euro area Member States with the SGP.

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

European SME policy - Recommendations for a growth-oriented agenda

by Klaus-Heiner Röhl

31 May 2017

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

As a result of the European debt crisis, start-ups and established small and medium-sized companies have returned into focus for policy-makers in Brussels. It is particularly problematic that larger family companies with over 250 employees or a turnover of 50 million euro are regarded as large companies. They are treated in the same way as big corporations. A better targeted EU policy on SMEs should reduce red tape for companies and include family companies that have grown beyond the defined SME thresholds. Additionally, it should recognise medium-sized industrial enterprises as key partners in implementing the objective of reinvigorating European industry by 2020.

Stepping up the game - The role of innovation in the sharing economy

by Vera Demary [@V_Demary](#)

May 2017

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

While the sharing economy is generally perceived to be very innovative, it has hardly been analysed what defines this innovativeness. The main aspect for the sharing economy as a whole is the peer-to-peer (P2P) organisation of its businesses. This allows sharing platforms to enter markets more easily, consequently increasing competition. Also, many sharing platforms are also technologically innovative. However, there is no level playing field yet between the established incumbents and the new sharing platform entrants. This calls for urgent action on the side of policy-makers to foster innovation in the sharing economy while enabling fair competition.

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

What money does - An inquiry into the backbone of capitalist political economy

by Kai Koddenbrock [@KaiKodden](#)

May 2017

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

The theory and critique of capitalism is back at the centre of scholarly debate. With it comes a growing awareness of the analytical and political importance of money and money creation. Moving from the more systemic reflections of Karl Marx to more recent work on money theory by Geoffrey Ingham and in financial economics, the paper focuses on three of money's "deeds."

Die Historizität fiktionaler Erwartungen

by Jens Beckert

May 2017

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

The paper deals with two questions: why do fictional expectations change in the course of capitalist development? And: are fictional expectations becoming more important in contemporary capitalism?

SECTION 3 - EU MEMBER STATES

BELGIUM

Egmont – Royal Institute for International Relations / European Policy Centre

New pact for Europe - National report: Belgium

May 2017

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

This report is inspired by the discussions of the Belgian National Reflection Group enriched by exchanges with National Reflection Groups from Finland and Slovakia. It reflects on the 'state of the Union' from a national perspective and discusses the main challenges the EU and its Members are facing, taking into account both the European and national perspective. Finally, it proposes ideas and recommendations on how the EU and its Members should react to these main challenges and sets out how the EU and European integration should develop in the years to come.

BULGARIA

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

Evaluating governance and corruption risk in Bulgaria

by Ruslan Stefanov [@Rugeste](#), Stefan Karaboev [@StefanKaraboev](#) and Todor Yalamov
16 May 2017

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

Corruption continues to be one of the main social problems for Bulgaria a decade after the country's EU accession. The Bulgarian public is one of the few in Europe, which trusts EU institutions more than its own government to find a sustainable solution to this problem. As part of the largest ever team of social sciences and humanities in Europe – ANTICORRP.eu, CSD has developed two case studies, which help explain the key risks of corruption in the public procurement market in construction and the way the EU has impacted Bulgarian progress on anti-corruption.

ESTONIA

European Parliament Think Tank

Circular economy with focus on waste, renewable energy and sustainable bioenergy in Estonia

by Tony Zamparutti, Alicia McNeill, Harri Moora, Maarja Joe and Evelin Piirsalu [@EvelinUPiirsalu](#)
15 May 2017

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

This briefing reviews Estonia's progress in the transition to a circular economy, focusing on three crucial and related policy areas: waste, renewable energy and sustainable bioenergy. A key challenge for Estonia in terms of moving to a circular economy will be to strengthen recycling and high rates of separate collection in cities. Estonia is not on track to meet the EU's 2020 targets for municipal solid waste recycling. The share of renewable energy has increased strongly in the past ten years, due mainly to a growth in wind power and biomass. As a large share of Estonian forests will reach maturity in coming years, Estonia has the capacity to extract greater levels of biomass.

FINLAND

Ulkopoliittinen instituutti (Finnish Institute of International Affairs) / European Policy Centre

New pact for Europe - National report: Finland

May 2017

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

This report is inspired by the discussions of the Finnish National Reflection Group enriched by exchanges with National Reflection Groups from Belgium and Portugal. It reflects on the 'state of the Union' from a national perspective and discusses the main challenges the EU and its Members are facing, taking into account both the European and national perspective. Finally, it proposes ideas and recommendations on how the EU and its Members should react to these main challenges and sets out how the EU and European integration should develop in the years to come.

FRANCE

Bertelsmann Stiftung

Is right the new left? Right wing voters in France and in the EU and how they differ

by Catherine de Vries and Isabell Hoffmann [@ur_echo](#)

May 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (28 p.) and in [German](#) (22 p.)

France is the homeland of the political labels left and right. Ever since the French revolution, it is the guiding principle through which political systems around the world are organised. However, with the mobilization of cross-cutting issues like immigration and European integration and the success of populist parties on the left and right of the political spectrum in recent elections across Europe, the utility of the labels themselves have come under attack. The evidence cited to suggest that the labels left or right might no longer be useful relate to the working class roots of supporters of populist right parties or the liberal free market ideals of supporters of the Centre left and Green parties.

Fondation Robert Schuman

French President Emmanuel Macron on the quest for a parliamentary majority

by Corinne Deloy

May 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (4 p.) and in [French](#) (5 p.)

The French were called to ballot on 11 and 18 June to renew the 577 members of the National Assembly, the lower house in parliament. After being elected as President of the Republic on 7 May last, Emmanuel Macron (La République en Marche, LREM) had to assert himself in the general election so that he has the necessary majority to implement his programme. In France the head of State plays an important role in terms of foreign policy, but he shares his powers with the Prime Minister and his government regarding everything related to domestic policy. [LREM easily won](#) and the six ministers in Edouard Philippe's government, who were also candidates, were all elected.

'Directives' in France and economic improvements in the euro area: what is the link between these?

by Jean-Paul Betbèze

23 May 2017

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

Engage in dialogue, I "order it!" It is easy to employ humour when describing what is to come over the next few weeks in France, after the general elections of 11 and 18 June, depending of course on their results. "Directives" ("ordonnances" in French) are indeed being prepared to develop further the law of 8 August 2016 regarding labour, the modernisation of social dialogue and the protection of career paths, the so-called "Labour Law" or the El Khomri Bill (the name of the then French Minister). The central aim of this law was (and remains) to strengthen the weight of social agreements inside companies. Why and how to proceed?

Terra nova

Investissons dans la petite enfance – L'égalité des chances se joue avant la maternelle

by Florent de Bodman [@FlorentdeBodman](#), Clément de Chaisemartin, Romain Dugravier and Marc Gurgand

31 May 2017

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

This report aspires to renew the policy of early childhood. The main aim of this work is to guide early childhood policy towards children and parents who need it most - by giving priority to the development of crèches in working-class and rural areas, improving the pedagogical quality in crèches and developing strong support for parents.

GERMANY

Jacques Delors Institute Berlin / European Policy Centre

New pact for Europe - National report: Germany

May 2017

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

This report is inspired by the discussions of the German National Reflection Group enriched by exchanges with National Reflection Groups from Slovakia and Italy. It reflects on the 'state of the Union' from a national perspective and discusses the main challenges the EU and its Members are facing, taking into account both the European and national perspective. Finally, it proposes ideas and recommendations on how the EU and its Members should react to these main challenges and sets out how the EU and European integration should develop in the years to come.

European Council on Foreign Relations

Germany votes: European dilemmas in the federal election

by Almut Möller [@almutmoeller](#), Aslı Aydıntaşbaş [@asliaydintasbas](#), Sebastian Dullien [@SDullien](#) and Kadri Liik [@KadriLiik](#)

30 May 2017

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

According to this paper, the EU that Germany and its partners have built together since the early 1990s has been an environment highly conducive to German interests. With the UK and the Trump administration calling into question the EU model of regional order, Berlin has made a strategic choice to seek to strengthen the EU.

Bertelsmann Stiftung

Indian high-skilled migrants and international students in Germany - Migration behaviors, intentions and development effects

by Thomas Faist, Mustafa Aksakal and Kerstin Schmidt

May 2017

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

Similar to the US and UK, immigration from India plays an important role in Germany. India became the second most important country of origin of international students and the most important country of origin of high-skilled migrants in Germany in 2015. This study examines motivations, intentions of stay and development effects of migration from India to Germany for economic and education purposes.

German Marshall Fund of the United States / Transatlantic Academy

Surplus Germany

by Wade Jacoby

25 May 2017

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

Many countries want Germany to change its economic policies. For all its differences with the Obama administration, the Trump White House has reiterated US concerns about Germany's very large current account surplus, now in its fifteenth year and exceeding 8 % of German GDP. Both administrations have worried that Germany's surplus hurts the US economy. Neither has successfully convinced German leadership a serious problem exists. In this, they join a long line of European officials who have sought changes in German policy.

German Marshall Fund of the United States

Suspicious minds: U.S.–German relations in the Trump era

by Frédéric Bozo, Stefan Fröhlich, Wade Jacoby, Harold James, Michael Kimmage, Hans Kundnani [@hanskundnani](#), Yascha Mounk, Ted Reinert [@tedreinert](#), Mary Elise Sarotte, Stephen F. Szabo [@StephenFSzabo](#) and Heidi Tworek [@HeidiTworek](#)

11 May 2017

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

The wide range of issues related to the German–American relationship was the topic of the 2016–2017 fellowship year at the Transatlantic Academy, and this report is the result of the work of the Academy fellows over the past eight months. The study follows upon previous fellowship years which were devoted to examining challenges to the liberal order both at home in North America and Europe and in the emerging, less-Western world, and the relationship between Russia and the West in the wake of the Ukraine crisis.

Countering the Islamic State in Germany and abroad: German–American policy options

by Christopher S. Chivvis and Guido Steinberg

25 May 2017

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

With the self-proclaimed Islamic State inspiring, encouraging, and directing attacks across the country in 2016, Germany faces its most serious threat from transnational terrorism groups since the 1970s. Close German–American cooperation is essential to countering this threat. The US has an interest in this cooperation, as Americans and American installations in Germany are targets for terrorists, as is transatlantic air travel, and Germany could contribute a great deal more than it currently does to global counterterrorism efforts by centralizing its fragmented security architecture under the central government and strengthen its intelligence and police services.

GREECE

Istituto Affari Internazionali

Multi-level factors of youth exclusion and inclusion in Greece

by Marco Giugni, Maria Mexi and Tristan Boursier

May 2017

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

This report discusses the main findings emerging from a study of the role of young people in the Greek anti-austerity mobilizations in 2011. After touching upon how the recent economic crisis sharpened young people's social and labour market exclusion, the authors undertake an analysis of the main domestic factors – both policy (factors related to labour market and social inclusion) and organizational (factors pertaining to social and political engagement) – that provided the backdrop of young people's radicalization and their participation in the Greek Indignant movement.

IRELAND

Istituto Affari Internazionali

Multi-level factors of youth exclusion and inclusion in Ireland

by Marco Giugni, Maria Mexi and Tristan Boursier

May 2017

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

This report contains a discussion of the main findings emerging from a study of the role of young people in the student mobilizations in Ireland in 2010 and 2011. After a brief discussion of how the recent economic crisis sharpened young people's social and labour market exclusion resulting in high levels of emigration, the authors offer a comprehensive analysis of the main domestic factors – both policy (factors related to labour market and social inclusion) and organizational (factors pertaining to social and political engagement) – that affected youth activism and provided the backdrop of the student mobilizations.

RAND Europe

Evaluation of the Atlantic philanthropies migration programme

by Emma Disley, Daniel Schweppenstedde, Emily Scraggs and Jennifer Rubin

31 May 2017

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

This is the final report of an independent evaluation of Atlantic's Migration Programme that ran from 2004 until 2014. The programme issued grants to organisations helping migrants to gain access to justice and services. The report presents findings about the impacts the programme had on law, policy and practice in Ireland.

MALTA

Fondation Robert Schuman

Labour Party due to be re-elected in the snap election on 3rd June in Malta

by Corinne Deloy

May 2017

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

On 1 May last Maltese PM Joseph Muscat (Labour party MLP) asked the President of the Republic Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca (MLP) to dissolve the House of Representatives, the only chamber of

parliament, and to convene early general elections. [MLP came out ahead in the snap election](#) that took place on 3rd June in Malta with 55.04 % of the vote; the Nationalist Party led by Simon Busuttil won 43.68 % of the vote.

NETHERLANDS

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

Why the Netherlands should step up its ambitions on global health

by Louise van Schaik [@LouiseVanSchaik](#), Remco van de Pas [@RvandePas](#), Kitty van Weezenbeek, Nico van Meeteren [@meeterennluy](#) and Frank Cobelens
May 2017

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

To ensure more coherence, this report urges that global health policy and programming are approached from an integrated perspective and recommends the installation of a Special Envoy for Global Health. This envoy could take the lead in orchestrating cooperation with global players such as the UN, WHO, WEF and the EU. Furthermore, the report argues that governance of global health challenges extends beyond the public sector. It recognizes the need to mobilize and bring to bear the strengths and perspectives of non-state actors contributing to the realm of global health, including academia, private sector and civil society.

Centraal Planbureau (CPB Netherlands Bureau for Economic Policy Analysis)

De introductie van dure technologie in de zorg

by Esther Mot, Rob Aalbers, Kasper Stuuut and Rudy Douven
May 2017

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

New medical technology can provide a lot of health benefits. However, it is not always clear whether and to what extent there is a health gain. Sometimes there are treatments with new technology in the insurance, while it is uncertain whether that technology offers value for money. New equipment or a new treatment method is in some cases not better but more expensive than existing technology. This worsens the relationship between the cost and the effectiveness of the treatment. By avoiding treatment with non or less cost-effective technology, the increase in healthcare costs can be limited in the long term.

POLAND

European Parliament Think Tank / Istituto per la Ricerca Sociale

The use of EU funds for gender equality in Poland

by Manuela Samek Lodovici
15 May 2017

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

The focus of this study is to assess how gender equality funds for 2014-2020 are allocated in Poland. The focus is mainly on the ESIF's funding within the National and Regional Operational Programmes, as well as the Horizon 2020 and the REC Programmes on the Gender Equality Objective, and the follow-up of Daphne Programmes on violence against women. The report presents to what extent the rules of projects' selection procedures determine the implementation of gender equality principles within operational programmes.

SPAIN

Real Instituto Elcano (Elcano Royal Institute)

El gasto de defensa en España: objetivos estratégicos, militares e industriales

by Enrique Fojón Lagoa

May 2017

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

Before deciding how to fulfil the commitment to increase the defence budget to 2 % of GDP, reflection must be given to the strategic objectives and military capabilities, as well as the technological and industrial returns, related with that investment.

Portugal y España: los efectos de la crisis en las relaciones institucionales peninsulares

by Ángel Rivero

26 May 2017

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

The economic crisis that started in 2008 has affected the relations between Portugal and Spain in two ways. On the one hand, it has affected a history of over 30 years of uninterrupted growth of economic integration. On the other hand, the crisis also had a political dimension which affected these relations. However, in both senses the crisis is overcome and moved towards new objectives but there are also potential threats.

Fundación de Estudios de Economía Aplicada

Las finanzas autonómicas en 2016 y entre 2003 y 2016

by Ángel de la Fuente

May 2017

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

This study analyses the evolution of revenues and expenditures and the budget balance of Spanish regional sector from 2003 until today.

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

The Catalan economy: crisis, recovery and policy challenges

by Gospodarka Katalonii

24 May 2017

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

Politics in Catalonia today focuses on the debate over secession from Spain. Until 2010 only a minority of the population supported independence, but since then there has been an increasingly important political movement favouring secession and the creation of a new, independent Catalan state.

UNITED KINGDOM

Fondation Robert Schuman

Conservatives in office favourites in the general election on 8th June in the UK

by Corinne Deloy

22 May 2017

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

On 18 April the British PM Theresa May (Conservative Party) took everyone by surprise as she announced the organisation of a snap election (3 years before the normal date) for the 8 June next. The [Tory leader lost](#) her wager to assert her legitimacy, to strengthen her personal authority and to extend her majority in order to negotiate the best possible exit for the UK from the EU, and the absolute majority that her party held in the House of Commons.

Policy Network

What will be left?

by Charlie Cadywould

3 May 2017

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

This paper examines what the composition of the Parliamentary Labour Party might be after the election, based on a 2 scenarios. First, as an added dimension to considerations of where progressives should prioritize resources in the election; and second, to begin planning for the immense challenge of rebuilding a progressive majority.

Institute of Economic Affairs

Working to rule – The damaging economics of UK employment regulation

by Len Shackleton

10 May 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (284 p.)

Legal restrictions on the terms and conditions under which employment takes place have a long history in the UK. The EU has regulated many aspects of labour markets. Much employment regulation does very little to benefit employees as a whole. Though it may protect and boost the incomes of some groups of workers, this is often at the expense of other, perhaps more vulnerable, people. It certainly does nothing to boost economic growth.

RAND Europe

International mobility of researchers - A survey of researchers in the UK

by Susan Guthrie, Catherine Lichten, Emma Harte, Sarah Parks and Steven Wooding

3 May 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (79 p.)

This report details the findings of a survey, conducted in March 2017, which provides an up-to-date picture of patterns, drivers and barriers, and perceived outcomes of mobility amongst the current UK academic research workforce. It also aims to address some of the gaps in the existing evidence, particularly around the role of personal motivations, and the interplay of experiences, personal and professional circumstances, motivations and outcomes.

Demos

Signal and noise - Can technology provide a window into the new world of digital politics in the UK?

by Alex Krasodonski-Jones

May 2017

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

This paper examines one aspect of a very broad challenge: whether technology can (and should) help MPs make better use of social media by collecting Twitter data and subjecting it to a series of analyses.

ResPublica

Fork in the road - Maximising the economic opportunity of Britain's food and drink industry

by Jake Summer and Thomas Nguyen

May 2017

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

This paper outlines why the food and drink sector must be given due focus and with commensurate support, including coordinating infrastructure and skills sector needs. The report looks at the need to increase R&D and apply new technology, which can bring public policy benefits such as better health outcomes and drive growth.

CIVITAS - Institute for the Study of Civil Society

Building homes faster? - A commentary on the government's plans for increasing the pace of development

by Daniel Bentley

May 2017

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

The UK government's housing white paper identifies the delivery rate of new homes, once planning permission has been granted, as 'too slow' and a 'major problem'. This is a new consideration within Whitehall, to join longstanding and equally valid concerns about bottlenecks in the planning system. The proposals it suggests for tackling slow development include: removing the practical barriers to development that are identified by developers; requiring greater transparency about build rates; weeding out planning applications that are unlikely to result in a start; using compulsory purchase powers on sites that have stalled. These are all useful steps in the right direction.

BREXIT

Adam Smith Institute

5 ideas: brave policy proposals to bolster Britain

by Madsen Pirie

23 May 2017

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

The author outlines five bold policy proposals that have the potential to bolster Britain's standing on the world stage.

European Policy Centre

Brexit: time for Plan B

by Andrew Duff

30 May 2017

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

Listening to the nationalistic rhetoric of the Tory election campaign, one can easily see how the Article 50 talks will fail. If we take him at his word, Mr Davis will have no choice but to reject the Commission's opening sally. He opposes the sequencing of the negotiations that the EU 27 seeks unilaterally to impose. Pragmatism should prevail on both sides and help avoid a fiasco. If there is no Article 50 withdrawal agreement, the UK and the EU will have to start again from scratch. The options range from a commercial pact under Article 207 TFEU to an association agreement under Article 217 TFEU, including intensive intergovernmental co-operation on matters of security and defence.

Institute of International and European Affairs

A guide to Brexit

by Andrew Gilmore

24 May 2017

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

While the broad parameters of the EU and UK negotiating positions are now known, much remains to be clarified about the negotiations and indeed the process of withdrawal. It is the first time in the European Union's history that a Member State has withdrawn, and Brexit is in many ways a leap into the unknown for all parties. The aim of this brief is to provide an accessible overview of what is known to date about the UK's withdrawal from the EU.

Brexit: a status report (Second edition)

by Dáithí Ó'Ceallaigh and Andrew Gilmore (eds.)

26 May 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (66 p.)

The second edition of the IIEA's Brexit Status Report provides a timely update on the process of withdrawal, including views from Ireland, the UK and from Brussels. The status report also examines the implications for the Irish economy, with an emphasis on SMEs, FDI and financial services.

Institute for Government

Taking back control of trade policy

by Oliver Illott [@Oliver_illott](#), Ines Stelk and Jill Rutter [@jillongovt](#)

16 May 2017

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

The UK's exit from the EU means that the UK will be free to define its trade policy. Theresa May moved quickly to establish a new Department for International Trade to manage these repatriated powers. This report sets out how the UK can become a powerful, independent player in international trade.

Implementing Brexit: immigration

by Joe Owen

3 May 2017

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

Brexit means the UK government will regain control of inward migration of citizens from countries within the European Economic Area and Swiss nationals. In considering post-Brexit immigration, the Government will need to take into account the rights of EU nationals currently living in the UK, the mechanism for future EU migration, how the new regime will be enforced and any changes to the border.

Peterson Institute for International Economics

How to make immigration the bridge to an orderly and timely Brexit

by Jacob Funk Kirkegaard

May 2017

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

In March, UK Prime Minister Theresa May initiated a two-year negotiation period for the UK to leave the EU. Since the referendum, she has missed several opportunities to generate political goodwill across the EU 27 and is now running out of time as the EU 27 impose their priorities on the negotiations, one of which is settling the UK immigration status of EU workers. One way the prime minister could generate goodwill would be to unilaterally announce that her government will grant all EU citizens living in the UK full UK citizenship, except voting rights. The EU 27 will almost certainly reciprocate such a British gesture, smoothing the way for successful Brexit negotiations.

VISEGRÁD COUNTRIES

Foundation for European Progressive Studies / Stiftung Mercator / Istituto Affari Internazionali / Istanbul Policy Center

Sharing the responsibility or shifting the focus? The responses of the EU and the Visegrád countries to the post-2015 arrival of migrants and refugees

by Boldizsár Nagy

May 2017

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

The key research question of this paper is why the Visegrád group countries are reluctant to participate in the EU schemes on solidarity with third states. The notions of solidarity, burden- and responsibility- sharing are clarified before reviewing in a systemic way the possible range of responsibility-sharing. The conclusion is that more responsibility-sharing within the EU as a whole would be needed, leading to a unified protection space, but in reality a shift of the focus emerges, with the effort to move protection into geographic areas outside the EU.

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

FDI promotion of the Visegrád countries in the era of global value chains

by Andrea Éltető and Katalin Antalóczy

30 May 2017

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

Foreign investment promotion had been important in the Visegrád countries during the transition process. However, the education and training problems as well as emigration have led and will lead to serious problems in skilled labour supply in the Visegrád economies, most critically in Slovakia and in Hungary. Shortage of workforce pushes up wages that will make labor more

expensive. Legal stability has shaken in Hungary and Poland. The countries compete for investments, therefore grants for foreign firms will be increasingly important. This can help in the short run and cannot endlessly compensate for the mentioned worsening business climate.

SECTION 4 - EU POLICIES

JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS

Fondation Robert Schuman

Dublin et Schengen: regagner la confiance et renforcer la solidarité entre les Etats membres de l'Union européenne

by Corinne Balleix
15 May 2017

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

The Dublin regulation that is presently being re-drafted aims to protect the area of free movement rather than share the burden of asylum seekers between Member States. The migratory crisis of 2015 demonstrated that this system could endanger the Schengen Area, kindling a confidence crisis between Member States and forcing the EU into uncertain cooperation agreements with third countries that threatened its values. Although greater border control seems vital right now, this does not mean that the issue of making a qualitative leap forward in terms of European migratory solidarity can be avoided.

European Parliament Think Tank

Contracts for the supply of digital content and personal data protection

by Rafał Mańko and Shara Monteleone [@mainsomma](#)
15 May 2017

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

The proposed directive on the supply of digital content is intended to regulate the main contractual rights and duties of parties to contracts for the supply of digital content and services, and create a harmonised legal framework for digital content. It covers not only contracts, but also where the consumer provides personal or other data in lieu of money to gain access to digital content or services. The interplay between this proposed private law instrument and the existing public law rules on data protection (notably the recently adopted General Data Protection Regulation) have been the subject of some debate.

MIGRATION

European Parliament Think Tank

European information systems in the area of justice and home affairs: an overview

by Costica Dumbrava
11 May 2017

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

The interconnections between border management, migration and internal security have become more apparent recently in the context of high inflows of refugees and irregular migrants and of increasing terrorist activities. This publication provides an overview of the existing and proposed European information systems in the area of justice and home affairs. It discusses the legal basis, the purposes, the scope of data and access, the use and the proposed changes for each information system, including issues of interoperability.

Revision of the Blue Card Directive

by Martina Prpic

18 May 2017

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

Attracting qualified immigrants to Europe has been one of the EU's key priorities for several years. However, though the EU has not been as successful as planned. The proposed directive, which would replace the [2009 Blue Card Directive](#), increases the attractiveness of the EU highly skilled migration scheme by expanding its scope, lowering criteria for admission, expanding the rights of beneficiaries, and abolishing parallel national schemes. Stakeholders and experts agree with some proposed changes, while others have received more criticism. Both EU advisory committees have issued opinions and some national parliaments have made comments on the proposal.

Consejo Uruguayo para las Relaciones Internacionales

La migración: un tema de creciente peso en el ámbito multilateral

by Juan Artola

23 May 2017

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

It is often stated that we are living in a new era of migration. Migration is inseparable from the human story but although it has always existed, it seems currently omnipresent. Migration has grown steadily: the global number of migrants increased by 38 % between 1990 and 2015. The International Organization for Migration estimates that in 2015 there were 240 million international migrants; the World Bank estimates that by 2050 there will be 405 million, representing an increase of 17 %.

Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik (German Development Institute)

What does it mean to "address displacement" under the UNFCCC? An analysis of the negotiations process and the role of research

by Olivia Serdeczny

May 2017

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

Since 2010, migration and displacement has entered the political realm of negotiations under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, under the Cancun Adaptation Framework and later in 2012 under the [Warsaw International Mechanism on Loss and Damage Associated with Climate Change Impacts](#) (WIM) in 2014. Why is human mobility included under both the Cancun Adaptation Framework and the WIM? What does it mean "to avert, minimize and address displacement", and is it different from migration governance? If yes, how? If not, then why this narrow focus on displacement in the mandate of the task force?

European Policy Center

Tackling irregular migration through development - A flawed approach?

by Marco Funk, Frank Mc Namara, Romain Pardo and Norma Rose

22 May 2017

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

Faced with a large influx of asylum seekers in recent years, but little agreement among Member States on how to share the burden, the EU is increasingly turning to third countries to reduce the number of irregular migrants. The Union's approach consists of addressing the 'root causes of migration' as well as strengthening third countries' migration management, and is based on the premise that increasing development aid to developing countries will reduce emigration. This paper

considers whether this premise is in fact true, and analyses the effectiveness of recent EU efforts in this regard.

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

Crossing the Mediterranean sea by boat

by Vicki Squire, Angeliki Dimitriadi, Dallal Stevens, Nick Vaughan-Williams and Maria Pisani
May 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (53 p.)

This report provides an analysis of the impact of EU policies in addressing the so-called European migration or refugee 'crisis' in 2015/2016. It undertook 257 interviews with a total of 271 participants across seven sites in two phases: Kos, Malta and Sicily from September-November 2015, and Athens, Berlin, Istanbul and Rome from May-July 2016. The findings and analysis summarized in this report are presented with the aim of informing academics, journalists but also policy makers involved in the design and implementation of the management of irregular migration.

Jacques Delors Institute - Berlin

Asylum detention in Europe: state of play and ways forward

by Marie Walter-Franke [@MWalterFranke](#)

18 May 2017

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

Does seeking asylum in Europe entail spending time behind bars? In the wake of the refugee crisis and in reaction to terrorist attacks, European governments are seeking tighter control over the whereabouts of migrants and refugees. In this paper, the author sheds light on EU rules regulating the detention of applicants for international protection, how they are currently implemented by Member States, and the ongoing reform process.

Migration Policy Institute

Taking stock of refugee resettlement: policy objectives, practical tradeoffs, and the evidence base

by Hanne Beirens and Susan Fratzke [@ekztaf](#)

22 May 2017

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

In response to growing humanitarian needs, more governments around the world have turned to resettlement to offer protection to some of the world's most vulnerable refugees. In Europe, proximity to ongoing humanitarian crises has led the EU to ramp up its resettlement efforts, including an EU-wide resettlement scheme and dedicated funding to support Member States initiatives. Amid immigration and refugees skepticism, policymakers must ensure the efficiency and effectiveness of resettlement systems. Yet the resettlement field lacks a tradition of monitoring and evaluation, meaning that the evidence base available to inform policymakers' actions is very thin.

AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES

Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung (Heinrich Böll Foundation)

Ocean atlas: facts and figures on the threats to our marine ecosystems

May 2017

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

Without the ocean and its resources, the wealth and wellbeing enjoyed by some of the world's population would not exist. But the future of this unique ecosystem faces a grave threat today. That is because the principle of the freedom of the seas, which has held for hundreds of years, and which granted everyone unlimited access to the ocean and its resources, has resulted in overfishing, the loss of biodiversity, and ocean pollution. Our oceans and coasts are important parts of our environment – and they urgently need our protection. The atlas is intended to illustrate the important role played by the ocean and its ecosystems – not only for people living on the coasts but for all of us.

COMPETITIVENESS (INTERNAL MARKET, INDUSTRY, RESEARCH AND SPACE)

European Policy Centre

Rewarding quality journalism or distorting the Digital Single Market? The case for and against neighbouring rights for press publishers

by Jean-Michel Bruguière, Frédéric Dumont, Iva Tasheva [@Iva_Tasheva](#) and Fabian Zuleeg [@FabianZuleeg](#)

29 May 2017

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

In September 2016, the Commission proposed to introduce 'neighbouring rights' for press publishers at EU level. These rights give publishers additional protection, entitling them to receive remuneration in the form of royalties from online services (such as search engines and news aggregators) that, for example, display snippets of news in search results. The aim of this report is to assess the economic and societal consequences of neighbouring rights, as well as their legal frameworks, based on the experience of recent ancillary copyright laws in Germany and Spain. However, national experiences have not been satisfactory so far.

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

The European construction value chain: performance, challenges and role in the GVC

by Paul Baker, Luca Giustozzi, Jakub Gloser, Doris Hanzl-Weiss, Erik Merkus, Roelof-Jan Molemaker and Robert Stehrer

May 2017

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

Several years after the global slump, the construction industry and sectors with construction-related activities and firms still feel the impact of that crisis. In contrast, several years prior to the crisis, there had been a major construction bubble. This report outlines the significance of the construction sector for the EU economy, given its potential in job creation in micro and small enterprises as well as its role as a major consumer of intermediate products and related services. Developments within the industry have wide-reaching, not least in terms of achieving the ambition of smart, sustainable and inclusive growth that is at the heart of the Europe 2020 strategy.

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

Export as a form of SME-internationalisation after the crisis – Experiences of three European regions

by Andrea Éltető

28 May 2017

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

European SMEs were hit by the international crisis of 2008 and export activity was an important component of recovery. This paper concentrates on the post-crisis period of the Iberian, Baltic and Visegrád countries. As global firms have spread and these countries are strongly involved in global production networks, the theory of international new ventures and the network approach can especially be appropriate. The significance of SMEs in employment and export and their pace of recovery is different in the three regions. Overall, product features and manager attitude proved to be the most important in export competitiveness.

European Parliament Think Tank

Major challenges for EU tourism and policy responses

by Vasileios Margaras [@VasilisMargaras](#)

16 May 2017

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

The paper analyses the major challenges for EU tourism and the EU policy responses so far. It describes EU legislation that affects tourism and various other initiatives adopted by the European Commission and the Council of the EU. It provides a list of EU funding opportunities for tourism-related activities. Finally, it also provides the position of the European Parliament on strategies on tourism as well as the opinions of other advisory bodies.

TRANSPORT/TELECOMMUNICATIONS/ENERGY

Chatham House - The Royal Institute of International Affairs

Staying connected - Key elements for UK–EU27 energy cooperation after Brexit

by Antony Froggatt, Georgina Wright and Matthew Lockwood

10 May 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (60 p.)

Energy policy negotiations post-Brexit offer the UK and the EU an important opportunity to find common ground and develop new models of partnership which are imperative to the UK's future.

Overseas Development Institute

Cutting Europe's lifelines to coal: tracking subsidies in 10 countries

by Shelagh Whitley [@shelaghwhitley](#), Laurie van der Burg [@LaurievdBurg](#), Leah Worrall and Sejal Patel

May 2017

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

This report reviews subsidies to coal in 10 countries that produce 84 % of Europe's energy-related greenhouse gas emissions: France, the Czech Republic, Germany, Greece, Italy, Hungary, the Netherlands, Poland, Spain and UK. It is accompanied by individual briefs for each of the countries setting out where subsidies to coal remain. The research finds that despite significant commitments to address climate change, fossil fuel subsidies and air pollution, all countries

reviewed still provided some form of subsidy to coal, in the form of budgetary support or tax breaks, in 2016.

Oxford Institute for Energy Studies

Natural gas demand in Europe in the next 5-10 years

by Anouk Honoré

11 May 2017

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

In this presentation, Anouk Honoré argues that even if gas demand growth in 2015 and 2016 may not necessarily be signs of recovery, the next 5-10 years will/could be different from the longer term 'future of gas' debate in Europe. She analyses the reasons to believe why gas demand could stay high in this timeframe. The presentation concludes that now is the time to make the arguments of the immediate benefits of natural gas, but at the same time, there will not be 'one scenario fits all' and specific factors need to be considered for each country. This presentation will be followed by an Insight to be published in June 2017.

The Dutch gas market: trials, tribulations, and trends

by Anouk Honoré

May 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (63 p.)

The Dutch gas market is at a turning point. A strong earth tremor in 2012 caused by gas extraction prompted the government to take action and restrain production. In 2016, gas production was less than half the volumes produced just three years before. The use of renewables and an increased focus on energy efficiency have become key policy drivers. This evolution casts doubt over the future of gas in the country and in Europe, mainly for those in North-West Europe whose imports of Dutch gas have been important. It is no longer 'business as usual' and this paper offers some food for thought on the challenges and prospects/expectations for the Dutch gas industry.

Rahvusvaheline Kaitseuringute Keskus (International Centre for Defence Studies)

Desynch or sink: a political analysis of Baltic electricity desynchronization

by Emmet Tuohy [@ectuohy](#) and Anna Bulakh [@Bulakh_Anna](#)

8 May 2017

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

The electricity grids of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania are still synchronized with Russia and Belarus in the framework of the so-called BRELL agreement. However, the Baltic states have clearly stated their intent to terminate this agreement and synchronize their grids with those of Europe. While representing a significant milestone both in reducing exposure to Russia's strategy of coercion and further integrating the Baltic states into Europe, this "BRELLxit" process might also cause some risks – ranging from possible Moscow's efforts to derail it to the exploitation of the Baltic states' de-synchronization to justify various forms of pressure or even aggression.

Expert-Grup/ National Endowment for Democracy

Energy, Russian influence and democratic backsliding in Central and Eastern Europe - A comparative assessment and case studies from Belarus, Ukraine, Moldova, Hungary, Romania

by Ana Otilia Nuțu and Sorin Ioniță

16 May 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (106 p.)

In Eastern Europe, two governance models collide. One is the liberal, Western model, the other is the illiberal alternative. Kremlin's influence in the region takes two forms. First, it seeks to influence

policy decisions in a country by exerting control over a strategic sector in the economy. It has a penchant for energy, the obvious choice considering how dependent these countries are on Soviet-built infrastructure (pipelines, technology). Second, and partly coupled with comes the support given to politicians, parties and movements in order to influence directly the domestic policies of these countries or their position in the EU on issues that affect Russia's interests.

Atlantic Council

The Kremlin's gas games in Europe: implications for policy makers

by Ilya Zaslavskiy

24 May 2017

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

The brief presents policy recommendations for US and European policy makers as the EU negotiates Gazprom's latest pipeline project, Nord Stream 2. Examining previous Gazprom pipeline projects, the author argues that while Gazprom presents itself as an independent competitive firm, it has a consistent track record of acting as an arm of the Kremlin's foreign and economic policy. For the author, Nord Stream 2 will present a major challenge to European law and EU principles and jeopardize the security interests of the US and its European allies.

EMPLOYMENT/SOCIAL POLICY/HEALTH/CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Institute for European Environmental Policy

Natura 2000 and jobs

by Konar Mutafoglu [@KonarMutafoglu](#) and Patrick ten Brink [@tenBrinkPatrick](#)

30 May 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (174 p.) and to the [summary](#) (32 p.)

The European Natura 2000 network provides job opportunities in sectors ranging from conservation and restoration, agriculture, forestry, fisheries to tourism, recreation, and health.

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

The dynamic and distributional aspects of import tariffs

by Wolfgang Lechthaler and Mariya Mileva

May 2017

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

The authors describe a dynamic trade model with two sectors and two types of workers to analyze the optimal setting of income-generating tariffs. This approach allows the authors to take account of adjustment dynamics, distributional aspects and the time horizon of policy makers and workers. In response to a unilateral increase in tariffs aggregate consumption increases only sluggishly so that policy makers with a short time horizon tend to set lower tariffs. Workers' preferences for tariffs depend on the sector where they are employed as well as their skill class, with the relative weight of both aspects determined by the time horizon of the workers.

European Parliament Think Tank

Gender gap in pensions: looking ahead

by Agnieszka Chłoń-Domińczak

15 May 2017

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

The study was commissioned, overseen and published by the European Parliament's Policy Department for Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs at the request of the FEMM Committee.

The issue of gender gap in pensions has aroused increasing attention over recent years. While the current gap in pension levels between men and women reflects past labour market tendencies and design of pension systems, pronounced changes have occurred with regard to both employment of women and pension systems. The index proposed spans two domains: the employment gap and pension system compensation.

Friends of Europe

Disruptive models of healthcare for Europe

10 May 2017

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

If healthcare could be transformed by the kind of 'disruptive innovation' that has revolutionised other sectors of the economy, the potential efficiency and cost gains would be huge. Could this type of innovation pave the way for a much needed shake-up of our healthcare systems? The report shows that we have the means to overcome the challenges faced by our healthcare systems. What we need now is political courage and leadership to allow a mindset shift that will drive health innovation across Europe.

European Policy Centre

Sustainable Development Goal on Health (SDG3): the opportunity to make EU health a priority

by Paula Franklin

18 May 2017

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

European health systems face growing challenges: rising healthcare costs; an ageing population; a shortage of health professionals; and inequality in access to quality healthcare. Addressing these problems at EU level is a challenge due to the Union's fragmented approach and the fact that health is still a competence of the Member States. In this paper the author calls for a better integration of the Sustainable Development Goal on Health in the EU's work on health, as it provides an framework to coordinate the numerous EU actions on health.

World Economic Forum

We'll live to 100 – How can we afford it?

May 2017

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

The challenges we face to provide our ageing societies with a financially secure retirement are known. In countries around the world, standards of living and healthcare advancements are allowing people to live longer. However, we should consider the implications for the financial systems, which in many countries are already under severe strain. This report has been produced as part of the Forum's Retirement Investment Systems Reform project that has brought together pension experts to assess opportunities for reforms that can be adopted to improve the likelihood of our retirement systems adequately and sustainably supporting future generations.

Beyond organizational scale: how social entrepreneurs create systems change

by Katherine Milligan, Cynthia Schweer Rayner, Camilla Thorogood, François Bonnici and Karen Saez

May 2017

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

The objective of this research report is to help practitioners understand what systems change means in the context of social entrepreneurship, how it is distinct from direct service or "business-in-a-box" models and, most importantly, what it looks like in practice – not as lofty exhortations and

abstract concepts, but as a set of concrete activities, processes, and leadership lessons. The intent is to move beyond systems theories and instead tell the stories of how these theories can be applied across a range of circumstances.

ENVIRONMENT

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

Water, climate and conflict: security risks on the increase?

by W. Ligtvoet, J. Knoop, S. de Bruin, D. van Vuuren, H. Visser, K. Meijer, R. Dahm and L. van Schaik [@LouiseVanSchaik](#)

May 2017

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

This note explores the multidimensional relationship between water, climate change, human security and political conflict. The relationship between these is straightforward. The relationships between water, climate and political conflict is complex and depends strongly on political, economic, societal and cultural contexts. Water and climate conditions in the world are expected to change dramatically due to population growth, further economic development and climate change. It is projected that these developments will lead to increased water. Also, the implementation of mitigation policies may unintentionally aggravate water stress and competition.

New Climate Institute for Climate Policy and Global Sustainability

A guide to greenhouse gas benchmarking for climate policy instruments

by Carsten Warnecke [@CaWarnecke](#) and Ritika Tewari [@RitikaTewari](#)

23 May 2017

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

This document provides practical guidance on key design elements for establishing GHG benchmarks for applications in climate policy instruments. It discusses benchmarking applications for the Emission trading schemes (determining allocation of emissions allowances), carbon taxes (determining tax exemptions), and scaled-up crediting programs (baseline development). The process of GHG benchmark development, implementation and management is explained and illustrated.

NDC update report – Ambition to action

by Frauke Röser [@fraueroe](#) and Katharina Lütkehermöller

24 May 2017

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

The report critically looks at recent developments around NDC implementation across three actor groups (governments, international support/ donors, non-state actors) and presents the findings of a survey carried out among government representatives and practitioners working on NDC implementation.

SECTION 5 - FOREIGN AFFAIRS

FOREIGN AND SECURITY POLICY / DEFENCE

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

Das neue "Europa der Sicherheit" - Elemente für ein europäisches Weißbuch zur Sicherheit und Verteidigung

by Annegret Bendiek [@annegretbendiek](#)

May 2017

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

In July 2017, Estonia will chair the Council of the EU. Estonia's main themes will be digitalization and EU's Common Foreign Security and Defence Policy.

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

The European Union's Common Foreign and Security Policy after the Treaty of Lisbon

by Panos Koutrakos [@panoskoutrakos](#)

May 2017

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

The CFSP is a relatively recent add-on to the external action toolkit of the EU. Introduced as a distinct policy framework cohabitating with that of the classic Community external relations, its hallmark remains its predominant intergovernmental nature. In this report, the author provides a perceptive and timely analysis of the particular impact that the Lisbon Treaty has had on the CFSP, within the broader constitutional and substantive legal context of the Union. It also deciphers the implications of the Lisbon reforms on the EU as a global actor more generally.

European Union Institute for Security Studies

After the EU Global Strategy – Building resilience

by Florence Gaub [@FlorenceGaub](#) and Nicu Popescu [@nicupopescu](#)

29 May 2017

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

As well as introducing new decisions and actions in the field of security and defence, the EU Global Strategy stresses the imperative to build resilience in the EU neighbouring countries and surrounding regions. This volume seeks to shed more light on the different definitions of the concept and how these may be applied in specific functional and geographic areas. It aims to clarify not only the meaning of the term but also its policy implications in the wider security context, showing how resilience needs be understood as a dynamic process involving a number of EU policies, external partners and local players.

EUISS Yearbook of European Security 2017

by Jakob Bund [@jln_bund](#), Daniel Fiott [@DanielFiott](#), Thierry Tardy and Zoe Stanley-Lockman [@zoemsl](#)

17 May 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (167 p.)

The EUISS Yearbook of European Security (YES) is the annual publication compiling key documents and data related to the EU's CFSP. This edition offers a comprehensive picture of the actors, institutions and processes that underpinned the Union's foreign and security policy and external action in 2016. In addition to updated data on instruments and policies covered in the

previous editions, YES 2017 provides new information on, inter alia, the EU Security and Defence Package 2016, defence cooperation and industry, as well as forces and deployments.

Fondation Jean Jaurès

Les industries européennes de défense

by Elisabeth Guigou [@elisabethguigou](#) and Gwendal Rouillard [@G_ROUILLARD](#)

30 May 2017

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

In a degraded geopolitical context, the EU must rely on European strategic autonomy in industrial matters in order to assert itself as an actor in international security. According to the authors who put forward proposals to make the EU a respected global power, this is the key to strengthening European sovereignty and making European companies competitive players in globalization.

Pew Research Center

NATO's image improves on both sides of Atlantic

by Bruce Stokes [@bruceestokes](#)

23 May 2017

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

In both North America and Europe, views of NATO have generally improved over the past year. Today, roughly six-in-ten Americans hold a favourable opinion of the security alliance, up from just over half in 2016, according to a new Pew Research Center survey. Majority support for NATO has also strengthened in Canada, Germany, the Netherlands and Poland. And after a steep decline a year ago, most French again express a favorable view of the security alliance.

Rahvusvaheline Kaitseuringute Keskus (International Centre for Defence Studies)

A new era of EU-NATO cooperation. How to make the best of a marriage of necessity

by Kristi Raik and Pauli Järvenpää [@PauliJarvenpaa](#)

12 May 2017

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

This report examines the challenges and opportunities for EU-NATO cooperation in the fields of defense and security. The challenges confronting both the EU and NATO today are severe and complex, including terrorism, refugee and migration crises, hybrid threats, cyber-attacks, and a Russia willing to break international law and other treaties and agreements, thus undermining the post-World War II international order. The importance of EU-NATO cooperation, based on shared values and interests, has become more critical than ever.

Boosting the deterrent effect of allied Enhanced Forward Presence

by Jüri Luik [@juri_luik](#) and Henrik Praks [@HenrikPraks](#)

12 May 2017

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

At the Warsaw Summit in July 2016, NATO allies decided to establish an enhanced forward presence on the territory of the Baltic states and Poland "to unambiguously demonstrate, as part of our overall posture, Allies' solidarity, determination, and ability to act by triggering an immediate Allied response to any aggression". The implementation of this historic decision has now resulted in the first-ever stationing of combat-ready troops from other Allied nations in the Baltic region.

Atlantic Council

NATO and Trump - The case for a new transatlantic bargain

by Fabrice Pothier [@FabricePothier](#) and Alexander Vershbow [@ARVershbow](#)

23 May 2017

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

A turbulent security environment in Europe and strong rhetoric from President Trump have brought renewed attention to NATO, its role in dealing with shared security challenges, and the future of the US' relationship with its allies. As part of the Atlantic Council's project 'A New Deal for NATO,' this article provides pivotal insight and recommendations on how the US and European allies can move forward to renew the transatlantic security and defense agenda, and make progress on these areas, with the goal of bolstering our shared security.

European Parliament Think Tank

Cybersecurity in the EU Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) - Challenges and risks for the EU

by Panagiotis Trimintzios, Georgios Chatzichristos, Silvia Portesi, Prokopios Droghkaris [@PDroghkaris](#), Lauri Palkmets [@LauriPalkmets](#), Dimitra Liveri [@DimitraLiveri](#) and Andrea Dufkova

16 May 2017

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

This report has the aim of identifying risks, challenges and opportunities for cyber-defence in the context of the EU CSDP. Acceptance of cyber as an independent domain calls for the investigation of its integration with the EU's current and future policies and capabilities. ENISA analysed the related literature and work on cybersecurity, including its own publications, to form the basis for this study.

European Political Strategy Centre

Building an effective European cyber shield: taking EU cooperation to the next level

8 May 2017

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

Breaches of sensitive data, mass disinformation campaigns, cyberespionage and attacks on critical infrastructure – these are no longer futuristic threats, but real events that affect individuals, businesses and governments on a daily basis. Yet they remain largely unprosecuted. Though so far below the threshold of outright war, cyber aggression is emerging as a major new vector that can be activated to achieve strategic superiority, destabilise states, and cause large-scale economic damage.

Istituto Affari Internazionali

I regimi di esportazione G2G di sistemi d'arma: uno studio comparativo

by Alessandro Riccardo Ungaro [@AleRUnga](#)

May 2017

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

Government-to-Government (G2G) agreements remain a strategic industrial policy instrument that allows the state to support its defence industry abroad. Over the last few years there has been a significant increase in the G2G agreements, not only in the European framework but also globally, as a response to the evolution of military equipment in technology as well as defence and security policies. This study compares the British, French and Italian G2G activities.

Chatham House - The Royal Institute of International Affairs

Advancing human security through artificial intelligence

by Heather Roff [@HMRoff](#)

11 May 2017

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

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is one potential way to enable real-time, cost-effective and efficient responses to a variety of human security-related issues. With increased connectivity, more sophisticated sensor data and better algorithms, AI applications may prove beneficial in securing basic needs and alleviating or stopping violent action.

The humanitarian impacts of nuclear testing: regional responses and mitigation measures

by Beyza Unal [@beyzaunal](#), Patricia Lewis [@PatriciaMary](#) and Sasan Aghlani [@Aghlani](#)

8 May 2017

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

This report explores the wide-ranging consequences of nuclear weapons testing throughout history. Nuclear weapons tests have caused damage to human health and the environment, and have had noted impacts on cultural heritage, food security, water security, indigenous peoples and local communities. They have led to problems such as land confiscation and population displacement. The effects on regions inhabited by indigenous groups, where so many of the nuclear tests have been conducted, have been especially severe.

Norsk Utenrikspolitisk Institutt (The Norwegian Institute of International Affairs)

Iceland's relations with its regional powers - Alignment with the EU-US sanctions on Russia

by Baldur Thorhallsson and Pétur Gunnarsson

4 May 2017

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

The paper examines the Icelandic government's consideration to withdraw its support for the sanctions against Russia over Ukraine in 2015. The consideration came as a surprise to many since Iceland in the past has habitually aligned itself closely with the US and the EU in such matters. The paper discusses what this case tells us about Icelandic policymakers' room for maneuvering in the formulation and enactment of its foreign policy, and about Iceland's foreign policy bonds to the US and the EU.

College of Europe

How the European External Action Service deals with religion through religious freedom

by François Foret

May 2017

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

The purpose of this paper is to understand why and how the European External Action Service (EEAS) has developed a specific approach towards religion, an approach characterised by the focus on freedom of religion and belief. The research question is to assess the level of autonomy and distinctiveness of religion as a policy issue. The European diplomatic strategy on religion reflects geopolitical and societal changes at the global scale. It is also an effort of the EEAS to assert itself as a political player and to reinforce the profile of the EU in international relations.

GEOPOLITICS AND STRATEGY

Center for a New American Security

The return of Marco Polo's world and the U.S. military response

by Robert D. Kaplan

16 May 2017

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

As Europe disappears, Eurasia coheres. The supercontinent is becoming one fluid, comprehensible unit of trade and conflict, as the Westphalian system of states weakens and older, imperial legacies – Russian, Chinese, Iranian, Turkish – become paramount. Every crisis from Central Europe to the ethnic-Han Chinese heartland is now interlinked. There is one singular battlespace. What follows is an historical and geographical guide to it.

TRADE

Bertelsmann Stiftung

Globalisation and the welfare state - Can the welfare state still keep up with globalisation?

by Christian Bluth [@christianbluth](#)

May 2017

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

Globalisation needs to be accompanied by a strong welfare state. This paper suggests that the complementarity between openness to trade and a strong welfare state weakened over time. While trade improves net welfare, it comes with increased vulnerability to external shocks, decline of certain sectors of the economy, etc. In order to insure against these side-effects, a strong welfare state is needed. However, while globalisation is accelerating, the welfare state stagnates. Looking at historical evidence, it shows that the once positive correlation between the welfare state and openness to trade has gradually declined and is presently almost flat.

Centre for European Reform

Unfreezing TTIP: why a transatlantic trade pact still makes strategic sense

by Rem Korteweg [@remkorteweg](#)

11 May 2017

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

For too long, the EU and European governments have avoided publicly discussing the strategic dimension of its trade policy: how trade deals can protect and promote European values in a changing geopolitical context; how they can strengthen the West in light of growing competition from non-democratic countries; and how they can contribute to European foreign policy objectives. A debate about a transatlantic trade pact's merits and shortcomings is incomplete without broader consideration of the strategic and foreign policy implications of a deal.

European Parliament Think Tank

From TPP to new trade arrangements in the Asia-Pacific region

by Krisztina Binder

24 May 2017

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

The Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) is a comprehensive regional agreement dealing with a wide range of trade and trade-related issues. In January 2017, President Donald Trump withdrew the US from the TPP, making it impossible for the agreement to take effect. The failure of the TPP is

likely to influence the way that other economic and trade cooperation initiatives, including the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), will develop in the Asia-Pacific region. The US withdrawal also represents an opportunity for the EU, which is strongly committed to a robust trade policy and an open trading system, to advance its interests in the region.

Peterson Institute for International Economics

G-7 - Economic cooperation in the Trump era

by C. Fred Bergsten, Edwin M. Truman and Jeromin Zettelmeyer [@jzettelmeyer](#)

May 2017

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

This paper examines how G-7 cooperation can be maintained in the Trump era. Its working assumption is that the US administration will remain open to international cooperation in principle and yet be constrained by Trump's economic nationalism and specific campaign promises, such as reducing trade imbalances. The main finding is that useful areas for G-7 macroeconomic, trade, and financial cooperation continue to exist even after taking US constraints into account. At the same time, leaders of the other countries need to be prepared to proceed on their own if attempts to convince the US administration that G-7 economic cooperation is in the interests of all members.

DEVELOPMENT

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

Is foreign aid concentrated increasingly on needy and deserving recipient countries? An analysis of Theil Indices, 1995-2015

by Frank Bickenbach, Asithandile Mbelu and Peter Nunnenkamp

May 2017

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

By tracking the changes in different margins of [Theil indices](#) during the period 1995-2015, the authors reconsider the question of whether bilateral and multilateral donors have targeted aid increasingly to particularly needy recipient countries with relatively good governance in order to improve the effectiveness of aid. According to their findings, the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness in 2005 has not changed the donors' aid allocation systematically and consistently. Bilateral aid has become slightly more concentrated on poorer recipient countries, but most donors became less selective in granting aid to higher income countries.

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

On the current account - Biofuels link in emerging and developing countries: do oil price fluctuations matter?

by Gabriel Gomes, Emmanuel Hache [@EcoHache](#), Valérie Mignon and Anthony Paris

May 2017

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

Many developed countries promote the use of biofuels for environmental concerns, leading to a rise in the price of agricultural commodities used in their production. Such environmental policies have major effects on the economy of emerging and developing countries whose activity is highly dependent on agricultural commodities involved in biofuel production. This paper tackles this issue by examining the price impact of biofuels on the current account for a panel of 16 developing and emerging countries, and the potential nonlinear effect exerted by the price of oil on this relationship.

EUROPEAN NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICY

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

The obsolescence of the European neighbourhood policy

by Steven Blockmans [@StevenBlockmans](#)

May 2017

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

Among the many amendments the Treaty of Lisbon introduced to the external action of the EU, one relates specifically to the way in which the EU interacts with its neighbours. According to Article 8 TEU, the Union shall 'develop a special relationship with the neighbouring countries aiming to establish an area of prosperity and good neighbourliness, founded on the values of the Union and characterised by close and peaceful relations based on cooperation'. How has this mandate impacted, if at all, the so-called European Neighbourhood Policy which the Union had developed in the wake of its 2004 enlargement to central and eastern Europe?

Institut français des relations internationales

Défense ukrainienne: une réforme difficile face à des défis multiples

by Isabelle Facon [@IFacon](#)

May 2017

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

Three years after the revolution, important transformations were launched in the army. New strategic documents have been published which reflect the complexity of the issues affecting the national security of Ukraine. However, military reform still suffers from multiple constraints such as available state resources, but also to the resistance of national actors and inter-institutional conflicts.

Transatlantic Academy

Getting Beyond Minsk: toward a resolution of the conflict in Ukraine

by Michael Kimmage [@mkimmage](#)

11 May 2017

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

The military conflict between Ukraine and Russia remains unresolved. The Minsk diplomatic process, which will be three years old in September 2017, committed Russia to a withdrawal of military forces from the Donbas region and committed Ukraine to constitutional reform and providing special status for the Donbas. The first step of Minsk, a ceasefire, has never fully gone into effect, and the situation is currently drifting toward a frozen conflict or a renewal of hostilities between Ukraine and Russia. This paper argues that the Trump administration should make a renewed diplomatic push in the direction of resolving this conflict.

Expert-Grup

Monitorul financiar: analiza principalelor reforme din sectorul financiar din Republica Moldova

by Eugen Ghilețchi [@eghiletchi](#)

4 May 2017

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

This paper presents the main developments and progress in the implementation of the recommendations made by the target authorities on the basis of a plan comprised of 7 objectives addressing systemic weaknesses identified in the banking sector in Moldova. These objectives are

the low level of independence of the National Bank of Moldova; insufficient monitoring and banking supervision instrument; low transparency on end-users of bank shares; the poor quality of corporate governance in most banks; insufficiency of mechanisms for accountability of shareholders and bank managers; "off-shortening" the banking sector and limited capacity of banks to absorb losses.

Mysteries of economic growth after the storm

by Adrian Lupusor [@AdrianLupusor](#), Alexandru Fala, Dumitru Pinteau, Iurie Morcotilo, Sergiu Gaibu and Vadim Gumene

19 May 2017

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

The economic growth of 2016 was higher than forecasted, but lower than the optimal level. The GDP of the Republic of Moldova increased by 4.1 % in 2016, exceeding the forecasts from the previous MEGA publication (3.4 % according to the baseline scenario). This evolution was determined by the higher-than-expected increase in consumption and exports of goods and services, which grew quicker than imports. These developments led to higher-than-expected increases in services and industry. At the same time, the slumps in investment activity and constructions were milder than expected.

MIDDLE EAST/NORTH AFRICA (MENA)

Brookings Institution

Towards a recalibration of EU-North Africa relations

by Adel Abdel Ghafar [@AdelAGhafar](#)

May 2017

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

This briefing argues that now more than ever, there is a need to recalibrate EU-North Africa relations. While in the short term there is impetus to focus on security and illegal migration, this should not come at the expense of democratisation, human rights, and support for the rule of law. Research shows that in the long term, freer societies can develop faster and in a more sustainable way. Furthermore, with the European project itself under threat from Brexit and the isolationism and right-wing populism that is engulfing the continent, it is in the EU's interest to develop more constructive relationships with its southern neighbours.

World Economic Forum

The future of jobs and skills in the Middle East and North Africa - Preparing the region for the fourth industrial revolution

May 2017

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

Education and work in the Middle East and North Africa region will determine the livelihoods of over 300 million people and drive growth and development for generations to come. As one of the youngest populations in the world, it is imperative that the region make adequate investments in education and learning. As the global transformation of work unfolds in the region, policymakers, business leaders and workers must be prepared to proactively manage this period of transition. This report provides an overview of the region's education, skills and jobs agenda, and is intended as a practical guide to plan for the needs of the future.

Istituto Affari Internazionali

Marginalization, young people in the south and east Mediterranean, and policy - An analysis of young people's experiences of marginalization across six SEM countries, and guidelines for policy-makers

by Mark D. Calder, Robert MacDonald, Drew Mikhael, Emma Murphy and Jo Phoenix
May 2017

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

This report provides an overview of the key policy messages for the EU on marginalization and young people. The key messages are: young people face multiple forms of marginalization, although the processes of marginalization are not exclusive to young people and are indicative of deeper structural problems. The problems faced by young people in the South and East Mediterranean are reminiscent of those faced by young people in the EU. The processes that do most to marginalize young people are not currently addressed by national policies. Policy-making by external actors can also exacerbate the problems when they inadvertently endorse government policies that perpetuate deep structural problems.

Lessons to be learned from other experiences of socio-economic transformation for youth in the SEM region

by Marco Giugni, Maria Mexi and Tristan Boursier
May 2017

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

The aim of this report is to draw key conclusions from the experiences of youth mobilization and socio-economic transformation in Greece, Ireland, Brazil and to assess their relevance to the challenges facing the youth in the South East Mediterranean region. After a general presentation of the selection of the three country cases and the methodology applied, the authors offer a synthetic presentation of the three case studies, looking at key critical junctures of youth discontent and their mobilization's transformative impact.

College of Europe

Did the European Union light a beacon of hope in North Africa? Assessing the effectiveness of EU democracy promotion in Tunisia

by Giorgio Bassotti
May 2017

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

This analysis addresses the EU's democracy promotion policy in Tunisia, aiming at understanding its evolution and at assessing its effectiveness: how did the EU's approach to democracy promotion evolve overtime? To what extent was it effective in promoting Tunisia's democratic transition? In order to assess the impact of an external actor in the democratic transition, the author opted for a two-folded approach: on the one hand, the author analysed the EU's declaratory policy regarding democracy promotion and its implementation. On the other hand, the author identified several domestic key actors and analysed their perception of the EU's contribution to the transition process.

European Institute of the Mediterranean

Building partnerships in challenging times: the defence arrangements of Tunisia

by Gergely Varga

May 2017

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

The paper provides an overview of the international defence arrangements that Tunisia has developed since the revolution of 2011. Furthermore, it looks into the absorption capacity of Tunisia in the light of the considerable assistance it receives from international partners. The paper covers the major bilateral defence partnerships of Tunisia as well as its security and defence relations with international organisations such as NATO, the EU, the G7 and the 5+5 Defence Initiative.

European Parliament Think Tank

Energy: a shaping factor for regional stability in the Eastern Mediterranean?

by Simone Tagliapietra

16 May 2017

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

Since 2010 the Eastern Mediterranean region has become a hotspot of international energy discussions due to a series of gas discoveries in the offshore of Israel, Cyprus and Egypt. To exploit this gas potential, a number of export options have progressively been discussed, alongside new regional cooperation scenarios. This study seeks to provide a comprehensive analysis of all the developments, with the ultimate aim of assessing the realistic implications of regional gas discoveries for both Eastern Mediterranean countries and the EU.

Real Instituto Elcano (Elcano Royal Institute)

Argelia: reformar antes de que las demandas se vuelvan revolucionarias

by Dalia Ghanem-Yazbeck [@DaliaGhanemYazb](#)

23 May 2017

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

In a climate of social and economic tension, Algeria can no longer afford to maintain its commitment to the welfare state without in-depth structural reforms. The habits and expectations of the population to obtain social benefits through a system of subsidies presents inefficiencies and collides with the continuous fall of the budget. Algeria has not yet embarked on a package of comprehensive socio-economic reforms and its old leaders must show a commitment to generational change and the distribution of powers before the demands take on a revolutionary character.

Centre d'études et de recherches internationales

Elections et notabilité en Iran. Une analyse du scrutin législatif de 2016 dans 4 circonscriptions

by Fariba Adelkhah

May 2017

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

Elections have been trivialized in Iran. They allow for the expression of diversity, of historical regional identities, and prove the growing professionalization of political life. Paradoxically, such professionalization withdraws the Republic away into the levels of family, autochthony, and even neighbourhoods or devotional sociability, which are all institutions that instil a feeling of proximity, solidarity and communion. As the saying goes, the Islamic Republic has become a "parentocracy"

(tâyefehsâlâri). The analysis of the 2016 legislative elections in four wards reveals how important the issue of property is in political life, indivisible as it is of the various particularistic consciences.

Chatham House - The Royal Institute of International Affairs

Twitter and transformative diplomacy: social media and Iran–US relations

by Constance Duncombe

May 2017

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

In this case-study of US-Iran negotiations during the run-up to the 2015 JCPOA nuclear deal, the author assesses the potential for social media to transform diplomatic practice. She argues that public informal communication via Twitter helped to legitimize political possibilities for change, and enabled a dynamic of representation and recognition to emerge between the two nations.

Centrum Stosunków Międzynarodowych (Center for International Relations)

The Syrian chessboard - Prospects for the future after six years of carnage

by Bruno Surdel [@BrunoSurdel](#)

May 2017

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

Six years have passed since peaceful protests in Damascus and Deraa started a bloody conflict in Syria, interpreted as a part of the "Arab Spring" domino. In 2017, after the fall of Aleppo, with five million Syrians who left their country, six million internal refugees, and the hard-to-estimate, real number of victims - perhaps 400 000 or more - peace remains a distant dream. Regional powers: Turkey, Iran and Saudi Arabia as well as Russia and the US - with their military intervention or financial backing - have made Syria a chessboard of their competition and 'core' interests.

International Crisis Group

The PKK's fateful choice in Northern Syria

4 May 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (35 p.) and in [Arabic](#) (32 p.)

Six years into Syria's civil war, the military and political map in the north has been dramatically redrawn. The most dynamic local actors, the political affiliates of the Iraq-based Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) in Turkey – the People's Protection Units (YPG) and Democratic Union Party (PYD) – control major portions of the Syria-Turkey border, have announced a federal region and established local rule. But YPG military success is hitting significant geopolitical and demographic barriers, placing the PKK before a stark choice: continue to subordinate its Syria project to its fight against Turkey or prioritise more Kurdish self-rule in Syria.

Atlantic Council

Report of the Task Force on the future of Iraq - Achieving long-term stability to ensure the defeat of ISIS

by Ryan Crocker

31 May 2017

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

The report of the Task Force on the future of Iraq chaired by Ambassador Ryan Crocker offers a strategy for how the US can build on the success that the Iraqi government and its coalition partners have had in liberating areas once occupied by ISIS, in order to bring about a lasting defeat of the extremist group and to and secure US national security interests in Iraq over the long term. The report demonstrates that a stable Iraq is critical to US national security interests.

EASTERN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

Chatham House - The Royal Institute of International Affairs

The Eurasian Economic Union - Deals, rules and the exercise of power

by Rilka Dragneva [@DragLewers](#) and Kataryna Wolczuk

2 May 2017

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

Regardless of its multiple shortcomings, the Eurasian Economic Union should not be dismissed out of hand. For Russia, it is the primary vehicle for realizing a global geopolitical agenda.

ASIA-OCEANIA

European Council on Foreign Relations

Influence by default: Europe's impact on military security in East Asia

by Mathieu Duchâtel [@mtdtl](#) and Mark Bromley

16 May 2017

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

The EU arms embargo on China has not prevented the Chinese arms industry from making rapid progress: it is now a major export competitor. Europe is contributing to this progress through transfers of dual-use items and intangible technology transfers. A more coherent approach will ensure Europe's impact on Asia's military balance is not destabilising and that export control gaps are closed.

Fondation Robert Schuman

Europe's Asia pivot: a new balancing act?

by Arnault Barichella

29 May 2017

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

The year 2017 poses a number of existential dilemmas for Europe. On the regional front, several key domestic elections will likely determine the future direction of the EU. The international situation also presents many equally significant challenges. As the Asia Pacific region spearheads the global recovery from the 2008 financial crisis, the European pivot to Asia stands poised to accelerate. A series of economic and security issues throughout the region present both opportunities and challenges for European Member States.

Bertelsmann Stiftung

Europe and India - Relaunching a troubled trade relationship

by Gabriel Felbermayr, Devashish Mitra, Rahel Aichele and Jasmin Gröschl

May 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (112 p.)

In Germany, India stands primarily for esotericism and the relocation of services, but less for industrial production and trade in goods. One reason for this is the fact that despite its size, India is a dwarf as far as world trade is concerned. A mere 1.6 % of global merchandise exports come from India. With a comprehensive free trade agreement between EU and India, this situation could change. In terms of GDP, both sides could benefit from such an agreement.

European Parliament Think Tank

India and challenges ahead in the Indo-Pacific region. Opportunities for cooperation with the EU

by Enrico D'Ambrogio

30 May 2017

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

Since 2008, the EU has been a successful net security provider in the western part of the Indo-Pacific region through its Operation Atalanta / EU NAVFOR Somalia anti-piracy deployment. Adopted in 2014, the EU's new maritime security strategy offers opportunities to further develop its cooperation with India on maritime issues and in particular on non-conventional security issues, in order to upgrade bilateral relations.

Egmont – Royal Institute for International Relations

EU-South Korea security relations: the current state of play

by Mason Richey

30 May 2017

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

The EU and South Korea both face challenging circumstances in the domestic and international arenas. The EU is focused on eurozone instability, terrorism, political extremism, revisionist Russia, and crises in the MENA. In this brief, the author discusses the strengths and weaknesses of EU-South Korea security cooperation, and identifies areas for continued strengthening of this partnership.

Consejo Uruguayo para las Relaciones Internacionales

La península de Corea: el nuevo escenario y el riesgo presente

by Antonio Romanelli

18 May 2017

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

In this analysis, the author reviews the "Expressions of Power" in both Koreas, and establishes synthetic strategic elements illustrating the capacities and opportunities of both nations in case of confrontation.

Real Instituto Elcano (Elcano Royal Institute)

¿Cómo evitar un conflicto militar en la península de Corea?

by Félix Arteaga and Mario Esteban [@wizma9](#)

25 May 2017

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

This analysis points out to the increasing risk of war on the Korean peninsula and presents some options to prevent this and move towards an agreement with a view to increase the difficult regional stability.

Council on Foreign Relations

Increasing the use of natural gas in the Asia-Pacific region

by Ian Cronshaw, Quentin Grafton [@GraftonQuentin](#) and Llewelyn Hughes [@LlewelynHughes](#)

May 2017

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

Increased use of natural gas in the Asia-Pacific region could bring substantial local and global benefits. The window of opportunity for making the transition to gas is closing, as slowing Asian energy demand and copious global supplies are reducing prices and discouraging global investment in infrastructure for gas trading and distribution. If supply dries up, prices could increase markedly, making gas unattractive to Asian countries, especially when compared to coal.

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Atlantic Council

Women's leadership in Latin America - The key to growth and sustainable development

by Laura Alborno Pollman

31 May 2017

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

Latin America, with its history of female heads of state, seems to be a rising global leader in terms of notable women in top-level leadership roles. What is the region's secret sauce? Does this phenomenon translate to the empowerment of women throughout Latin American societies? And are women rising to the top across sectors? The report offers ground-breaking analysis and concrete recommendations for the public and private sectors - as well as the international community - to empower women across sectors in the region and beyond.

Consejo Uruguayo para las Relaciones Internacionales

Las actividades extractivas y los derechos humanos: la defensa del agua en Uruguay y su encuadre jurídico dentro de los derechos humanos para su efectiva protección nacional y latinoamericana

by Juan Manuel Rivero Godoy

12 May 2017

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

This article discusses, from a legal perspective, the topic of human rights and extractive activities affecting the development of a sustainable environment.

CHINA

Centre for European Policy Studies

China-EU Leadership in globalisation: ambition and capacity

by Weinian Hu and Jacques Pelkmans

18 May 2017

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

This paper attempts to offer a first verification of whether China and the EU are ready to exercise leadership in global trade and investment, not only in words but also in deeds that would underpin credibility for the world trading and investor community. The paper analyses China's effective leadership capacity based on aspects of its energetic FTA strategy, investment protection agreements, the progress of its domestic market-oriented reform (required for economic openness) and its record in negotiating the WTO plurilaterals.

Chatham House - The Royal Institute of International Affairs

Brexit: implications for EU–China relations

by Tim Summers [@tasumm](#)

11 May 2017

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

For Beijing, the EU-China relationship will take priority over UK-China ties, with China's relative focus on Germany becoming even more significant.

LSE IDEAS

From Deng to Xi - Economic reform, the silk road, and the return of the middle kingdom

by Yu Jie [@Yu_JieC](#), Vince Cable, Jonathan Fenby [@JonathanFenby](#), Gideon Rachman [@gideonrachman](#), Michael Cox [@KemblaCoxy](#), Guy de Jonquières [@guydej1](#) and Geoffrey Yu
May 2017

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

For many years now there has been an intense debate in the West about China, with wide ranging views being expressed about its economic system, its political order, and of course its foreign policy. Even its pop music and food culture have excited much interest. Whatever the field, there is a proliferation of opinions on the future of the 'Middle Kingdom'.

European Parliament Think Tank

Foreign direct investment screening: a debate in light of China-EU FDI flows

by Gisela Grieger

17 May 2015

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

In 2016, the flow of Chinese foreign direct investment (FDI) into the EU hit record levels, in sharp contrast to the continued decline in EU FDI flows to China. Chinese FDI was mainly driven by market-seeking and strategic asset-seeking motives and focused on big EU economies, targeting cutting-edge technologies in particular. It also raises the question of whether the Member States' diverging approaches should be upgraded, better coordinated or even replaced by a new consistent FDI screening mechanism at EU level.

RUSSIA

Atlantic Council

Meeting the Russian hybrid challenge - A comprehensive strategic framework

by Franklin D. Kramer and Lauren M. Speranza

30 May 2017

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

Since its takeover of Crimea in 2014, Russia has become increasingly emboldened, undertaking actions that, rather than propping up a failing regime, strike directly against the functioning of Western democracy. Employing a combination of "hybrid" actions - political, diplomatic, informational, cyber, economic, covert and low-level force - the Kremlin has targeted countries not only on the fringes of its sphere of influence, but in the heart of Europe and even the US.

Real Instituto Elcano (Elcano Royal Institute)

La finalidad estratégica de Rusia en Siria y las perspectivas de cumplimiento del acuerdo de Astaná

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

23 May 2017

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

What is the strategic aim of Russia in Syria and what are the prospects for compliance with the Astana agreement for peace in Syria led by Russia and supported by Iran and Turkey?

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies

Challenges and opportunities in the Trump era

by Roland Freudenstein [@RoFreudenstein](#) and Craig Kennedy [@RCK52](#)

May 2017

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

Donald Trump's election to President of the US in November 2016 might well become one of the most momentous events in the relationship between Europe and North America since the end of the Cold War. Although this relationship has already gone through substantial changes in the last 25 years, the current challenges seem more formidable than many of the past crises. External threats to Europe and, to a lesser extent, America are intensifying. These challenges have provoked internal divisions within the transatlantic community that are greater than ever before.

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

Usikkerhed i den transatlantiske alliance Trump, NATO og den europæiske sikkerhedsarkitektur

by Jens Ringsmose and Anders Henriksen

May 2017

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

The ambition of the report is to seek concrete answers to two main questions. Firstly, what will be the main ingredients of the US NATO policy with Donald Trump in the White House? Secondly, what dynamics will it lead American politics initiated in NATO?

Pew Research Center

Americans' attitudes about the news media deeply divided along partisan lines

by Amy Mitchell [@asmitch](#) and Rachel Weisel [@RachelWeisel](#)

10 May 2017

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

Democrats and Republicans, who already tend to place their trust in different news sources and rely on different outlets for political news, now disagree more than ever on a fundamental issue of the news media's role in society: whether news organizations' criticism of political leaders primarily keeps them from doing things they shouldn't – or keeps them from doing their job.

Migration Policy Institute

A revolving door no more? A statistical profile of Mexican adults repatriated from the United States

by Ryan Schultheis and Ariel G. Ruiz Soto

2 May 2017

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

The report provides a statistical profile of Mexican adults repatriated from the US between 2005 and 2015. It explores the demographic and socioeconomic characteristics of deportees, their immigration histories, and information on their future migration plans and minor children left behind in the US.

Advances in U.S.-Mexico Border Enforcement: a review of the consequence delivery system

by Randy Capps, Faye Hipsman and Doris Meissner

3 May 2017

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

Questions about how to best secure the US-Mexico border are central to US immigration policy and debates around reforming US immigration laws. This report presents findings from a year-long study that included analysis of previously unpublished 'Consequence Delivery System' data provided to MPI by the Border Patrol as well as fieldwork in the Tucson and Rio Grande Valley sectors, discussing which consequence measures may be most effective in deterring illegal migration.

SPECIAL FOCUS - AFRICA

Friends of Europe

EU-Africa relations - Strategies for a renewed partnership

by Kirsty Hughes [@KirstyS_Hughes](#)

3 May 2017

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

With a new European Commission communication on EU-Africa relations being published, and with the fifth EU-Africa summit taking place this autumn, this study examines the strategies for a renewed partnership that tackles the changing geopolitical, development, social and economic challenges facing both continents.

European Centre for Development Policy Management

The nexus between food and nutrition security, and migration: clarifying the debate and charting a way forward

by Anna Knoll [@anna_katharinak](#), Francesco Rampa [@F_Rampa](#), Carmen Torres [@CarmenTorresL](#), Paulina Bizzotto Molina and Noemi Cascone [@NoemiCascone5](#)

May 2017

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

International development efforts, especially in Europe, are increasingly directed towards addressing the 'root causes of migration' in an attempt to curb flows from Africa. In this context, a particular attention has been given to the relationship between food security and migration. However, an overly simplistic interpretation of this nexus - i.e. investing in agriculture and rural development will significantly reduce migration from rural areas - risks instrumentalising development cooperation for 'securitarian' purposes instead of pursuing genuine objectives for food and nutrition security and rural development.

European Political Strategy Centre

The makings of an African century - Where African and European ambitions meet

2 May 2017

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

A strong, stable and prosperous Africa is not only vital for Africans, it is essential for Europe. Cooperation between the two continents is hardly new and a lot of progress has been made. Too much of the African continent is still plagued, but Africa also has abundant resources – its most precious being its young, rapidly-growing – and often digitally native and entrepreneurial – population. Hand in hand with this African youth, African and EU leaders must develop transformative joint solutions to make the most of their partnership and adapt it to today's realities.

Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik (German Development Institute)

Compact with Africa - Fostering private long-term investment in Africa

by Robert Kappel, Birte Pfeiffer and Helmut Reisen [@HrReisen](#)

May 2017

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

This discussion paper examines two topics of the initiative in detail: corporate direct investment and institutional investment in infrastructure. Part 1 of this paper, "Institutional investors for African infrastructure" discusses the potential role of institutional assets for infrastructure investment in Africa. Part 2, "Foreign direct investment in Africa: structural transformation and higher

employment" analyses private investment as a driver of structural change in Africa. The policy recommendations of both parts give an outline for fostering long-term investment in Africa.

Chatham House - The Royal Institute of International Affairs

Central and Eastern Europe and Sub-Saharan Africa - Prospects for sustained re-engagement

by Stefan Cibian [@stefancibian](#)

24 May 2017

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

Central and Eastern Europe and sub-Saharan Africa have started to re-engage with each other after many years of limited interaction following the end of the Cold War. While renewed partnership will not become a top priority for countries on either side, it is likely that mutual interest will remain at higher levels than in the past three decades.

Atlantic Council

Why Africa matters to US national security

by Grant T. Harris

25 May 2017

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

African nations have rarely been perceived as essential partners in the pursuit of US national security and economic interests, but a re-assessment of Africa's strategic importance is past due. Transnational threats emanating from the continent continue to evolve, and trade and investment relationships have deepened. A better and broader understanding of the threats and opportunities posed by the countries of Africa is urgently needed, both to strengthen US-Africa bilateral relations and to create a coherent regional policy.

Institut français des relations internationales

Japan's security policy in Africa: the dawn of a strategic approach?

by Céline Pajon [@CelinePajon](#)

May 2017

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

This paper documents new features of Japan's diplomacy that tend to gradually integrate Africa into its strategic interests. Threats to the security of vital maritime shipping route transiting from the Middle East to the Indian Ocean are also directly undermining Tokyo's interests. The inclusion of Africa in the "[Free and Open Indo-Pacific Strategy](#)" demonstrates Japan's willingness to adopt a more strategic approach to Africa.

The resurgence of conflict in Mozambique - Ghosts from the past and brakes to peaceful democracy

by Stephanie Regalia

May 2017

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

2016 proved to be a most challenging year for Mozambique. Small-scale conflict, which started reappearing between the government and the opposition party, the Mozambican National Resistance (Renamo), in 2013, intensified over the course of the year, whilst peace negotiations stalled.

MISCELLANEOUS

Pew Research Center

Religious belief and national belonging in Central and Eastern Europe

by Alan Cooperman, Neha Sahgal [@SahgalN](#) and Anna Schiller

10 May 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (176 p.)

According to this study, religion has reasserted itself as an important part of individual and national identity in a region that was once dominated by atheist communist regimes.

La Vie des Idées

Quand la rue prend le deuil - Les mémoriaux éphémères après les attentats

by Maëlle Bazin

26 May 2017

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

What about the memorials that appear spontaneously after an attack, what do they represent? What do they tell us about our society? Based on observations made in Paris after the 2015 attacks, the author sheds light on this phenomenon which has recently taken on an unprecedented scale in France.
