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Dear Readers,

Welcome to issue 51 of the Think Tank Review compiled by the EU Council Library* ([click to share on Twitter](#)). It references papers published in October 2017. As usual, we provide the link to the full text and a short abstract.

The special focus for this month centres on work-related issues in the EU. Throughout this section, you will find articles on various social matters of interest. One article discusses how the gender pay-gap varies greatly on the German labour market, depending on occupation. Another one looks into the question of whether raising the retirement age in Ireland from 65 to 66 had any effect on the rate of retirement of 65-year-olds. This Special Focus can be complemented by a recent digital publication by Eurostat about [The life of women and men in Europe - A statistical portrait](#) (October 2017).

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In the 'EU Politics and Institutions' section, there is an enlightening article evaluating how the organisational and institutional changes introduced by the Juncker Commission has affected the way the Brussels executive works. There is also an unusual yet fascinating piece on what member states express through their national anthems and flags, as an example of being united in diversity.

In section two, on 'Economic and Financial Affairs', there are several articles on taxation and VAT, as well as on the eurozone.

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The articles included under the section 'EU Member States' range from analyses of the recent elections in Austria and the Czech Republic to several perspectives on Brexit-related issues, as well as some articles taking a look at the question of Catalonia. An interesting report shows how wealth in the UK is unevenly distributed depending on factors such as where you live, what gender you have, and your ethnicity or class.

The 'Foreign Affairs' section offers a wide selection of articles. Some take a closer look at the present situation with North Korea, while there are also quite a few articles on China, Russia and the US, dealing with topics such as China's influence abroad, Russia's international relations, and possible changes in US international policies under President Trump.

The Miscellaneous section of this month is unusually large, with articles on post-truth and misinformation, international rivalry regarding the Arctic, an analysis of Islamic conversion, and a highly interesting historical look at femininity during the Victorian and Edwardian eras.

We wish all of our readers a pleasant time reading through this issue!

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 December 2017, with papers published in November 2017.

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

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SECTION 1 - EU POLITICS AND INSTITUTIONS

European Policy Centre

The Juncker Commission past midterm: does the new setup work?

by Paul Ivan [@paul2ivan](#)

18 October 2017

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

To improve the ability of the European Commission to tackle the challenges faced by the European Union, President Juncker has introduced organisational and institutional changes in the Commission. With the Juncker Commission more than halfway through its mandate, this paper takes stock of the ways in which the introduced innovations have changed the way the Brussels executive works.

La Vie des Idées

Politicizing Europe, Europeanizing politics

by Stéphanie Henneke, Thomas Piketty [@PikettyLeMonde](#), Guillaume Sacriste and Antoine Vauchez

5 October 2017

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

Though they share the diagnosis of an unprecedented democratic crisis of the European project, our critics remain firmly rooted in a "communitarian" tradition that is no longer able to meet the challenges faced by the government of the euro area.

Foundation for European Progressive Studies

(S)election of the PES top candidate for the European elections

by Ania Skrzypek

25 October 2017

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

The electoral campaign of 2014 was a breakthrough. It saw a number of unprecedented innovations being introduced. Their protagonists were the Europarties – the European stakeholders, whose role and significance across the political processes have been heavily questioned for decades. This paper is written as a contribution to the discussion about how to safeguard the legacy of the past and move forward, ensuring that PES, together with all its members, remains the protagonist of more democratic, more inclusive and more transparent decision-making processes.

Konrad-Adenauer Stiftung

New impetus for a strong and sustainable European Union

by Hans-Gert Pöttering

11 October 2017

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

The EU is facing multiple challenges. Indeed, the European Union's Single Market needs to be further developed and the eurozone must become more stable. Likewise, far-reaching reforms in the areas of security and defence are needed. Last but not least, the relationships with our neighbours and new kinds of cooperation have to be promoted. This paper seeks to show potential steps to reach these objectives.

Notre Europe - Jacques Delors Institute

United in diversity: anthems and flags of the European Union

by Pierre-Robert Cloet, Bénédicte Legué and Kerstin Martel

2 October 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (118 p.)

The idea behind this piece of work is to highlight the meanings and context underlying the appearance of the main symbols attached to each EU member country, that are the national anthem and the flag, by also associating the portrayal of this union. What is expressed through these emblems varies from one country to another.

SECTION 2 - ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

Overseas Development Institute

Why do development finance institutions use offshore financial centres?

by Paddy Carter [@CarterPaddy](#)

October 2017

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

The author sheds light on the rather unknown involvement of government agencies in offshore financial centres (OFCs). This report is concerned with the pragmatic consequences of the use of OFCs by Development Finance Institutions (DFIs) from a development perspective. In other words, why do they use OFCs and do the costs outweigh the benefits?

Institute for Fiscal Studies

VAT and simplified tax schemes: preliminary results

by Lucie Gadenne [@LucieGadenne](#)

26 October 2017

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

This briefing note presents preliminary results from a study on value added tax (VAT) and tax compliance in the Indian state of West Bengal. It focuses particularly on the impact of a tax reform that lowered the compliance costs small firms faced when paying their taxes. This is a pressing issue for many governments in low- and middle-income countries, which view widening the tax net as a key priority, but must seek to do so without placing an excessive burden on small firms that are often ill-equipped to comply with complex administrative processes.

Who does and doesn't pay taxes?

by Arun Advani [@arunadvaniecon](#)

26 October 2017

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

This briefing note summarises new research on which types of people under-report the taxes they owe, and what effects audits have on government revenue.

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

CASE's new study: countries with the largest and smallest VAT gap

by Grzegorz Poniatowski [@gponiatowski](#), Mikhail Bonch-Osmolovskiy and Misha Belkindas [@mishabelkindas](#)

30 October 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (80 p.)

This study was prepared for the European Commission on the EU VAT Gap in 2015. The figures offer an important snapshot of the problems of collecting VAT in the EU and what needs to be done to improve revenues and fight tax fraud. Even though the overall VAT Gap decreased by €8.7 billion, further action is needed to reduce the remaining gap of €151.5 billion.

Tænketanken EUROPA

På vej mod en mere fair og fælles skat i EU

by Jan Høst Schmidt [@JanSchmidtEC](#) and Stefan Jørgensen [@SPJoergensen](#)

25 October 2017

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

The financial crisis and leaks such as Panama Papers and LuxLeaks have helped to raise a broad call for countering tax evasion. Just in the EU, lost tax revenue is estimated at between 500 to 1,000 billion euros a year. One way to deal with taxation of multinational companies is by international regulation. Common rules and a simplified VAT system would enhance transparency and make it harder for companies to conclude lucrative tax agreements with countries. It will also have a positive impact on competition and economic growth, as the many different national tax rules distort the market. However, there is considerable reluctance in several countries.

European Policy Centre

Can the EU structural funds reconcile growth, solidarity and stability objectives?

by Robin Huguenot-Noël [@r_huguenotnoel](#), Alison Hunter [@AlisonH29](#) and Fabian Zuleeg [@FabianZuleeg](#)

10 October 2017

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

Ahead of the post 2020 Multi-financial Framework, the report examines the possibilities for a reform of EU cohesion policy. The authors propose that Cohesion Policy should be integrated within a more comprehensive EU economic governance system and the EU's growth agenda.

European Political Strategy Centre

Reviving convergence - Making Member States fit for joining the euro area

19 October 2017

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

The paper takes a look at where non-euro Member States stand on the convergence criteria, and how President Juncker's proposed euro accession instrument could play a role in ensuring that these countries are both willing and able to join the euro area, and help foster a relaunch of the economic convergence process in the Union.

Bruegel

Spotting excessive regional house price growth and what to do about it

by Grégory Claeys, Konstantinos Efstathiou and Dirk Schoenmaker

18 October 2017

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

The article focuses on housing bubbles which have been an important factor of instability during the previous crisis. According to the authors, there is a divergence in price developments between capitals and the rest of the countries. They suggest to address this house price developments in European capitals through new instruments such as different loan-to-value (LTV) and debt-to-income limits for mortgages.

The time is right for a European Monetary Fund

by André Sapir and Dirk Schoenmaker

30 October 2017

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

The article argues that the creation of the European Stability Mechanism (ESM) and the Banking Union were important steps but remain incomplete. While the ESM reduces the risk of sovereign debt crises, it still lacks an instrument to deal in an orderly way with insolvency crises. Banking Union has to be completed by a European deposit insurance. The (re-)election of President Macron and Chancellor Merkel should be used as momentum to strengthen the euro-area crisis framework with a stronger risk-sharing and fiscal component.

Fondation Robert Schuman

Strengthening the cohesion of the E(M)U: a global strategy

by Thierry Chopin, Alain Fabre, Alessandro Giovannini, Jean-François Jamet, Alain Lamassoure [@ALamassoure](#) and Francesco Mongelli

16 October 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (30 p.) and in [French](#) (33 p.)

The article takes the view that with UK departure, there will be convergence between the euro zone and the rest of the Union, between euro zone and the internal market. In this context the present report explores four major issues in the reform of the EMU: tax competition, a comprehensive investment strategy, executive and democratic deficit and the potential of a Social Europe.

Österreichische Gesellschaft für Europapolitik (Austrian Society for European Politics)

Europäische Einlagensicherung richtig konstruiert?

by Christian Keuschnigg

11 October 2017

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

The article focuses on the risks of a common European Deposit Insurance Scheme. It argues that the capacity of the scheme would not be sufficient to address major crisis situations. Moreover, this third pillar of Banking Union could lead to a financial redistribution between different Member States. Thus, according to the authors a re-assurance system rather than complete Europeanisation would be more appropriate.

LUISS School of European Political Economy

Elements to advance agreement on EDIS

by Stefano Micossi

31 October 2017

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

This brief outlines why the completion of the Banking Union with a joint deposit insurance scheme, or, more specifically, EDIS, must be a top priority for the EU. Highlighting the cost of inaction, it outlines the challenges and objectives that will be required to overcome in order to make this paramount step forward in completing the Banking Union.

Il non-documento di Schäuble: elementi per una discussione

by Angelo Baglioni [@AngeloBaglioni](#) and Massimo Bordignon

24 October 2017

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

This paper is a response to the 'Non-paper for Paving the Way to a Stability Union' circulated at the last Ecofin. Many commentators have interpreted it as "the last gift" of Wolfgang Schäuble, ex-minister of the finances of Germany, and an excellent synthesis of how the present German government sees possible developments and reforms for the euro area. Given this insight, the authors explore in greater depth how Italy can prepare and respond to these possible developments so that any changes will be fair and beneficial to all Member States of the euro area.

Centre for European Policy Studies / European Capital Markets Institute

Capital markets, debt finance and the EU capital markets union: a law and finance critique

by Vincenzo Bavoso

2 October 2017

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

Contrary to conventional wisdom, this paper contends that the excessive development of capital market finance has been one of the catalysts behind the crises and scandals that have unfolded over the past 15 years.

Centre for European Policy Studies

Creating long-term value in Europe's capital markets: opportunities and constraints

by Cosmina Amariei [@CosminaHERE](#)

30 October 2017

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

The article builds on priorities outlined in the Mid-Term Review of the Capital Markets Union to analyse stakeholder positions within the special Task Force on "Asset Allocation in Europe: What challenges and opportunities lie ahead". The main objective of this initiative is to understand what needs to be done to facilitate European households access to market-based saving products.

Centre for the Study of Financial Innovation / EURO IRP - The European Association of Independent Research Providers

A level playing field for investment research? Challenges facing the buy-side, sell-side and independents

by Jane Fuller

24 October 2017

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

History has linked the funding of research to stock-broking, corporate finance and trading. Regulators have acted to limit conflicts of interest, to encourage the emergence of independent providers and to separate payments for research from trading fees. This article analyses MiFID II having the aim to separate payments for research from trading fees. According to the author, some important elements are still lacking.

UCD Geary Institute

The Troika's variations on a trio: why the loan programmes worked so differently in Greece, Ireland, and Portugal

by Niamh Hardiman [@niamh_hardiman](#), Joaquim Filipe Araújo, Muiris MacCarthaigh [@MuirisMac](#) and Calliope Spanou

17 October 2017

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

The article compares Portugal and Ireland to Greece under the Troika loan programmes. According to the authors, three factors distinguish the Greek experience from that of Ireland and Portugal: different economic, political, and institutional starting conditions; the ad hoc nature of the European institutions' approach to crisis resolution; and the very different conditionalities built into each of the loan programmes.

How do ideas shape national preferences? The financial transaction tax in Ireland

by Niamh Hardiman [@niamh_hardiman](#) and Saliha Metinsoy [@SMetinsoy](#)

17 October 2017

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

The article analyses the influence of the financial services industry on Ireland's position concerning the Financial Transaction Tax (FTT). The two key explanations brought forward are based on the role of ideas in shaping national preferences. First, shared knowledge is institutionalized in policy networks creating ideational convergence between the financial sector and policy-makers. Secondly, debate over specific policy choices can leave room for a wider range of disagreement and indeed political and ideational contestation. Irish policymakers proved responsive to industry interests in the case of the FTT, but not for the reasons normally given.

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

Baisse du dollar: tous perdants au sein de la zone euro?

by Cécile Couharde, Anne-Laure Delatte [@aldelatte](#), Carl Grekou, Valérie Mignon and Florian Morvillier

October 2017

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

In the light of recent devaluation of the US dollar against the euro, the article examines the question, whether the euro is not too strong for some countries but not strong enough for others. As the exchange rate reflects the net external position of the whole eurozone, individual productivity levels are not taken into account.

SECTION 3 - EU MEMBER STATES

AUSTRIA

Fondation Robert Schuman

People's Party (ÖVP) led by Sebastian Kurz wins the general election in Austria

by Corinne Deloy

15 October 2017

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

This article reflects on the results of the last general election in Austria where the People's Party (ÖVP) came out ahead, winning 31.5% of the vote and 61 seats.

Research Institute for European and American Studies

Long story of Kurz: "Austria you will be macronised"

by Max Hess [@zakavkaza](#)

21 October 2017

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

Sebastian Kurz is likely to become Austria's new Chancellor following the 15 October 2017 election. He would be the youngest-ever head of government in the European Union and yet he has received little international attention compared with candidates such as Marine Le Pen or Nigel Farage.

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

Österreichs Staatsausgabenstrukturen im europäischen Vergleich

by Philipp Heimberger [@heimbergecon](#)

October 2017

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

This study analyses Austria's government expenditure in terms of quantitative multi-country comparisons by analysing three euro-area countries: Austria, Belgium and Germany.

BULGARIA

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

A roadmap for the development of the Bulgarian electricity sector within the EU until 2050: focus on fundamentals

27 October 2017

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

The Bulgarian energy security position has been steadily improving since the country joined the European Union a decade ago. The country's Energy Security Risk Index declined further in the past two years, placing it at 58th position among the 75 largest energy consumers in the world. The key contributing factors have been the steady reduction of energy intensity and the greening of Bulgaria's energy and economy.

CZECH REPUBLIC

Fondation Robert Schuman

Andrej Babis's party ANO wins the Czech elections

by Corinne Deloy

23 October 2017

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

This article reflects on the general election that took place in the Czech Republic on 20 and 21 October 2017, won by a populist party whose acronym means both "yes" and "Action of Dissatisfied Citizens".

The Czech general elections: and now three "illiberal" Eurosceptic governments in Central Europe?

by Lukáš Macek

23 October 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (14 p.) and in [French](#) (15 p.)

This article analyses the "Visegrad" group, a structure of regional cooperation, bringing together Hungary, Poland, the Czech Republic and Slovakia, launched during the Visegrad Summit in 1991. According to the author, so far this group has not really succeeded in asserting its influence due to a lack of real solidarity between these four countries, their conflictual past, and a significant imbalance in power relations.

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

Podkladový materiál pro kulatý stůl v rámci Národního konventu o EU: Budoucí podoba víceletého finančního rámce a kohezní politiky po roce 2020

by Zuzana Kasáková and Lubor Lacina

31 October 2017

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

This brief concerns the debate on the future form of the multiannual financial framework after 2020 in the context of a British exit from the European Union.

DENMARK

Center for Politiske Studier (Center for political Studies)

Offentligt forbrug i forhold til demografisk træk og velstand

by Mads Lundby Hansen [@MLundbyHansen](#) and Jørgen Sloth Bjerre Hansen

13 October 2017

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

In Denmark, private consumption levels have not increased in proportion to prosperity since 1990. The author argues that some of the main factors behind this development are tax increases: public consumption has increased at the expense of private consumption. The author therefore suggests that public services - which accounts for 25.2% of GDP in Denmark in 2017 - must be improved by increasing efficiency, rather than by adding more money.

Tænketanken EUROPA

Dansk euroskepsis aftager – Undtagen på højrefløjen

by Karsten Tingleff Vestergaard

30 October 2017

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

Danish Euroscepticism has declined significantly across the political spectrum since Denmark became a Member State in 1973. During the 1970s and 1980s, Danes together with the British were among the most euro sceptical populations; since the 1990s Danish scepticism has decreased in all socio-demographic segments and across the political right-left scale, with the exception of the outermost right wing. The author suggests this is because the EU has evolved from primarily economic cooperation to accommodate both a distribution and value policy dimension.

FRANCE

Fondation Robert Schuman

Emmanuel Macron's Europe - A vision, some proposals

2 October 2017

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

On 26 September 2017 at the Sorbonne, President Emmanuel Macron delivered his vision for the European project and put forward a series of ideas for the European Union. This article summarises Macron's proposals and real examples of what might be implemented in the European Union by 2024.

Terra nova

Elections 2017: pourquoi l'opposition métropoles-périphéries n'est pas la clé

by Frédéric Gilli [@fredericgilli](#), Bruno Jeanbart, Thierry Pech and Pierre Veltz

13 October 2017

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

Electoral results have often been read in light of the opposition between cities and peripheries. However, the results of the first round of the presidential election of 2017 invite to revise this assumption. This article argues that the territorial criteria of the vote must be reintegrated in a set of causalities where economic and social factors, as well as political legacies, play an often equally powerful role.

La Vie des Idées

La revanche des villages

by Éric Charmes

24 October 2017

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

Comparing the wealth of cities to the poverty of the countryside does not explain today's reality of territorial inequalities. Indeed, small towns today are often more attractive than a large number of medium-sized towns, which are experiencing major demographic and economic difficulties.

GERMANY

Hanns-Seidel-Stiftung (Hanns Seidel Foundation)

Braucht Deutschland ein Digitalisierungsministerium? Der digitale Transformationsprozess unserer Gesellschaft im Jahr 2017

by Maximilian Th. L. Rückert
30 October 2017

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

Like the French Revolution of 1789, the digital revolution affects every aspect of our reality. The author argues that makes more sense to establish a responsible office in the Federal Chancellery, which will be running a digital cabinet, than to establish a federal ministry for digitalization.

European Policy Centre

Germany's energy transition: making it deliver

by Annika Hedberg [@AnnikaAhtonen](#)
9 October 2017

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

This paper assesses the successes and failures of Germany's energy transition, and evaluates the national developments in a wider European context. The author argues that the German experiences provide valuable lessons not only for Germany but also for others that are looking to transform their energy systems.

Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung (Heinrich Böll Foundation)

Nach der Bundestagswahl: Worauf es für die deutsche Politik beim Energiepaket der EU ankommt?

by Katharina Umpfenbach [@umpfenbachk](#)
2 October 2017

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

In November 2016, the European Commission presented the "Clean Energy for All Europeans" package. From the German point of view, the negotiations on the European energy package offer the opportunity to promote a Europe-wide energy transition and to shape the European framework in such a way that it supports the German energy transition.

GREECE

Research Institute for European and American Studies

Greece and America in the age of Erdoğan

by Tassos Symeonides [@blueskies1950](#)
20 October 2017

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

According to the article, after decades of feeding the myth of Turkey being the "bulwark" of Western interests in the Muslim world, the Western allies discover that Ankara is far less attuned to Western ways but fully committed to authoritarian Muslim religious politics under Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

IRELAND

Economic and Social Research Institute

Quarterly economic commentary

by Kieran McQuinn, Conor O'Toole, Philip Economides [@economip](#) and Teresa Monteiro
October 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (104 p.)

The Irish economy appears to be maintaining pace with its performance in 2016, strongly driven by domestic factors. Improving household balance sheets and falling unemployment are expected to support solid consumption growth over the forecast horizon.

Projections of demand for healthcare in Ireland, 2015-2030: first report from the Hippocrates Model

by Maev-Ann Wren, Conor Keegan, Brendan Walsh [@Walsh_BP](#), Adele Bergin, James Eighan, Aoife Brick, Sheelah Connolly [@sheeconn](#), Dorothy Watson and Joanne Banks [@banksioanne_io](#)
26 October 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (375 p.)

This report provides annual projections of demand for public and private health and social care services in Ireland for the years 2015–2030.

NETHERLANDS

Centraal Planbureau (CPB Netherlands Bureau for Economic Policy Analysis)

The effect of geographical distance on online transactions

by Ali Palali, Bas Straathof [@basstraathof](#) and Rinske Windig [@RWindig](#)
2 October 2017

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

The rise of online trade alters the role of distance between potential buyers and sellers. The authors use data from eBay subsidiary Marktplaats.nl, one of the largest online trading platforms in the Netherlands, to estimate how distance affects the probability of a transaction between small geographical regions.

Analysis economic and budgetary effects of the financial appendix to the Coalition Agreement

by Albert van der Horst [@albert_vdh](#) and Wim Suyker
4 October 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (42 p.) and [Dutch](#) (44 p.)

This analysis is based on the measures in the financial appendix to the Coalition Agreement, as submitted to the Centraal Planbureau on 29 September. In contrast to the election manifestos assessment, this analysis also includes measures with a budgetary impact below 100 million euros.

POLAND

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

More for less: what tax system for Poland? / Więcej za mniej: jaki system podatkowy dla Polski

by Stanisław Gomułka [@ka_stanis](#), Jarosław Neneman and Michał Myck

9 October 2017

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

The goal of the publication is to initiate a discussion on the subject of a tax system for Poland, presenting a framework within which the current system should be analyzed and conclusions drawn about what changes are needed over the longer term.

Institut français des relations internationales

L'équation énergétique polonaise

by Marc-Antoine Eyl-Mazzega

5 October 2017

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

Poland is in a unique energy situation in Europe: 80% of its electricity is produced with coal and unlike its neighbours, it has no nuclear power plants. For a long time, only the access to Russian gas allowed the country to cover part of its demand for gas. This is why for the last ten years Poland has been trying to get rid of Gazprom's grip and to import cheaper gas.

PORTUGAL

European Policy Centre / Fundação Calouste Gulbenkian

New Pact for Europe - National Report - Portugal

27 October 2017

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

This report presents a set of conclusions on how to address the key challenges the Union and its Member States are currently facing and calls on them to take action to boost the legitimacy of the European integration project.

SLOVAKIA

Slovenská spoločnosť pre zahraničnú politiku (Slovak Foreign Policy Association)

The Slovak Republic and the OSCE: the beginning of the discussion on the priorities of the Slovak Presidency of the OSCE and the importance of the OSCE for European Security

by Klaudia Báňaiová and Samuel Goda

25 October 2017

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

This article contributes to the debate on setting the priorities of the Slovak Republic for the Presidency of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe in 2019.

SLOVENIA

Fondation Robert Schuman

The outgoing head of State, Borut Pahor leads in the first round of the Slovenian presidential election.

by Corinne Deloy

22 October 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (2 p.) and in [French](#) (2 p.)

This article analyses the result of the first round of the Slovenian presidential election in October, with the view of the second round in November.

SPAIN

Centre for European Reform

Crunch time in Catalonia: why Spain needs a constitutional overhaul

by Camino Mortera-Martinez [@CaminoMortera](#)

4 October 2017

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

The crisis in Catalonia is the result of a rigid constitutional framework not able to satisfy the hunger for greater self-determination in parts of the country. Madrid needs to urgently revise the country's model of regional government with the consensus of the Spanish society.

Real Instituto Elcano (Elcano Royal Institute)

Catalonia's independence bid: how did we get here? What is the European dimension? What next?

17 October 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (21 p.) and in [Spanish](#) (22 p.)

This paper elaborates on Catalonia's independence bid.

Fundación de Estudios de Economía Aplicada

Recent trends in the use of temporary contracts in Spain

by Florentino Felgueroso, J. Inacio García-Pérez, Marcel Jensen and David Troncoso-Ponce

30 October 2017

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

This paper documents and discusses recent trends in the use of temporary contracts in Spain. Until the outbreak of the recent economic crisis, Spain was leading the ranking of countries with the largest share of temporary employees. During the crisis this share has fallen to its lowest level in decades, but in the recovery the share of temporary employees is on the rise again.

The impact of the minimum income scheme on poverty in the Basque Country

by Lucía Gorjón García

23 October 2017

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

This paper assesses the impact of a Minimum Income Scheme (MIS), which operates in one of the 17 Spanish Regions - the Basque Country. In particular, its impact, effectiveness and efficiency in fighting poverty is assessed.

SWEDEN

Timbro

Vägen till marknadshyror

by Gustav Karreskog [@GKarreskog](#) and Estrid Faust [@estridfaust](#)

13 October 2017

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

In this article, the authors state that the Swedish rental housing market is too heavily regulated and suggest that there is the need for extensive reforms.

UNITED KINGDOM

Institute for Government

Performance Tracker: a data-driven analysis of the performance of government

by Emily Andrews [@Emilyishness](#), Alice Lilly [@aliceolilly](#), Lucy Campbell [@lucy_campbell93](#), Julian McCrae [@Julian_McCrae](#), Richard Douglas and Julia Bijl

19 October 2017

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

This study brings together more than 100 data series to provide a comprehensive picture of the performance of the UK government in running key public services.

Institute for Public Policy Research

Wealth in the twenty-first century: inequalities and drivers

by Carys Roberts and Mathew Lawrence

19 October 2017

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

The UK is a wealthy nation; but that wealth is very unevenly divided. This report shows how these inequalities exist between individuals and families, between areas of the country, generations and genders, and between people from different ethnicities and class backgrounds.

Centre for Policy Studies

The hidden wiring: how electricity imports threaten Britain's energy security

by Tony Lodge and Daniel Mahoney [@danielmCPS](#)

23 October 2017

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

Britain's energy strategy is to replace its old coal fired and nuclear power stations with a blend of renewables and new gas fired power stations. But the Government is failing to meet this ambition. Britain has therefore begun to import an increasing amount of electricity from continental Europe.

The medico-legal crisis...and how to solve it

by Paul Goldsmith [@pg_onthemove](#)

6 October 2017

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

The NHS liabilities for medico-legal claims is draining the NHS of much-needed funds and putting patients at risk. This article puts forward nine recommendations to bring down costs for the NHS and provide better outcomes for patients.

RAND Europe

Innovation as a driver of quality and productivity in UK healthcare: creating and connecting receptive places - Emerging insights report

by Sonja Marjanovic [@SonjaCambs](#), Megan Sim, Talitha Dubow, Jennie Corbett [@jenniecorb](#), Emma Harte, Sarah Parks, Celine Miani [@celine_miani](#), Joanna Chataway [@JoannaChataway](#) and Tom Ling

30 October 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (126 p.)

The demand for health services in England is both growing and changing in nature, yet resources are limited. As a result, the NHS is under increasing pressures to realise productivity gains, while continuing to deliver high quality care. This report examines the potential of innovation to respond to the challenges currently faced by the NHS.

Demos

The moral web: youth character, ethics and behaviour

by Peter Harrison-Evans [@Pete_H_E](#) and Alex Krasodomski-Jones [@akrasodomski](#)

2 October 2017

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

This research project explores the interrelationship between adolescent character development and social media use. By drawing on innovative research methodologies, this study assesses how young people can be best prepared for the ethical challenges of the online world.

BREXIT

Institute for Government

Dispute resolution after Brexit

by Raphael Hogarth [@Raphael_Hogarth](#)

06 October 2017

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

The role of the European Court of Justice has emerged as one of the flashpoints of Brexit negotiations. Given the UK position to end the direct jurisdiction of the ECJ after Brexit, this paper looks at a range of options for new means of dispute resolution to replace it, including other courts, arbitration mechanisms and committees.

European Policy Centre

After Brexit: prospects for UK-EU cooperation on foreign and security policy

by Fraser Cameron [@FraserMCameron](#)

30 October 2017

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

Both the UK and the EU want to continue cooperating closely with one another on defence and security issues. But how this 'close relationship' will change after Brexit? This brief tries to answer this question, presenting different options for the future.

Brexit: sufficient unto the day

by Andrew Duff [@AndrewDuffEU](#)

3 October 2017

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

Following May's speech in Florence, the author analyses the negotiation progress made.

Institute of International and European Affairs

Implications of Brexit for Ireland's transport sectors

by Tom Ferris

6 October 2017

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

Ireland's transport sector will be adversely affected by Brexit. This article looks at the critical issues now facing by the transport sector in two key areas, namely the freight sector and the aviation sector. While there are other areas of transport that will also be affected by Brexit, it will not be to the same extent as freight and aviation.

Brexit: potential transitional arrangements

by Con Lucey

20 October 2017

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

In this brief the author states that a transitional arrangement between UK and the EU would provide stability during the gap between UK's withdrawal from the EU in late March 2019 and the entry into force of new arrangements.

Institute for European Environmental Policy

Ensuring compliance with environmental obligations through a future UK-EU relationship

by Martin Nesbit [@arrhenius](#), Laurens Ankersmit, Anne Friel and Alejandro Colsa

30 October 2017

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

Ensuring compliance with environmental legislation will be more problematic for UK after Brexit. The European Commission's monitoring system, backed up by the European Court of Justice's ability to impose effective sanctions, has been a key driver in environmental development while existing UK mechanisms for enforcement of environmental legislation are less effective.

VISEGRÁD COUNTRIES

**Institut pro evropskou politiku EUROPEUM (EUROPEUM Institute for European Policy) /
Centre for Euro-Atlantic Integration and Democracy (CEID)**

Strengthening the Eastern frontier

by Dániel Bartha, Hanna Shelesht, Martin Michelot [@martinmichelot](#), András Rácz, Botond Feledy, Kamil Mazurek, Tomasz Smura, Denys Bohush, Tomas Nagy and Kacper Rękawek

12 October 2017

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

The authors state that the Visegrad format of cooperation could increase its visibility and role within the EU. However, in order to make this happen the V4 countries need to implement their strategies and significantly strengthen international, interstate and interagency cooperation, as well as cooperation in joint operations, exercises and missions.

Tænketanken EUROPA

Polsk-Ungarsk konflikt med EU kan splitte Visegrad-gruppen

by Johan Erik Andersen and Malte Kjems [@maltekjems](#)

17 October 2017

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

The four Visegrad countries - Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic and Slovakia - have traditionally been close in matters of the EU. In this article, the authors ask the question whether the current divergences between Poland and Hungary and other EU Member States concerning several matters might lead to a rift within the Visegrad group.

SECTION 4 - EU POLICIES

JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS

Forum for Research on Eastern Europe and Emerging Economies

Rewarding whistleblowers to fight corruption?

by Giancarlo Spagnolo and Theo Nyrreröd

23 October 2017

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

Whistleblower reward programs, or "bounty regimes", provide financial incentives to witnesses that report information on infringements, helping law enforcement agencies to detect/convict culprits. These programs have been successfully used in the US against procurement fraud and tax evasion for quite some time, and were extended to fight financial fraud after the recent crisis. In Europe there is currently a debate on their possible introduction, but authorities appear much less enthusiastic than their US counterparts. The brief analyses the two commonly voiced concerns on whistleblower rewards – the risk of increasing false accusations, and that of crowding out other motivations to blow the whistle – and the adaptations these programs may need to fight more general forms of corruption.

Fondation Robert Schuman

Models of integration in Europe

by Sabine Choquet [@choquetS](#)

30 October 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (8 p.) and in [French](#) (9 p.)

Since 2010 Europe has faced an unprecedented migratory crisis and its Member States are struggling to agree on the attitude that they should adopt. The parties on the far right have, over the last few years, succeeded in mobilising an increasing share of the electorate, due in large to the parallel they established between the rise in migratory flows and terrorism and the rise in Islamic fundamentalism. The paper reviews the main models of immigrant integration around Europe and in the Americas, to assess whether some are better adapted to rise to the challenges mentioned above.

Policy solutions / Foundation for European Progressive Studies

The flexible solidarity

by Tamas Boros [@borostamas_ps](#), Radovan Geist [@radovangeist](#), Hedwig Giusto, Oliver Gruber, Sara Lafferton and Lucia Najsova

October 2017

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

The paper offers a reflection on the sceptical attitudes towards migration of four European countries - Austria, Slovakia, the Czech Republic and Hungary. The four countries under scrutiny represent different experiences and have different backgrounds. In all the cases analysed, however, the social democratic parties have—either gradually or from the outset of the crisis—chosen to prioritize security concerns over humanitarian considerations. In spite of their attempt to please public opinions hostile to migration, this strategy and its consequent shift towards a more right-wing approach has not repaid the left-wing parties that have adopted it so far.

Oxfam

Beyond 'Fortress Europe' - Principles for a humane EU migration policy

by Raphael Shilhav [@RShilhav](#)

11 October 2017

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

In 2015, the EU announced its Agenda for Migration: a blueprint for managing migration. Two years on, it's clear these policies have sacrificed people's safety and well-being in order to stop irregular migration at all costs. The report outlines Oxfam's proposal for a new and balanced approach to managing migration – one that protects people and promotes the benefits associated with migration for European host countries, people on the move and their countries of origin.

Center for Strategic and International Studies

An economic lens on international migration

by Jamal Saghir and Jena Santoro

3 October 2017

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

It has become indisputable that the current volume of international migration is unprecedented, increasing, and with profound, global humanitarian impact. The numbers for 2015 indicated that there were 244 million people living outside of their birth country. This includes those both forced and willing, as well as those either seeking or who have obtained asylum or refugee status. The economic implications of mixed migration are often overlooked in comparison to the humanitarian lens. Studying these patterns through an economic lens can provide stakeholders with a useful framework for identifying an actionable and pragmatic response to the growing problem.

Global Knowledge Partnership on Migration and Development / World Bank Group

Migration and remittances: recent developments and outlook (return migration)

October 2017

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

The brief reports global trends in migration and remittance flows, major policy developments, and the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicators for reducing remittance costs and recruitment costs. The special focus of the brief is return migration, currently a challenging issue globally following the increase in asylum seekers and undocumented migrants.

OCP Policy Center

The economic effects of refugee return and policy implications

by Uri Dadush

31 October 2017

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

According to the EU over a million asylum rejected asylum seekers have been ordered to return to their country of origin from Europe alone, or will be soon. To these could be added refugees that have been given temporary shelter but who could be asked to return once conditions in their home country improve. The debate on returning asylum seekers and refugees is nearly always cast in political, legal and humanitarian terms. The paper looks at the question of return strictly from the economic perspective in the advanced countries that receive refugees: is return in their economic interest?

Demand-side measures Against Trafficking

The demand-side in anti-trafficking: current measures and ways forward

by Dita Vogel, Mădălina Rogoz and Albert Kraler

October 2017

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

Demand and demand-reduction have become catchwords in the anti-trafficking debates. Although at the level of these debates demand is predominantly understood in an economic sense – the willingness and ability to purchase – in anti-trafficking practice the concept is not consistently used. The DemandAT project sets out to clarify the meaning and relevance of demand in the anti-trafficking field, as well as to contribute to a better formulation of demand-side policies in this area. The policy brief summarises key findings of the research and provides an overview of current measures and ways forward.

Institute for Development and International Relations

The relocation of refugees in the European Union: implementation of solidarity and fear

by Senada Šelo Šabić [@SeloSabic](#)

October 2017

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

The relocation mechanism is an ad hoc decision taken by the EU to alleviate part of the burden from the frontline states, Italy and Greece, which have been coping with a large number of arriving migrants. In July 2015 a decision to relocate 40 000 refugees was taken, followed by a decision in September 2015 to relocate an additional 120 000 refugees. Hungary, Slovakia, the Czech Republic and Romania voted against while Finland abstained. The paper looks at the implementation of the relocation plan, particularly its dynamics in various European countries and the technical hurdles it might face in the future.

Vrije Universiteit Brussel - Institute for European Studies

EU hotspots, relocation and absconded migrants in Italy. How to save Schengen within a failing Dublin system?

by Giacomo Orsini and Christof Roos [@christofroos](#)

October 2017

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

Italy is the main gate of entry for undocumented migration to the EU, and its inability to deal with the huge influx of people was made visible in the last couple of years. The EU has been responsive to this situation, introducing 'hotspots' and a relocation mechanism that are meant to support local authorities. The paper asks whether EU measures can effectively foster migration management in Italy and decrease migrant absconding since the effectiveness of support measures is limited because of issues related to policy design and compliance.

AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES

European Parliament Think Tank / Jacques Delors Institut - Berlin / Notre Europe - Jacques Delors Institute

Research for AGRI Committee – Possible impact of Brexit on the EU budget and, in particular, CAP funding

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

30 October 2017

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

The note assesses possible consequences of Brexit for the EU budget and the Common Agricultural Policy. It discusses the importance of the 'Brexit bill' and the loss of the British net contribution. Furthermore, it describes how the EU budget and spending on the Common Agricultural Policy can be adjusted to the new situation and estimates how the different options would affect EU Member States and their net balances.

COMPETITIVENESS (INTERNAL MARKET, INDUSTRY, RESEARCH AND SPACE)

Vrije Universiteit Brussel - Institute for European Studies

A mapping of EU industrial and innovation policy

by Tomas Wyns [@TomasWyns](#)

October 2017

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

The working paper highlights the first insights that result from mapping the EU's industrial policy and innovation instruments that have been applied since the beginning of the 21st century, with focus on the current EU budget period (2014-2020). The objective of the analysis is to create an inventory of EU initiatives and identify the number and type of activities, the institutional responsibilities, their governance and evolution over time (in particular since 2008).

LUISS School of European Political Economy

A modern industrial policy for the digital transformation

by Innocenzo Cipolletta

31 October 2017

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

The policy brief focuses on how to balance modern industrial policy in a climate of rapid digital transformation. Although many topics are covered in this complex field, the main message is that any changes or new designs to regulatory frameworks must be favourable to innovation and encourage an open and competitive economic environment.

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

Varieties of economization in competition policy. A comparative analysis of German and American antitrust doctrines, 1960–2000

by Timur Ergen and Sebastian Kohl

9 October 2017

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

The paper explains the different trajectories of German and American competition policy and its permissiveness towards economic concentration in the last few decades. While the German political economy moved to a stronger antitrust regime after 1945 and stuck to it even after the

economic governance shifts of the 1980s, the traditional antitrust champion, the US, has shed considerable parts of its basic governance toolkit against anticompetitive conduct since the 1960s. Drawing on theories of institutional change driven by bureaucratic and professional elites, the paper claims that different pathways of professional ideas in competition policy can account for the cross-country differences.

TRANSPORT/TELECOMMUNICATIONS/ENERGY

European Centre for International Political Economy

New coalitions for Europe's digital future – building capacity, improving performance

by Fredrik Erixon [@fredrikErixon](#) and Philipp Lamprecht [@P_Lamprecht](#)

October 2017

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

The paper suggests new ways for EU members states to cooperate in developing their digital economies and policies.

European Parliament Think Tank

Governance of the energy union

by Alex Benjamin Wilson

25 October 2017

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

The Commission proposed a regulation on governance of the energy union, as part of its [Clean Energy package](#) (30 November 2016). The proposal aims to simplify the process of monitoring progress and addressing weaknesses in implementing the goals of Energy Union, in particular the 2030 EU targets on renewables, energy efficiency and greenhouse gas emissions. National energy and climate plans are to be prepared for the 2021-2030 period, followed by progress reports. Both plans and reports will use binding templates, and gain early input from the Commission. The proposed regulation envisages national and EU registries and inventories on greenhouse gas emissions for the post-2020 period as a means to assess progress in meeting the goals of the Paris Climate Change Agreement.

Centre for European Policy Studies

Improving the market for flexibility in the electricity sector

by Arndt Hassel [@ArndtHassel](#), Jaap Jansen [@JaapJansen](#), Christian Egenhofer [@CEgenhofer](#) and Zheng Xu

17 October 2017

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

Electricity will play a greater role in the transport and building sectors and all decarbonisation scenarios point to the increasing electrification of the energy system. To reach EU climate change targets, however, electricity will need to come increasingly from low carbon sources, especially (but not only) from variable renewable energy sources. Both trends – the electrification of sectors and the need to integrate electricity from variable renewables – mean that the electricity sector should become more flexible. The paper looks into how that can be achieved.

Bruegel

A new strategy for European Union - Turkey energy cooperation

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

24 October 2017

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

In a period of stress in the relationship between the EU and Turkey, cooperation over energy could be a bright spot, because of strong mutual interests. However, this cooperation should be broad in order to encompass renewable energy sources, nuclear energy and energy efficiency. This cooperation could be deepened if the EU supported Turkey with climate finance commitments and if it eased Turkey's integration into Euratom. That way, Turkey might avoid investments into coal and energy dependence on Russia.

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

Hungary and the Czech Republic's approach to gas security

by Elias Langvad [@eliasLangvad](#)

18 October 2017

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

The strategic role of natural gas has long coloured international relations and as a result, natural gas security has frequently remained a top concern for most governments. Since natural gas has historically been supplied through land based pipelines, gas-importing countries have often had to rely on a limited number of suppliers. Because of their geographical position and historical past, many Central and Eastern European countries have been heavily dependent on Russia for their natural gas imports which has allowed Russia to use natural gas as a foreign policy tool to assert influence over these countries.

Oxford Institute for Energy Studies

Electricity market design for a decarbonised future: an integrated approach

by Donna Peng [@pengdonna](#) and Rahmat Poudineh

26 October 2017

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

In recent years, the debate on electricity market design in the EU has focused on the fitness-for-purpose of the existing dominant design, the appropriateness of energy policy that underpins the existing market design, and on the process through which energy policy is coordinated with market design and with incumbents. The paper offers an integrated approach that encompasses all three points.

Terra nova

Accelerating decarbonation: implementing a minimum CO2 price for electricity in Western Europe

by Alain Grandjean [@alaingrandjean](#), Sébastien Timsit, Jeannou Durtol, Antoine Guillou [@antoineguillou](#), Émilie Alberola [@emilie_alberola](#) and Charlotte Vailles

12 October 2017

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

In order to comply with its contribution to the Paris Agreement, the EU has to limit the emissions of industries running on fossil fuels as soon as possible. The paper calls for a carbon price floor for the electricity sector of 20 to 30 € per ton of CO2 by 2020 in Western Europe to target the largest reservoir of emissions reductions in Europe.

EMPLOYMENT/SOCIAL POLICY/HEALTH/CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Fundación Alternativas

El reasentamiento como posible solución al problema del acceso al territorio de los refugiados: situación actual y perspectiva futura

by Andrea Romano

16 October 2017

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

The focus of the study is on one of the measures related to refugees that can be adopted through a legal basis: the resettlement programmes through which a person in an asylum country - meaning the country where the person went to look for protection - is transferred to another State which has made itself available to offer that person international protection. This is one of the most relevant tools to handle the needs of the population of refugees still in Europe.

Overseas Development Institute

10 things to know about 'leave no one behind'

by Emma Samman [@Emma_Samman](#)

October 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (14 p.) and to a [briefing note](#) (6 p.)

The rallying cry of the Sustainable Development Goals is to 'leave no one behind' by 2030 – and to reach those who are furthest behind first. Around the world, amid widespread progress, many people remain marginalised and extremely poor. This may be due to where they live, or aspects of who they are – such as whether they have a disability, what their migratory status is, or their age, race, ethnicity or gender. These inequalities can be overlooked when progress is measured in averages across the whole population, as was the case with the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Entire countries can also be left behind, particularly those facing obstacles such as land-locked status, climate stress or a history of conflict and fragility. Understanding where there are gaps, and taking early and sustained action to address them is critical if we are to translate this ambitious 'leave no one behind' commitment into action.

ENVIRONMENT

Institute for European Environmental Policy

Climate mainstreaming in the EU Budget: preparing for the next MFF

by Daniel Forster, Hetty Menadue, James Tweed, Martin Nesbit [@arrhenius](#), Andrea Illes [@andreaailles](#), Rob Williams, Jeroen van der Laan and Lisa Eichlerand

19 October 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (296 p.)

The objectives of the study are to provide a review of how the current (2014-2020) MFF arrangements for climate mainstreaming, and for tracking climate-related expenditure and its achievements, have operated in practice; and to make recommendations for potential options for improving the current approach and processes.

Centre d'Etudes et de Recherches sur le Développement International

Investment climate, outward orientation and manufacturing firm productivity: new empirical evidence

by Hoang Thanh Mai Nguyen and Marie-Ange Véganzonès-Varoudakis
October 2017

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

Drawing on the World Bank Enterprise Surveys (WBES), the paper reviews the link between investment climate and firm productive performance for a panel of enterprises surveyed twice in 70 developing countries and 11 manufacturing industries. The updated findings have important policy implications by showing which dimensions of the business environment, in which industry, could help manufacturing firms to be more competitive in the present context of increasing globalization.

Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment

Knowledge spillovers from clean and dirty technologies

by Antoine Dechezleprêtre, Ralf Martin and Myra Mohnen
12 October 2017

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

Government policy in support of innovation often varies across technology areas. An important example are climate change policies that typically try to support so-called clean technologies that avoid greenhouse gas pollution and hamper dirty technologies that are associated with polluting emissions. The paper explores the economic consequences of such policy moves in the short run.

Ecologic Institute

EU climate policies: friend, foe or bystander to forest restoration and carbon sinks? EU Climate Governance for restoring degraded forests

by Nils Meyer-Ohlendorf and Ana Frelih-Larsen
12 October 2017

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

Next to steep cuts in greenhouse gas emissions, the removal of CO₂ from the atmosphere is essential to keep average global temperature increases to 1.5°C, and well below 2°C. At this point in time, there is effectively only one realistic and sustainable way to help remove large amounts of CO₂ from the atmosphere: restoring degraded forests. A strong and reliable governance framework is a pre-condition to restore degraded forests at the necessary scale. The paper discusses how to design such a governance framework for the EU.

Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung (Heinrich Böll Foundation)

The risks of large-scale biosequestration in the context of carbon dioxide removal

by Coraina de la Plaza, Oliver Munnion, Simon Fischer [@simissimo](#) and Simone Lovera [@SimoneLovera](#)
11 October 2017

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

The Paris Agreement's target of limiting global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees is largely dependent on CDR approaches and climate finance institutions are already supporting such afforestation schemes, largely due to the strong emphasis on private-sector involvement in climate finance mechanisms such as the World Bank's Forest Investment Program. The report describes existing trends in the field of large-scale bio sequestration. It examines the social and ecological impacts of such projects and discusses whether or not these are viable climate solutions. It also

showcases successful community led bio sequestration alternatives that could prove to be more effective in reversing climate change and in providing long-term sustainable livelihoods.

Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies

Solar radiation management

by Miranda Boettcher, Andrew Parker, Stefan Schäfer, Matthias Honegger [@HoneggerM](#), Sean Low and Mark G. Lawrence [@mark_g_lawrence](#)

October 2017

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

Despite extensive efforts, greenhouse gases continue to be emitted in vast amounts, with potentially devastating consequences around the world. This is why targeted interventions in the climate system, known collectively as 'climate engineering', are receiving increased attention. Proposed approaches are often divided into two groups: those intended to remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and those intended to reduce the amount of solar energy that reaches the Earth's surface or is trapped in the atmosphere. There are some similarities between the two classes of activities, but they often raise different physical, political, and governance concerns. The series provides an introduction to each set of approaches.

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

Rationality of the EU ETS: holding it together or preventing deeper changes?

by Jan Šťáhlavský

2 October 2017

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

The policy paper focuses on presenting the rational underpinning of the EU ETS and its significance in the climate change governance under the Paris regime. It focuses on the biggest flaw of the system – the oversupply of cheap allowances - and its causes.

Vrije Universiteit Brussel - Institute for European Studies

Strengthening international climate governance: the case for a sectoral approach

by Sebastian Oberthür, Lukas Hermwille [@LukasHermwille](#), Gauri Khandekar [@KhandekarGauri](#) and Wolfgang Obergassel [@obergassel](#)

October 2017

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

To achieve the Paris Agreement objectives and quicken the urgently needed decarbonisation of our societies and economies, the simultaneous transformation of a wide range of interdependent sectoral systems is required. Each of these systems faces very specific transformation challenges and potentials for international governance. This calls for advancing tailor-made sectoral approaches to reinforce global climate governance, in the context of the further development of both the Paris Agreement and the system of intergovernmental institutions and transnational arrangements, including the increasing number of multi-stakeholder initiatives. More encompassing sectoral governance can enable a much-needed strengthening of countries' "nationally determined contributions" (NDCs) on the way to a speedy decarbonisation.

EDUCATION/YOUTH/CULTURE/SPORT

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

Η ενσωμάτωση των προσφύγων στο εκπαιδευτικό σύστημα στην Ελλάδα: Πολιτική και διαχείριση σε "κινούμενη άμμο"

by Dia Anagnostou and Marina Nikolova

31 October 2017

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

The working paper traces the experience emanating from the first year of the implementation of the project for the inclusion of refugee children in the Greek education system run by the Greek Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs. The paper analyses the existing action plan for integration as well as the problems encountered and the gaps identified throughout its implementation. Based on this evaluation, it proceeds to a series of recommendations, taking into account the experience and good practices from Greece and other European countries. The paper highlights the changes and proposals in the revised Education Plan for the school year 2017-2018, taking into consideration the Assessment Report drafted by the working group from the Ministry of Education and published in 2017.

Instituto Español de Estudios Estratégicos

La educación, pilar esencial en la prevención del radicalismo extremista

by Maria José Izquierdo Alberca

24 October 2017

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

Far from dissipating, the radical movements seem to be gaining momentum, probably helped by the diffusion capacity and the communicative facilitation that social networks imply. Young people, the majority of the users of these networks, have thus become the target audience for many of the radical movements' messages. Education, school and teachers should be given primary consideration as key elements in countering extremist thinking. The document presents the proposals of the Manifesto for Education-Empowering Educators and Schools for the prevention of radicalism that leads to violent extremism.

SECTION 5 - FOREIGN AFFAIRS

FOREIGN AND SECURITY POLICY / DEFENCE

European Political Strategy Centre

The defence-security nexus - towards an EU collective security

18 October 2017

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

From the proliferation of terrorism in European cities to the use of cyberattacks to disrupt critical infrastructures and destabilise democracies, modern-day threats stem both from within the EU's borders and outside, challenging the traditional boundaries of security and defence. The increasing versatility and cross-border nature of these threats mean that the EU has a unique added value in providing Europeans with a stronger collective security. Although some progress towards a more joined-up approach to defence and security has already been made, the scale and versatility of the challenges warrant more forward-looking and ambitious measures.

Istituto Affari Internazionali

The future of EU Defence: a European space, data and cyber agency?

by Jean-Pierre Darnis [@jpdarnis](#)

October 2017

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

When it comes to the use of military forces, it is difficult to bypass the views of Member States. This is not only a legal issue related to the individual Member States versus those of the communitarian Union, but rather an issue of democratic control. The article explores the two kinds of risks emerging when considering military affairs in Europe. The first is to support countries pushing for a full use of force. The second is to limit EU defence capabilities and exposure to a minimum. To fully grasp the future of EU defence, Darnis maps the investments made such as the [Galileo](#) system and the [GovSatcom](#) programme (data transmission) and furthermore advises that the EU could also support the development of a "space, data and cyber defence agency".

GLOBSEC Policy Institute

Future war NATO? From hybrid war to hyper war via cyber war

by John Allen, Philip M. Breedlove [@PMBreedlove](#), Julian Lindley-French [@Frenclindley](#) and George Zambellas [@ZambellasGeorge](#)

20 October 2017

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

This paper addresses NATO strategy in future war. It is built around two scenarios: one in which the Alliance is defeated because it did not prepare for future war; and another in which the Alliance prevails because it did. The paper calls for the crafting of a NATO Future War Strategy that would convince Moscow that under no circumstances would the threshold to war be so low as to make it imaginable, whilst also suggesting that a NATO Future War Strategic Concept must be crafted to quickly establish a twenty-first century deterrence and defence, and forge the intelligent use of hard power with the smart use of technologies.

NATO procurement and modernisation: towards an innovative alliance with much more deployable combat capability

by Michael O'Hanlon [@MichaelEOHanlon](#)

15 October 2017

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

This paper takes a somewhat different approach than many critiques of European military efficiency. O'Hanlon argues that European NATO nations can roughly double their power-projection capabilities from today's total of 60,000 troops to approach 125,000 - should they focus on logistics, transport, and enablers in their resource allocation decisions. Doing so might require that they contribute an additional \$10 billion to \$20 billion a year, over several years. This approach would make NATO burden sharing more equitable and support western defence capability at a time of growing global security challenges from Russia, China, North Korea, and the Middle East.

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

Developing European defence capabilities. Bringing order into disorder

by Dick Zandee

October 2017

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

Last year the European Commission proposed a European Defence Fund for allocating money from the EU budget to the defence. However, EU financing of defence research and the development of equipment raises issues in terms of governance. How does one ensure that the money is spent on European military capability needs? To add to the complexities: later this year the Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO) will be launched in the area of security and defence. The report will question how the various institutions involved in European capability development can be brought together in a governance framework, without changing existing intergovernmental and communitarian responsibilities as defined in the EU Treaties.

The state and the future of conflict

by Erwin van Veen

25 October 2017

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

The state remains the key actor in both enabling and conducting conflict. Four types of state, in particular, play a significant role: fragile states, brittle autocracies, violent democracies and regressing mature democracies. In the 1990s, the international conflict management system re-oriented itself – from managing conflict between superpowers to providing palliative care for fragile states. Today, in the 21st century, pursuing international peace requires an international conflict management system capable of handling how autocracies and democracies influence conflict as well.

Egmont – Royal Institute for International Relations

European Defence: what's in the CARDS for PESCO?

by Sven Biscop

19 October 2017

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

The article addresses the new developments in European defence policy with the upcoming launch of the Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO), the Coordinated Annual Review on Defence (CARD), and the European Defence Fund (EDF).

German Marshall Fund of the United States

Can France and Germany make PESCO work as a process toward EU defence?

by Alice Billon-Galland [@AliceBillon](#) and Martin Quencez

6 October 2017

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

Following the development of several new initiatives, European defence cooperation is once again a hot topic. It now lies in the hands of the Member States to deliver. France and Germany are leading the process to implement PESCO, proposing a phased approach toward capability and operational commitments as a way to increase Europe's general defence effort. Yet, many practical challenges remain on the way to a successful PESCO, it will primarily depend on France and Germany's ability to address short-term technical issues, such as the definition of ambitious projects and the monitoring of the countries' commitments, and to focus on the concrete military effects of this initiative.

Jacques Delors Institut - Berlin

Strengthening European defence: who sits at the PESCO table, what's on the menu?

by Elvire Fabry [@elvirefabry](#), Nicole Koenig [@Nic_Koenig](#) and Thomas Pellerin-Carlin

20 October 2017

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

The military capacity of European states is plagued by 20 years of under-investment, fragmentation and national short-sightedness. While previous attempts at launching Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO) in defence failed due to the difficulty of defining who could join the club, a deal is now within reach. Europeans should strike a balance between inclusiveness and ambition, which will set the table for the next decade of European defence cooperation.

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

Towards European strategic autonomy? Evaluating the new CSDP initiatives

by Gergely Varga

3 October 2017

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

As a result of the deteriorating security environment of Europe, the debate about deepening defence cooperation in the EU has intensified. The initiatives reflecting the EU's recent efforts to boost cooperation are reflected by such initiatives: the EU Global Strategy, PESCO, CARD and the European Defence Fund. The paper argues that these initiatives jointly could provide the basis for establishing the European strategic autonomy. However, since reaching unanimity on many of the crucial questions seems far-fetched, flexibility is indispensable in establishing the proper political and institutional arrangements of the new frameworks of European defence cooperation.

Weaponizing the weather? The implications of treating climate change as a security issue

by Diána Szőke

26 October 2017

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

Anthropogenic climate change is one of the most pressing issues of our time. It will have a profound impact on our natural environment and on human societies. In recent years, the academic community, political decision-makers and the public have become more aware of the potential security connotations of global warming. Using the theoretical framework of securitisation, the policy brief highlights some of the main dilemmas surrounding the framing of climate change as a security issue.

Instituto Español de Estudios Estratégicos

El concepto de resiliencia en la OTAN y en la UE: espacio para la cooperación

by José Luis Pontijas Calderón

31 October 2017

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

Resilience is a ubiquitous concept nowadays in NATO and the EU. Both approaches might seem divergent due to the fact that NATO emphasises that resilience must ensure the efficient employment of its military forces during operations, while the EU's approach is more ample, taking into consideration the whole civil society. However, both are complementary and there is room for cooperation, which would benefit both organisations.

Carnegie Endowment for International Peace

NATO's Eastern flank and its future relationship with Russia

by Judy Dempsey [@Judy_Dempsey](#)

23 October 2017

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

The article deals with the process of strengthening NATO's Eastern flank after Russia's annexation of Crimea and its invasion of eastern Ukraine. The author argues that this process is still ongoing and, to reach completion, it requires a comprehensive, long-term strategy toward Russia based on unity, deterrence, and resilience is necessary.

The Hague Centre for Strategic Studies

Progress on UN peacekeeping reform: HIPPO and beyond

by Jaïr van der Lijn [@JairvdLijn](#), Rob de Rave, Timo Smit [@Timosmit](#) and Rianne Siebenga

25 October 2017

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

UN peace operations increasingly find themselves deployed in countries where there is no peace to keep, where insurgencies are ongoing, and where peacekeepers face asymmetric threats. In these environments, UN peace operations are asked to perform increasingly challenging tasks to assist governments and to stabilise countries. This requires adequate UN mandates, as well as appropriate military and civilian means. There is also a continuing urgent need to address the issues of sexual exploitation and abuse by UN peacekeepers.

European Council on Foreign Relations

The coming clash: why Iran will divide Europe from the United States

by Ellie Geranmayeh [@EllieGeranmayeh](#)

October 2017

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

The divide between Europe and the US is set to deepen over Iran. The Trump administration's strategy is exclusively focused on isolating and containing Iran. However, the ramifications of US policy go beyond damaging the non-proliferation architecture Europe has helped build. It could lead to even greater instability in the Middle East. European countries should prepare now to minimise the damage and preserve their strategic interests on non-proliferation and the pursuit of stability in the Middle East. Geranmayeh outlines the consequences that are likely to follow from a more confrontational strategy toward Iran and examines the implications for European security interests.

Chatham House - The Royal Institute of International Affairs

Nuclear disarmament and the protection of cultural heritage

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

October 2017

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

The paper explores the impact that nuclear weapons detonations and tests have already had on cultural heritage, both tangible and, to a lesser extent, intangible. It then explores contemporary risks to cultural heritage due to the continued threat of nuclear weapons, amid a precarious international nuclear regime and increasing geopolitical instability. The authors conclude by reviewing mechanisms to mitigate these risks and explores policy recommendations.

International Centre for Counter-Terrorism - The Hague

IS's appeal to Western women: policy implications

by Kiriloi M. Ingram

26 October 2017

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

IS's proven ability to appeal to Western women to support jihadist activities and travel to the self-proclaimed Caliphate has sparked debate on why women support politically-motivated violent movements. The policy brief seeks to offer a nuanced insight into how IS recruits Western women by analysing how IS propaganda appeals to female audiences. It does so by applying a detailed qualitative narrative analysis to the contents of all fifteen issues of Dabiq magazine, an official English language magazine of Al Hayat Media Centre. Based on these findings, Ingram offers three strategic recommendations for policy practitioners.

GEOPOLITICS AND STRATEGY

Vrije Universiteit Brussel - Institute for European Studies

Enhancing the EU's international cultural relations: the prospects and limits of cultural diplomacy

by Richard Higgott

October 2017

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

The last few years have seen a dramatic growth of interest in international cultural relations (ICR) and cultural diplomacy (CD). The underlying, but not always articulated, question driving EU activity in this domain asks: to what extent can Europe's history of accomplishments in culture, broadly defined, advance the EU's global engagement and external relations? Furthermore, how might Europe be successful in its quest for enhanced ICRs in the face of a growing populist nationalist zeitgeist?

Ulkopoliittinen instituutti (Finnish Institute of International Affairs)

Fluid dynamics: global great powers in the 21st century

by Mark N. Katz

24 October 2017

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

The great power dynamics of the 21st century is often envisioned as an emerging multipolar world in which US power is declining and that of others is rising. Yet while US power may indeed be in decline, this does not necessarily mean that the power and influence of others is on the rise. The study examines the strengths and weaknesses of what are currently the actual or potential global great powers: the US, China, India, Russia, and the EU. Each of these has impressive abilities, but

also significant limitations. None appears to have the capacity to be "primus inter pares". Thus, something of a multipolar world order is indeed emerging. It is argued here that there are several possible great power configurations.

TRADE

Atlantic Council

What if NAFTA ended? The imperative of a successful renegotiation

by Phil Levy, Daniel Schwanen, Javier Mancera, Jason Marczak and Katherine Pereira

5 October 2017

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

The paper addresses the NAFTA renegotiations which could impact millions of jobs, investments, and North America's stance in the global stage, and furthermore questions the ramifications should NAFTA end. The authors highlight the importance of successful renegotiations of the trade agreement.

Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies

The future of global trade in focus: between multilateralism and regionalism

by János Martonyi

October 2017

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

The paper describes how international trade has been transformed in recent years. It argues that the two main pillars of the global trading system—international trade regulation and the dispute settlement mechanism—are being put under strain due to various developments. The whole system is being challenged by opposing tendencies: on the one hand, the multiplication of global risks and opportunities demands common action and multilateral rule-making; on the other, we are witnessing increasing fragmentation and regionalisation. The realistic objective that can now be set for the future development of world trade is the preservation, as much as possible, of the present system and its improvement in specific areas.

EUROPEAN NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICY

Centre for European Policy Studies

The obsolescence of the European neighbourhood policy

by Steven Blockmans [@StevenBlockmans](#)

9 October 2017

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

The idealism that engendered the European Neighbourhood Policy in 2004, later codified in the Lisbon Treaty, has since been reviewed to adapt to the turbulence that has befallen the EU and its neighbourhood. The author argues that by prioritising security interests over liberal values in increasingly transactional partnerships, the EU is atomising relations with its neighbouring countries. Furthermore, without the political will and a strategic vision to guide relations with the neighbours of the EU's neighbours, the ENP remains in suspended animation.

DEVELOPMENT

Overseas Development Institute

Global development trends and challenges: horizon 2025 revisited

by Homi Kharas and Andrew Rogerson [@RogersonAndrew](#)

October 2017

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

In July 2012 [Horizon 2025: creative destruction in the aid industry](#), was published. Here, the authors analysed some of the major forces shaping change in development cooperation (as they understood it then). Five years on Kharas and Rogerson look at the 2012 scenarios. 2017 is a milestone shrouded in great uncertainty arising from recent political developments such as Brexit and Donald Trump's presidency. This report analyses how previous scenarios have stood the test of time, and reflects on what was previously omitted and what has been learnt since.

ENLARGEMENT PROCESS

Center for Research and Policy Making

Macedonian Obama or the platform from Tirana: a guide to the integrative power sharing model

by Zhidas Daskalovski [@daskalovski](#) and Kristijan Trajkovski

October 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (11 p.) and [Macedonian](#) (8 p.)

In principle, overcoming the ethnic barriers to win votes from the "others" at the elections in mixed societies is a difficult task. The authors question whether Macedonia needs such reform in the political and electoral system? Whilst also questioning whether the parties and candidates offer programs that are acceptable to all citizens regardless of their ethnic background? If yes, we need to consider if Macedonia is one of the rare multi-ethnic countries where the conflicts are to be considered finished? The authors claim that this is not the case and Macedonia needs reform of its political system so that the electoral laws would encourage interethnic agreements, the so-called interethnic accommodation.

College of Europe

The modernization of Turkey's Customs Union with the European Union: reasons and possible outcomes

by Ufuk Alkan

October 2017

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

This paper seeks to explain why, in May 2015, the EU and Turkey have chosen to modernise their Customs Union instead of directly completing Turkey's accession process. Alkan argues that Turkey and the EU seek modernisation because of the EU's increased quest for bilateral free trade agreements after the failure to conclude the Doha Development Round. Furthermore, the author argues that the modernised Customs Union will most probably be the institutional basis for EU-Turkey relations in the near future. However, in a better future conjuncture of bilateral relations, it may then serve as a further step for Turkey's accession to the EU.

Centre for European Reform

Turkey and the EU: no end to the drift

by Luigi Scazzieri [@LScazzieri](#)

16 October 2017

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

Relations between the EU and Turkey have been worsening since the mid-2010s, when the government of President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan started to exhibit more authoritarian tendencies. The pace of deterioration of relations dramatically increased after the failed military coup in August 2016 and the ensuing crackdown, which resulted in the arrest of 40,000 people and the dismissal of 140,000 others. The setback came with the passing of a controversial constitutional reform in April 2017. During the vote, the Turkish government lashed out against EU member-states that would not allow government ministers to campaign in Europe. The constitutional reform, which passed only narrowly, moved Turkey further away from the standards of liberal democracy.

European Policy Centre

Turkey's relations with Germany and the EU: breaking the vicious circle

by Amanda Paul [@amandajane paul](#) and Juliane Schmidt [@juleschmidt90](#)

2 October 2017

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

Relations between Germany and Turkey have reached an all-time low. With escalating rhetoric and mutual recriminations, the relationship that Berlin and Ankara have maintained for decades has entered uncharted waters. In the policy brief, the authors argue that Germany and the EU need to think carefully and strategically about how to shape their future relationship with Turkey. Following the declarations made by Chancellor Merkel in the run-up to the recent federal election, it remains to be seen to what extent the new German government will re-orientate its Turkey policy. To move forward, both parties need to acknowledge the costs of further escalation.

Balkan enlargement and the politics of civic pressure: the case of the public administration reform sector

by Milena Lazarević [@milenalazarevic](#) and Corina Stratulat

5 October 2017

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

This Policy Brief reviews the origins of civil society involvement in the public sector reforms, leading to a country's accession to the EU. The search for civil society allies represents a promising break with the legacy of previous accessions in which governments were the Commission's only trusted interlocutors. To avoid (or at least mitigate) the possibility of backsliding on reforms as it occurred in a number of Central Eastern European countries after their EU entry, the Commission is now wisely investing into the politics of bottom-up pressure for the Balkan aspirants.

Istituto Affari Internazionali

A resilience approach to a failed accession state: the case of Turkey

by Sinan Ülgen [@sinanulgen1](#)

October 2017

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

The author considers it is necessary to build a resilience action plan as a component of the formal Turkey-EU agenda, which is broader than the accession track.

The evolution of Turkey's Syria policy

by Francesco D'Alema

October 2017

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

Since the Justice and Development Party (AKP) came to power at the end of 2002, Turkey has increased its interactions with the Middle East. Syria has been the testing ground of this new policy aimed at improving trade and political relations with all the country's neighbours. The author explores three phases of evolution for Turkey's policy towards Syria under AKP rule.

Ośrodek Studiów Wschodnich (Centre for Eastern Studies)

Pucz jako mit założycielski. Filary ideologiczne Nowej Turcji

by Mateusz Chudziak [@chudziakma](#)

October 2017

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

The Republic of Turkey has undergone a profound transformation under the rule of the Justice and Development Party (AKP) since 2002. This transformation entered the decisive stage after the coup of July 15, 2016, frustrated by the supporters of the government. The coup is regarded as a modern political myth, which serves the authorities to build a comprehensive story about the Turkish rulers and to define the fundamental values and identities of the state. Its founding myth includes a strong anti-Western and anti-libertarian trend. This does not mean, however, that Turkey in this form will automatically become a close ally of other anti-Western countries (like Russia or Iran).

EASTERN PARTNERSHIP

European Council on Foreign Relations

Partners for life: Europe's unanswered Eastern question

by Andrew Wilson

October 2017

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

Since its inception in 2008, the Eastern Partnership (EaP) has evolved in response to changing circumstances. But it still falls short of a transformative plan that would properly serve both the EU and reform-minded forces in partnership states, as well as bolstering their sovereignty and resilience to Russian pressure. This article argues that the EU should better communicate the benefits of its policies to the peoples involved in the EaP.

Polski Instytut Spraw Międzynarodowych (Polish Institute of International Affairs)

EU policy options towards post-soviet de facto states

by Urban Jakša [@urbanjaks](#)

19 October 2017

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

Conflicts in post-Soviet areas involving de facto states are still unresolved since the ceasefires in the early 1990s. These conflicts threaten regional security and limit their chances for political association and economic integration with the EU, undermining the Union's Eastern Partnership. The EU tensions with Russia, the dependence of most post-Soviet de facto states on Russia, the re-escalation in Nagorno-Karabakh, and the conflict in eastern Ukraine makes the situation more complicated and urgent. Since the EU's current approach has shown little result, the author suggests the EU should take a more active role in resolving these conflicts.

European Union Institute for Security Studies

The visa-free 3D effect: Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine

by Stanislav Secieru [@StasSecieru](#)

25 October 2017

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

The EU's Eastern Partnership (EaP) has sought to speed up reforms and pull countries of the eastern neighbourhood closer to the Union. Yet despite the incentives, transformations were often slow and painful: vested interests continue to shape domestic politics to a large degree, justice is frequently selectively applied against the opponents, and high-level corruption discourages large-scale investments. Although the pace of reforms has been sluggish, the level of connectivity between the EU and its eastern neighbours has nevertheless increased. The liberalisation of visa regimes with the EU is one of the main drivers behind this process.

Chatham House - The Royal Institute of International Affairs

The struggle for Ukraine

by John Lough [@JohnLough](#), Orysia Lutsevych [@Orysiaua](#), James Nixey [@jamesnixey](#), James Sherr, Kataryna Wolczuk, Timothy Ash [@tashecon](#) and Janet Gunn

October 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (126 p.)

This report assesses Ukraine's position and examines its double existential threat: resisting Russian interference, and the internal struggle to determine its own political future. It states the West should work inside and outside international negotiation frameworks to resolve the war between Ukraine and Russia and strengthen European security.

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

How to lose Russia in 10(0) days: Ukraine's delicate balance

by Nelly Tomčíková

13 October 2017

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

The Association Agreement between the EU and Ukraine established their political and economic relationship. It entered in full force on the 1st of September 2017, and commits Ukraine to adopting high standards of governance, democratic political system, rule of law and free market. It symbolizes a strategic act of revolt against the regimes ruling Ukraine since 1991. The author concludes that the Agreement is of symbolically, politically, and economically fundamental value for the future of Ukraine.

Ośrodek Studiów Wschodnich (Centre for Eastern Studies)

Czarne chmury nad reformą ukraińskiego rynku gazu

by Wojciech Konończuk, and Sławomir Matuszak [@s_matuszak](#)

4 October 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (6 p.) and [Polish](#) (5 p.)

In September, a majority of the board of Ukraine's largest gas company Naftogaz resigned, accusing the government of political interference as part of a fight for control over Naftogaz and its profit-making subsidiaries. On one side lies the ruling camp (the surrounding of the president and the prime minister), while the other side is the pro-reform management of Naftogaz, backed by Western institutions. The conflict has resulted in a stop of the gas sector reform. The reform had been viewed as one of the biggest successes of the modernisation programme that was launched after the Maidan Revolution. Now there is a risk it might be abandoned entirely.

MIDDLE EAST/NORTH AFRICA (MENA)

Egmont – Royal Institute for International Relations

Anticipating the Post-Daesh landscape

by Rik Coolsaet

3 October 2017

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

The article puts doubt on the persistence Daesh's with shining aura of invincibility and unstoppable expansion, attracting myriads of foreign volunteers to the Levant. According to the author, it is reasonable to expect that the fascination with Daesh will die out as a result of the failure of its state project, since this constituted a critical part of Daesh's force of attraction. This offers a window of opportunity for addressing the conducive environments that permitted Daesh's success in widely different locations around the world, including in Europe. If this opportunity is missed, at some point in the future the re-emergence of yet another jihadi wave cannot be ruled out.

Center for a New American Security

Deir Azzour: tribal mapping project

by Nicholas Heras [@NicholasAHeras](#), Bassam Barabandi [@syriacham](#) and Nidal Betare [@NidalBitari](#)

2 October 2017

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

This project aims to provide the most comprehensive, publicly available tribal mapping of Deir Azzour governorate, located in eastern Syria, in the borders with Iraq, where Arab tribes make up the clear majority of the local population. It is the new administrative centre for the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) since the salafi-jihadi organization lost control over its capital in Iraq, Mosul, and it began losing its hold over its Syrian capital of Raqqa. The project's implementers leveraged a network of Syrians from Deir Azzour, both those currently residing in the governorate in areas under ISIS' control and those displaced to other areas of Syria, to collect the data for the mapping.

Oxford Institute for Energy Studies

Economic adjustment and reform in the context of a rentier state

by Bassam Fattouh

4 October 2017

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

While oil rents remain central to shaping the political economy of the Gulf Corporation Council (GCC) countries, an area receiving little attention in the literature is the process of economic adjustment and reforms in the context of a rentier economy. Arguably, governments cannot embark on reforms without undermining the social contract between the ruling families and the citizens, increasing the risk of social and political unrest. Yet recent experience shows that the GCC countries have introduced some limited reforms with relative ease and without much public opposition so far, suggesting that social contract is more resilient than originally thought.

Fundación Alternativas

El Kurdistan Iraquí: una independencia incierta

by Luciano Zaccara

11 October 2017

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

The referendum in Iraqi Kurdistan, held on 25 September, was not intended to define the borders of the future Kurdistan state nor to unilaterally declare its independence. Instead, it was meant to initiate a negotiation process with Bagdad to build a new legal framework that replaces the failed federal state, according to the regional government of Kurdistan, which was a result of the Iraqi Constitution of 2005. On this basis, the paper discusses different options in order to resolve the crisis.

Reconciliación entre Hamas y Fatah?

by Ignacio Álvarez-Ossorio [@IAvarezOssorio](#)

20 October 2017

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

This article discusses the fact that on 12 October, Fatah and Hamas announced in Cairo a reconciliation agreement which, if successful, will end a decade of battles and will return the control of the Gaza Strip to the Palestinian National Authority (PAN). In the coming months a government of national unity should be put in place and presidential and legislative elections will be held, even if the outcome of this agreement will largely depend on the response of the international community and, above all, of the attitude of Israel, the occupying force.

European Union Institute for Security Studies

Drug trafficking in the MENA – The economics and the politics

by Georgios Barzoukas

31 October 2017

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

This report highlights that MENA is a major source, transit point, and consumer of illicit drugs. According to the author, with a steady base of clientele to the north, the Sahelian smuggling route to its south and the heroin route traversing it from east to west, the region both influences and is negatively influenced by illicit substance abuse and production.

Arab wars: calculating the costs

by Florence Gaub [@FlorenceGaub](#)

4 October 2017

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

MENA has a well-deserved reputation for being a region plagued by war and conflict. Every decade since the end of the Second World War has seen at least 1 interstate conflict (the 1990s even saw 2); it has also witnessed 25 types of intrastate war (on average, 2 per decade), including insurgencies, civil wars and protracted terrorism campaigns. In the same timeframe, 2.3 million of its citizens have died as a result of political violence – 40% of the global total of battle-related deaths, although the region accounts for a mere 5% of the world's population. So what needs to be known about these conflicts in order to support peace in the region?

Meet Iraq's Sunni Arabs – A strategic profile

by Florence Gaub [@FlorenceGaub](#)

4 October 2017

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

The author of this report claims that Baathists, jihadists, insurgents: stereotypes about the Sunni Arab community of Iraq abound. They formed the backbone of the Saddam Hussein regime, invaded Kuwait, gassed the Kurds and helped Daesh capture more than one-third of Iraq's territory – or so the story goes. But, according to the author, this community numbering some 5.3 million people is more than just a political troublemaker – and its grievances have been neither fully understood nor addressed.

Carnegie Endowment for International Peace

Tunisian's corruption contagion. A transition at risk.

by Sarah Yerkes [@SarahYerkes](#) and Marwan Muasher [@MarwanMuasher](#)

25 October 2017

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

The article addresses the issue of corruption being a destabilizing force in Tunisia, infecting all levels of its economy, security, and political system. Numerous legal measures and civil society initiatives have been working to fight corruption, but it is perceived to be even more pervasive today than it was under the former president Ben Ali. According to the authors, fighting corruption is crucial for the democratic transition to survive. To be successful, government and civil society must first agree on a framework which should then be supported with targeted funding and assistance by the international community.

Barcelona Centre for International Affairs

Tunisia: slow progress in a turbulent region

by Francis Ghiles

27 October 2017

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

According to the author, in the months and year ahead, the future of Tunisia will be shaped by its regional environment and by the capacity of its leaders to enact bold reforms. While Algeria has helped its smaller neighbour confront terrorism, the country's interplay with Libya has been altogether more complex. The report highlights that the impact of the Libya crisis on the Tunisian economy has not been easy to decipher but a World Bank report now allows for a better understanding of the complex interplay of economic and social factors between the two countries since 2011.

All that glitters is not gold: unveiling Iran's economic recovery

by Irene Martínez Fernández [@irene_martinezf](#)

27 October 2017

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

The author claims that while forecasts predict a continuous positive trend in the upcoming years for the Iranian economy, when the oil sector is excluded from these calculations, the numbers are not that appealing because of the rigidity of its economy. The Iranian style of crony capitalism has designed institutions officially or unofficially related to political, military and religious power axes that have been completely outside any regulatory oversight. In order to really tackle the problems arising from the financial system, the government will have to implement serious and sound reforms.

Centre for European Policy Studies

Migrants in the Mediterranean: easy and difficult solutions

by Mikkel Barslund [@mBarslund](#) and Lars Ludolph [@lars_ludolph](#)

12 October 2017

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

In this report, the authors discuss an alternative to the dubious state of affairs in Libya today in matter of migration. They sustain that in order to avoid a return to the unsustainable situation pre-summer 2017, there is an alternative, but is far harder to implement, because it involves more actors.

Atlantic Council / Institut Montaigne

The Middle East after decertification: a French perspective

by Michel Duclos [@Francoisgorand](#)

25 October 2017

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

France played a significant role in the negotiations that led to the deal with Iran known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). The article focuses on the French perspective of this deal which never believed in the "transformational" value of the JCPOA. On the contrary, it is feared that in order to get the support of the security wing of the regime, the moderate elements would be forced to give up more freedom to the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps and their epigones.

Institute for National Security Studies

Preparing an alternative strategy before withdrawing from the nuclear agreement with Iran

by Amos Yadlin [@YadlinAmos](#) and Avner Golov

10 October 2017

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

According to the authors, now is not the time to withdraw from the nuclear agreement with Iran. Rather, suitable strategic conditions should be created if a withdrawal is necessary in the future, with leverage built for a better option. Postponing a decision regarding the future of the JCPOA does not denote passivity toward Iran. Alongside efforts to set up an international coalition that will work to keep Iran from nuclear weapons, action must be taken against all negative Iranian activities that are not covered by the agreement. At the same time, the US and Israel must promote a parallel agreement that defines a joint strategy against the various threats emanating from Iran.

Istituto Affari Internazionali

Unpacking Lebanon's resilience: undermining state institutions and consolidating the system?

by Jamil Mouawad [@JamilMouawad](#)

October 2017

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

Lebanon's resilience finds roots in a "system" of patronage and clientelism often endorsed directly or indirectly by the international community. The author submits that Lebanon's lauded resilience is actually the resilience of its elites, whose purpose is to undermine state institutions. According to this article even though the stability of Lebanon is the resilience of its elites, it, in turn, hides the seeds of conflict and instability that might erupt at any point.

Institut français des relations internationales

Diplomatie nomade autour du Yémen

by Christian Testot

October 2017

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

Together with Syria and Libya, Yemen is the third Arab country in a state of civil/international war, with the same consequences for the diplomatic activity: as a result of the closure of embassies and the security situation, governments have had to develop a policy of 'nomad' contacts with interlocutors in exile in third countries.

Российский совет по международным делам (Russian International Affairs Council)

Yemen crisis: causes, threats and resolution scenarios

by Sergey Serebrov

24 October 2017

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

The situation in Yemen has already been identified as one of the world's largest humanitarian catastrophes of the 21st century, causing concerns for the United Nations and the international community. According to the author, the Yemen crisis carries threats affecting its neighbours in the Arabian Peninsula and which might affect the interests of global actors in the future. If urgent measures are not taken to resolve the political crisis in the country, the situation could present greater challenges. This report claims that Russia has been consistent in calling on global and regional forces to work together in trying to resolve the region's problems.

International Crisis Group

Discord in Yemen's north could be a chance for peace

11 October 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (16 p.) and [Arabic](#) (15 p.)

Since August, a public rift has surfaced between the two main partners on the northern front of Yemen's war – the forces loyal to the Huthis and Ali Abdullah Saleh. This article claims that rather than fostering its rivals' discord, key powerbroker Saudi Arabia should seize this rare chance to resolve the two-and-a-half year war by championing a new regional initiative.

Oil and borders: how to fix Iraq's Kurdish crisis

17 October 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (16 p.) and [Arabic](#) (14 p.)

September's independence referendum in Iraqi Kurdistan has pushed Baghdad to take control of Kirkuk and its oil fields from Kurdish control. According to the author, To avert the threat of further direct confrontation, the two sides must agree to a reinvigorated UN-led effort to settle longstanding disputes over internal boundaries and shared oil revenues.

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

Chemical weapons challenges ahead: the past and future of the OPCW - With a case study on Syria

by Peter van Ham, Sico van der Meer [@sicovandermeer](#) and Malik Ellahi
23 October 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (85 p.)

This report examines the track record of the organisation in the light of the questions raised about the OPCW's future, which celebrates its 20th anniversary in 2017. It aims to offer some insights into the challenges and options for the future, as well as to identify potential steps that policy makers could take to prepare the OPCW for the future.

United States Institute of Peace

Governance challenges in Raqqa after the Islamic State

by Mona Yacoubian [@myacoubian](#)
19 October 2017

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

The fall of the Syrian city of Raqqa - the capital of the self-proclaimed Islamic State (IS)'s caliphate - will be a critical defeat for IS. Yet, the success of the counter-campaign will ultimately be determined not by the battlefield win, but instead by what follows. This report identifies the critical governance challenges that Raqqa will face and need to address if it is to prevent a resurgence of violence and extremism.

EASTERN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

Analitika

Two schools under one roof in Bosnia and Herzegovina: (mis)understanding the problem, and possible solutions

by Alina Trkulja
17 October 2017

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

The education system in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the individual practices that are applied are far from being effective in encouraging understanding, tolerance and friendship among all nations and all racial, ethnic or religious groups, as required by the Framework Law on Primary and Secondary Education in Bosnia and Herzegovina and other international legal documents the state has ratified. Existing educational policies result in ubiquitous discrimination and inequality and even segregation in education. The most illustrative example of this practice are the divided / parallel schools, better known as "two schools under one roof".

Central Asia-Caucasus Institute and Silk Road Studies Program

Kazakhstan in Europe: why not?

by Svante E. Cornell [@SvanteCornell](#) and Johan Engvall
2 October 2017

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

Is Kazakhstan a European state? The answer to this question could define the character of the country's long-term relationship with European institutions and organizations, and profoundly affect the country's social, political and economic development. After Kazakhstan and the EU signed a ground-breaking Enhanced Partnership and Cooperation Agreement in 2015, the question is how

Europe's relationship to Kazakhstan – and by extension to Central Asia as a whole – can be further developed. The authors claim that for Kazakhstan, the main question is to what extent its leadership is prepared to fully embrace its European identity.

International Crisis Group

The rising risks of misrule in Tajikistan

9 October 2017

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

With his seven-year term set to end in 2020, uncertainty is growing over whether Tajikistan's long-time ruler President Emomali Rahmon will handpick a successor or continue his reign. Growing troubles at home and abroad ensure both scenarios are fraught with risk and must be managed prudently, lest the country become another source of regional disorder.

AFRICA

European Union Institute for Security Studies

African futures: horizon 2025

by Valerie Arnould [@ValerieArnould](#) and Francesco Strazzari [@franxstrax](#) (eds.)

16 October 2017

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

In recent years Africa has undergone significant economic, socio-political and technological transformations, a process which is likely to accelerate over the coming decades. While it would be an overstatement to proclaim that the future will be African, there are strong indications that the global importance of the continent is set to rise and not only as a source of risk factors spilling over from poverty and instability. The objective of this report is to reflect on the major trends that will orient Africa's future looking ahead towards 2025, and to identify the factors which are likely to have the most far-reaching impact on Africa's economic, political and security trajectory.

Istituto per gli Studi di Politica Internazionale

Out of Africa. Why people migrate

by Giovanni Carbone (ed.)

October 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (172 p.)

Why do Africans decide to leave their home countries? While the dream of a better life in Europe is likely part of the explanation, one also needs to examine the prevailing living conditions in the large and heterogeneous sub-Saharan region. This report investigates the actual role of political, economic, demographic and environmental drivers in current migration flows. It offers a comprehensive picture of major migration motives as well as of key trends. Attention is also devoted to the role of climate change in promoting migration and to intra-continental mobility.

Institut français des relations internationales

Coopérer avec les armées africaines

by Aline Lebœuf [@alingleboeuf](#)

October 2017

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

Numerous actors are involved in military cooperation programs aiming to strengthen African armies and to build special partnerships. These programs provide trainings and the deployment of military counsellors, as well as material and financial support to different sub-Saharan African

armies. Nevertheless, military cooperation is facing serious challenges and there is still a long way to go. To that end, cooperation will have to be dealt from the bottom up with the deployment of advisors at the operational level, as well as from the top down with the introduction of security sector reforms which will enable to bring progressive yet intensive changes that African armies need.

Zimbabwe in dubious battle: the unexpected consequences of Western sanctions

by Vittoria Moretti

October 2017

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

The aim of this paper is to assess how an African country deals on the long run with the decline of international aid and foreign direct investment. This paper is a contribution to the debate about the effectiveness of the international sanctions system.

International Crisis Group

Time to reset African Union-European Union relations

17 October 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (41 p.) and [French](#) (47 p.)

Relations between the African Union (AU) and EU reached a nadir in 2016 following serious disagreements over European payments to AU peacekeepers in Somalia. The fifth AU-EU summit presents a chance to reinvigorate the partnership if both sides can deal openly with disagreements, address deep-seated mutual frustration and agree to tackle the root causes driving migrants toward Europe.

Cameroon's worsening Anglophone crisis calls for strong measures

19 October 2017

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

Against a backdrop of bomb blasts, sporadic violence and repressive state measures, Cameroon's Anglophone crisis has entered a new and intensified phase. According to this report, in order to prevent the outbreak of an armed uprising, Cameroon's president must go beyond superficial measures by urgently implementing key reforms and pursuing inclusive, high-level dialogue mediated by the UN or African Union.

Cameroon's far north: reconstruction amid ongoing conflict

25 October 2017

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

The fight against Boko Haram in Cameroon's Far North, the country's poorest region, has exacerbated the already-delicate economic situation and placed under strain traditional socio-economic roles. This report claims that the government and international partners should embrace development policies that take into account the local population's resilience strategies and adaptation to new economic realities.

The social roots of jihadist violence in Burkina Faso's north

12 October 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (32 p.) and [French](#) (33 p.)

Jihadist violence in the West African Sahel has now spread to the north of Burkina Faso. This report submits that the response of Ouagadougou and its partners must go beyond the obvious religious and security dimensions of the crisis, and any solution must take into account deep-rooted social and local factors.

Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment

Future climate projections for Malawi

by Neha Mittal [@nehamitts](#), Katharine Vincent [@katharine_v](#), Declan Conway, Emma Archer van Garderen [@EmmaArchervG](#), Joanna Pardoe, Martin Todd, Richard Washington, Christian Siderius and David Mkwambisi

27 October 2017

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

This brief provides an overview of future climate change in Malawi, using results from the latest available climate model simulations. It first presents a summary of recent observed rainfall and temperature variability. This is followed by an overview of the range of climate projections available from the leading source of climate model results. A detailed annex describes the methods and datasets used in the brief and presents a wider range of figures for further reference. A two-page summary also highlights key findings.

ASIA-OCEANIA

Ulkopoliittinen instituutti (Finnish Institute of International Affairs)

The North Korean conundrum: international responses and future challenges

by Elina Sinkkonen [@ElinaSinkkonen](#)

12 October 2017

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

This report provides an overview of the so-called North Korea problem and discusses the main options that the international community has at its disposal for dealing with it. More precisely, it analyses how different great powers, regional actors and scholarly communities perceive the North Korea problem and range of available solutions. It focuses on the military threat its weapons of mass destruction programmes pose to neighbouring countries and the US; the threat caused by illicit means of financing the regime, including weapon sales; and the threat the North Korean political situation poses to its own people due to the dire human rights situation in the country.

Instituto Español de Estudios Estratégicos

Corea del Norte: nuevas sanciones. Un análisis crítico

by Francisco Márquez de la Rubia

17 October 2017

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

The tense situation following advances in the North Korean nuclear programme, its ballistic tests and the subsequent reactions from neighbouring countries like South Korea and Japan, as well as the US, China and Russia's positions are extremely worrying. This paper critically analyses UNSC Resolution 2375, trying to determine how it can help to decrease the tensions in the area. It also addresses the last elements of financial pressure on the Pyongyang regime and the changes in the positions of the great powers.

Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses

How North Korea was armed

by Prabha Rao

26 October 2017

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

China and to a lesser extent Pakistan have helped North Korea with its nuclear and missile development programmes. In return, Pakistan has gained considerably on account of the nuclear

and missile cooperation with North Korea, with serious security implications for India. While an uneasy equilibrium currently exists in East Asia, the burgeoning US-China rivalry will ensure that the current standoff in the Korean peninsula will not be resolved anytime soon. Kim Jong-Un will continue to exploit the current situation in the region to consolidate his regime's political power.

Institute for Development and International Relations / Hanns-Seidel-Stiftung (Hanns Seidel Foundation)

Fears of war on the Korean peninsula

by Dario Kuntić
30 October 2017

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

The paper analyses the situation in the Korean peninsula. For decades, North Korea has been developing its nuclear program and increasing the power and range of its missiles. Armed with nuclear weapons and in possession of an arsenal of missiles, it is now in a position to hit and destroy densely populated targets throughout East Asia. With an intercontinental ballistic missile, its reach would become global. As time to deal with North Korea is running out, the Asia-Pacific region enters into a period of high tensions in which miscalculations frequently occur and conflicts often erupt.

Center for Strategic and International Studies

Is Asia reconnecting?

by Jonathan E. Hillman [@HillmanJE](#) (ed.)
31 October 2017

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

Is Asia reconnecting? Until the rise of Europe's colonial powers in the sixteenth century, many of the world's most important trading routes ran overland. Today, emerging overland routes aim to shift trade away from the sea, where 90% of international trade currently travels. The paper considers multiple perspectives related to Asia's infrastructure.

Carnegie Endowment for International Peace

India's Rohingya realpolitik

by Niranjana Sahoo [@SNiranjansahoo](#)
31 October 2017

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

India's eastern neighbourhood is experiencing an enormous humanitarian catastrophe. Since late August 2017, over half a million Rohingya refugees from Myanmar's restive Rakhine State have fled to neighbouring Bangladesh. Sectarian riots in Myanmar involving Rohingya Muslims and Rakhine Buddhists, as well as unrelenting state-sponsored violence targeting the Rohingya minority, have invited widespread global condemnation and calls for urgent humanitarian interventions.

Institut français des relations internationales

Japon-Russie: les limites d'un rapprochement stratégique

by Céline Pajon [@CelinePajon](#)
October 2017

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

By reinforcing the antagonism between Russia and the "Western camp", the Ukrainian crisis has shown the limits and contradictions of a Russo-Japanese rapprochement. Russia's dependence on

China has increased alongside that of Japan vis-à-vis the US. The Abe-Putin summit in December 2016 seems to mark a new approach: Russia and Japan finally favour a pragmatic, gradual and all-round rapprochement. It must finally allow, first of all, a return of Japan to the Kuril islands, rather than a return of the islands to Japan. However, the development of such a project, which requires a special status, remains very complex.

Japan Institute of International Affairs

Japan's nuclear disarmament diplomacy following the adoption of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW)

by Hirofumi Tosaki

20 October 2017

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

Despite Japan's decision not to sign the [TPNW](#), the promotion of nuclear disarmament remains one of the top priorities of Japan's foreign and security policies. As the adoption of the TPNW has further widened the rift between nuclear-armed/umbrella states and other non-nuclear-weapon states, Japan should make efforts to bridge the two sides. It is imperative to continue striving to improve the security environment and to clarify the aims of deterrence even under the current security circumstances where strengthening deterrence is required.

Japan should actively push for a TPP11 agreement

by Shujiro Urata

31 October 2017

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

It is important that Japan cooperates with Australia and other like-minded countries to wrap up negotiations. The aim should be to reach an agreement in principle at the TPP11 summit, to be held on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit in November 2017 in which US President Trump is scheduled to participate, in order to demonstrate to him the strong commitment of the region to open markets and freer trade and investment relationships with or without the US.

From the two Ps to the two Cs: the accomplishments and challenges of ASEAN at 50

by Susumu Yamakage

5 October 2017

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

The Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) five original member states sought peace and prosperity (the two Ps). After the Cold War, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam (CLMV) joined ASEAN in pursuit of the two Ps. Today, it is pursuing centrality and connectivity (the two Cs). Centrality aims to exert power and influence through various ASEAN-cantered institutions. Connectivity aims to enhance regional integration and to ameliorate regional disparities. Japan has acknowledged ASEAN's centrality and has been helping pursue connectivity. It could further promote improving connectivity in its eastern maritime area.

Transparency International

Strengthening anti-corruption agencies in Asia Pacific

25 October 2017

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

This synthesis report presents the major findings of country-level studies on anti-corruption agencies (ACAs) in Asia Pacific. The objective is to gauge the strengths and weaknesses of ACAs in the participating countries, based on selected indicators. It is also an attempt to assist the ACAs to assess their status and performance compared to internationally recognised principles and

standards. A broader goal is to encourage ACAs in the region to build on the experience and good practice of the ACAs under review.

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Transparency International

People and corruption: Latin America and the Caribbean

9 October 2017

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

This new report from the Global Corruption Barometer series is based on surveys with over 22,000 citizens living in 20 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean. Citizens were asked about first-hand experiences of bribery in public services and perceptions of the scale of corruption. The report comes at a time when governments around the world are having to pay greater attention to tackling corruption as the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – an ambitious set of 17 global goals – calls on governments to "substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms".

Consejo Uruguayo para las Relaciones Internacionales

Sobre la interminable recurrencia del populismo Latinoamericano

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

20 October 2017

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

For less than a decade, Latin American countries, largely ruled by regimes with populist traits, were convinced they had found the "right way" towards development and well-being. A vast number of analysts shared this impression and signalled the existence of a "populist wave" that would go beyond the region. Even if the crisis of 2008 had threatened our economies for a moment, the biggest blow actually concerned the very developed countries rather than the less developed, such as the ones in Latin America.

International Crisis Group

Colombia's armed groups battle for the spoils of peace

19 October 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (48 p.) and [Spanish](#) (50 p.)

Colombia's 2016 peace accord has brought over 10,000 FARC fighters to the cusp of civilian life, but in their wake rival armed groups are battling for control of vacated territory and lucrative coca crops. In order to roll back booming drug production and expanding non-state groups, the Colombian government should provide local farmers with alternative livelihoods while developing grassroots security and local governance.

Center for Economic and Policy Research

More trouble ahead: Puerto Rico's impending Medicaid crisis

by Lara Merling [@LaraMerling](#) and Jake Johnston [@JakobJohnston](#)

October 2017

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

Already in the midst of a fiscal crisis, Puerto Rico faces a long road to recovery from Hurricane Maria, a devastating storm it was ill-equipped to handle. The urgent efforts to address both the humanitarian needs and damage caused by the storm must also extend to solving the island's imminent Medicaid crisis, a pre-existing condition that plagued Puerto Rico before the hurricane

and that has been exacerbated by it. The paper examines the inadequate federal support received by Puerto Rico for its Medicaid program, and shows that — barring immediate action from the US Congress — the territory will not have sufficient funds to continue operating in 2018.

CHINA

Polski Instytut Spraw Międzynarodowych (Polish Institute of International Affairs)

Xi transforms the PLA: how the military is being adapted to China's changing global position

by Marcin Przychodniak [@Molos123](#)

31 October 2017

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

Reform of the Chinese armed forces gained new momentum under Xi Jinping in 2015. The main argument behind the strategy of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) is the active defence of China's global interests to strengthen its competitiveness with the US. A short-term goal is to make the PLA operationally capable of projecting China's power abroad constantly. The PLA should also be capable of defending China's territory and overseas interests by performing combat operations abroad. This means a possible change to the non-intervention clause that has until now been a crucial element of China's foreign policy.

European Council on Foreign Relations

Grand designs: does China have a 'grand strategy'?

by Angela Stanzel [@angela_stanzel](#), Nadège Rolland [@RollandNadege](#), Jabin Jacob [@jabinjacobt](#) and Melanie Hart

18 October 2017

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

The paper analyses if China's leaders have a strategy for the long-term direction of their country. Chinese thinkers have been discussing this very question, even speaking about the parameters of an all-encompassing "grand strategy". The Chinese government has yet to disclose any document that comprehensively expounds the country's strategic goals and the ways to achieve them.

Center for Economic and Policy Research

The scorecard on development, 1960–2016: China and the global economic rebound

by David Rosnick [@ViscidKonrad](#), Mark Weisbrot [@MarkWeisbrot](#) and Jacob Wilson

October 2017

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

The report looks at the rate of progress of economic, health, and social indicators, including per capita GDP, mortality, life expectancy, and education for all countries with available data. It examines the twenty-first century rebound for the majority of low- and middle-income countries after an unusual long-term decline in the rate of progress on most of these indicators in the last two decades of the twentieth century. It discusses the role of China in the twenty-first-century rebound, and the possible role of major policy changes that took place in many low- and middle-income countries, as well as other policy and institutional influences.

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

The good, the bad and the ugly: Chinese influence in the Western Balkans

by Alexandr Lagazzi [@LagazziA](#) and Michal Vít [@ceeidentity](#)

27 October 2017

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

The paper suggests that the impact of Chinese influence on the Western Balkans is paradoxical: Beijing seems to benefit from EU-led convergence towards political stability in order to increase its opportunities to implement its economic agenda, whilst Chinese eager pockets result in a divergence from EU criteria and an undermining of EU membership prospects for the recipients.

OCP Policy Center

Chine - Maroc - Afrique: un partenariat agroalimentaire novateur

by Fathallah Oualalou

10 October 2017

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

The paper proposes the establishment of a partnership between China and Morocco, focusing on the agro-food industry in Africa. On this continent the demand for food will increase in a very significant way during the 21st century, particularly due to its demographic growth and the acceleration of its urbanization. Africa must succeed in its agricultural revolution to combat the hunger, manage the industrialization of its economy and master its urbanization. Given the demographic balance, the future of Africa's agro-food industry is a matter of global interest.

Overseas Development Institute

Chinese light manufacturing and outward investment into Africa and Asia

by Stephen Gelb [@sgelb1](#) and Linda Calabrese [@lindacalab](#)

October 2017

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

Manufacturing in China employs over 100 million people in total, of whom about 25 million are in export-oriented light manufacturing sectors where firms participate in global value chains. As light manufacturing operations relocate in response to rising wages in China, there is an opportunity for developing countries in Africa and Asia to secure some of these 25 million jobs. Even a very small share of these would represent significant employment gains in such countries.

RUSSIA

Institute for National Security Studies

Russia in the international arena, according to Putin

by Zvi Magen and Itamar Rabinovich

26 October 2017

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

The article analyses Vladimir Putin's recent speech at the Valdai Discussion Club. The authors conclude that expectations of a sensational speech from Putin were not met. The Russian President did not present any new or revolutionary claims, but focused on familiar allegations – mainly complaints against the West over its attitude to Russia and its creation of crises that undermine the international system. There were also messages that Russia had effective solutions to improve the situation.

The S-400 deal: Russia drives another wedge between Turkey and its NATO allies

by Gallia Lindenstrauss [@GLindenstrauss](#) and Zvi Magen

18 October 2017

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

The recent statement by Turkish President Erdogan that Ankara had made an advance payment to Russia for the purchase of two S-400 air defence batteries, combined with Russia's confirmation of this report, constitutes a significant development that adds to the question marks about Turkey's future in NATO. While many believe that Turkey will remain a NATO member for the foreseeable future, they note at the same time that Turkey is a problematic member of the alliance that is already suffering from quite a few internal tensions.

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

Når isen smelter, risikerer forholdet til Rusland at fryse til

by Flemming Splidsboel Hansen

19 October 2017

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

Russia has recently built up military capabilities in the Arctic, with military activities involving large troop deployments and exercises. However, these expensive activities are often used as propaganda, which are first advertised to the public but later reduced in silence. Russia's activities in the area should be seen as part of a political narrative about an acute threat from the West, which the Russian government uses to project itself as defender of Russia. This article posits that developments in the Russian Arctic must be assessed based on the actual implementation, since there is a difference between the political statements and the actual situation.

Forum for Research on Eastern Europe and Emerging Economies

On economics of innovation subsidies in Russia

by Galina Besstremyannaya, Sergei Golovan and Grigoriy Senchenya

9 October 2017

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

Following the general agreement that innovation is a source of economic growth, the Russian government has provided various stimuli to foster domestic innovation. One of the mechanisms of innovation policy is research subsidies. The brief starts off with a discussion of the theoretical predictions and empirical evidence, which relates the economic incentives of research subsidies to innovation and growth. The authors then address the potential adverse effects of focusing innovation subsidies mainly on large public companies in Russia. Finally, the authors attempt to establish a link between the innovation rate and market competition within Russian industries.

Oxford Institute for Energy Studies

Gas and taxes: the impact of Russia's tinkering with upstream gas taxes on state revenues and decline rates of legacy gas fields

by Vitaliy Yermakov and Daria Kirova

31 October 2017

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

Due to low commodity prices, the potential for conflict between hydrocarbon producers and governments over tax revenues is exacerbated; In particular in Russia, since the state relies so heavily on taxes from the oil/gas sectors and producers must invest in more remote assets rather than rely on declining Soviet-era low-cost fields. Gazprom prioritised production from more expensive fields with a lower tax burden, resulting in government revenues not being maximised

and Russia's competitive position in global market not being optimised. The paper explores the respective implications and discusses potential policy changes which could alleviate the problems.

Российский совет по международным делам (Russian International Affairs Council)

Russia - India energy cooperation: trade, joint projects and new areas

by Vasily Shikin and Amit Bhandari

5 October 2017

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

Over the years, Russia and India have implemented a wide range of long-term and large-scale joint projects in the energy sector, first and foremost in the nuclear area, making it one of the foundations of their special and privileged strategic partnership. However, in order to boost comprehensive ties and adapting to the changing global economic environment, the two countries are in need of innovative approaches in the energy sector. The present paper is a result of Russian and Indian experts' joint efforts to evaluate the potential of new collaboration formats and develop specific recommendations for enhancing cooperation.

College of Europe

The Syrian conflict and Russia's search for regional hegemony in a contested Middle East: implications for the Euro-Atlantic community

by Brice Didier [@BriceDdr](#)

October 2017

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

The Syrian conflict represents a major challenge for the Euro-Atlantic community as it reflects Russia's reassertion as a counter-power to the US and the EU in the Middle East. The paper argues that in the power vacuum created by the Arab Spring, Russia's engagement in Syria has highlighted the limits of American and European approaches to the region.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Pew Research Center

Political typology reveals deep fissures on the right and left

24 October 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (154 p.)

The U.S. political landscape is dominated by partisanship, but there are divisions within both partisan coalitions on such issues as immigration, America's "openness" and the size and scope of government.

Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments

FY 2018 Weapon Systems Factbook

by Jacob Cohn [@jmcohn](#), Ryan Boone [@ryanjboone](#) and Amber Oar

27 October 2017

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

The report summarizes the purpose of each of the 87 Major Defense Acquisition Program (MDAP), its capabilities, its planned development and procurement schedule, its annual procurement rate, and past and future program funding. When available, it also includes Average Procurement Unit Costs (APUC) and estimated total Operations and Support (O&S) costs for each program.

Chatham House - The Royal Institute of International Affairs

The US Visa Waiver Program: facilitating travel and enhancing security

by Ruth Ellen Wasem

October 2017

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

Since 9/11 the US has leveraged participation in the Visa Waiver Program (VWP) to gain intelligence to fight terrorism. Critics make the case that the VWP is a major national security vulnerability regardless of the modest economic boost that VWP travellers provide. Supporters of the VWP warn that efforts to tighten up the requirements would jeopardize the fight against terrorism.

Carnegie Endowment for International Peace

U.S.-China tensions: interplay between economics and politics

by Yukon Huang

27 October 2017

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

The tensions between the US and China as regards trade and foreign investment factors stem in part from basic misunderstandings. These negative perceptions are nurtured by insecurities in the mindsets of both nations and reflect the mistrust between their respective civilian and military leaders. Contrasting political systems and cultural norms of society have always made it difficult for these two nations to work together. But ironically, with President Trump's election and President Xi's consolidation of authority, the potential for conflict is now greater, not because of these differences but because of commonalities in their personal aspirations.

Contain, enforce, and engage: an integrated U.S. strategy to address Iran's nuclear and regional challenges

by William J. Burns, Michèle A. Flournoy [@micheleflournoy](#), Jarrett Blanc, Elisa Catalano Ewers, Ilan Goldenberg [@IlanGoldenberg](#), Ariel (Eli) Levite, Elizabeth Rosenberg [@Energy_Liz](#) and Karim Sadjadpour [@ksadjadpour](#)

26 October 2017

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

The Iran nuclear deal is merely the cornerstone of a broader, longer-term strategy to prevent Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon and to diminish and counter Iran's threatening behaviour—from its growing ballistic missile arsenal, to its dangerous use of regional proxies, to its human rights abuses at home.

Institute for National Security Studies

President Trump's speech on Iran: goals without clear means of implementation

by Sima Shine and Eldad Shavit

16 October 2017

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

After weeks of rising tension in anticipation of the October deadline to recertify the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), President Trump explained his administration's policy vis-à-vis Iran in a forceful speech that included a detailed description of the crimes of the Islamic Republic. The policy reflects the tension between the desire to undermine what Iran achieved from the nuclear agreement and its ongoing conduct in relation to all issues not covered by the agreement, and international and regional constraints.

Lowy Institute for International Policy

An accident waiting to happen: Trump, Putin and the US–Russia relationship

by Bobo Lo

October 2017

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

US-Russia relations are more problematic and acrimonious than at any time since the end of the Cold War. Trump's anarchic tendencies will further destabilise relations in a volatile international context. The best-case scenario for the relationship in the short to medium term may be one of mutual containment, reminiscent of the Cold War. However, even this relative stability appears elusive. Trump's political weakness and anarchic tendencies point to further destabilisation. Against the backdrop of a volatile international environment, the chances of an accident, even of direct confrontation between the US and Russia, have increased significantly.

Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars

Is the U.S.-Saudi security alliance in trouble?

by David Ottaway

October 2017

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

The Saudi decision to open discussions with Russia for the purchase of its highly-sophisticated S-400 missile defence system holds disruptive consequences for the U.S. security strategy toward the Arab states. It also raises serious questions about what is happening in the longstanding U.S.-Saudi relationship to drive the Saudis to turn to Russia for their security.

Center for American Progress

Boosting U.S.-Mexico clean energy cooperation

by Joel Martinez [@JAMartinez510](#)

27 October 2017

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

The US and Mexico enjoy deep levels of interconnectivity, including economic, political, security, and cultural ties. These are the results of countless policy, business, and personal choices that fundamentally differentiate the US relationship with Mexico from its relationship with all other countries in the world except Canada. Among these connections are complex, cross-border supply chains that have become the norm in a growing number of industries. This integration creates clear opportunities to benefit both the US and Mexico across a broad set of public interests. One such area of opportunity is deepening cross-border renewable energy production and distribution.

Center for Strategic and International Studies

Raising the consequences of hacking American companies

by David A. Simon

12 October 2017

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

Lawmakers are attempting to glean information from Facebook and Twitter about Russia-backed bot accounts deployed to interfere in the 2016 U.S. election. At the same time, U.S. businesses and critical infrastructure face a distinctive state-cyber interference threat of their own. In May of this year, the "WannaCry" cyber-attack took the world by storm. A few weeks later, NotPetya emerged, this time mostly affecting Ukrainian computer networks. Some researchers quickly concluded that the malware's true purpose was to harm the devices it infected. The Ukrainian government blames Russia for the hack, which Ukraine claims was politically motivated.

SPECIAL FOCUS - WORK-RELATED ISSUES IN THE EU

Fondation Robert Schuman

The revision of the Posted Workers' Directive: how can it be taken further?

by Sébastien Richard

9 October 2017

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

In spite of the adoption of an enforcement Directive in May 2014 that was designed to improve counter fraud measures, the posting of workers has become emblematic in a Europe that is now synonymous to social dumping, and which no longer guarantees the fair conditions of competition. The European Commission has put forward several initiatives over the last few months to enhance the rights of posted workers and to prevent the misappropriation of the original measure, whether this involves road hauliers and the coordination of social security systems. The paper reviews this Directive and wonders how it can be taken further.

Jacques Delors Institut - Berlin / Notre Europe - Jacques Delors Institute

Posted workers: how to ensure a fair mobility?

by Sofia Fernandes [@fernandesofiaEU](#)

23 October 2017

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

The labour ministers of the EU met in Luxemburg on 23 October for a landmark meeting on the European framework for posted workers. France is demanding tougher rules for this practice, which suffers in particular from a problem of circumvention of the existing legislation. With this in mind, the paper looks into this European framework and wonders how fair mobility can be assured.

Österreichische Gesellschaft für Europapolitik (Austrian Society for European Politics)

Die soziale Gleichbehandlung von EU-BürgerInnen - ein Eckpfeiler eines gemeinsamen Europas

by Sarah Bruckner and Johannes Peryl

9 October 2017

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

The article revisits the question of equal treatment of EU citizens concerning social benefits and free movement of persons. The authors point to the strong divergences between Member States which have to be addressed by an active economic policy and social minimum standards at the EU level.

Deutsches Institut für Wirtschaftsforschung (German Institute for Economic Research)

Gender pay gap varies greatly by occupation

by Katharina Wrohlich and Aline Zucco

26 October 2017

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

The German labour market is characterized by marked occupational segregation between women and men. This article states that more transparency with respect to earnings could reduce the gender pay gap in the private economy.

Gender gaps in pensions and health: Germany, France, and Denmark

by Peter Haan, Anna Hammerschmid and Carla Rowold

26 October 2017

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

The study quantifies gender-specific differences in retirement income in Germany, Denmark, and France. The authors show that the "gender pension gap" in Germany is higher than in France and much higher than in Denmark. This ranking is similar to the ranking in the gender pay gap, where Germany has also the highest gender difference. The authors also investigate gender-specific differences in health, i.e. the so-called "gender health gap", in the same age group. Self-assessed general health in 2013 reveals no significant differences between men and women in the countries studied. However, gender-specific differences in depressive symptoms follow a similar pattern as the gender pension gap: Denmark has the lowest difference between the sexes. Although the study does not measure causal relationships between income and health, the results indicate that measures to reduce the gender pay gap do not only reduce differences during the economically active phase; they may also lead to a reduction in the gender pension gap and in women's susceptibility to depressive symptoms.

Forum for Research on Eastern Europe and Emerging Economies

Latvia stumbling towards progressive income taxation: episode II

by Anna Pluta and Anna Zasova

16 October 2017

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

In August 2017, the Latvian parliament adopted a tax reform package that will come into force in January 2018. This article analyses the future effects of this reform which was a long-awaited step to make the personal income tax more progressive.

LUISS School of European Political Economy

Does low skilled immigration cause human capital polarization?

by Giorgio Brunello, Elisabetta Lodigiani and Lorenzo Rocco

October 2017

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

The working paper investigates how immigration affects the educational choices of young natives. Although there is currently a vast amount of literature considering the labour market effects of immigration, less has been done to investigate the educational aspect of immigration. Using Italian provincial data and an instrumental variables strategy, the study shows how the recent increase in the immigration of low-skilled labour has produced human capital polarization.

Stredoeurópsky inštitút pre výskum práce (Central European Labour Studies Institute)

How immigration grease is affected by economic, institutional and policy contexts: evidence from EU labor markets

by Martin Guzi, Martin Kahanec [@MartinKahanec](#) and Lucia Mýtna Kureková

October 2017

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

Theoretical arguments and previous country-level evidence indicate that immigrants are more fluid than natives in responding to changing labour shortages across countries, skill-groups or industries. Immigrants' responsiveness to labour market shortages exceeds that of natives in the EU15, in particular in Member States with higher unemployment rates, higher levels of (recent) immigration, and more open immigration and integration policies; but also those with barriers to citizenship acquisition or family reunification. Whereas higher welfare expenditures seem to exert a

lock-in effect, a comparison across different types of welfare states indicates that institutional complementarities neutralize that effect.

Eläketurvakeskus (Finnish Centre for Pensions)

Flexible retirement – A model for the future? Lessons from Sweden, Norway and Finland

by Mika Vidlund [@VidMika](#)

10 October 2017

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

The report reviews the change in retirement behaviour in Sweden, Norway and Finland after recent old-age pension reforms and, particularly, how flexible retirement together with the establishment of early old-age pensions has affected pension take-up and at what age people draw their pensions.

Economic and Social Research Institute

Did increasing the state pension age in Ireland affect the retirement rate of 65-year-olds?

by Paul Redmond [@PaulRedmond9](#), Seamus McGuinness and Elish Kelly

3 October 2017

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

In January 2014, the qualifying age for the Irish contributory state pension increased from 65 to 66 years. This paper examines whether this change in the qualifying age had a causal effect on the retirement rate of 65-year-olds in Ireland.

MISCELLANEOUS

Pew Research Center

The future of truth and misinformation online

by Janna Anderson and Lee Rainie [@lrainie](#)

19 October 2017

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

Experts are split on whether the coming years will see a reduction in false and misleading narratives online. Those forecasting improvement place their hopes in technological fixes and in societal solutions. Others think the dark side of human nature is aided more than stifled by technology.

European Policies Initiative / Open Society Institute-Sofia

Can this be true? Predictors of media literacy and resilience to the post-truth phenomenon in Europe

by Marin Lessenski [@marinlessenski](#)

11 October 2017

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

The issue of post-truth has gained significant prominence as a catch-all term related to a number of today's social and political phenomena. The concept of media literacy is employed to gauge the potential for resilience to the negative effects of diminishing public trust, severely polarized politics, and fragmented media, among others. The assumption is that countries with better educated people, freer media, and higher levels of trust in society are better equipped to address the negative effects of a 'post-truth' world.

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

Arctic rivalries: friendly competition or dangerous conflict?

by Mikkel Runge Olesen

3 October 2017

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

The paper brings the reader up to date on current security trends and economic trends in the Arctic as well as on the status of the still on-going sovereignty disputes in the region today. The article argues that although cooperation in the Arctic remains somewhat hampered by Ukraine-related Western sanctions on Russian oil and gas, the region has thus far proved remarkably resilient to such spill-over. This is mostly due to the fact that all Arctic nations, but above all Russia, have much to gain by cooperation in the Arctic. Even complex issues such as the sovereignty disputes are therefore likely to find solutions in due time.

La Vie des Idées

L'islam des convertis

by Juliette Galonnier [@JGalonnier](#)

31 October 2017

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

The figure of the convert today gives rise to fantasies and fears. Beyond prejudices, the author's investigation in France and the US reveals the daily difficulties faced by converts who, in the absence of established social frameworks, live their religion in great solitude, often seeking to reinvent it.

A crash-course in femininity? Female criminals in the Victorian and Edwardian era

by Alice Bonzom

23 October 2017

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

While ideal Victorian women were supposed to be "angels in the house", female criminals were seen as "demons in the jailhouse". As such, they were a disruptive force and had to be dealt with. Deconstructing and reconstructing these deviants to make them more "womanly" became a major issue in the late 19th century.
