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Dear Readers,

Welcome to issue 53 of the Think Tank Review compiled by the EU Council Library* ([click to share on Twitter](#)). It references papers published in December 2017. As usual, we provide the link to the full text and a short abstract.

Issue 53 has been filled with a plethora of themes, making it somewhat challenging to choose this month's special focus. However, following the adoption of the Council's decision establishing Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO) on 11 December 2017, the selection featured in our special focus could only centre on topics related to European defence issues, such as unpacking PESCO and exploring its various meanings (three articles focus specifically on Franco-German interpretations).

Another significant section of this month's review is Brexit. This can be attributed to the considerable attention leading up to December's European Council discussions. Articles featured in this month's Brexit selection cover re-making British foreign policy, trade, immigration, climate and energy, and budgetary issues. We would also like to direct you to an interesting briefing from the House of Commons Library: [Legislating for Brexit](#), a report that investigates how, in the future, the UK will navigate the various types of EU decisions

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Although PESCO and Brexit have garnered a great deal of attention, this issue also features substantial sections on EU policies and foreign affairs.

The first section, EU Politics and Institutions, covers a broad variety of topics, such as Europe's political tribes and the relationship between national parliaments and EU trade policy.

In section 2, Economic and Financial Affairs, many articles look into the European Monetary Fund and the European Stability Mechanism.

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In section 3, EU Member States, eleven Member States were focal points for think tanks during December, with a diverse range of themes explored. Articles in this section range from stabilisation policies in Poland to skills utilisation in the Irish labour market. We would also like to underline a robust subsection on Spain, in which we are delighted to include an article by a former Council trainee, Joel Díaz Rodríguez (La cultura de defensa en España: un nuevo enfoque para su impulso desde la sociedad civil).

In section 4, EU Policies, we have several articles focusing on climate and energy. We also have an interesting curation of articles pertaining to employment issues.

Section 5, Foreign Affairs, is very well populated - exploring areas such as defence industries in Russia and China, EU consistency in accession and withdrawal negotiations, and relations between Africa and Europe - all of which will prove engrossing reads.

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 February 2018, with papers published in January 2018.

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SECTION 1 - EU POLITICS AND INSTITUTIONS

Jacques Delors Institute - Berlin

Eine demokratischere Europäische Union: Positionen und Handlungsspielräume

by Valentin Kreiling [@tineurope](#)

8 December 2017

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

The article gives an overview of the current debate on the future of the EU putting it in the context of sources for legitimation in the European multilevel governance system. According to the author, the key challenge is that the proposed institutional reform steps are politically too ambitious to be implemented before 2019 but at the same time with a longer time frame the political momentum might be lost.

Leuven Centre for Global Governance Studies

Rebels with a cause? Parliaments and EU trade policy after the Treaty of Lisbon

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

4 December 2017

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

The aim of this article is to understand different arguments why parliaments sometimes act as 'rebels', contesting and questioning the established fundamentals and specificities of the EU's policy regarding trade agreements, and whether they should or should not be involved in the process of concluding EU free trade agreements. The October 2016 saga of a sub-State parliament in the Belgian region of Wallonia rejecting to authorize the signature of [CETA](#) between the EU and Canada is an example of some fundamental questions regarding the involvement of national (and sub-national) parliaments in the Union's trade policy.

Tænketanken EUROPA

Ny EU-lovgivning halveret under Juncker

by Nadja Schou Lauridsen [@NadjaSchoul](#)

1 December 2017

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

In the first half of its period, the Juncker Commission presented half as much new legislation as the Barroso Commission did in its corresponding period. Accordingly, Jean-Claude Juncker seems to be living up to his promise to focus the Commission's work on fewer but bigger cases. This is shown by a review of more than 2 000 bills since 2004.

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

Partizipation als Mehrwert der Makroregionen

by Tobias Etzold

December 2017

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

In 2007, a new format of regional cooperation within the EU framework has emerged with the European macro-regions and the associated EU strategies. The concept offers approaches for closer regional cooperation and integration. So far macro-regional cooperation had limited added value in the regional and European context. Nonetheless, it is interesting to see to what extent effective macro-regional cooperation can strengthen European integration at the regional level.

One of the advantages of this format is the participatory approach, which could make regional, local and civil society structures more involved in shaping regional and European integration.

Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung

"Das Dach reparieren, solange die Sonne scheint."

by Hardy Ostry, Johanna Fleger, Oliver Morwinsky and Mathias Koch
18 December 2017

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

"We started repairing our roof. But we have to finish this job (...) as long as the sun is shining," EU Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker said in his State of the Union speech in Strasbourg in 2017. That was the guiding light of the European Council summit on 14 and 15 December 2017. Half a year after the start of the Brexit negotiations between the EU and the UK, the heads of state and government decided on the second phase of the negotiations. The summit was also marked by the Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO), which was recently officially adopted.

Chatham House - The Royal Institute of International Affairs

Europe's political tribes: exploring the diversity of views across the EU

by Thomas Raines [@TomHRaines](#), Matthew Goodwin [@GoodwinMJ](#) and David Cutts
1 December 2017

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

Chatham House and Kantar Public surveyed over 10 000 Europeans about their views on a range of political and social issues. The data reveal six political 'tribes': broad segments of voters with distinct attitudes about the EU. These attitudes, which lie below the surface of the debate about Europe, show a rich cross section of public opinion, and how voters' preferences are clustered across countries.

Timbro

Timbro authoritarian populism index 2017

by Andreas Johansson Heinö [@JohanssonHeino](#)
4 January 2018

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

The Timbro Authoritarian Populism Index 2017 is the only Europe-wide comprehensive study that aims to shed light on whether populism poses a long-term threat to European liberal democracies. The Index explores the rise of authoritarian populism in Europe by analysing electoral data from 1980 to 2017. As data show, Authoritarian-Populism has overtaken liberalism and established itself as the third ideological force in European politics, behind Conservatism/Christian Democracy and Social Democracy. Around a fifth of the European electorate now vote for a left- or right-wing populist party. In other words, 55.8 million people voted for these parties during each European country's latest general elections.

SECTION 2 - ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

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

Looking for the silver bullet. A comprehensive guide to the debate on ESM Reform

by Lucas Guttenberg [@lucasguttenberg](#)

4 December 2017

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

The article focuses on the ESM reform being at the centre stage in the discussion about the future of the Economic and Monetary Union. This discussion hides four separate policy debates - the use of ESM funds, private sector involvement, the legal nature of the ESM and whether to establish a European Monetary Fund. Thus, the ESM reform should not be seen as a silver bullet to change the architecture of the EMU and answers to the other aspects have to be found on their own merits.

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

Reforming the Eurozone without a "grand bargain"

by Paweł Tokarski [@pawel_tokarski](#)

December 2017

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

Emmanuel Macron's success in the French presidential elections in May 2017 has given fresh impetus to the debate on reforms in the Eurozone. However, since there is no consensus on fiscal or political integration, the reforms will be limited. Long-discussed ideas, such as extending the tasks of the European Stability Mechanism, a finance minister for the Eurozone or the creation of new stabilisation instruments within the EU's Multiannual Financial Framework, will probably dominate the agenda. In addition, negotiations to find a successor for Mario Draghi, President of the European Central Bank, will be conducted over the next two years. Although the main elements of the new EU reform package will be brokered between France and Germany, both countries must take account of the specific challenges faced by Italy.

Centre for European Policy Studies / European Capital Markets Institute

Recent developments in European capital markets – Key findings from the 2017 ECMI Statistical Package

by Robin Lechtenfeld and Apostolos Thomadakis

December 2017

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

This report presents the key findings of the 2017 ECMI Statistical Package, a comprehensive database, compiled annually, of developments in European and global capital markets (US, Japan, China, etc.). The package aims to enable users to trace trends and illustrate the ongoing transformation of capital markets, including the structural changes brought about by competitive forces, innovation and regulation. The report follows the same structure as applied in the ECMI Statistical Package, and consists of five main sections: equity markets, debt securities, exchange-traded derivatives, over-the-counter derivatives and asset management (mutual funds).

Centre for European Policy Studies

A European Monetary Fund: why and how?

by Daniel Gros and Thomas Mayer

7 December 2017

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

As early as 2010, at the outset of the sovereign debt crisis, it was argued by some that Europe needed a European Monetary Fund (EMF). In the meantime, the European Stability Mechanism (ESM) has been created, which performs the function of an EMF. It was critical in containing the cost of the crisis and four of its five country programmes have been a success. But the case of Greece shows that one needs to be prepared for failure as well. This paper proposes to keep the ESM essentially as it is, but would empower it to set conditions on countries receiving its financial support. Such support would have a limit, however, to prevent situations in which the ESM would 'own' a country.

How to strengthen the European Semester?

by Cinzia Alcidi and Daniel Gros

December 2017

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

The emphasis of the European Semester should shift from economic policy coordination to a stronger national ownership. Coordination of national policies may be essential at times of crisis, when cross-country spillover effects tend to be large, but it may not be very effective when economic conditions return to normal, as spillovers tend to be small and the incentives for governments to coordinate are diminished. Stronger national ownership should lead to better enforcement of commonly agreed rules, regardless of economic conditions and remove the perception that rules are hierarchically imposed. This should be done without increasing the complexity of an already complicated EU governance system of governance or damaging their reputation as independent bodies.

The interplay between the circular economy and the European Semester - An assessment

by Arno Behrens and Vasileios Rizos [@vasileios_rizos](#)

December 2017

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

The European Semester is the EU's annual cycle of economic policy guidance and oversight. The circular economy is currently part of the European Commission's agenda for jobs, growth and investment, which are important themes of the Semester. Against this background, this paper assesses the extent to which the European Semester genuinely takes the circular economy into account in its review process. Based on a close examination of the 2017 cycle of the Semester and interviews with experts in the field, our analysis shows that the exercise has devoted limited attention to the circular economy.

European Parliament Think Tank / European University Institute

The EU's Market Access Strategy: does it reach its main goals?

by Bernard Hoekman, Matteo Fiorini, Roberta Iglizzi, Naïs Ralaison and Aydin Yildirim

13 December 2017

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

The EU Market Access Strategy (MAS) and associated Market Access Partnership (MAP) is a EU trade policy operational instrument designed to identify and remove market access restrictions confronting EU firms in third country export markets. There is broad support for the MAS among stakeholders who are aware of the mechanism and a virtual consensus that greater emphasis should be given by the EU to identifying and removing barriers to trade and investment in third

countries. Two types of challenges confront the MAS which the European Parliament can contribute to address by engaging with national parliaments and constituencies on the existence and utility of the MAS and in advocating that market access issues be prioritised in the activities of the European Commission.

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

The literature review on taxation, entrepreneurship and collaborative economy

8 December 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (259 p.)

The report develops a framework of analysis that allows to highlight the main tax policy options to support entrepreneurship in the traditional and the collaborative economy. The publication has been prepared by CASE, Dondena, IEB and PwC for the project "Taxation, entrepreneurship and collaborative economy", funded by the European Commission.

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

Fiscal fault, financial fix? - Capital Markets Union and the quest for macroeconomic stabilization in the euro area

by Benjamin Braun [@bjmbraun](#) and Marina Hübner

December 2017

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

This paper argues that Capital Markets Union – the EU's attempt to establish a more market based financial system – is a result less of financial policymaking than of macroeconomic governance in a politically fractured polity. The current governance structure of Economic and Monetary Union (EMU) severely limits the capacity of both national and supranational actors to provide a core public good, macroeconomic stabilisation. While Member States have institutionalised fiscal austerity and abandoned other macroeconomic levers, the European polity lacks the fiscal resources necessary to achieve stable macroeconomic conditions: smoothing the business cycle, ensuring growth and job creation, and mitigating the impact of asymmetric output shocks on consumption.

From economic gains to social losses - How stories shape expectations in the case of German municipal finance

by Florian Fastenrath, Agnes Orban and Christine Trampusch

December 2017

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

This paper analyses how stories shaped treasurers' expectations in municipal swap activities and contributes to the sociological debate on the mechanisms of expectation formation. Employing a deductive variant of process tracing, it synthesizes the literature on expectations in economic decision making with the literature on the diffusion of "ideas," "myths," and "fashions" in organization theory and management studies. The swap story has spread since the mid-1990s among German municipalities. At the heart of this story is the replacement of traditional borrowing with active portfolio optimization; financial instruments known as swaps play a leading role.

Barcelona Graduate School of Economics

The impact of forward guidance on inflation expectations: evidence from the ECB

by Marc de la Barrera, Juraj Falath, Dorian Henricot and Jean-Alexandre Vaglio
December 2017

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

This paper empirically investigates the impact of forward guidance announcements on inflation expectations in the Eurozone. The authors identify forward guidance shocks as changes in the 2-year nominal ECB yield on specific announcement days to measure changes in daily inflation swaps of different maturities. In the process, the authors also separately identify the effect of quantitative easing and interest rate change announcement shocks. They find that forward guidance was successful in reviving inflation expectations across maturities. Analysing the transmission channels of forward guidance, they find evidence that both a re-anchoring channel and a portfolio effect might have been at play.

The optimal inflation target and the natural rate of interest

by Philippe Andrade [@phil_andrade](#), Jordi Galí, Hervé Le Bihan and Julien Matheron
11 December 2017

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

This paper studies how changes in the value of the steady-state real interest rate affect the optimal inflation target, both in the US and the euro area, using an estimated New Keynesian DSGE model that incorporates the zero (or effective) lower bound on the nominal interest rate. This relation is downward sloping, but its slope is not necessarily one-for-one: increases in the optimal inflation rate are generally lower than declines in the steady-state real interest rate. This approach allows not only to assess the uncertainty surrounding the optimal inflation target, but also to determine the latter while taking into account the parameter uncertainty facing the policy maker, including uncertainty with regard to the determinants of the steady-state real interest rate.

The German Marshall Fund of the United States

Digital tax: the critical importance of a multilateral approach

by Josh Kallmer
14 December 2017

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

Of the many sources of global economic uncertainty, international tax policy is getting much less attention than it deserves. Yet the EU may soon take action that could fundamentally reorder approaches to cross-border taxation, by imposing new types of taxes on "digital economy companies." While the challenge that the EU identifies is a real one, its envisioned response would create significant economic, legal, and diplomatic costs.

Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (Friedrich Ebert Foundation)

Zehn Jahre EU-Stresstest: Mehr Integration und neue Spannungen

by Ernst Hillebrand
December 2017

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

How have ten years of crisis affected European integration? The question is not an easy one to answer. Member States are affected differently and the effects are not the same in all policy areas. Progress in integration comes with setbacks and growing divergences. The ten years of the financial and euro crisis certainly have affected the perception of European integration by the population - both in a positive and negative way.

E3G

The state of the capital markets Union – Two years on, has it delivered on sustainability?

by Tom Jess [@TJess1](#) and Ingrid Holmes [@IngridHolmes7](#)

5 December 2017

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

In October 2015, the European Commission launched its Capital Markets Union (CMU) initiative. It was set up to provide new sources of funding for business, help increase options for savers and make the economy more resilient. To deliver this overarching ambition, the CMU has five sub-objectives. One of these is to ensure "an appropriate regulatory environment for long term, sustainable investment and financing of Europe's infrastructure". Two years on from the CMU's launch, this paper assesses progress made over the past year in delivering this objective.

Climate action and the EU budget: key issues for the post-2020 Multiannual Financial Framework

by Carlos Campillos [@carloscampillos](#), Lisa Fischer and Jonathan Gaventa [@jonathangaventa](#)

8 December 2017

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

The EU will soon start the drafting process for the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF), the 7-year programme setting down the long-term financial planning of the Union's spending. Not only does the MFF reflect the priorities and objectives to achieve for the Union in the coming years, but also the way EU institutions are planning to meet them with specific budget allocations to different areas. So far, the EU budget has been pulling in opposite directions, without a clear vision for what the EU wants to become in the coming years

LUISS School of European Political Economy

Family business - control and concentration in euro-area companies

by Simone Berardi and Alessandra Marcelletti

12 December 2017

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

Corporate governance architecture is central to the dynamics by which successful firms and economies improve their performance over time as well as relative to each other. This article exploits an augmented version of the law of proportionate effect to estimate the impact of ownership structure on firm performance, showing how ownership concentration and family control can be significant company growth determinants.

World Economic Forum

Collaboration in cities: from sharing to 'sharing economy'

20 December 2017

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

The World Economic Forum's Future of Urban Development and Services Initiative has released this report which demystifies the new sharing economy vocabulary, explains key drivers for sharing, and the opportunities for cities to engage and drive sharing practices. It explores how cities can leverage the potential of the sharing economy in use of municipal goods, spaces, and civic assets such as the talents and skills of city residents. It also addresses externalities facing the sharing economy, particularly around issues of establishing trust and ensuring security on sharing online platforms, the uncertain effects of sharing at a global scale on social equality and inclusivity, and provides recommendations.

SECTION 3 - EU MEMBER STATES

AUSTRIA

Österreichische Gesellschaft für Europapolitik (Austrian Society for European Politics)

Zwischen Zentrum und Peripherie: die europäische Integration nach Euro- und Schengenkrise

by Georg Vobruba

11 December 2017

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

According to the author, the euro and Schengen crises must be analysed in interaction with each other in order to understand their own momentum and to recognize political options for action. The interaction of both crises will be of importance for the future of Europe. Crises and crisis management lead to additional institution building, as a consequence of which the following geopolitical structure is formed: a higher level of integration on the North-South axis and integration fractions in the West and East. Because of its history and geography, Austria has a special responsibility and opportunity to counteract the dangers inherent in these tendencies.

CZECH REPUBLIC

Fondation Robert Schuman

A Czech presidential election of uncertain outcome

by Corinne Deloy

18 December 2017

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

On 12 and 13 January 2018, 8.3 million Czechs are being called to the ballot to appoint their President of the Republic. If one of the candidates wins more than 50% of the vote he or she will be declared winner of the election; if this is not the case a second round will be organised on 26 and 27 January 2018.

Evropské hodnoty (European Values)

Desatero euroatlantického nadstranického konsenzu o české zahraniční a bezpečnostní politice

by Radko Hokovský [@RadkoHokovsky](#) and Jakub Janda [@_JakubJanda](#)

19 December 2017

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

The draft programme statement by Prime Minister Babis' government formulates political commitments that the Cabinet promises to fulfil. In the area of foreign and security policy, it can be compared with programme statements of previous governments and the valid strategic documents of the Czech Republic in order to identify the ten most important ones as the basis of the Euro-Atlantic supranational consensus on the Czech foreign and security policy.

CROATIA

Institute for Development and International Relations

Croatian foreign policy in 3D

by Sandro Knezović and Nani Klepo

13 December 2017

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

Southeast Europe is facing many security challenges and represents a challenge for the EU. More than ever, Croatia has an obligation to play the role of security provider and bridge between the Euro-Atlantic institutions and candidate countries in order to support the integration of the region and consequently the stability. It is clear that Croatia keeps developing and upgrading the bilateral relations with countries of the Southeast Europe, but the main challenge is to increase its visibility within overall region and profile as a security provider.

DENMARK

Tænketanken EUROPA

Styrket EU-forsvar kan koste investeringer i Danmark

by Sarah Vormsby [@SVormsby](#)

12 December 2017

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

On 11 December 2017, 25 of the 28 Member States of the EU launched the permanent structured cooperation for defence, [PESCO](#). Denmark stands with Malta and the UK as the only EU countries that are not involved. This places Denmark's position in the periphery of EU defence cooperation. This could mean loss of investment in Danish companies and have consequences for Denmark's commitment to international operations.

FRANCE

Fondation pour l'innovation politique

Une "norme intelligente" au service de la réforme

by Mathieu Kohmann [@MathieuKohmann](#), Mathieu Luinaud [@M_Luinaud](#) and Victor Fabre

20 December 2017

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

Reforming France is imperative in order to sustainably improve the economic situation of the country. This note proposes ways to make the norm an "intelligent norm". This new approach could in particular transform the French legal environment so that it adapts to an economy in which the innovation process is gaining momentum. Faced with these changes, a norm needs to be more flexible, without losing quality.

Terra nova

Digital transformation, responsive collaborations, democratic responsibility: three challenges faced by public media platforms

by Mathieu Gallet [@mathieu_gallet](#)

18 December 2017

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

Public media platforms can only be defended if they transform radically to adapt to the digital revolution that is underway and to the new practices it is generating. In this paper, the author lists

the key points of this transformation: putting users and their practices at the centre of what's being offered, understanding and exploiting data, preparing for voice-activated technology and the Semantic Web, moving towards a cross-platform approach. This proposal aims at opening up the debate on the future of public media platforms and welcomes all contributions to this debate, as well as reactions or challenges to the initiative from stakeholders or union representatives.

La santé à l'heure de l'intelligence artificielle

by Luc Pierron [@LucPierron](#) and Antoine Evennou [@antoineevennou](#)

5 December 2017

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

The world of health is surely one of the areas where AI issues are the most important. How far will a machine be able to analyse, diagnose and learn continuously? What forms will the relationship between man and machine take? Will it be able to replace professionals, and if so, to what extent? This note builds on already existing systems, programmes and algorithms in the field of health in order to outline prospects for the future. The idea is also to propose a reflection on the public policies to implement in order to bring out a real French health strategy in artificial intelligence, and thus allow the transformation of the medical sector in the medium and long term.

La vie des idées

La probité à petits pas - Les lois "pour la confiance dans la vie politique"

by Pierre Lascoumes

12 December 2017

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

Will the laws of moralization of the political life, adopted last September, manage to restore the confidence of the French in their elected representatives? According to the author, those laws are a missed opportunity for a thorough reform of political practices.

Le foyer des discriminations

by Elise Marsicano

15 December 2017

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

The family is the subject of many reflections in social sciences but few question it under the prism of justice. This study concentrates on discrimination that takes place within the family in order to gain a more complex view on this socialization body.

GERMANY

Institut Français des Relations Internationales

Decarbonising Germany's power sector: ending coal with a carbon floor price?

by Felix Christian Matthes

December 2017

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

Germany has a long tradition of climate policy programmes with ambitious greenhouse gas emission reduction targets and comprehensive climate and energy policy packages. This target-driven policy approach is, however, increasingly facing challenges due to the lack of progress on greenhouse gas emission reductions in key sectors, i.e. the power, the transport and the building sector.

E3G

Pressure on Germany grows as international movement from coal accelerates

by Sabrina Schulz [@sbschulz](#), Matthew Webb, Julian Schwartzkopff [@JSchwartzkopff](#) and Chris Littlecott [@chrislittlecott](#)

December 2017

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

This paper explores Germany's political paralysis on coal, building on the authors' pre-election analysis and contrasting it with the accelerated phase-out dynamic developing both in Europe and internationally. The rapid international progress around the [Powering Past Coal Alliance \(PPCA\)](#) and the emergence of the European Commission's [Coal Regions in Transition Platform](#) will put additional pressure on Germany's political leaders to act decisively during the protracted process of forming a new government.

Euro-Mediterranean Study Commission

The role of schools in tackling the problem of radicalisation in Germany

by Elisabeth V. Fobo

13 December 2017

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

How to prevent terrorist acts has become a key question within current policy debates. In search of relevant actors that can contribute to the prevention of radicalisation, schools were identified to play a major role. The purpose of this brief is to state why and how prevention of radicalisation should be implemented in schools and to outline the status quo in Germany.

HUNGARY

Center for Policy Studies

Involving others: assessing efforts to improve the schooling experience of Hungarian Roma children through focused teacher training and afternoon schooling programs

by Agnes Kende

22 December 2017

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

Rather than examining the complex phenomenon of the school failure of Roma children, this paper focuses on two elements of the education system. The first is teacher training and the second is the opportunity to attend after-school catch-up training. Both programs have aimed to involve a wider circle of professionals and volunteers in efforts to improve the schooling experience of Hungarian Roma children. This study was prepared in the larger framework of the project '[Solidarity in European societies: empowerment, social justice and citizenship – SOLIDUS.](#)'

Cohesion policy and perceptions of the European Union in Hungary. A cultural political economy approach

by Céline Cantat

December 2017

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

This article examines cohesion policy in Hungary from two related perspectives that are rarely explored together - on the one hand, the political economy of cohesion policy in Hungary in the context of the EU project, and, on the other hand, the narratives developed by people involved in the design and implementation of cohesion policy regarding Hungary's relation to the European project. It studies how the deployment of cohesion policy in Hungary has been associated both

with an intensive process of economic liberalisation and a strong drive toward administrative and political centralization.

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

Energiaellátás-biztonság és gázdiverzifikáció Magyarországon

by Weiner Csaba
18 December 2017

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

The purpose of this study is to evaluate the security of supply in Hungary for power plants and the state of gas diversification.

IRELAND

Economic and Social Research Institute / European Migration Network

Establishing identity of non-EU nationals in Irish migration processes

by Samantha Arnold, Martina Byrne and Anne Sheridan
6 December 2017

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

This is the first comprehensive study to examine and map the processes in place for establishing the identities of applicants for: short- and long-stay visas; residence and visitor permissions; international protection and permission to remain; and in relation to persons subject to a deportation order who have exhausted the asylum process. This study also looks at the process of establishing applicants' identities at the point of access to the national territory.

Economic and Social Research Institute

Educational attainment and skill utilisation in the Irish labour market: an EU comparison

by Paul Redmond [@PaulRedmond9](#) and Adele Whelan
5 December 2017

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

In recent years the Irish economy has experienced strong economic growth accompanied by significant improvements in the labour market. This analysis reveals a high degree of skill under-utilisation among Irish employees. The percentage of Irish workers reporting education or skill levels in excess of those required to do their job is the third highest of 28 EU countries. The findings also indicate that, as was the case in recent decades, immigration may play an important role as a source of skilled labour in a tightening labour market.

A study of gender in senior civil service positions in Ireland

by Helen Russell, Emer Smyth, Selina McCoy [@MccoySelina](#), Raffaele Grotti [@RafGrotti](#), Dorothy Watson and Oona Kenny
12 December 2017

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

Women make up the majority of those employed in the civil service but are underrepresented at the most senior grades, where key policy and operational decisions are taken. Action 8 of the Civil Service Renewal Plan commits to improving gender balance at each level, including senior grades. The present study was commissioned by a high-level steering group set up to oversee implementation of this action and yields new insights into the processes shaping gender differences in representation at the most senior grades of the civil service and thus provides a strong evidence base to inform future policy and practice.

Quarterly economic commentary, winter 2017

by Kieran McQuinn, Conor O'Toole, Philip Economides [@economip](#) and Teresa Monteiro
13 December 2017
Link to the article in [English](#) (140 p.)

According to this study, the Irish economy is set to experience another year of strong recovery in 2017.

Centre for Climate Change Economics and Policy

Exploring the spatial and temporal determinants of gas central heating adoption

by Daire McCoy and John Curtis
18 December 2017
Link to the article in [English](#) (36 p.)

This paper examines adoption of gas as a heating fuel in Ireland. The results, which use data on the roll-out of the Irish gas network over 100 years, reveal that there is a 3% point increase in household gas connections on average for every year the network has been in place. This effect decreases over time. The connection rate is much higher for more recent periods. Uptake rose by about 12% per year over the past twenty years.

ITALY

Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (Friedrich Ebert Foundation)

Einwanderungspolitik in Italien: Probleme und Perspektiven

by Constanza Hermanin
December 2017
Link to the article in [German](#) (13 p.)

In light of the faltering reform of the [Dublin asylum system](#) and the difficult EU relations with Libya, Italy began to engage in an intense dialogue on migration with Libyan forces in 2017. The agreement reached worked insofar as the influx of migrants decreased in the short term. But it leaves numerous questions unanswered. As in other European countries, in Italy the political debate is concentrated exclusively on limiting the influx of migrants. A discussion about better ways for legal migration, particularly labour migration, is not being held - although it could help to counter demographic trends and mass immigration.

SAFE - Sustainable Architecture for Finance in Europe

The real effects of judicial enforcement: evidence from Italy

by Vincenzo Pezone
20 December 2017
Link to the article in [English](#) (53 p.)

This paper analyses the real effects of the quality of the judicial enforcement by showing that an increase in the average duration of civil proceedings reduces firms' employment. It exploits a reorganization of court districts in Italy as an exogenous shock to court productivity and, using an instrumental variable approach, estimate an elasticity of employment to average trial length between -0.24 and -0.29. These results offer a more complete picture of the interplay between legal institutions and real economic outcomes.

POLAND

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

Stabilization policies and structural developments: Poland and the crises of 1929 and 2008

by Zbigniew Polański

14 December 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (86 p.)

This paper contrasts the impact of the 1929 and 2008 world crises on the Polish economy. Its much better performance during the recent crisis can be explained by two groups of factors: first, by very different stabilization policies and second, by distinct structural developments (resulting both from authorities' structural policies and spontaneous processes). It is emphasized that several factors responsible for Poland's superior performance during the 2008 crisis also contributed to its economic success vis-à-vis other EU countries.

Forum Obywatelskiego Rozwoju

Perspektywy dla Polski. Polska Gospodarka w latach 2015-2017 na tle lat wcześniejszych i prognozy na przyszłość

by Stanisław Gomułka [@ka_stanis](#), Aleksander Łaszek, Rafał Trzeciakowski [@ratrzeci](#), Wiktor Wojciechowski [@wwojciechowski](#) and Barbara Błaszczyk

4 December 2017

Link to the article in [Polish](#) (254 p.) and to a summary in [English](#) (46 p.)

In the last 25 years, the Polish economy has grown faster than the economies of Western Europe and the US, which enabled a significant reduction of the distance separating it from richer countries. Annual GDP growth in the years 1992–2011 was 4.1%, which was the best result among those Central and Eastern European countries that started to transform at the same time as Poland.

Indeks Elastyczności Zatrudnienia 2018: polski kodeks pracy w ogonie krajów UE i OECD. Dlaczego polscy pracownicy mają gorzej?

by Rafał Trzeciakowski [@ratrzeci](#)

14 December 2017

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

Overly restrictive work regulations harm the weakest employees instead of protecting them. Public policy should first and foremost eliminate the causes of this phenomenon instead of just combating cases of abnormal forms of employment. Apart from tax-contribution differences the stiffness of Polish contract regulations is problematic. Deregulation in this area would improve the functioning of the labour market and support productivity.

Fundacja im. Stefana Batorego (Stefan Batory Foundation)

W jakim stopniu wiedza jest czynnikiem współkształtującym dyskurs o Europie?

by Michał Federowicz and Natalia Skipietrow

December 2017

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

This paper presents the results of a study on the knowledge of Polish citizens about the EU. The focus is particularly on young people and the role of the Polish education system. The intention is to reflect on the dynamics of the discourse on European integration, the possible development of attitudes and range of shared values.

Narracja o Unii Europejskiej

by Joanna Popielawska and Jan Szyszko [@szyszkoj](#)

December 2017

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

This paper presents the outcome of a research concerning online discussions in Polish about European Union which was carried out with a use of Brand24 tool for the period 25 October 2015 to 30 September 2017 for the Stefan Batory Foundation and European Commission. The authors have defined which terms, according to them, should appear in online discussions about the European Union. They focussed on find out the characteristics of the narrative about the EU with regard to Polish internet. The research presents how Poles discuss about the European Union on the internet, when do they do it, who does it and which threads and subjects are the dominating ones.

SPAIN

Fondation Robert Schuman

Regional elections in Catalonia – Questions and answers

by Ángel J. Sánchez-Navarro

18 December 2017

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

Without any doubt the Catalanian regional elections on 21 December 2017 are of particular interest, not only in Spain but also abroad, because of the exceptional circumstances that surround them. As a result, it seems pertinent to clarify certain issues that this election raises in some fundamental areas concerning their scope and meaning, the exceptional circumstances in which they have been convened, and the political forces standing for election.

Centre for European Policy Studies

The Puigdemont case exposes challenges in the European Arrest Warrant

by Anne Weyembergh

13 December 2017

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

Spain's withdrawal of the European Arrest Warrant for Puigdemont and his ministers is narrowly linked to the uncertain outcome that would have followed their examination by the Belgian authorities.

Instituto Español de Estudios Estratégicos

Las novedades de la Estrategia de Seguridad Nacional 2017

by Miguel Ángel Ballesteros Martín

20 December 2017

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

This document is an analysis of the recently approved [National Security Strategy 2017](#). The analysis is based fundamentally on the comparative study of the new strategy and its predecessor to determine the novelties it contains and the challenges for the different administrations.

La preservación del medio ambiente en la Estrategia de Seguridad Nacional 2017

by María del Mar Hidalgo García
13 December 2017
Link to the article in [Spanish](#) (9 p.)

The National Security Strategy 2017 considers the preservation of the environment one of the fifteen areas of national security. With the establishment of the corresponding objective and its derived lines of action, this Strategy recognizes that environmental degradation is a matter of security that may threaten the survival of populations.

La cultura de defensa en España: un nuevo enfoque para su impulso desde la sociedad civil

by Joel Díaz Rodríguez
5 December 2017
Link to the article in [Spanish](#) (16 p.)

The perception of security, defence and the armed forces has been an issue not exempt from prejudices and taboos in the Spanish society. However, the need to overcome old conceptions and to make citizens aware of the risks to our security makes it necessary to put in practice a policy of expanding the culture of security and defence through education at all levels to improve society's understanding of the current role that defence and the armed forces play, as well as of Spain's commitment to security and peace at the global level. This policy must actively involve civil society and, above all, include the support and participation of young leaders who help spread this idea.

Real Instituto Elcano (Elcano Royal Institute) / Instituto Português de Relações Internacionais

Las relaciones bilaterales España-Portugal en la lucha contra el terrorismo global y la prevención de la radicalización violenta

by Carola García-Calvo [@carolagc13](#)
5 December 2017
Link to the article in [Spanish](#) (9 p.)

This analysis takes stock of the bilateral cooperation between Spain and Portugal in the fight against jihadist terrorism and preventing violent radicalisation.

Real Instituto Elcano (Elcano Royal Institute)

¿España como potencia atlántica?

by Luis Simón [@LuisSimn](#)
7 December 2017
Link to the article in [Spanish](#) (7 p.)

The National Security Strategy 2017 highlights the Atlantic nature of Spain, which is defined as a "country with global vocation."

El Instituto Cervantes y la diplomacia cultural en España: una reflexión sobre el modelo

by Emilio Lamo de Espinosa [@PresidenteRIE](#) and Ángel Badillo Matos [@angelbadillo](#)
1 December 2017
Link to the article in [Spanish](#) (22 p.)

The Spanish cultural diplomacy faces important challenges. One of the most immediate is to contribute to the shaping of a European cultural diplomacy.

UNITED KINGDOM

E3G

15 steps to green finance

by Ingrid Holmes [@IngridHolmes7](#) and Deleimy Orozco

14 December 2017

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

The UK Government has adopted five important domestic and international policy obligations whose delivery is dependent on expanding green finance. This paper sets out fifteen steps to expanding green finance in the UK, falling under three headings: financial policy innovation to promote green finance; domestic infrastructure investment to expand green finance; green finance as a means to boost global trade.

New energy zones: why, what and how?

12 December 2017

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

Energy systems around the world are changing and these changes require that infrastructure, regulation and markets are re-designed. There is now political consensus that the energy market does not work for all and action is needed to help those with the highest energy bills. However, further action will be needed to ensure that the gap between winners and losers does not increase as the energy transition proceeds. Identifying ways to ensure that all consumers benefit from the transition, and that costs are affordable, would be a key objective of the demonstration projects.

Institute of Economic Affairs

Taxi and private hire vehicle regulation: a briefing

by Diego Zuluaga

December 2017

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

The author argues that the emergence of platforms that propose the reduction of transaction costs result in regulatory intervention not being needed anymore in this sector. This is the case because it is in the business interest of platforms to provide a safe, secure and friendly environment for drivers and passengers to interact.

BREXIT

European Policy Centre

Brexit: launching satellite Britain

by Andrew Duff [@AndrewDuffEU](#)

5 December 2017

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

According to the author, satellite Britain and its government need all the help it can get from its European friends if the country is to stay safely within Europe's orbit. And if the UK settles to its new trajectory, the EU will be saving itself a lot of future trouble.

Brexit: towards a deep and comprehensive partnership?

by Fabian Zuleeg [@FabianZuleeg](#)

5 December 2017

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

Negotiations for the UK's withdrawal from the European Union have reached a critical juncture: at the [14-15 December European Council](#), the EU27 had to decide whether there was sufficient progress in the first phase of the negotiations on EU citizens' rights, the financial obligations of the UK to the EU and how to safeguard the Northern Ireland/Ireland peace process, including keeping the border as frictionless as possible.

European Parliament Think Tank

The Brexit process: moving to the second phase of negotiations

by Eva-Maria Poptcheva and Carmen Cristina Cirlig

20 December 2017

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

In December 2017, the European Commission President and the UK Prime Minister endorsed a joint report setting out a common understanding on the future withdrawal agreement. On 15 December, the [European Council](#) decided that 'sufficient progress' had been achieved on the first-phase priority issues, and that negotiations could move on to the second phase – on transitional arrangements and the future EU-UK relationship – provided the commitments from the joint report are fully translated into the draft withdrawal agreement. Exploratory discussions on the framework for the future relationship will begin only after the adoption by the European Council of additional guidelines in March 2018.

European Parliament Think Tank / University of Luxembourg

The impact of Brexit on the legal status of European Union officials and other servants of British nationality

by Roberta Panizza and Herwig C.H. Hofmann

20 December 2017

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

This study focuses on the legal status of EU active and retired officials and other servants of British nationality in the context of the UK leaving the EU under Article 50 TEU. It examines the legal position of EU officials and other servants of British nationality with their rights and possible remedies. It further explores avenues towards solutions for open legal questions.

Instytut Spraw Publicznych (Institute of Public Affairs) / Bertelsmann Stiftung

Maintaining EU-27 citizens' rights in the UK: a central and eastern European perspective

by Aleksander Fuksiewicz, Anna Piłat and Lugh Voarino

December 2017

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

The UK's decision to leave the EU has unexpectedly created a situation of uncertainty and insecurity for almost 3.5 million EU27 nationals currently residing in the UK. This paper provides a general overview of the Central and Eastern European regional perspective on the ongoing Brexit negotiations. It focuses on the free movement of people and the rights of EU27 citizens living in the UK. It argues that those EU27 nationals acquired (or will acquire) their rights on the basis of the EU's freedom of movement (without time limit), and, therefore, their rights should be maintained despite the UK's withdrawal from the Union.

Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (Friedrich Ebert Foundation)

What will happen to workers' rights after Brexit?

by Keith D. Ewing

December 2017

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

This paper addresses the question of employment rights in the UK after Brexit. The risks of Brexit to employment rights are real. Not to all rights, but to a substantial body of rights currently in force. The government's promise to protect these rights is hollow: it is binding on no one, and is undermined by the fact that CJEU jurisprudence will not be binding on British courts in their application of EU derived law, which will become 'British law'.

Open Europe

Beyond the Westminster Bubble: what people really think about immigration

by Henry Newman [@HenryNewman](#), Stephen Booth and Aarti Shankar [@rtshankar](#)

21 December 2017

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

This report finds that the public do want greater control over immigration, but they prefer a flexible system to a flat reduction in numbers.

UCL European Institute

Brexit & the re-making of British foreign policy

by Nicholas Wright

13 December 2017

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

The UK's decision to leave the EU has become 'the defining question of contemporary European politics.' This research paper sets out to examine one of the most important and also most difficult consequences of that decision: the impact of Brexit on British foreign policy and foreign policy-making.

Fondation Robert Schuman

The budgetary impact of the Brexit on the European Union

by Nicolas-Jean Brehon

4 December 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (22 p.) and in [French](#) (25 p.)

The British have always spoken of the UK's budgetary relations with the EU in a direct and uninhibited manner. In the present paper, the budgetary impact is seen from the European point of view. For the Union the UK is a more important budgetary partner than it might at first appear. Its weight goes well beyond its budgetary contribution alone. It seems that the indirect effects of Brexit on the budgetary policy and negotiations will be decisive. There are two stages in this analysis: the divorce bill and the post-Brexit period. This paper aims not so much to estimate the "bill" than to describe the range of issues that will have to be anticipated.

Institute for Public Policy Research

The shared market. A new proposal for a future partnership between the UK and the EU

by Tom Kibasi [@TomKibasi](#) and Marley Morris [@MarleyAMorris](#)

December 2017

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

The UK is set to leave the EU in March 2019. There are now only 15 months until the date for Brexit, notwithstanding the unlikely scenario that the Article 50 deadline is extended. Yet the government is divided on the nature of the UK's post-Brexit relationship with the EU.

Institute for Government

Trade after Brexit. Options for the UK's relationship with the EU

by Joe Owen [@jl_owen](#), Alex Stojanovic [@awstojanovic](#) and Jill Rutter [@jillongovt](#)

18 December 2017

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

Brexit means that, for the first time in 40 years, the UK will have to renegotiate its trade and economic relationship with its largest trading partner. This paper sets out the options and trade-offs for the UK Government in negotiating its future trade relationship with the EU.

Who's afraid of the ECJ? Charting the UK's relationship with the European Court

by Raphael Hogarth [@Raphael_Hogarth](#) and Lewis Lloyd

8 December 2017

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

The government has promised to end the jurisdiction of the European Court of Justice (ECJ) after Brexit. The paper is a data-driven analysis of the UK's experience with the ECJ and the European Commission. It aims to inform negotiations over the future relationship between the UK and EU institutions.

Centre for International Governance Innovation

Lessons from Brexit: reconciling international and constitutional aspirations

by Oonagh Fitzgerald [@oefitzgerald](#)

7 December 2017

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

This paper examines the recent UK Supreme Court '[Miller decision](#)' on the invocation of article 50 of the Treaty on EU, as well as the reasoning of the Supreme Court of Canada in the Reference re Quebec Secession. The analysis suggests that there are difficult lessons to learn from Brexit about constitutional fundamentals, constitutional complexity and the interconnection between international and constitutional aspirations. It would seem that the legitimacy of withdrawal from the EU will in some measure be judged by how well the leaders heed the voices of constituent communities and work to accommodate them in the new international and constitutional ordering.

The effect of Brexit on trademarks, designs and other "Europeanized" areas of intellectual property law in the United Kingdom

by Marc Mimler [@Dr_MarcMimler](#)

20 December 2017

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

This paper analyses the impact of Brexit on trademark and design laws. Both areas are deemed to be profoundly affected by the UK's exit from the EU, since they have been substantially Europeanized.

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

The trouble with transition

by Nicolai von Ondarza [@nvondarza](#)

December 2017

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

The transition will be the most important medium-term issue in the second phase of the Brexit negotiations. With neither side standing to gain from a cliff-edge, the British request for a transitional arrangement falls on open ears. But finding agreement will be no easy matter. From the EU's perspective the only acceptable option is full replication of the status quo, with the UK accepting and implementing EU rules for two years without having any say over them. This includes Prime Minister May needing to secure a parliamentary majority accepting "rule-taker" status for the UK – and breaking all the promises of the advocates of Brexit for at least two years.

Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung

So close and yet so far

by Hans-Hartwig Blomeier [@hansblomeier](#)

22 December 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (13 p.) and in [German](#) (14 p.)

The UK's decision to leave the EU based on the so-called Brexit referendum shocked Europe. How did it come to this? What internal rifts and contradictions are the root causes of the referendum result? What expectations, concerns, and fears does the impending separation entail? And what are the prospects for a future relationship?

Centre for European Policy Studies

Brexit breakthrough – Into ever-deeper fog over both the Northern Irish border and the Channel

by Michael Emerson

11 December 2017

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

The European Council on 14-15 December 2017 formalised the opening of negotiations over the future relationship between the EU and the UK. Progress in the three preliminary issues – citizens' rights, the budget and Northern Ireland – was judged by the EU to be adequate to authorise the opening of Phase II.

E3G

Brexit scenarios: space for climate and energy cooperation grows - Winter update 2017

by Shane Tomlinson

December 2017

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

This paper update reflects recent developments in the Brexit negotiations and examines the implications for energy and climate issues.

VISEGRÁD COUNTRIES

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

The Western Balkans on the Visegrad countries' agenda

by Anna Orosz [@russianann83](#)

14 December 2017

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

After joining the EU and NATO, the Visegrad countries agreed to give support to the Western Balkan countries in the Euro-Atlantic integration process. What does the Visegrad countries do in order to foster enlargement and how much it really matters? This cannot be analysed and assessed without the wider European context and without the understanding of motivation of the individual Visegrad countries. The former determines the framework of their actions while the latter has a great impact on the strength of common standpoint. This analysis takes a look on these aspects and highlights factors that could influence the Visegrad countries' weight in the EU's policy toward the Western Balkans.

SECTION 4 - EU POLICIES

JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS

European Union Institute for Security Studies

Nobody move! Myths of the EU migration crisis

by Roderick Parkes [@roderickparkes](#)

13 December 2017

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

This paper contextualises the dilemmas facing EU policymakers as Europe experienced an unprecedented influx of migrants and refugees in 2015-2016. Analysing and comparing the differing perspectives of external experts and internal practitioners, it examines how the EU's enlargement, neighbourhood and development policies evolved in response to the migration crisis. The paper identifies nine important shifts in European foreign policy that took place during the crisis, offering an explanation of why each occurred.

Migration Policy Institute

EU migration partnerships: a work in progress

by Elizabeth Collett [@migrationliz](#) and Aliyyah Ahad [@Aliyyah_Ahad](#)

3 December 2017

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

The article focuses on EU cooperation with third countries in the field of migration gaining a new momentum with the 2015-16 migration crisis. The authors revisit action taken with a particular attention to the 2016 [Migration Partnership Framework](#). This report critically examines if the stated aims—strengthening borders, stepping up the return of migrants without authorization to stay in Europe, and addressing the root causes of migration— have been reached and, if not, what adjustments are needed.

European Political Strategy Centre

10 trends shaping migration

7 December 2017

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

According to the article about 244 million people currently live outside their country of birth, representing 3% of world population. The article analysis ten trends in migration which can be observed in terms of socio-economic, demographic and technological transformations.

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

Turning the tide on EU migration policy

by Nils Feller [@FellerNF](#)

14 December 2017

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

In this article, it is argued that EU migration policy does not cover the full spectrum of its migration governance and management architecture. It should focus more on third country cooperation (i.e. legal migration channels, sustainable reintegration of returned migrants), fight root causes by addressing the migration-security-development nexus and increase the share of the EU budget dedicated to migration projects.

European Parliament Think Tank

A global compact on migration - Placing human rights at the heart of migration management

by Joanna Apap, Daniela Adorna Diaz and Gonzalo Urbina Trevino

18 December 2017

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

The global flow of refugees and migrants poses challenges, opportunities and obligations for countries around the world. At the very heart of the debate on migration management is how to ensure that the different interests and needs are addressed within a strong human rights framework. Providing continued institutional support to address these issues and implement the outcomes of the global compacts will be a challenge.

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

Impulse für eine nachhaltige internationale Migrationsarchitektur

by Anne Koch [@annekoch10](#), Eva Dick, Benjamin Schraven [@ben_schraven](#) and Benjamin Etzold [@ben_etzold](#)

December 2017

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

In this article, it is argued that regional actors should be integrated better as they play a key role, for instance in Africa, in building a sustainable cooperation in the field of migration. When it comes to the negotiations on two major global agreements, Germany and the EU should take a stance in favour of better involving regional actors and civil society.

Barcelona Centre for International Affairs

"La inmigración en el ojo del huracán". Anuario CIDOB de la Inmigración 2017

by Joaquín Arango, Ramón Mahía [@RMAHIA](#), David Moya and Elena Sánchez-Montijano [@ESMontijano](#)

December 2017

Link to the article in [Spanish](#) (346 p.)

Once again, migration is a key topic in Europe and abroad. The 2017 edition of the yearbook takes a special focus on the rise of populism and its speech regarding immigration in Spain and the EU.

Policy Exchange

Human rights and political wrongs: a new approach to human rights law

by Noel Malcolm

December 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (160 p.)

In this study, the author argues that democracy is being eroded by an ever-expanding system of human rights law and condemns the encroachment of the European Court of Human Rights on democratically-elected parliaments. He reaches the conclusion that the best way to protect human rights and align this protection with democratically accountable government is for the UK to leave the jurisdiction of the Court.

Österreichische Gesellschaft für Europapolitik (Austrian Society for European Politics)

The challenge of social cohesion: addressing long-term consequences of the 2015 refugee crisis for Europe

by Bernhard Riederer

5 December 2017

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

With the migration crisis in 2015, the author observes a growing polarisation of the general public between those welcoming and those afraid of asylum seekers. Therefore, this Policy Brief addresses issues of social cohesion in Europe. It argues that multidimensional policies are needed to tackle the looming societal challenges. Most importantly, the public discourse has to be altered and investment in refugees should be increased.

AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES

European Parliament Think Tank

Urban agriculture in Europe patterns, challenges and policies

by James McEldowney

18 December 2017

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

With a growing population worldwide living in cities, urban agriculture is becoming a topic of rising importance. The present paper aims to provide an overview of urban agriculture in relation to food security, the economy, social dimensions and the environment. Using short case studies and drawing on research from both Europe and the USA, the paper further explores the potential impact that urban agriculture can have and sets out its policy context.

COMPETITIVENESS (INTERNAL MARKET, INDUSTRY, RESEARCH AND SPACE)

Baltic Development Forum

State of the region report: the top of Europe – A competitive Baltic sea region ready for the future?

by Christian Ketels [@chrisketels](#), Helge J. Pedersen [@helgejpedersen](#) and Mikael Olsson

13 December 2017

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

This report of the Baltic Development Forum (BDF) gives an overview of the countries of the Baltic Sea Region (BSR) in terms of growth, innovation and competitiveness. The main aim is to show opportunities for regional cooperation and economic development.

European Centre for International Political Economy

Unintended and unattended consequences: the opportunity costs of reducing exclusivity rights for intellectual property

by Matthias Bauer [@MatBauerEcon](#)

December 2017

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

The article analyses the use of [supplementary protection certificates](#) (SPCs), a patent term extension motivated by the increasing length of market approvals for pharmaceuticals. The initiative is driven by EU Health Ministers thinking that changes in patent exclusivity rights will lower their expenditures on medicines. The authors call into doubt this conventional thinking by concluding that SPC export waiver could entail higher drug prices in a number of Member States

due to corporate strategies adapting their product placement, pricing and research and manufacturing activities.

The true impact of shorter and longer copyright durations: from authors' earnings to cultural creativity and diversity

by Jimmyn Parc and Patrick Messerlin

December 2017

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

The key question of this article is whether longer copyright protection positively affects authors earnings and the promotion of cultural creativity and diversity. Based on an economic analysis, the author concludes that unlike what is generally accepted, longer duration does not improve the author's earnings, and that, furthermore, it impedes cultural creativity and diversity. The main reason lies in two factors often neglected, the weak bargaining power of the author and the principal agent-dilemma through private contracts under longer duration which result the structural under-performance of the publishers.

College of Europe

Fostering innovation and growth in the digital age: the case for challenge prizes in Europe

by Alexander Mäkelä [@MakelaAlexander](#)

December 2017

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

The use of challenge prizes has been a success in the US, and has increasingly also had positive results in the UK and Sweden. According to the author, prizes have a strong potential of supporting the 'Europe 2020' goals and to bolster the growth of the [Digital Single Market](#). To realise their potential, future national and EU prizes could be made more effective by improving communication and outreach about them as well as conducting systematic impact assessments.

Institut Montaigne

Espace : l'Europe contre-attaque?

by Arthur Sauzay [@ArthurSauzay](#)

7 December 2017

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

The space sector is experiencing profound changes, from a technological, economic, geopolitical and military point of view. According to the author, Europe will need to take action to occupy a place at the forefront of the space powers of the twenty-first century. The ongoing reflection on the future of the EU must therefore be an opportunity to assert a real spatial sovereignty.

TRANSPORT/TELECOMMUNICATIONS/ENERGY

Real Instituto Elcano (Elcano Royal Institute)

Relanzamiento del plan de ciberseguridad de la UE

by Javier Alonso Lecuit

5 December 2017

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

The present article analyses the Commission proposal of a comprehensive set of measures to address the escalation of cybercrime and cyber threats ([Cybersecurity Package](#)).

European Parliament Think Tank

ENISA and the new cybersecurity act

by Maria Del Mar Negreiro Achiaga

21 December 2017

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

On 13 September 2017 the Commission adopted a cybersecurity package with new initiatives to further improve EU cyber resilience, deterrence and defence. As part of the resilience measures the Commission has tabled a legislative proposal to strengthen the [EU Agency for Network Information Security \(ENISA\)](#). The article analysis the proposed reform of ENISA foreseeing operational tasks for the agency and the creation of the first voluntary EU cybersecurity certification framework for ICT products, where ENISA will also play an important role.

E3G

Infrastructure for a changing energy system: the next generation of policies for the European Union

by Joseph Dutton, Lisa Fischer [@FactFishing](#) and Jonathan Gaventa [@jonathangaventa](#)

11 December 2017

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

European energy markets, technologies, business models, geopolitics and political objectives are changing rapidly. The EU's approach to energy network infrastructure needs to keep pace. According to the authors, this requires a reform of current delivery instruments and processes, including: aligning infrastructure policies with climate targets, updating definitions of energy security, broadening understanding of infrastructure boundaries and developing new tools to manage uncertainty.

The frustrating five: the EU clean energy package

by Manon Dufour [@ManonDf](#)

8 December 2017

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

In view of the adoption of general approaches on the Clean Energy Package, the article analyses the political line of the five main countries (Estonia, Germany, Italy, Spain and the UK) hindering progress towards Europe's energy transformation.

Centre for Climate Change Economics and Policy

The credibility of the European Union's efforts to decarbonise the power sector

by Samuela Bassi, Alina Averchenkova and Maria Carvalho

5 December 2017

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

The ability of EU Member States to translate their commitments to decarbonise the power sector into concrete actions, in order to meet European and international objectives, has so far not been fully investigated. This report aims to fill this gap by assessing the credibility of Member States' efforts in this area. The analysis provides an initial comparative insight into seven key determinants of credibility of efforts to decarbonise the power sector and how these vary between countries.

How to make carbon taxes more acceptable

by Stefano Carattini, Maria Carvalho and Sam Fankhauser [@SamFankhauser](#)

5 December 2017

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

This report explores practical ways through which carbon taxes can be made more politically attractive. It reviews the empirical evidence on people's attitudes towards environmental taxes and draws lessons from these findings on publicly acceptable forms of carbon taxation. The report discusses strategies that can enable a transparent and open debate on the implications of implementing a carbon tax. Its premise is that carbon taxes can be made acceptable by designing them in a way that responds to voter concerns.

Credible, effective and publicly acceptable policies to decarbonise the European Union: final report

by Samuela Bassi, Maria Carvalho, Baran Doda and Sam Fankhauser [@SamFankhauser](#)

5 December 2017

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

This report investigates the extent to which current policies and institutional arrangements are fit for purpose for the new decarbonisation phase into which the EU is entering. It summarises the main findings from the Statkraft research programme, 'Fit-for-purpose' energy and climate change mitigation policies for the EU, completed in December 2017.

Oxford Institute for Energy Studies

Electricity networks: technology, future role and economic incentives for innovation

by Rahmat Poudineh, Donna Peng [@pengdonna](#) and Seyed Reza Mirnezami [@srmirnezami](#)

14 December 2017

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

While the economics of low carbon generation technologies is fast improving due to a mix of policy and market driven incentives, innovation in electricity networks has been relatively slow. To achieve in energy transition, investment and innovation in the grid segment is key. This paper reviews the evolution of electricity grids and analyses the efficacy of existing incentive models in encouraging innovation.

Challenges to the future of gas: unburnable or unaffordable?

by Jonathan Stern

5 December 2017

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

Gas has a potentially bright future in replacing the more polluting fossil fuels. However, while acknowledging that climate change targets represent a longer-term constraint, Stern asserts that many non-OECD countries are in fact driven by a more significant, shorter-term imperative, namely the price of energy. Reviewing the gas prices paid in a broad range of geographies, he concludes that many of the more optimistic demand forecasts are based on price assumptions that appear unrealistic relative to the levels that customers have been paying over the past decade.

European Council on Foreign Relations

A flammable peace: why gas deals won't end conflict in the Middle East

by Tareq Baconi
21 December 2017

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

The discovery of offshore gas reserves in the eastern Mediterranean has given rise to intense speculation and political debate in recent years. The hype following the major discoveries that began in 2010 was that the large gas reserves might pave the way for greater economic integration between eastern Mediterranean states and, consequently, lead to greater regional stability. If so, the discoveries could offer major benefits for Europe, providing an opportunity both to diversify away from its reliance on cheap Russian gas and to support the development of deeper relations between Europe's regional partners.

Centre for European Policy Studies

Nord Stream 2: friend or enemy of energy security in Europe?

by Alex Barnes
December 2017

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

[Nord Stream 2](#) is criticised on grounds that it undermines the functioning of the European gas market, has no economic rationale, would reduce security of supply, weaken [European solidarity and the Energy Union](#), and also destabilise Ukraine. This contribution by a Nord Stream 2 AG market expert, attempts to counter these criticisms by arguing that due to existing rules the European gas market cannot be undermined. Moreover, the project would strengthen gas-to-gas competition with LNG and the transit role of Ukraine will be maintained.

Is security of energy supply possible without deeper cross-border market integration? Lessons from the cold spell in south-eastern Europe

by [Christian Egenhofer](#) and Cristian Stroia [@Cristian_Stroia](#)
13 December 2017

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

In late December 2016 and early 2017, South Eastern Europe experienced an extended cold spell lasting almost six weeks and triggering an electricity 'crisis'. The affected countries took a purely national approach which departed sharply from the solutions discussed within the [Central and South Eastern Europe Energy Connectivity \(CESEC\)](#) initiative with the aim of integrating markets to address energy security in the region. One of the possible outcomes from the cold spell might well be that governments in the region come to realise that they have few options other than to integrate with their neighbours, increase energy efficiency and support renewable energy.

Transforming energy-intensive industries: reflections on innovation, investment and finance challenges

by Milan Elkerbout [@MilanElkerbout](#)
11 December 2017

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

The clean energy transition – necessitated by the [Paris Agreement](#) and implemented in the EU through the Energy Union strategy – is changing the industrial landscape in Europe. The short report is a first attempt to describe the increasing linkages between climate and energy policies, on the one hand, and industrial policies, on the other.

Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung (Heinrich Böll Foundation)

The big bad fix: the case against geoengineering

6 December 2017

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

This report exposes the context, goals, actors and rapid developments underway to advance climate manipulation, or geoengineering. The new framing from geoengineers is that we must accept these dangerous technofixes because they cannot see any other alternative to stall or prevent climate havoc.

Tricky business: space for civil society in natural resource struggle

by Carolijn Terwindt and Christian Schliemann

8 December 2017

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

Governments as well as corporations are driving the demand for water, land, fossil fuels, raw materials, and organic resources of all kinds with negative effects on previously intact ecosystems. According to the authors, citizens and organised civil society fighting against these developments are increasingly being met with repression, harassment and defamation. Based on country studies from India, South Africa, Mexico and the Philippines, the analysis provides further insights on how resource and environmental policy projects can be better monitored.

Transparency International

Combatting corruption in mining approvals: assessing the risks in 18 resource-rich countries

by Lisa Caripis

5 December 2017

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

Transparent and accountable mining can contribute to sustainable development beginning with corruption-free approvals. Transparency International has assessed the risks that can lead to corruption in 18 resource-rich countries to identify the warning signals as early as possible. This report demonstrates where and how corruption can get a foothold in mining approvals processes before ground is even broken. It presents examples from a range of diverse countries and identifies important roles for government, the mining industry and civil society to identify, prevent and mitigate these risks.

EMPLOYMENT/SOCIAL POLICY/HEALTH/CONSUMER AFFAIRS

European Parliament Think Tank

Demographic outlook in the European Union in 2017

by David Eatock

21 December 2017

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

This paper presents the demographic outlook in the EU in 2017. It shows that the EU population, having grown substantially, is now beginning to stagnate, before its expected decline from around the middle of the century. The EU population is also ageing dramatically with serious implications across a range of areas including the economy, healthcare and pensions. Free movement within the EU and migration from third countries also play an important role in shaping demography in individual Member States and regions.

Fundación de Estudios de Economía Aplicada

New approaches to the study of long term non-employment duration in Italy, Germany and Spain

by Bruno Contini, J. Ignacio García Pérez [@jigarper](#), Toralf Pusch and Roberto Quaranta
19 December 2017

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

This study proposes a new approach to the analysis of non-employment and its duration in Germany, Italy and Spain using administrative longitudinal databases. Non-employment includes the discouraged unemployed not entitled to draw unemployment benefits and the long-term inactive. The authors estimate the magnitude and duration of non-employment, applying the survival methodology developed in recent years to deal with 'workforce disposal'. Long-term non-employment (LTNE) may lead to dramatic changes in individual lifestyles, family and childbearing projects, levels of poverty and welfare at large.

Barcelona Graduate School of Economics

Advice from women and men and selection into competition

by Jordi Brandts and Cristina Rott
December 2017

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

The authors study how gender matching affects the impact of advice on men's and women's entry into a real-effort tournament and how advice varies with gender and gender matching. The results show that gender pairings do not affect the impact of advice. With respect to the advice process the authors find that for medium performers women are less likely to recommend entry than men, and that women give worse advice. Men are more reluctant to weaken women's than men's confidence in their success.

Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (Friedrich Ebert Foundation)

Social protection floor index: update and country studies

by Mira Bierbaum, Căcilie Schildberg [@cilleistanbul](#) and Michael Cichon
December 2017

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

The [Global Coalition for the Social Protection Floor \(SPF\)](#) developed the Social Protection Floor Index (SPF Index) to indicate the financial size of national SPF gaps in 2015. The first results of the SPF Index were published in 2016 and referred to data from 2012. This report incorporates data from 2013, updates the database, slightly modifies the methodology and uses new 2011 Purchasing Power Parity (PPP) conversion factors. In addition to a global ranking, four case studies on lower-middle-income countries from different regions illustrate how the SPF Index can be used for analytical and advocacy purposes at the country level.

Notre Europe - Jacques Delors Institute

Pauvreté, un combat européen à mener avec les démunis

by Sylvie Goulard [@GoulardSylvie](#)
19 December 2017

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

The author reminds us that combatting poverty requires us to question the meaning of European integration: what kind of society do we wish to build together? Following a brief overview of inequality and poverty, she asks the sensitive question of the appropriate level of public action: the EU, a champion of equality? Member States, in favour of subsidiarity, running the risk of

perpetuating unanimity on tax issues, which curbs redistribution? Lastly, she considers the method selected to combat poverty, policies which must be designed with the disadvantaged.

ENVIRONMENT

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

Action on climate and security risks: review of progress 2017

by Janani Vivekananda [@JanVivekananda](#), Shiloh Fetzek [@shiloh_fetzek](#), Malin Mobjörk [@MalinMobjork](#), Amiera Sawas [@Amierasawas](#) and Susanne Wolfmaier
6 December 2017

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

The report by the Planetary Security Initiative looks at progress made on policy and practical responses to climate-security risks for 2016-2017. Using the independent G7 commissioned report 'A New Climate for Peace' as a basis, and building on last year's report, 'Towards A Global Resilience Agenda', this year's report sets out the key achievements, pitfalls and new challenges facing the foreign policy community working to reduce climate-fragility risks.

Centre for Climate Change Economics and Policy

Benchmarks for emissions trading – General principles for emissions scope

by Misato Sato, Karsten Neuhoff and Vera Zipperer
20 December 2017

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

Benchmarks within emissions trading schemes are used to determine the level of free allocation of permits to sectors at the risk of carbon leakage. This paper analyses how the design of such benchmarks can impact on firms' production decisions and create efficient incentives for production and technology choices.

Atlantic Council

Flood management infrastructure in a changing climate. A comparative analysis of London, Rotterdam, New York, and Miami

by Salem Afeworki [@s_afeworki](#), Kate Judson, Sadya Ndoko and Axum Teferra
21 December 2017

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

As climate change increases the vulnerability of communities to major natural disasters, cities are taking on leadership roles in climate adaptation planning and implementation. This requires deep coordination between leaders across jurisdictions and significant infrastructure investment. Many cities have already begun planning for current and future climate threats, often with the help of international networks dedicated to bringing local leaders together to share best practices.

E3G

Greening financial flows – What progress has been made in the development banks?

by Helena Wright [@HWright](#), Ingrid Holmes [@IngridHolmes7](#), Robert Barbe and James Hawkins
20 December 2017

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

The Paris Agreement on Climate Change sets out a commitment for finance flows to be made consistent with a pathway towards low greenhouse gas emissions and climate-resilient development. The multilateral development banks (MDBs) will play a crucial role in delivering

climate finance and helping countries transition to low carbon economies. E3G analysis the coherence with which the development banks are scaling up climate finance while phasing out fossil fuels. According to their own estimates, the six largest MDBs committed more than \$25 billion in climate finance in 2015 from their own resources but also continued to support fossil fuels.

EDUCATION/YOUTH/CULTURE/SPORT

Notre Europe - Jacques Delors Institute

Erasmus: renewing the original ambitions

by Claire Versini [@ClaireVersini](#)

4 December 2017

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

Just after becoming President of the European Commission, Jacques Delors marked the first milestones of what would very quickly become one of the most praised initiatives of the EU: Erasmus. The thirtieth anniversary of the programme is an opportunity to consider its origins, with a view to gaining a better understanding of its essence and prospects. Thanks to Jacques Delors' archives, the author gets back to the origins of this initiative on the fringes of Europe's scope of power, and analyses the challenge raised by the massification and diversification of mobility opportunities.

SECTION 5 - FOREIGN AFFAIRS

FOREIGN AND SECURITY POLICY / DEFENCE

Carnegie Europe

Is there hope for EU foreign policy?

by Stefan Lehne [@stefanlehne](#)

5 December 2017

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

While the foreign policy reforms in the [Lisbon Treaty](#) have improved the EU's foreign policy machine, the EU's overall international position has weakened in the ten years since the treaty's signing. Insufficient leadership and dysfunctional institutional arrangements, the tendency of bigger countries to prioritize their national foreign policies, and the habit of some smaller ones to get free rides have all impeded effective collective action. The EU's current consolidation, however, offers an opportunity for remedial action.

NATO's southern strategy at a crossroads

by Sinan Ülgen [@sinanulgen1](#)

11 December 2017

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

The security landscape in NATO's Southern neighbourhood continues to evolve, broadening the alliance's physical and political challenges at a time when strains on transatlantic relationships are intensifying. If the alliance is to remain effective, these challenges, ranging from Russia's forward military presence in Syria to Turkey's more assertive, securitized outlook, need to be countered by a more sustainable and ambitious strategy for the Southern flank.

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

Neue Aufgaben für die Zusammenarbeit zwischen EU und NATO

by Niklas Helwig [@nhelwig](#)

December 2017

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

Difficult relations with Russia and the instability of the southern Mediterranean have given the EU and NATO new challenges in recent years. Both focus more on countering hybrid threats, territorial defense and counter-terrorism. The EU and NATO have deepened their cooperation at the staff level without, however, reconciling their fundamental political and strategic objectives. So far, EU Member States have not agreed on the role of the EU and NATO in European defense. The EU could align the Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO) in the Common Security and Defense Policy (CSDP) more closely with the objectives of NATO.

Die internationale Ordnung im Umbruch

by Hanns W. Maull (ed.), Steffen Angenendt, Susanne Dröge [@droege_s](#), Anne Koch [@annekoch10](#), Oliver Meier [@meier_oliver](#), Wolfgang Richter and Jonas Schneider

13 December 2017

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

The international order is undergoing a transformation that will fundamentally change world politics. The study examines regional orders, international regimes, and the "world-order powers" USA and China. The authors identifies trend-setting developments in the international order and identified key causes for their profound changes. The most important regulatory task of German

foreign policy is to make the EU capable of acting as an international regulatory power, for neither the USA nor China offer the guarantee for a multilateral regulatory policy based on German and European understanding. However, a strong Europe could influence both in this sense.

GLOBSEC Policy Institute

Globsec NATO adaptation initiative. One alliance. The future tasks of the adapted alliance

by Julian Lindley-French [@Frenclindley](#)

21 December 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (28 p.) and to the [executive summary](#) (4 p.)

NATO is at a crucial decision point. The Alliance has adapted well in response to the watershed events of 2014 – rebuilding deterrence against threats from the East, increasing its engagement with the Middle East, and forging a closer partnership with the EU. But as it nears its seventieth birthday, NATO risks falling behind the pace of political change and technological developments that could alter the character of warfare, the structure of international relations and the role of the Alliance itself.

From criminals to terrorists and back?

by Kacper Rekawek [@KacperRekawek](#), Stanislav Matejka [@StanleyMat](#), Martina Babikova, Tomas Nagy and Jakub Rafay

14 December 2017

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

Overlaps between crime and terrorism have been documented, in a non-systematic fashion, for years. In the past, experts and researchers focused on organisational "convergence" between criminal and terrorist groups. Nowadays, the focus has shifted towards individuals who move on the crime-terror continuum as both criminal groups and terrorist organisations. Both are looking for similar recruits. This report seeks to determine whether the crime-terror nexus actually exists and to investigate which types of criminality are antechambers to terrorism.

European Parliament Think Tank

EU Cybersecurity Agency and cybersecurity certification

by Katharina Eisele and Malte Krumm

20 December 2017

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

This note seeks to provide an initial analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of the European Commission's [impact assessment](#), which is the main part of the '[Cybersecurity package](#)', submitted in September 2017.

German Marshall Fund of the United States

EU–NATO cybersecurity and defense cooperation: from common threats to common solutions

by Bruno Lété [@Bruno_Lete](#) and Piret Pernik [@PiretPernik](#)

15 December 2017

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

The EU and NATO are targeted by cybercrime syndicates, politically motivated non-state actors, and sophisticated state actors. These cyber activities undermine all levels of society in Member States, threatening civil, political, economic, and military security. Much of these activities go undetected, unacknowledged, or inadequately addressed. Various sectors are becoming more informed and engaged, but the challenges remain. The Estonian Presidency of the Council of the EU convened a conference to stimulate new thinking on cybersecurity and defence cooperation in 2017. The brief summarises the discussions and offers recommendations.

Defense innovation and the future of transatlantic strategic superiority: a British perspective

by Trevor Taylor

13 December 2017

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

The 'Defense Innovation Initiative' announced in 2014 aims to "identify and invest in innovative ways to sustain and advance U.S. military dominance for the 21st century." To address the erosion of U.S. technological superiority and conventional deterrence, an ambitious innovation-based program was announced to offset the competition. The assessments that served as the basis for this strategy - such as the rapid modernization of China's defence and the emerging Russian ambitions and capabilities - remain relevant. U.S. allies must consider how this may affect their military cooperation. The analysis is part of a series of responses to the initiative from U.S. allies.

Barcelona Centre for International Affairs

El mundo en 2018: diez temas que marcarán la agenda internacional

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

December 2017

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

The note is the result of a collective reflection by the CIDOB's research team and focuses on ten topics that will mark the international agenda in 2018.

Secession and counter-secession. An international relations perspective

by Diego Muro [@DiegoMuro1](#) and Eckart Woertz [@eckartwoertz](#) (eds.)

December 2017

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

In 1945, there were 74 independent countries. Today there are 195. The breakup of colonial empires, the collapse of the Soviet Union, and various secessions all over the world have led to the creation of numerous new sovereign states. Historically, the expansion and contraction of states have resulted from the competition between two living forces: secessionism and counter-secessionism. Movements of secession and counter-secession compete and clash, and one of the goals of the publication is to understand the strategies of actors in favour of changing political borders as well as the reactions of those who want to prevent the break-up of states.

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

New dots on the security horizon. Results from the Clingendael expert survey.

by Kars de Bruijne, Minke Meijnders [@Minke_M](#) and Lauriane Héau

December 2017

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

Europe is being challenged. Territorial integrity is no longer a given, the ring of instability remains fragile and exports a number of problems ranging from terrorism to migration. The public appears to be largely dissatisfied with the existing political order. Transatlantic relations are in a state of flux and questions are increasingly being asked as to whether Europe should play the game of nations. The article attempts to identify and prioritise some of tomorrow's key security problems.

Notre Europe - Jacques Delors Institute

L'UE et son voisinage: comment stabiliser l'arc de crise?

by Elvire Fabry [@elvirefabry](#), Natalia Martin and Luc Vincent

1 December 2017

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

The increasing instability in the EU's neighbourhood is a major concern for both national governments and European political leaders. The collapse of several countries in the Mediterranean region, refugee flows, the development of terrorist networks which threaten Europeans with deadly attacks, frozen conflicts in the Eastern neighbourhood and challenging relations with Russia have a profound impact on the entire EU. Understanding the turmoil in neighbouring states requires us to make full use of a range of areas of expertise, in order to see the bigger picture regarding current challenges.

Rahvusvaheline Kaitseuringute Keskus (International Centre for Defence and Security)

European deterrence initiative. Bolstering the defence of the Baltic states

by Eerik Marmeï and Gabriel White

20 December 2017

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

In December 2017, Donald Trump signed the FY18 National Defence Authorisation Act (NDAA) into law whose contents are of particular relevance to the Baltic states. In addition to including a marked increase of funding for the European Deterrence Initiative (EDI), previously known as the European Reassurance Initiative (ERI), the law includes a one hundred-million-dollar fund for a joint-procurement project between Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. The policy paper provides a history of the European Deterrence Initiative, identifies critical capability gaps, and offers recommendations for the future of EDI in the Baltic region.

European Union Institute for Security Studies

Defence industries in Russia and China: players and strategies

by Richard A. Bitzinger and Nicu Popescu [@nicupopescu](#)

6 December 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (93 p.)

The report turns the spotlight on two major players in the global defence industry: Russia and China. It examines how both countries have in recent years narrowed the industrial and technological gap with the European armaments sector and are now openly challenging the West's traditional superiority in this domain. The loss of this military-technological edge could severely undermine the West's ability to counter direct Russian or Chinese military threats, while also entailing greater competition for European defence industries, thus reshaping the global arms trade – with repercussions for security relationships around the world.

European Centre for Development Policy Management

The dynamics of EU budget negotiations for external action – Towards a 'single' instrument?

by Mariella Di Ciommo, Andrew Sherriff [@AndrewSherriff](#) and Jean Bossuyt

18 December 2017

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

At a time when the world and Europe are changing more than in decades, the EU will make critical choices on the design of its budget. These choices will have a lasting strategic impact, and could see the transformation of long cherished - but often criticised - separate instruments. Yet key questions arise such as: how solid is the narrative that would justify a single instrument? What are

the core instruments design choices that need to be made? And what are the various scenarios for operationalising a single instrument? In the brief, the authors have highlighted different scenarios to assist stakeholders gain an insight into the issues surrounding a single instrument.

Leuven Centre for Global Governance Studies

The EU's global strategy in the age of Brexit and 'America First'

by Joris Larik [@JorisLarik](#)

20 December 2017

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

In 2016 the EU launched its '[Global Strategy for Foreign and Security Policy](#)'. In less unusual times, it would have been received as merely the latest iteration of the main ambitions of EU external action. However, with the contours of 'Brexit' becoming clearer and the start of the Trump Presidency in the US, the EU's Global Strategy has acquired a whole new level of significance. The paper argues that, while meant to express a largely uncontroversial consensus, it now needs to be recontextualized as a distinctive vision in the face of trends of anti-globalism and Euroscepticism.

Institute for National Security Studies

Cyber threats to democratic processes

by David Siman-Tov, Gabi Siboni [@GabiSiboni](#) and Gabrielle Arelle

December 2017

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

The Russian interference in the presidential elections in the US and in France raises questions about the need and ability of democratic countries to protect their election processes. The article presents the threats to elections posed by both cyber and cultural developments. It addresses the reality in which the extensive use of social networks and direct communications channels enables foreign entities to significantly influence the democratic process—without crippling the voting systems—by introducing outside influence into the political discourse. This constitutes a new challenge to democratic countries, which warrants thinking and re-organization.

Istituto Affari Internazionali

Lethal autonomous weapon systems and the future of warfare

by Adriano Iaria

15 December 2017

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

Artificial intelligence poses new challenges for international humanitarian law and there is the need to answer to several ethical and legal questions concerning the use of lethal autonomous weapon systems. The article raises some of these questions, giving an overview of the current debate on the issue.

TRADE

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

Handeln für eine bessere EU-Handelspolitik

by Bettina Rudloff [@bettinarudloff](#)

December 2017

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

The EU trade policy has been at the centre of criticism in recent years, mainly because of the TTIP and CETA agreements. The author thinks that the EU needs to establish a new trade policy that once again enjoys trust and support. This requires a series of measures: the EU should involve parliaments more closely, involve citizens more intensively and above all allow more transparency. In this way, the current wave of protectionism could be opposed to a trade policy that finds democratically better legitimized solutions in this policy field beyond the fragile general welfare promise that has long been associated with trade agreements.

Centre for International Governance Innovation

The knowledge-based and data-driven economy: quantifying the impacts of trade agreements

by Dan Ciuriak [@DanCiuriak](#)

6 December 2017

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

Intellectual property (IP) and data constitute the essential capital stocks of the knowledge-based and data-driven economy. These intangible capital stocks are not, however, represented in the workhorse models used to assess the impact of international trade agreements. As a result, it is not possible — using conventional tools — to evaluate the impact of treaty obligations in respect of IP protection, e-commerce and data; foreign direct investment in the knowledge-based sectors; and competition. On the basis of these considerations, the author argues for urgent development of a quantitative framework to assess relevant Canadian trade policies.

Carnegie Europe

Trade as Turkey's EU anchor

by Sinan Ülgen [@sinanulgen1](#)

13 December 2017

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

Turkey's path of EU accession remaining blocked for the time being, Ankara and Brussels have instead invested their hopes in an upgraded Customs Union. Revamping this trade arrangement would unlock numerous economic benefits for both sides by further liberalizing trade between Turkey and the EU. Yet this initiative is now under threat as a group of EU members led by Germany have formally opposed any new trade deal with Turkey. According to the author, blocking the renewal of this trade deal would all but eliminate the most feasible means of encouraging rules-based governance in Ankara and maintaining EU engagement with Turkey.

Institut Français des Relations Internationales

A brave new world for trade

by Céline Pajon [@CelinePajon](#)

21 December 2017

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

The global environment for trade is undergoing significant changes. New emerging players such as China are aiming to adapt the rules and institutions inherited from the post-war Bretton Woods

system. With the administration of Donald Trump, the US is revising its international posture to adopt a more inward-looking and unilateral attitude under the motto of "America First" that jeopardises the dynamics for multilateral engagements and more liberal and ambitious norms for trade.

DEVELOPMENT

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

Partnerships for the 2030 agenda for sustainable development. Transformative, Inclusive and Accountable?

by Marianne Beisheim [@mbeisheimswp](#) and Anne Ellersiek
December 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (28 p.) and in [German](#) (30 p.)

The United Nations (UN) [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#) defines Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships (MSPs) as a tool for helping to realise the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). However, prior experience of such partnerships between state and non-state actors has shown mixed results. Significant successes have been marred by too many failures. The study examines to what extent policymakers and other relevant actors integrate these insights into multi-stakeholder partnerships – especially as regards their conditions for success – when calling for and fostering new partnerships for the SDGs.

ENLARGEMENT PROCESS

College of Europe

Exiting or entering the Union: EU consistency in accession and withdrawal negotiations

by Özlem Terzi
December 2017

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

The policy brief compares the EU's negotiating positions vis-à-vis the UK on Brexit with its positions vis-à-vis candidates which have started their accession negotiations, namely Turkey, Serbia and Montenegro, as well as the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, whose candidacy represents a number of political aspects worth highlighting in the context of this paper.

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

The EU and the Western Balkans: so near and yet so far

by Matteo Bonomi and Dušan Reljić
19 December 2017

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

The European Commission will unveil its new [EU Enlargement Strategy](#) on 6 February 2018. The EU HR for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Federica Mogherini, has stated the European Commission's intention to ensure that the Western Balkan countries are on an "irreversible" track to membership in the Union before the end of its mandate in 2019. Unless this new Strategy offers a realistic plan to tackle the lack of economic growth and social progress in the region, it will be another futile institutional exercise because democracy, the rule of law and other basic distinctions of "Europeanness" cannot make lasting inroads into the enduring poverty in the Western Balkans.

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

Serbia's cooperation with China, the European Union, Russia and the United States of America

by Christopher A. Hartwell [@insteconomist](#) and Katarzyna W. Sidło
November 2017

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

The study examines Serbia's foreign policies towards the EU, the US, Russia, and China, in particular examining the influence of each power with regard to foreign aid, trade, investment and security. The analysis shows that each partner of Serbia has their own specific interest and comparative advantage in the country, with the EU focusing primarily on rule of law, aid, and increasing investment, the US on security, Russia on energy and foreign policy support, and China on infrastructure and markets. The scale of cooperation is divergent, however, and the EU accession process has pushed the EU to primus inter pares for the Serbian government.

Centar za međunarodne i bezbednosne poslove (International and Security Affairs Centre)

Analiza nacionalnih kapaciteta za doprinos međunarodnim civilnim misijama

by Dejan Milenković, Dušan Ignjatović and Igor Novaković
7 December 2017

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

The main goal of the in-depth research analysis is to contribute to the creation of legislative framework in order for Serbia to send its civilian experts in peace support operations. The document offers a comparative legal analyses of the legal frameworks for sending civilians in peace support operations of six European countries: Estonia, Croatia, Slovenia, Czech Republic, Lithuania and Germany. It also provides a short overview and clarification of what the civilian missions are and how they have evolved over time.

Instituto Español de Estudios Estratégicos

Turquía: el socio de todos, la aliada de nadie

by Jacobo Morillo Llovo
11 December 2017

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

The Republic of Turkey is one of those countries whose geographic nature constitutes a strategic asset. During the last five years the nation led by Recep Tayyip Erdogan has shown a shift in its geopolitics with consequences in its relationship with the West yet to be defined.

German Marshall Fund of the United States

Turkey's strategic choice: flexible alliances with an enduring transatlantic anchor

by E. Fuat Keyman and Megan Gisclon [@megan in Turkey](#)
1 December 2017

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

A photo emerged of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Iranian President Hassan Rouhani, and Russian President Vladimir Putin jovially joining hands following the trilateral Sochi summit on November 22. Such partnerships mark a definite turn in Turkish foreign policy in the post-July 15 era: Turkey's relations with Russia as well as with Eurasia have deepened, while its relations with the West, in contrast, have been declining under a growing trust problem. In turn, we suggest that Ankara should see its improving ties with Russia and Iran solely as a tenant of Turkey's historic policy of flexible alliances while maintaining its historical, strategic anchor with the West.

Avoiding a transactional framework for U.S.–Turkey relations

by Ilter Turan [@ilterturan9](#)

6 December 2017

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

The security cooperation and mutual trust that has characterized Turkey's post-war relations with the US has been replaced by suspicion and distrust. Efforts on both sides to improve the relationship have been quickly overtaken by unfavourable developments. Are we faced with an unfortunate set of incidents or is there a more fundamental problem? While some unfortunate incidents may contribute to the deterioration of the relationship, a fundamental change has occurred in the policy environment to which both sides need to adjust.

La vie des idées

La chasse aux intellectuels en Turquie

by Ahmet Insel [@ahmet_insel](#)

22 December 2017

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

The failed putsch of July 2016 provided the Turkish government with the opportunity for a huge counter-coup. Will the regime of Tayyip Erdogan, which seeks to bring vast sectors of civil society to heel, succeed in winning its cultural war against the university?

EASTERN PARTNERSHIP

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

Eastern Partnership countries on the crossroads of the Eurasian integration processes

by Ruben Elamiryan

13 December 2017

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

The article focuses on the analysis of geopolitical and geostrategic essence of the following integration projects: [Eastern Partnership Program](#) (EaP) of the EU, Eurasian Economic Union (EEU), and Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). The author argues that as the six Eastern Partnership countries are geographically and geopolitically situated on the cross-roads of these projects, they should become the "bridge" of cooperation and dialogue among them. From this perspective, the main research goal is to understand the essence of each integration project separately.

Ośrodek Studiów Wschodnich (Centre for Eastern Studies)

Cena lojalności. Stosunki Kijowa z regionami

by Tomasz Piechal [@tomaszpiechal](#)

19 December 2017

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

For years Ukraine has remained a highly centralized state. This is the result of the choice made by the Ukrainian political elite, which at the dawn of independence set the variant of relations between the centre and the regions created in the times of the Soviet Union. The selected model of a centralized state stimulated the involvement of regional industrial and business groups in political games in the capital. Their development depended on the decisions taken in Kiev, where the oligarchic clans were important from the point of view of protecting the interests, including budget control or separation of state preferences for selected types of industrial production.

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

Agriculture in Ukraine: economic and political frameworks

by Yuliia Horovetska, Bettina Rudloff [@bettinarudloff](#) and Susan Stewart

December 2017

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

Despite favourable natural conditions, Ukraine has not been able to capitalize on its potential advantages in the agricultural sector. In 2015 the value added of agriculture was lower than in neighbouring Poland or Germany and France, as well as in the Russian Federation. The paper traces the developments in this sector since Ukrainian independence in 1991 and distinguishes different phases in its evolution. The authors then attempt to situate the economic developments of the past twelve years (since the Orange Revolution) in their political context.

Evropské hodnoty (European Values)

Analyzing the ground zero. What Western countries can learn from Ukrainian experience of combating Russian disinformation

by Kateryna Kruk [@Kateryna_Kruk](#)

11 December 2017

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

The author analyses different ways in which Ukraine tried to combat Russian information attacks, covering the period from the annexation of Crimea until the end of 2017.

Expert-Grup / Centre for European Policy Studies

Democracy and its deficits: the path towards becoming European-style democracies in Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine

by Ghia Nodia [@Ghia_Nodia](#), Denis Cenușă and Mikhail Minakov [@mminakov](#)

1 December 2017

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

Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine are three participating states of the European Partnership that have chosen to conclude Association Agreements with the EU, often at the expense of relations with their most powerful neighbour, Russia. They are also rather similar in their levels of democratic development. The paper offers a comparative analysis of the three countries' political systems and aims to interpret both the roots of their relative success, and the nature of the deficits that prevent them from consolidating their democratic institutions.

Expert-Grup

Finanțarea protecției sociale în Moldova prin prisma proiectului de buget 2018

by Veronica Sandu

11 December 2017

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

The article deals with the financing of social protection in Moldova analysing the medium and short-term trends and priorities on the basis of the Medium-Term Budgetary Framework 2018-2020 approved in July 2017.

Concluziile anului economic 2017 si prognoze pentru 2018

by Adrian Lupusor @AdrianLupusor, Alexandru Fala, Dumitru Pinteaa, Iurie Morcotilo and Vadim Gumene

13 December 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (45 p.) and in [Romanian](#) (46 p.)

The authors publish their conclusion of the economic year 2017 in Moldova noting Moldova's Gross Domestic Product fell under the pessimistic scenario of their forecast made early in the year (3.0% – 4.0%). The initial GDP growth forecast of 6% did not materialize due to unfavourable weather that had undermined the harvest; high uncertainty among businesses which were reluctant to resume the crediting, private investments and industrial activity; and the slow pace of reforms: about half of the actions stated in the Roadmap as priority reforms of the Government and Parliament were not implemented.

Analiza Bugetului Public Național 2018 prin prisma sectorului de tineret

by Igor Ciurea @CiureaIgor

11 December 2017

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

This analysis sets out the main needs and areas of vulnerability of young people in Moldova and how the state budget responds to them. It also presents the main changes coming with the approval of youth law and assesses how the state budget corresponds to these changes. The analysis attempts to prioritize the needs and disparities that systematically disadvantaged young people. It aims to adjust the budgetary framework to ensure maximum predictability and efficiency in the implementation of policies related to youth.

MIDDLE EAST/NORTH AFRICA (MENA)

Institut Français des Relations Internationales

Russian Spetsnaz, contractors and volunteers in the Syrian conflict

by Sarah Fainberg

December 2017

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

This article focuses on a little-explored aspect of Russia's intervention in Syria: the new and diverse expeditionary forces engaged on the Syrian frontlines alongside Russian regular armed forces.

Center for Strategic and International Studies

Russian-speaking foreign fighters in Iraq and Syria. Assessing the threat from (and to) Russia and Central Asia

by Thomas M. Sanderson @tomsanderson98, Olga Olikier @OlyaOlikier and Maxwell B. Markusen

29 December 2017

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

Together, Russia and the countries of post-Soviet Central Asia have seen more of their citizens and residents travel to Syria and Iraq as foreign fighters than have any other parts of the world. As the physical caliphate comes to an end, these countries must now address this security concern and prepare to deal with an outflow of individuals that can easily blend into, influence, and potentially launch attacks from these communities.

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

Syria's reconstruction scramble

by Muriel Asseburg and Khaled Yacoub Oweis

December 2017

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

The authors show that the mere reconstruction of physical infrastructure in Syria would do little to instil stability, but would rather raise the risk of fuelling new conflicts. Europeans should therefore play the long game and develop leverage to make future contributions serve state- and peace-building purposes. Meanwhile, they should focus on increased levels of humanitarian aid, early recovery measures, such as de-mining and restoring basic water and health infrastructure, building human capital in Syria and among Syrian refugee communities, in addition to concentrating on civil society and local governance support where they have credible partners.

Barcelona Centre for International Affairs

Religion and Politics - Religious diversity, political fragmentation and geopolitical tensions in the MENA region

by Hamza Meddeb [@meddeb_hamza](#) (coord.), Silvia Colombo [@silvius20](#), Katerina Dalacoura, Lorenzo Kamel [@lorenzokamel](#) and Olivier Roy

December 2017

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

Motivated by the need to inform the enduring and unresolved debates about religion and politics in the MENA region, the report focuses on the relation between social change and religious diversity and the challenges this poses for the state-religion relationship. It also draws attention to the pluralization of the religious sphere, the individualization of religion and the unlikely return of a state monopoly of Islam.

Euro-Mediterranean Study Commission

Beyond signposting. New approach to working with families of radicalised youth and cooperating with national authorities

by Katarzyna Sidło

12 December 2017

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

Expanding instability in the MENA region continues to pose significant security challenges to international security forces. An estimated 27,000-31,000 foreign fighters have joined terrorist groups such as Daesh or Al-Qaeda affiliates and a significant number of them are reported to have returned to their home countries. The need for effective prevention and de-radicalisation programmes cannot therefore be overestimated. The policy brief examines experiences of two counselling community-based organisations (CBOs) providing advice and support to relatives and friends of young people affected by radicalisation.

Foundation for European Progressive Studies / European Council on Foreign Relations

Occupation and sovereignty: renewing EU Policy in Israel-Palestine

by Hugh Lovatt [@h_lovatt](#)

21 December 2017

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

The article argues that the EU must take seriously the implications of an emerging one-state reality for EU-Israel relations. According to the author, the EU and its Member States have the power to save the two-state solution if taking action immediately. This includes supporting on-the ground

Palestinian sovereignty-building strategies, cementing the contours of a final status agreement and leveraging Israel's growing relations with Gulf Arab states to make meaningful Israeli steps towards de-occupation.

Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung

Strategic Report of the Palestine Strategy Group (PSG). The relations between Palestinians across the green line

28 December 2017

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

The report proposes scenarios of potential relations between the different Palestinian groups. However, a particular focus is placed on the relations between Palestinian on both sides of the Green Line. This was the focal point of discussions held by a group of politicians, intellectuals and activists on both sides of the Green Line over the course of two years.

Hoping for a miracle. On the possible end of a Christian presence in Iraq

by Otmar Oehring [@otmaroehring](#)

22 December 2017

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

Iraq is one of the countries generally referred to as the cradle of Christendom. Since 2003, the number of Iraqi Christians has, however, fallen dramatically. Whether Christianity has any sort of future in Iraq is currently impossible to say.

The Shiite clergy in Iraq after Sistani - Growing Iranian influence?

by Laura Henselmann

12 December 2017

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

Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani is the most important Shiite cleric in Iraq and has traditionally acted as a bulwark against the influence of Iran's religious establishment in Iraq. However, as he is almost 90 years old, the era of Sistani could soon be over. The author describes the competition between the Shiite seminaries in Najaf and Qum and discusses three scenarios for the post-Sistani time in Iraq. She argues that the religious influence of Iran will remain limited in Iraq in the future even after Sistani's death.

EASTERN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

Consejo Uruguayo para las Relaciones Internacionales

Eurasia, Asia central y el Cáucaso: la nueva ruta de la seda

by Ramiro Rodríguez Bausero [@ramirorb23](#)

21 December 2017

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

The article examines the current economic landscape of the Caucasus region and the Belt and Road Initiative. The Caucasus region lies on the boundary of Eastern Europe and Western Asia, between the Black and Caspian seas. It is divided into the South Caucasus, where two states of Christian religion coexist (Georgia and Armenia) and another secular one of a predominantly Muslim religion, Azerbaijan; and the North Caucasus, where there are Russia and seven autonomous republics that are part of its Federation.

Foreign Policy Centre

Closing the door: the challenge facing activists from the former Soviet Union seeking asylum or refuge

by Adam Hug [@AdamHug](#)

4 December 2017

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

Analysing the ongoing Ukraine-Russia collaboration on extraditions and the expulsion of Crimean Tatars by the Russians in occupied Crimea, the paper examines the difficulties faced by activists coming from the former Soviet Union when seeking asylum in Western Europe. It also states the need to improve the asylum system and to avoid the misuse of Interpol by regimes.

Group for Legal and Political Studies

In search of consensus: a proposal

by Agron Bajrami [@AgronBajrami](#)

December 2017

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

The article examines the ongoing dialogue between Belgrade and Prishtina, facilitated by the EU. The lack of progress and intensification of confrontations between Kosovo and Serbia has created a favourable environment for the international community to take into consideration the need to rethink the entire process.

AFRICA

South African Institute of International Affairs

The International Criminal Court and Africa: transcending cleavages to achieve common goals

by Mélanie Rondreux [@MRondreux](#)

December 2017

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

In January 2017, the African Union (AU) decided to start a mass withdrawal from the International Criminal Court (ICC) and the continent is developing plans for its own transnational criminal justice system. The AU and the ICC have developed different approaches to achieving peace and justice in Africa. It remains for the ICC to better engage and collaborate with the African continent in order to ease the tensions between national sovereignty and the international criminal justice system.

Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung

Supporting the rule of law in Africa. 10 years of the rule of law program for Sub-Saharan Africa (2006-2016)

5 December 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (130 p.)

Africans have often highlighted the lack of political will as the main hindrance to making progress or attaining the requisite balance of power for a thriving state of the rule of law on the continent. Creating an environment which enables citizens to participate fully in governance issues and empowering them to define their destiny is the hallmark of good, visionary leadership.

The Vth AU-EU Summit: a turning point for relations between Africa and Europe?

by Andrea E. Ostheimer

5 December 2017

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

On 29 and 30 November 2017, 16 of the 28 EU Member States attended the [5th AU-EU Summit](#) in Abidjan, Ivory Coast, amongst them Germany and France. For both countries Africa stands high on the political agenda, and the summit represented the opportunity to address the modern slave trade in Libya, but also the renewed Franco-German partnership.

Failing state. Libya as a supraregional security threat

by Canan Atilgan , Veronika Ertl and Simon Engelke

22 December 2017

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

President Barack Obama once described the US and its allies' lack of success in ensuring stability in Libya following the fall of the Gaddafi regime as one of the biggest failings of his time in office. Now, the action plan by the United Nations' new Special Representative for Libya is expected to revive the peace process. The article explains why a new failure could have far-reaching consequences both for neighbouring countries and Europe.

Heading towards Maraboutcracy? Muslim Brotherhoods and their influence in Senegal

by Thomas Volk

22 December 2017

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

Senegal is considered a stable democracy and a role model for religious tolerance in West Africa. 90% of Senegalese are Muslim and belong to one of the country's four brotherhoods. These have always been significant in shaping Senegal's political, economic and social structures. But over the last few years, the brotherhoods' political influence has strengthened significantly.

Climate change in Zimbabwe. A guide for planners and decision makers

by Anna Brazier [@reizarbanna](#)

14 December 2017

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

Africa is experiencing unprecedented climate change phenomena that are likely to lead to a humanitarian crisis unless urgent steps are taken to curtail human behaviour impelling climate change.

Institut Français des Relations Internationales

Democracy in Africa: reversing backsliding after ten years of the African charter on democracy

by Alfredo Tjiurimo Hengari [@Tjiurimo](#)

6 December 2017

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

The collapse of Mugabe in mid-November 2017 is hardly surprising, with the country having experienced close to two decades of democratic backsliding. Still, Zimbabwe sends a negative signal at a time when the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance, the first legally-binding regional instrument in the promotion and protection of democracy is commemorating a decade since inception in 2007. It provides an opportunity to gaze beyond the accouterments of independence (flags, currencies and elections) and proliferation of institutions in Africa to assess if democratic instincts have taken sustainable legs over time.

International Centre for Counter-Terrorism - The Hague

The effective governance gap in EU counter-terrorism and stabilisation policy for Somalia

by EJ Hogendoorn [@ejhogendoorn](#)

December 2017

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

For more than two decades, the EU and other donors have spent billions of euros to rebuild the Somali state and, more recently, to counter the rise of the violent Islamist group Al Shabaab. But progress is nowhere near commensurate with international support. This is because donors failed to generate enough Somali political will to reform dysfunctional and corrupt administrations that undermine their programmes, as well as counter-terrorism and stabilisation goals.

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

Mali's fertile grounds for conflict: climate change and resource stress

by Shreya Mitra

7 December 2017

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

The brief first analyses different local and regional resource-use conflicts, and their internal ripple effects in the context of Mali. Then it investigates the pressures posed by population growth and climate change on resource-use and how these impact agricultural productivity and food security. Finally, the brief concludes with policy recommendations, arguing the case for conflict prevention and conflict-sensitive approaches to be integrated into all natural resource initiatives.

Transparency International

Kenya's task force on anti-corruption for REDD+ - Assessment report

by Bernardo Monzani

29 December 2017

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

The report assesses the Kenya Task Force for Anti-Corruption in Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation mechanism ([REDD+](#)), which was an informal multi-stakeholder forum that brought together national actors working on forest governance, anti-corruption and transparency in order to contribute to the development of the strategy for the implementation of REDD+ in Kenya.

ASIA-OCEANIA

Observer Research Foundation

Asian cybersecurity futures. Opportunity and risk in the rising digital world

by Jonathan Reiber [@jonathanreiber](#) and Arun Mohan Sukumar

22 December 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (86 p.)

The study presents strategic choices for Asia's cybersecurity future. It identifies key premises for cybersecurity in Asia, as well as drivers of change that are likely to shape any cybersecurity future that may unfold. These scenarios explore how diverse forces may interact over time — and point toward options for investment to mitigate risk.

Центр экономических и финансовых исследований и разработок (Center for Economic and Financial Research)

Technological change, energy, environment and growth in Japan

by Galina Besstremyannaya, Richard Dasher [@rdasher8](#) and Sergei Golovan
December 2017

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

The paper exploits the macro-economic approach of the endogenous growth models with technological change for a comparative assessment of these policy measures on the economic growth in the US and Japan in the medium and the long run.

Knowmad - Global Knowledge Partnership on Migration and Development

Climate change and human mobility in the Pacific region: plans, policies and lessons learnt

by Elisa Fornale and Sophia Kagan [@sophkagan](#)
19 December 2017

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

Although a clearer picture is emerging of the diverse factors that link environmental drivers and human mobility, few studies so far have looked at the potential to harness existing migratory instruments within the settings affected by climate change. The paper explores how labour mobility mechanisms can either increase or compromise the adaptive capacity of environmentally vulnerable populations. To this end the analysis explores the emerging links between labour migration strategies and environmental changes in the Pacific.

Council on Foreign Relations

US-ASEAN-ROK cooperation on non-traditional security

by Jaehyon Lee
8 December 2017

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

Traditional security issues in the Asia-Pacific, such as tensions on the Korean Peninsula or disputes over the South China Sea, consistently attract the attention of policymakers. But their consequences for ordinary people are often dwarfed by the fallout from non-traditional security events, such as climate change, resource scarcity, infectious diseases, natural disasters, irregular migration, famine, people smuggling, drug trafficking, and transnational crime.

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars

Evidence-based policy approaches for preventing intra-family violence and reducing criminal behavior in Latin America

by Eric L. Olson [@Eric_Latam](#)
7 December 2017

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

Violence against women is one of the world's greatest public health problems and one of Latin America's major development challenges. A series of studies commissioned by the Wilson Center and supported by the Inter-American Development Bank have begun to shed new light on the complex nature of this problem. Together, they contribute to evidence-based policy recommendations that could prevent the incidence of intra-family violence and reduce the risks of future criminal behaviour by affected children as they grow up.

CHINA

European Council on Foreign Relations

China at the gates: a new power audit of EU-China relations

by François Godement [@fgodement](#) and Abigaël Vasselier [@v_abigael](#)

1 December 2017

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

The authors examine current China-EU relations. They provide insight to different approaches and strategies of China towards the EU, its investments and interest in Central and Eastern Europe. They also refer to initiative of investment screening and new trade defence instruments proposed by European Commission. The paper provides recommendations for the priorities in EU-China relations: completing the construction of an EU-wide system of investment screening, replacing dispersion with common strategies, preventing new investment rules from affecting other aspects of relations and leveraging Europe's like-minded partners in Asia.

China's "New Era" with Xi Jinping characteristics

by Angela Stanzel [@angela_stanzel](#), Heike Holbig, Jean Christopher Mittelstaedt [@jc_mittelstadt](#), Yevgen Sautin [@ysautin](#) and Jérôme Doyon [@doyon_jerome](#)

15 December 2017

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

This publication focuses on the Chinese "new era", tied to Xi Jinping, and examines how much his increased ideological control is changing China. The authors analyse how Xi has sought to strengthen the CCP's legitimacy by tightening ideological control and reviving Maoist and Marxist principles within China. They analyse the "Xi Jinping Thought" and its wider ideological meaning as well as the domestic and international implications deriving from it, they put the "new era" into perspective what this concept means for China's ideological course and examine the implications of the congress for China's foreign policy orientation.

Instituto Español de Estudios Estratégicos

El XIX Congreso del Partido Comunista chino y la visita de Trump a Pekín relanzan la figura internacional de Xi Jinping

by Alba Ambrós Coso [@aambros](#)

4 December 2017

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

This paper focuses on China's 19th National Congress of the Communist Party in Beijing, which has gained greater importance on this occasion. The author examines the position and strength of the Party's General Secretary and President of China, Xi Jinping ahead of his second five-year term. He highlights that this question was clarified with the appointments of politicians related to Xi in the governing bodies of the party and its goal to turn China into a global power in 2050. The authors also notes that the visit of Donald Trump to Beijing a week after the Congress sets the tone of how future relations between both countries can be.

Utrikespolitiska Institutet (Swedish Institute of International Affairs) / Institut français des relations internationales / Real Instituto Elcano (Elcano Royal Institute) / Mercator Institute for China Studies

Chinese investment in Europe: a country-level approach

by John Seaman [@johnfseaman](#), Mikko Huotari and Miguel Otero-Iglesias [@miotei](#) (eds.)
19 December 2017

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

This report brings together original analysis from 19 European countries to better understand certain trends and their consequences for policy making and Europe-China relations, including at the bilateral, sub-regional and EU levels. It seeks to do so using a country-level approach. Through these case studies, including an introductory explanation and analysis of EU-wide data, the report aims to identify and contextualize the motives for Chinese investment in Europe and the vehicles used. However, the originality of the report also lies in the analysis of national-level debates on China, Chinese investment, and openness to foreign investment more generally.

Centre for International Governance Innovation

China Inc. in the WTO dock: tales from a system under fire

by Paul Blustein [@PaulBlustein](#)
20 December 2017

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

This paper examines two WTO cases involving China in detail — one is a Chinese loss, the other a Chinese victory. The purpose is to show how the system works, and highlight its strengths and weaknesses, especially with regard to China. The second case is a landmark, and is especially troubling because Beijing won on a crucial point — where does China's truly private sector end and the party-state begin? This case also illuminates another worrisome problem facing the WTO, namely US actions that threaten to undermine the trade body's dispute settlement system.

Council on Foreign Relations

Writing new rules for the US-China investment relationship

by Jennifer M. Harris [@jennifermharris](#)
8 December 2017

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

This paper analyses the US-China investment relationship and its main problems. The first one highlighted by the author is that the US current investment framework was built for an era when foreign investment was the domain of developed countries, which were themselves largely open to foreign investment. As a result, it does not address many of the challenges specific to the current influx of Chinese investment. The second is the recent surge in Chinese investment in the US which magnifies the disparity between market access in the US and China. The author addresses questions about whether the US needs to tighten its stance on Chinese in-bound investment

RUSSIA

Ulkopoliittinen instituutti (Finnish Institute of International Affairs)

After the election of no alternatives: the Kremlin's domestic political challenges from 2018 onwards

by Jussi Lassila

14 December 2017

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

This paper discusses serious political challenges to Vladimir Putin, which the Kremlin will face from 2018 onwards, after the presidential election in March 2018. The author highlights that at least those domestic political challenges that have become apparent during Putin's current presidential term will have to be addressed. The author argues that the central context for these problems can be found in the 2011–12 anti-regime protests, while the regime's response to the protests largely explains Russia's authoritarian development since 2012.

Ośrodek Studiów Wschodnich

Putin po raz czwarty. Bez pomysłu, bez nadziei

by Maria Domańska

13 December 2017

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

This paper focuses on the Russian presidential election to be held on 18 March 2018 and Putin's candidacy. The author examines the office of Russia's president in the context of a personalised system of governance that has emerged in Russia. She highlights that this is a demonstration of the government's will to maintain the present course in domestic and foreign policy, regardless of the fact that the government is struggling with increasingly serious economic and socio-political challenges, including economic stagnation, continuously decreasing real incomes and tense relations with the West.

Polityka regionalna Kremla – rok dymisji gubernatorów

by Maria Domańska

15 December 2017

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

This paper focuses on Kremlin's regional policy and particularly on a wave of dismissals of the heads of Russia's regions, the largest in the past five years. The author stresses that this is linked primarily to the Kremlin's preparations for the presidential election and that personnel changes are among the few instruments the government has at its disposal to improve public support, given the dysfunctional governance model, growing dissatisfaction among the Russian public and the government team's unwillingness to launch reforms.

Kozacy Putina. Folklor, biznes czy polityka?

by Jolanta Darczewska

18 December 2017

Link to the article in [English](#) (64 p.) and in [Polish](#) (62 p.)

This paper constitutes an attempt to interpret the phenomenon of Russia's Cossacks in terms of a socio-political process, which has resulted in the transformation of a spontaneous, bottom-up movement into one monitored and directed from the top down. The author examines the official narrative of neo-Cossackdom through the prism of key concepts and refers to Russia's strategic policy objectives regarding the neo-Cossacks, and the organisational system set up to implement this policy.

Bliskowschodnia polityka Rosji. Regionalne ambicje, globalne cele

by Witold Rodkiewicz

22 December 2017

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

This paper examines Russia's policy in the Middle East as part of a wider global policy implemented via regional ambitions. The author argues that Russia's strategy is to create an international order that would protect Russia from Western interference in its internal affairs and guarantee its equal status with the US. He also highlights that the reestablishment of the great-power position of Russia in the Middle East has also become an important means of legitimizing Putin's regime, both in the eyes of the broadly understood Russian elite and Russian society.

OSCE Network of Think Tanks and Academic Institutions

The road to the Charter of Paris - Historical narratives and lessons for the OSCE Today

December 2017

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

The authors re-examine the Charter of Paris, the post-Cold War order and several respective narratives in reference to current developments. They argue that the current tensions between Russia and the West and the return to divided security in Europe have their root causes in an unfinished post-Cold War settlement after 1990, even if the West at the time felt it had achieved a fair new order for Europe's future. They stress that the vision of a new European security architecture, based on cooperative and inclusive security and partnership between the former Cold War enemies, did not stand the test of the 1990s, with the Soviet Union collapsing.

OSCE confidence building in the economic and environmental dimension - Current opportunities and constraints

December 2017

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

The present report is a discussion of the potential for [OSCE](#) confidence building in the economic and environmental dimension in the context of current relations between Russia and the West. Those relations stand at their lowest point since the end of the Cold War. The authors underline that the causes of these tensions are that the two sides have vastly different perceptions of the events of the last several decades, that by a process each side has come to see the other as an antagonistic force intent on thwarting its interests; and that these vastly different perceptions have become so ingrained that the chasm between perceptions is unlikely to be bridged any time soon.

Forum for research on Eastern Europe and Emerging Economies (FREE Network)

Highlights for commemoration of the 1917 Russian revolution – Hints for further study

by Lennart Samuelson

December 2017

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

This brief highlights some of the high points from the 100th anniversary of the Russian revolution that should to be further studied and which are relevant for anyone who is interested in the historical debates in Russia and their importance for the political narratives and developments in the country today. The author also refers to current commemorative arrangements of Russia which, in his opinion, provide a great opportunity to engage their pupils and students in various forms of so-called living history, i.e. combining the state's grand story with the localities' and the families' own histories.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Pew Research Center

Most Americans say Trump's election has led to worse race relations in the U.S.

19 December 2017

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

This paper presents the results of a survey on race relations in the US, conducted in November and December 2017 among 1 503 adults. The survey finds that the public has negative assessments of the overall state of race relations in the US and that they have grown more negative in recent years. It stresses that a growing share of public says there is too little focus on race issues.

Sharing the news in a polarized Congress

by Solomon Messing [@solomonmg](#), Patrick van Kessel [@pvankessel](#) and Adam Hughes

18 December 2017

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

This paper examines the communication of members of the US Congress with constituents in the digital age.

Migration Policy Institute

Immigration under Trump: a review of policy shifts in the year since the election

by Sarah Pierce and Andrew Selee [@SeleeAndrew](#)

19 December 2017

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

This paper reviews migration policy shifts under Trump's administration. After making immigration the centrepiece of this campaign, President Donald Trump within 5 days of taking office began issuing a series of executive orders promising major changes to the US immigration system. Both his campaign platform and subsequent executive orders pledged sweeping changes, including sharp cuts to legal immigration, "the wall" and "extreme" vetting of all applicants for admission. While the full extent of such ambitious promises has yet to be accomplished, Trump administration has set in motion a range of significant changes during this first year in office.

Istituto Bruno Leoni

Perché la fine della net neutrality non è la fine di internet

by Massimiliano Trovato [@masstrovato](#)

29 December 2017

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

This paper focuses on the debate that emerged around the concept of net neutrality and an attempt to govern it taken by American Federal Communication Commission (FCC). The author argues that this decision may have a serious impact on multiple investment plans, competition and rights of citizens and users. The author adds that the debate created many misconceptions and unjustified distrust. The author states that the decision of FCC will not harm consumers, innovation or American democracy, but rather will force the over-the-top operators to compromise.

Chicago Council on Global Affairs

Grid security is national security: cyber threats to energy infrastructure and cities

by Karen Weigert

December 2017

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

Cyber-attacks are a growing global weapon – one that operates outside of the established Laws of War. Their frequent target is energy. According to the Department of Homeland Security, energy has suffered more cyber-attacks than any other aspect of American critical infrastructure. When it comes to defending against a cyberattack on electrical infrastructure, however, the US is relying on a patchwork of regulations on assets that are largely privately owned.

Institut de Relations Internationales et Stratégiques

U.S.-China counter-terrorism co-operation and its perspective on human rights

by Yuni Park

20 December 2017

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

The author of this paper examines the US-China cooperation in fighting terrorism. The author states that while the US has been an active leader in fighting terrorism, China had believed that it could avoid transnational extremism simply by staying out of security affairs of other nations. However, with its rapidly expanding economy and new global agenda, China has recently realized that it is becoming a target for terrorists not because it did something wrong but simply because of its growing international presence. The author also formulates suggestions for the US on how to shape future US-China cooperation in fighting terrorism.

La vie des idées

Trump ou la diplomatie du choc - Les enjeux de Jérusalem capitale

by Dima Alsajdeya and François Ceccaldi

19 December 2017

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

This paper focuses on Donald Trump's recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel which, according to the authors, marks a historic turnaround. Although it didn't have any legal consequences and the status of the city remains the same under international law, it reflects a reconfiguration of alliances in the Middle East and could have profound political consequences. The author also argues that it weakens the position of the Palestinian Authority.

SPECIAL FOCUS: EUROPEAN DEFENCE UNION

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

EU27 move towards an EU 'Defence Union'

by Christine Nissen [@NissenChristine](#)

13 December 2017

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

The 'PESCO' provision allows groups of willing EU Member States to make binding commitments to each other on security and defence. This report evaluates the role played by the UK in EU security and defence cooperation. Brexit will have fundamental consequences for the EU and wider European security, including the relationship between the EU and NATO. The author discusses how Brexit will affect the EU's ability to act within security and defence matters, asking in particular, how the EU's Common Security and Defence Policy will be affected by the UK leaving the Union.

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

Making sense of European defence

by Margriet Drent [@DrentMargriet](#), Eric Wilms and Dick Zande

19 December 2017

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

This report takes a step back and looks at the broader landscape of European defence cooperation, and poses some of the most pertinent questions arising. How do these new initiatives and existing cooperation formats fit together in a logical framework? What kind of patterns are developing and how can the recent developments be connected to the many already existing cooperation initiatives, both operational and in capability development? As new ideas seem to fall over each other, can we still make sense of European defence?

Institut Thomas More

Coopération structurée permanente - un étroit chemin vers une défense Européenne

by Jean-Sylvestre Mongrenier

December 2017

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

The result of a long and laborious negotiation, [PESCO](#) was launched on 11 December 2017. It gives substance to a "Europe of capabilities", intended to redress the military situation on the continent. The author discusses the journey towards PESCO, especially considering the role that France and Germany has played.

Institut Français des Relations Internationales

France, Germany, and the quest for European strategic autonomy

by Ronja Kempin [@RonjaKempin](#) and Barbara Kunz [@BaKu Ifri](#)

December 2017

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

How can France and Germany contribute to reaching the goal of European strategic autonomy? This key question has been guiding the work with the present report. In the light of a more demanding security environment, but also a rare momentum for further European integration,

Berlin and Paris have to take their security and defence cooperation to the next level, bilaterally as well as in the EU.

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

What the French and the Germans really think about a European security and defence union

by Nicole Koenig [@Nic_Koenig](#)

14 December 2017

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

This paper analyses the differences and commonalities in French and German public opinion, considering the fact that post-Brexit France and Germany will not only account for roughly one-third of the EU population, but also half of its combined defence expenditure, their convergence towards a common understanding of a European Security and Defence Union will arguably have a bearing on its effectiveness.

Fondation Robert Schuman

Europe and defence: the vital yet fragile Franco-German couple

by Thierry Tardy [@thierrytardy](#)

11 December 2017

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

Recent developments in European security have contributed to put defence issues at the centre of European integration. Given threats like terrorism, the resurgence of an aggressive Russia and more indirect sources of insecurity linked to massive influx of migrants and to cyber security, Member States have acknowledged the need to strengthen their defence policies.

Centre for European Policy Studies

Europe's defence train has left the station – speed and destination unknown

by Steven Blockmans [@StevenBlockmans](#)

12 December 2017

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

The author explains that although lack of political will and mutual trust among EU Member States have long hindered their cooperation on security and defence, the initiative launched at the December European Council pushes the EU integration process forward. It may also be hugely significant for both the strategic autonomy of the UK and the strengthening of the European pillar within NATO – but only if the political will is there to drive it forward.

MISCELLANEOUS

Egmont – Royal Institute for International Relations

The great powers have their ways

by Sven Biscop

December 2017

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

What determines the future world order – or the absence of order depends largely on how 'great powers' behave. Today, power is in a state of interplay between at least four poles that determine the course of world politics: the US, China, Russia, and, if it wants to, the EU. The author questions whether China and the EU have found an alternative for the old-fashioned grand strategies that Russia and the US are again pursuing?

Institut Français des Relations Internationales

Saving the liberal order from itself

by Jennifer Lind [@profLind](#)

December 2017

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

The election of Donald Trump is a symptom of a general crisis in international liberal order. Its costs have been seriously underestimated: relocations breaking the social contract, migratory flows poorly assimilated by societies, divisions between the elites and the masses (the so-called "losers" of globalization), electoral and political crises. Societies should adapt the liberal order to their deep-rooted characteristics, and not accept it as a global and obligatory reality.

İstanbul Politikalar Merkezi (Istanbul Policy Center)

The illiberal turn in advanced democracies

by Senem Aydın Düzgit [@SenemAydinDzgit](#) and E. Fuat Keyman

December 2017

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

The authors argue that the rise of illiberalism in advanced democracies should not be viewed as an isolated instance but as a natural outcome of an interconnected phenomenon that is rapidly gaining pace across the globe. Furthermore, they believe that the underlying reasons behind the rise of illiberalism in advanced democracies should be sought in multi-layered explanations that rest on the disconnect between globalisation and democracy.

Tony Blair Institute for Global Change

Struggle over scripture: charting the rift between Islamist extremism and mainstream Islam

by Milo Comerford [@MiloComerford](#) and Rachel Bryson [@rachel_e_bryson](#)

December 2017

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

Concerns about Islamist extremism are growing both in the West and in Muslim-majority countries. Yet there is little evidence-based research into how the supremacist ideology that drives this violence warps mainstream religious principles. This research uses a data-driven approach to explore what relationship there is, if any, between extremist ideas and mainstream religious beliefs.