



Council of the European Union  
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# THINK TANK REVIEW

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Dear Readers,

Welcome to issue 55 of the Think Tank Review compiled by the EU Council Library\* ([click to share on Twitter](#)). It references papers published in February 2018. As usual, we provide the link to the full text and a short abstract.

Issue 55 deals with a number of important topics, ranging from preparations for the next EU Multiannual Financial Framework, the role of the Kremlin's influence and disinformation in the Czech presidential elections, demographic challenges in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, German-Polish European dialogue, the EU enlargement process, and recurrent Brexit-related issues. A special focus is put on Russia following the recent presidential elections. Apart from the elections, think tanks explore the costs of Russia's foreign policy, Russia's economic footprint in the Western Balkans, as well as Russo-British relations in the age of Brexit.

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The first section, EU Politics and Institutions, brings articles on the global rise of populism and the re-emergence of the far right, on the ways to reform the European Union, and on globalisation scepticism.

In section 2, Economic and Financial Affairs, one can find articles on a number of subjects, such as the ECB's interventions in distressed sovereign debt markets and the recommendations on the economic policy of the euro area under the European Semester.

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Section 3, EU Member States, looks at 16 states during February, offering insightful and diverse articles on topics such as Cyprus after elections, President Macron's reform of the higher education system, Italy's defence policy, Latvian foreign and security policy, Chinese investment in Spain, and many more. The subsection on Brexit highlights human rights in relation to the UK's decision to leave, environmental law and the rocky road ahead, as well as the hotly debated issue of the consequences of Brexit for financial market law.

Section 4, EU Policies, explores issues ranging from the future of crime and politics, cybercrime to electric vehicles for smarter cities, wage progression and the gender wage gap, Europe's demographics, climate change in 2018, the ways in which Europe's education systems can boost migrant inclusion, and the role of youth organisations in better inclusion of young refugees in education, labour market and society.

In Section 5, Foreign Affairs, think tanks cover numerous topics, including multilateral peace operations and the challenges of organised crime, NATO and the opportunities for the south, PESCO, and possible French and German foreign policy initiatives.

This issue also brings many articles regarding the enlargement process and the future of Western Balkans, Turkey-EU relations, Eastern Partnership and novel solutions to resolve the conflicts in the EU's eastern neighbourhood, to name just a few. It also covers important developments in the MENA region, Central Asia, Japan, India, Latin America, China and the US, and in other parts of the world.

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

The next Review will be out in April 2018, with papers published in March 2018.

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## SECTION 1 - EU POLITICS AND INSTITUTIONS

### Dahrendorf Forum

*Brexit and beyond: the future of Europe*

by Benjamin Martill and Uta Staiger

8 February 2018

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

This brief explores the pan-European phenomena that prepared the ground for Brexit, and highlights some of the consequences of Brexit for Europe.

### Fondation Robert Schuman

*Reforming the European Union: a political and democratic imperative*

by Thierry Chopin [@Th\\_Chopin](#) and Lukáš Macek

20 February 2018

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

Beyond the various crises that have occurred over the last ten years (euro zone crisis, with its economic and social consequences, Brexit, migratory crisis etc.) which to a certain degree can be considered to be cyclical, the European Union, faces more than anything else, a political challenge. The Union, undermined by its lack of legitimacy and by its political weakness, may very well neglect its historic responsibilities. This paper suggests a series of practical measures that aim to strengthen the Union's political and democratic dimension; they are both audacious in content and minimalist in form because they can be undertaken without changing the treaties.

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

*Reforming the European Parliament*

by Nicolai von Ondarza and Felix Schenuit

February 2018

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

Reform of the European Parliament is on the agenda in the run-up to the 2019 European elections. Two impulses coincide here: First of all, Brexit requires a decision on whether to redistribute the 73 British seats, and if so how. Secondly, the European Parliament is sitting on a backlog of long-overdue reforms relating to its composition. The Italian and French governments suggest creating a single EU constituency fought on the basis of transnational lists. But the European Parliament's rejection of the proposal underlines the lack of majority support for federal initiatives in the EU's year of reforms.

## Observer Research Foundation

*The brown chameleon: Europe's populism crisis and the re-emergence of the far right*

by Britta Petersen

22 February 2018

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

Right-wing populism has been the most influential political movement in Europe for the last few years. Far from being a newcomer on the political stage, it has managed to shape political discourses as never before since the end of World War II. This paper identifies what right-wing populism is and why right-wing populist parties have again become relevant in almost every European country. It argues that it is an expression of, and a reaction to a crisis of liberal democracy triggered by a variety of deep transformations in the way we work and organise our economies.

## LSE IDEAS

*Understanding the global rise of populism*

by Michael Cox

February 2018

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

In this paper, the author explores the causes of populists' recent electoral successes around the world.

## European Policy Centre

*How to govern Europe better: reflections on reform of the European Parliament, Commission and Council*

by Andrew Duff [@AndrewDuffEU](#)

13 February 2018

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

Donald Tusk, President of the European Council, has called an informal meeting of EU 27 on 23 February to discuss the EU's institutions. This was the first time since 2014 that the leaders dedicated a whole session to constitutional questions.

## European Council on Foreign Relations

*Crisis and cohesion in the EU: a ten-year review*

by Josef Janning

February 2018

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

Contrary to expectations, the EU Cohesion Monitor found that the EU's overall cohesion increased between 2007 and 2017. The monitor analyses two kinds of cohesion: structural cohesion, and individual cohesion. The data indicate that there has been substantial growth in structural cohesion in eastern central EU Member states, while individual cohesion has risen in most northern EU Member states. However, some countries – including France, Italy, and Spain – have experienced a decline in individual and structural cohesion.



## **Institute of International and European Affairs**

### *Maintaining the rule of law in Poland: what next for the article 7 proceedings?*

by Darragh Moriarty and Eóin O'Keeffe

21 February 2018

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

This brief examines the origin and evolution of this rule of law "crisis", the next steps and the possible outcomes.

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

### *Explaining globalization scepticism*

by Erik Lundsgaarde

February 2018

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

This report examines explanations for scepticism towards economic globalization within and across countries, focusing on factors that help to situate the extent of globalization scepticism in Denmark alongside experiences in France and Germany. The report is based on a review of academic literature dealing with attitudes towards globalization and the linkages between globalization and national politics.

## **Egmont Royal Institute for International Relations**

### *Is there an escape from 'Ever Closer Union'?*

by Jean De Ruyt

28 February 2018

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

The EU Treaty objective of establishing 'an ever closer Union among the peoples of Europe' means that European integration is a step by step process requiring the use of supranational institutions. It has never been popular with nationalists and was strongly rejected by David Cameron in his quest for a EU reform deal in 2015-16. However, the Brexit negotiations demonstrate that renouncing it will only create harm, whichever 'leave' scenario is retained. Ever closer union is also required in the field of Economic and Monetary Union to help the Euro resist new potential threats. In effect, Europe has no choice but to integrate further if it wants to keep its place in an ever more competitive global world.

## SECTION 2 - ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

### European Parliament Think Tank

#### *Economic dialogue with the president of the Eurogroup*

by Jost Angerer, Matteo Ciucci, Martin Hradisky, Wolfgang Lehofer, Marcel Magnus, Javier María Vega Bordell and Alice Zoppé

19 February 2018

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

The briefing provides an overview of the ongoing work of the Eurogroup as regards public finances, macro-economic imbalances, financial adjustment programmes and the banking union. It deals with macroeconomics development, the 2018 area of recommendations, public finances, macroeconomic imbalances, banking union and financial assistance to Greece.

### European Parliament Think Tank

#### *Recommendations on the economic policy of the euro area under the European Semester*

by Martin Hradisky

15 February 2018

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

This note provides an overview of the Council recommendations addressed to the euro area as a whole under the European Semester, and presents information on the related Eurogroup's policy actions. Within the framework of the European Semester, the Council issues, on the basis of the Commission proposal, annual policy recommendations on the economic policy of the euro area in accordance with Articles 121 and 136 of the Treaty of the Functioning of the European Union. These recommendations typically cover fiscal, financial and structural issues, as well as institutional aspects of the Economic and Monetary Union.

### Real Instituto Elcano (Elcano Royal Institute)

#### *Creando nuestro futuro: diseñando el Marco Financiero Plurianual de la UE posterior a 2020*

by Mario Kölling

15 February 2018

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

During the next months, negotiations on the post-2020 Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) will intensify. The results of those negotiations will identify the available resources for the next decade and will also determine if the EU could agree on effective financial instruments to meet the goals and to face new challenges.

### European Capital Markets Institute

#### *Towards variable Union in Europe's capital markets*

by Cosmina Amariei [@CosminaHERE](#) and Apostolos Thomadakis

February 2018

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

In the past seven years, the European Capital Markets Institute (ECMI) has brought together academics, policymakers and industry representatives to take stock of the progress made so far in building a genuine European capital market. At the Annual Conference organised on 23 November 2017, the participants identified the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead but also assessed whether more ambition is required. In particular, they shared their views on long-term investment, supervisory architecture, derivatives markets and fintech.

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

### *ECB interventions in distressed sovereign debt markets: the case of Greek bonds*

by Christoph Trebesch and Jeromin Zettelmeyer [@jzettelmeyer](#)

February 2018

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

This article deals with central bank interventions in times of severe distress (mid-2010), using a unique bond-level dataset of ECB purchases of Greek sovereign debt. ECB bond buying had a large impact on the price of short and medium maturity bonds, resulting in a remarkable "twist" of the Greek yield curve. The authors find little evidence for positive effects on market quality, or spillovers to close substitute bonds, CDS markets, or corporate bonds. Hence, their findings attest to the power of central bank intervention in times of crisis, but also suggest that in highly distressed situations, this power may not extend beyond those assets actually purchased.

## Centre for European Policy Studies

### *Expanding the reach of the EU budget via financial instruments*

by Jorge Núñez Ferrer [@jnunez\\_ferrer](#) and Roberto Musmeci [@roberto\\_musmeci](#)

26 February 2018

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

This paper, which serves as a companion piece to a larger study commissioned by the EP on this topic, aims to shed some light on the role of and rationale behind the increasing use of financial instruments in the EU budget.

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

### *Preparations for the EU Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-2027 – chances and challenges for Central Europe*

by Andrzej Sadecki

5 February 2018

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

The author, as part of the project Think Visegrad, published an analysis of the Multiannual Financial Framework for the years 2021-2027. The possible impacts of Brexit have also been taken into account. The authors bring recommendations for the negotiations mainly for the Central European states.

## Istituto Bruno Leoni

### *Indice della globalizzazione*

by Rosamaria Bitetti [@rmbitetti](#), Ornella Darova [@OrnellaDarova](#) and Carlo Stagnaro [@CarloStagnaro](#)

February 2018

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

The Index shows that an expansive phase of globalisation, largely overlapping the period of the multilateral negotiations, has been replaced, in correspondence with the economic crisis, by a slowdown in trade and investments. This is partly due to macroeconomic trends, but is also not trivially attributable to the protectionist reaction that many States have experienced in the face of economic and occupational challenges. Paradoxically, this reaction has exacerbated, rather than alleviated, the crisis' impacts.

## Institute of Economic Affairs

*Socially useless? The crucial contribution of finance to economic life*

by Philip Booth and Diego Zuluaga [@DiegoZuluagaL](#)

28 February 2018

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

Animosity towards the business of finance is ancient and persistent. Because finance creates intangible value, its contribution to society is still invisible to many observers. Until and unless the value of finance is properly understood, public policy will fail to harness its benefits and may well endanger public welfare.

## Zentrum für Europäische Wirtschaftsforschung

*Bank credit supply and firm innovation*

by Marek Giebel [@MarekGiebel](#) and Kornelius Kraft

23 February 2018

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

This analysis deals with the causal effect of the credit supply shock to banks induced by interbank market disruptions in the recent financial crisis 2008-2009 on their business customers' innovation activity. Using a matched bank-firm data set for Germany, they find that having relations with a more severely affected bank seriously hampers firms' current innovation activities due to funding shortages. Furthermore, they find that firms with a relationship to a less severely affected bank are more likely to initiate new product and process innovations and to reallocate human resources to innovation during the financial crisis.

## Bruegel

*Tales from a crisis: diverging narratives of the euro area*

by Henrik Müller [@henrikmlr](#), Giuseppe Porcaro [@porcarorama](#) and Gerret von Nordheim [@gvnordheim](#)

15 February 2018

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

This contribution identifies how narratives of the crisis developed since 2007, by identifying the key crisis-related topics in articles from four opinion-forming newspapers in the largest euro-area countries (Germany's Süddeutsche Zeitung, France's Le Monde, Italy's La Stampa and Spain's El País). In particular, the analysis considers where blame for the crisis has been laid with the aim of informing the current debate on euro-area governance reform. Such an exercise can help to understand the difficulties euro-area policymakers face when it comes to formulating solutions that are both appropriate and commonly acceptable.

## Barcelona Graduate School of Economics

### *Forward guidance and the exchange rate*

by Jordi Galí

16 February 2018

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

The article analyses the effectiveness of forward guidance policies in open economies. An open economy version of the "forward guidance puzzle" is shown to emerge. In partial equilibrium, the effect on the current exchange rate of an anticipated change in the interest rate does not decline with the horizon of implementation. Empirical evidence using US and euro area data euro-dollar points to the presence of a forward guidance exchange rate puzzle: expectations of interest rate differentials in the near (distant) future have much larger (smaller) effects on the euro-dollar exchange rate than is implied by the theory.

## SECTION 3 - EU MEMBER STATES

### CROATIA

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

*Four years in the club: from external to internal Europeanization in Croatia*

by Fruzsina Sigér

16 February 2018

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

Croatia joined the EU in 2013 after a long process. Croatia was hit by the crisis severely, and the accession process went in parallel with an acute crisis management. Did the two processes had strengthened or rather hampered each other? What impact of the accession can be seen in Croatia? Could the membership enhance the recovery from the long-lasting recession? Has the EU played a role in this story? What has changed in Croatia's Europeanization pattern when entrance conditions were replaced by a new set of internal rules?

### CZECH REPUBLIC

#### European Values

*The role of the Kremlin's influence and disinformation in the Czech presidential elections*

by Markéta Krejčí, Veronika Víchová [@VeruVichova](#) and Jakub Janda [@\\_JakubJanda](#)

29 January 2018

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

The paper analyzes the disinformation campaigns targeting Zeman's opponents, articles most trending on social media, and the financing of Zeman's campaign.

### CYPRUS

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

*Cyprus after elections. Recapturing the Crans Montana momentum for peace negotiations*

by Ioannis N. Grigoriadis [@ingrigoriadis](#)

February 2018

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

The 7 January 2018 parliamentary elections in the "Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC)" and the 28 January-4 February 2018 presidential elections in the Republic of Cyprus reshuffled the Cypriot political landscape. The disillusionment and the fatigue of pro-conflict-resolution forces became clear, and the Cyprus question was relatively low on the agenda of electoral candidates. Nevertheless, the aftermath of the elections finds hardliners and opponents to a UN-brokered peace deal in a weaker position. This provides an opportunity for the resumption of peace negotiations from the point at which they stalled at Crans Montana last July.



## ESTONIA, LATVIA, LITHUANIA

### Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (Friedrich Ebert Foundation)

#### *Countries of old men?: Demographic challenges in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania*

by Zane Varpina

February 2018

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

The Baltic countries, along with other developed countries, are experiencing negative natural population growth accompanied by ageing societies, which is caused by processes denoted as the "second demographic transition." In addition, being among the less wealthy members of the EU, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania have seen significant emigration, amplifying the negative population trends. The Baltic states are perceived as a homogenous region within the EU, but the developments of recent years and projections for the future point to diverse paths of development for Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

## FINLAND

### Elinkeinoelämän tutkimuslaitos (Research Institute of the Finnish Economy)

#### *The effects of an education-leave program on educational attainment and labor-market outcomes*

by Antti Kauhanen [@Antti Kauhanen](#)

14 February 2018

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

The paper analyzes the effect of an education leave subsidy for the employed on labour-market outcomes and educational attainment using Finnish administrative linked employer-employee panel data and matching methods. The adult education allowance allows employees to take a leave for 2–18 months to participate in an education program while being compensated for earnings. The author finds large positive treatment effects on educational attainment and changing occupation, among others.

## FRANCE

### Institut Montaigne

#### *Travail en prison: préparer (vraiment) l'après*

14 February 2018

Link to the article in [French](#) (142 p.)

According to the paper, French prisons fail to prevent the recidivism. There are laws that provide many tools for the detainees reintegration but there are also others that might damage the detainees' public image.

### La vie des idées

#### *La réforme Macron de l'université*

by Stéphane Beaud and Mathias Millet [@MilletMathias](#)

20 February 2018

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

A reform proposed by president Macron allows higher education institutions to select their students. Defending the university as a place of training and research, the authors question the meaning of the pursuit of studies in a democratic society.

## GERMANY

### Wise Europa

#### *German-Polish European dialogue*

by Adam Balcer (ed.)

6 February 2018

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

A collection of views and reflections of Polish-German experts illustrating a substantial overlap of interests on specific issues between Poland and Germany. They claim that some of the issues may be partially resolved or kept under control without causing unnecessary damage to the relationship.

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

#### *Jamaikától Berlinig: a német kormányalakítási tárgyalások elhúzódásának okai és következményei*

by Naszádos Zsófia

22 February 2018

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

The analysis aims to outline the challenges faced by the German parties in the second round of negotiations, which took place between the two major factions, CDU-CSU and SPD, and the impact of the new large-coalition agreement that will emerge as a result of the conciliation in Germany, along with analyzing its impact for the future of the European Union.

### Pew Research Center

#### *Americans say U.S.-German relations are in good shape, but Germans disagree*

by Dorothy Manevich [@doramanevich](#) and Richard Wike [@RichardWike](#)

28 February 2018

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

Americans and Germans express different opinions about the state of the relations between their two countries. While roughly two in three Americans characterize relations as good, 56% of Germans take the opposite view. In both nations, there are partisan differences over what binds the two countries together. As 45% Germans believe economic and trade ties are the most important component of the bilateral relationship, while just around one-third of the surveyed mention shared democratic values. Only 16% say security and defense ties are most important for the relationship.

### Bertelsmann Stiftung

#### *Germany's export surpluses - asset accumulation for the future?*

by Thieß Petersen [@Petersen\\_econ](#)

February 2018

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

For decades, Germany has been generating large export surpluses. These surpluses result in an accumulation of assets vis-à-vis other countries. However, there is no guarantee that these asset investments will maintain their value over the long term. If Germany's cumulative current account surpluses between 2000 and 2017 are compared with the change in its net foreign assets in the same period, the result is a book loss in the hundreds of billions of euros. This paper analyses possible reasons for these book losses.

## **Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin für Sozialforschung (Social Science Research Center Berlin)**

*Gender role changes and their impacts on Syrian women refugees in Berlin in light of the Syrian crisis*

by Nisren Habib

February 2018

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

The paper aims to evaluate how the gender roles of Syrian women who fled to Berlin have shifted. Using semi-structured interviews conducted in the period of July to December 2016, the study illustrates the challenges and opportunities the women face, both as females and as refugees, and how far these affect their gender roles.

## **Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (Friedrich Ebert Foundation)**

*Was Italien sich von Deutschland wünscht: Ein wagemutiges Deutschland für ein wagemutiges Europa*

by Simone Romano

February 2018

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

Germany and Italy are the largest and third largest economies in the Eurozone respectively. For a long time, they were allies sharing common values and often similar positions on international issues. As the bilateral trade flows show, they maintain close economic relations. Nevertheless, both countries have divergent ideas on many issues: on the governance of the Eurozone, on shaping economic policy and on the future institutional development of the EU. This paper analyzes the different perspectives of both Member States and outlines what actions Italy expects from Germany.

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

*Deutschland und Polen: Kooperation trotz Differenzen*

by Kai-Olaf Lang

February 2018

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

The relationship between Germany and Poland is in a difficult phase. Various bilateral issues are responsible for the deterioration of relations. They include the possible construction of the Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline, Polish reparations claims and European political disputes, among others.

## **Zentrum für Europäische Wirtschaftsforschung**

*Incentive Regulation: evidence from German electricity networks*

by Michael Hellwig, Dominik Schober and Luís Cabral

February 2018

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

The authors propose a difference-in-differences (DiD) approach to estimate the impact of incentives on cost reduction. They show theoretically, and estimate empirically, that German electricity distribution system operators (DSOs) incur higher costs when subject to a lower-powered regulation mechanism. The difference is particularly significant (about 7%) for firms in the upper quartile of the efficiency distribution, a pattern which is consistent with the pooling of types under the threat of ratcheting.

## **Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (Friedrich Ebert Foundation)**

*Berufsschulen in der dualen Ausbildung und regionalen Wirtschaft: Gleichberechtigte Partnerschaft durch Reformen?*

by Karin Büchter

February 2018

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

Dual training and thus the securing of the skilled worker base is of central importance for the businesses in Germany. However, dual training has come under increasing pressure in recent years. The growing interest of young people in studying raises questions about the future security of skilled workers and the attractiveness of this educational path. In addition to a sufficient number of apprenticeships and apprentices, the professional level of training is crucial for the innovation and competitiveness of companies.

## **Deutschland nach dem „Islamischen Staat“**

*Deutschland nach dem „Islamischen Staat“*

by Andreas Jacobs

February 2018

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

The jihadist ideology will continue to inspire terrorist groups and lead to more attacks. In which direction is the IS developing after military defeat? What are the consequences for Germany? The paper shows the effects of a possible transformation of the IS on the jihadist scene in Germany and provides recommendations for German domestic and foreign policy.

## **GREECE**

### **Cyprus Center for European and International Affairs**

*From the margins to center stage: Greece emerges as a pivotal state in the Eastern Mediterranean*

by Georgios Koumoutsakos [@GKoumoutsakos](#)

27 February 2018

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

After almost ten years of economic crisis, and despite the serious errors and backsliding of the last three years, Greece is beginning to emerge from the economic black hole it had fallen into and to reach out with increasing confidence towards its Balkan and Eastern Mediterranean neighborhood.

## IRELAND

### Trinity College Dublin - Department of Economics

#### *Managing a century of debt*

by John FitzGerald and Seán Kenny [@SeanKennyLabourr](#)

February 2018

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

This paper provides a consistent series for the Irish national debt since the foundation of the state in 1922. It also provides a continuous series for bond yields over the same period. The paper examines the factors behind the fluctuations in the debt burden over almost a century. The management of the debt burden by the Irish authorities has evolved over time, seeking to minimise both the burden on the economy and the risks which the debt represented to the state. The paper also examines how the cost of borrowing for the Irish government compared to that for the UK and, since the break with sterling, for Germany. This cost of borrowing was in turn affected by developments in the domestic economy.

## ITALY

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

#### *Italy and the completion of the euro area*

by Erik Jones

19 February 2018

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

Italian perceptions of the recent economic and financial crisis tend to focus on the role of banks and financial markets rather than competitiveness or public finances. As a result, Italians stress the importance of reforming euro area institutions to stabilize cross-border capital flows. This emphasis runs alongside a more general ambivalence which Italians feel toward the role of European institutions in structuring macroeconomic policy coordination and imposing fiscal discipline. There was a time when Italians believed that they need 'Europe' to act as an external constraint in order to shore up domestic policymaking: that time is now past.

### Terra nova

#### *L'Italie à l'épreuve des élections*

by Marc Lazar and Riccardo Brizzi

9 February 2018

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

On 4 March, the Italians elected their senators and their deputies. This election was an important mark in a long cycle of decisive political deadlines in Europe, from the referendum on Brexit in 2016 to the Catalan elections at the end of 2017, and the parliamentary elections in Germany.

## **Bertelsmann Stiftung**

### *Dissatisfied and disenchanted: How Italians view European and national politics?*

by Isabell Hoffmann and Catherine E. de Vries

February 2018

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

For many years, Italian public opinion was characterized by strong support for and belief in European integration. Today, many actors on the Italian political scene are vocalising their doubts and disappointments about the EU. Yet, the question remains whether the Italian public is equally sceptical about the European project.

## **Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung**

### *Italy's defence policy: what to expect from the 2018 elections?*

by Alessandro Marrone [@Alessandro\\_Ma](#)

February 2018

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

Italy's foreign and defence policy is traditionally characterised by a strong involvement in the transatlantic alliance and the support of a joint European Foreign and Security policy. Italy provides an important number of troops in European-led and NATO-led missions around the globe, establishing itself as one of the largest troop providers worldwide. Furthermore, Italy sees itself as a bridge between Europe and the other Mediterranean countries. This paper will thus present an overview of the recent Italian defence policies and depict the post-electoral scenario on this matter. Indeed, it will help understand whether Italy's European and international partners can count on further engagement of this important Southern European state or if a change in strategy is on the horizon.

## **LATVIA**

## **Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (Friedrich Ebert Foundation)**

### *Latvian foreign and security policy: Yearbook 2018*

by Andris Sprūds [@aspruds](#) and Ilvija Bruģe (eds.)

February 2018

Link to the article in [English](#) (248 p.)

The year 2017 has been dynamic and challenging. Latvia has strengthened its security within the Euro-Atlantic community. In accordance with the decisions of the Warsaw Summit, NATO's multinational forces were deployed in Latvia and the other Baltic States. Latvia has fostered regional cooperation with its neighbouring countries within the framework of the EU and NATO. At the same time, pro-active policies have included support for the Eastern Partnership countries and cooperation with the Central Asian countries. The identification and development of opportunities in the general direction of Asia has continued. However, the transformative global and regional environment is a clear challenge for Latvia's foreign policy.



## NETHERLANDS

### Centraal Planbureau (CPB Netherlands Bureau for Economic Policy Analysis)

*Why do wages grow faster in urban areas? Sorting of high potentials matters*

by Paul Verstraten, Gerard Verweij and Peter Zwaneveld

February 2018

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

The existence of an urban wage growth premium is a well-established empirical fact. The article challenges the conventional view that faster wage growth for urban workers is caused by human capital spillovers. Instead, the authors find that the positive association between city size and individual wage growth is to a large extent driven by sorting of workers and firms, with inherently higher wage growth, into bigger cities.

### Centraal Planbureau (CPB Netherlands Bureau for Economic Policy Analysis)

*Optimal taxation of secondary earners in the Netherlands: has equity lost ground?*

by Henk-Wim de Boery, Egbert Jongenz and Patrick Kootx

February 2018

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

In this paper, the authors study the implicit social welfare weights of single- and dual earner couples in the Netherlands.

### Centraal Planbureau (CPB Netherlands Bureau for Economic Policy Analysis)

*Do paid teacher trainee programs lead to additional teachers in secondary education? A regression discontinuity analysis*

by Anja Deelen and Sonny Kuijpers

13 February 2018

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

The paper evaluates the quantitative effects of two teacher traineeships that were implemented in the Netherlands to address shortages of fully qualified teachers in secondary education. Applying a fuzzy regression discontinuity design, the authors estimate the effects of being selected to participate in one of the traineeships. The authors find no significant local average treatment effects of being selected on the probabilities of enrolling into academic teacher training, obtaining a full teaching qualification, and on working in education, although the point estimates are positive for the first two outcome variables.

### Centraal Planbureau (CPB Netherlands Bureau for Economic Policy Analysis)

*Competition and pricing behavior in long-term care markets. Evidence from the market for assistance in daily housekeeping activities*

by Remco van Eijkel, Mark Kattenberg and Ab van der Torre

February 2018

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

Exploiting a rich data set on the Dutch market for assistance in daily housekeeping activities (ADHA), the authors find that larger providers obtain a higher price than small providers do. However, compared to other studies on market power in care markets this price difference is considered small to moderate. The authors' identification strategy relies on the exogenous variation in market shares in January '07, the very first month after ADHA was decentralized to municipalities. The authors conclude that the small but significant effect of market size on price is merely driven by the pricing behavior of for-profit providers.

## The Hague Centre for Strategic Studies

### *Flow security and Dutch defence and security policies*

by Tim Sweijs [@TimSweijs](#), Hugo van Manen, Katarina Kertysova [@KKertysova](#) and Frank Bekkers

26 February 2018

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

The current study defines what flow security is, describes why it is relevant to the Netherlands, and analyses what it portends for security and defence policies. It outlines a set of policy recommendations concerning the implications of flow security for Dutch security and defence policies and the role, tasks and capabilities of the Dutch Defence Organization.

## POLAND

### **Fundacja im. Stefana Batorego (Stefan Batory Foundation)**

*Report of the Stefan Batory Foundation legal expert group on the impact of the judiciary reform in Poland in 2015-2018*

28 February 2018

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

The purpose of this report is not the comprehensive discussion of changes implemented in Poland in 2015-2018 in the realm of judicial authority, but to highlight the threats flowing from such in the realm of civic rights and freedoms.

### **Wise Europa**

#### *German-Polish European Dialogue*

by Adam Balcer (ed.)

1 February 2018

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

Views and reflections of Polish-German experts illustrating a substantial overlap of interests on specific issues between Poland and Germany.

## PISM

### *Indie w procesie reform: szanse dla Polski*

by Patryk Kugiel

February 2018

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

In 2017, India celebrated the 70th anniversary of independence. In that time, it has changed from a newly post-colonial, underdeveloped, and famine-suffering state to one of the largest economies in the world and an emerging power. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's accession in 2014 marked a new stage in the reforms and transformation of the country. This report introduces the reforms and programmes implemented in India that indicate opportunities for Polish companies interested in this market.

## Wise Europa

### *New foundations: the building blocks of energy security*

by Aleksander Śniegocki [@ASniegocki](#) and Zofia Wetmańska

22 February 2018

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

The uniqueness of the Polish energy mix is not permanent and stems from delayed occurrence of processes which have already taken place in Western Europe. Thus, the reorientation of the national energy policy towards the EU-wide priorities and international efforts to ensure energy security in the long term are well-justified according to this article.

## SPAIN

### **Real Instituto Elcano (Elcano Royal Institute)**

#### *Chinese investment in Spain: open for business, but not at any price*

by Mario Esteban [@wizma9](#) and Miguel Otero-Iglesias [@miotei](#)

6 February 2018

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

Chinese investments in Spain have increased over the past years. Nonetheless, there has not been a public or political debate around the topic, and even less a thorough reflection by the government, the media and the academic community at large about the implications of these investments. Overall, for the moment, the perception of the Spanish government, the public administration at large and the media regarding Chinese investments is broadly positive. This contrasts with the view of Spanish public opinion, which looks with more suspicion on the capital coming from China than from other sources of foreign direct investment (FDI) such as the US, France, Germany, and even Japan.

### **Fundación de Estudios de Economía Aplicada**

#### *Trends in labor force participation of older workers in Spain 1980-2015*

by Pilar García-Gómez, Sergi Jiménez Martín and Judit Vall Castelló

26 February 2018

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

Similar to other OECD countries, labour force participation rates of Spanish older workers were falling until the mid-1990s when there was a reversal in the trend. Labour force participation rates of Spanish men have been increasing since then, although at a slower pace than in other OECD countries. The article explores to what extent several factors can be behind these trends.

## Ulkopoliittinen instituutti (Finnish Institute of International Affairs)

*Catalonia as a laboratory for European separatism: understanding the independence process and its meaning in a wider European context*

by Teemu Tammikko

22 February 2018

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

This paper starts with an analysis of the root causes of Catalanian separatism and the way in which they have contributed to the political process towards independence during the past few years. Why did it emerge so suddenly, and why just now? After analyzing the background of the current confrontation, it is possible to proceed to the main questions that this paper seeks to address: Is Catalonia currently a laboratory for European separatism? Could the Catalanian independence process cause a domino effect whereby different regions claim similar rights to their own state, or is the international response to it posing an invisible barrier for the separatist regions?

## Real Instituto Elcano (Elcano Royal Institute)

*Maximising the outcomes of Spain's political engagement with the UN*

by Jessica Almqvist [@Jessica66101611](#)

27 February 2018

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

Spain's political engagement with the UN is based upon resources, expertise and strategic interests. This paper discusses the stability and degree of commitment of Spain's engagement, despite internal political changes and the challenges it has faced.

## UNITED KINGDOM

### CIVITAS - Institute for the Study of Civil Society

*Closing the finance gap: how a national investment bank could support enterprise and raise productivity*

by Justin Prottis [@Justin\\_Prottis](#)

February 2018

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

The UK economy is suffering from low productivity. Raising productivity requires investment in productive enterprise but there are several issues standing in the way of that in the UK. Several countries have responded to these issues by establishing national investment institutions, mandated to provide finance to SMEs. The author examines the record of a selection of these institutions. Drawing on their experiences, he sets out how a new national investment bank could be designed and established to tackle the specific challenges the UK faces today.

### Institute For Governement

*How to transform infrastructure decision making in the UK*

by Nick Davies [@NJ\\_Davies](#), Graham Atkins [@GrahamTAtkins](#) and Daniel Slade

6 February 2018

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

The UK is in a period of major political and economic change. Concerns about regional inequalities, productivity and the acute housing crisis in the country's most economically successful areas, Brexit and climate change all loom large.

## **Institute for Fiscal Studies**

### *The decline of homeownership among young adults*

by Jonathan Cribb, Andrew Hood and Jack Hoyle

16 February 2018

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

The decline in the homeownership rate of young adults in Great Britain is an issue that has risen to the top of the political agenda. The article provides up-to-date analysis of falls in homeownership, and which groups of young adults have seen the sharpest falls.

## **BREXIT**

## **Fondation Robert Schuman**

### *Brexit: the transition period*

by Jean-Claude Piris [@piris\\_ic](#)

6 February 2018

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

On 23 June 2016, the British voted by a legally consultative referendum that their country should leave the European Union. On 29 March 2017, the government led by Theresa May notified the EU of the UK's intention to withdraw ("Brexit"). Since then, according to the author, establishing and preserving the government's unity has been and remains difficult, both in regard to the meaning to give to "Brexit" and to the kind of relations that the country would like to have in the future with the EU. This political division has delayed negotiations and continues to weaken the UK's position.

## **Centre for International Governance Innovation**

### *Cross-border insolvencies after Brexit: views from the United Kingdom and Continental Europe*

by Howard Morris, Gabriel Moss, Federico Mucciarelli and Christoph Paulus

28 February 2018

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

This paper addresses the main problems arising from the United Kingdom's decision to leave the European Union with regard to insolvency proceedings. The following issues will be discussed: the modes of recognition of foreign insolvency proceedings under British law and the likely effect of Brexit, the impact of Brexit on forum and law shopping, the reform proposal for British workout procedures and the use of British workout procedures by EU companies.

## **Centre for International Governance Innovation**

### *Failing financial institutions: how will Brexit impact cross-border cooperation in recovery, reconstruction and insolvency processes?*

by Dorothy Livingston

6 February 2018

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

This paper addresses the issues for international recognition of reconstruction and insolvency proceedings affecting international banks raised by the United Kingdom's decision to leave the European Union, and considers what the United Kingdom and the European Union and its member states could do to address the potential loss of recognition and cooperation, as well as possible wider international initiatives. The relation of this issue to the World Trade Organization's General Agreement on Trade in Services is also considered.

## Centre for International Governance Innovation

*How does it feel to be a third country? The consequences of Brexit for financial market law*

by Matthias Lehmann and Dirk Zetsche

15 February 2018

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

This paper analyses options in financial market law available to British issuers, credit institutions, insurance companies, securities firms, and asset and fund managers in terms of Brexit, considering that the United Kingdom will become a third country from the perspective of the European Union.

## Centre for International Governance Innovation

*Brexit and environmental law: the rocky road ahead*

by Markus Gehring [@mwgehring](#) and Freedom Kai-Phillip [@freedomkai](#)

20 February 2018

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

Brexit and environmental law constitutes one of the most challenging areas of the divorce negotiations by the United Kingdom. In many ways, this area is perhaps more difficult to negotiate because the expectation would be that the United Kingdom will still trade with the European Union, but perhaps intends to lower its own environmental standards, which would in turn give the United Kingdom a competitive advantage. The paper analyses the impact that the United Kingdom had on the development of EU environmental law

## Centre for International Governance Innovation

*Advancing environmental justice in a post-Brexit United Kingdom*

by Damilola S. Olawuyi [@dsolawuyi](#)

6 February 2018

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

This paper evaluates the possible implications of Brexit for achieving environmental justice in the United Kingdom. It discusses the need for a clear, committed and inclusive approach to environmental governance if the United Kingdom is to maintain and advance recent progress on environmental justice matters post-Brexit. The rise of a robust regional governance approach to stakeholder participation, accountability, non-discrimination and equality, empowerment and legality in the European Union over the last decade has made positive impacts and has provided hope for the future of environmental justice in the United Kingdom.

## Centre for International Governance Innovation

*Brexit and human rights*

by Colm O'Cinneide [@colmocinneide](#)

22 February 2018

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

Many commentators have expressed concern that the process of Brexit could have a negative impact on human rights protection in the United Kingdom. In contrast, others have argued that leaving the European Union offers an opportunity for the United Kingdom to develop better standards of rights protection than currently exist in UK or EU law. To assess the merit of these competing claims, it is necessary to consider whether Brexit creates a real risk that existing human rights standards may be eroded.



## European Parliament Think Tank

### *Brexit, financial stability and the supervision of clearing systems*

by Andromachi Georgosouli

14 February 2018

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

The paper examines the evolution of the supervisory framework of third-country Central Clearing Houses (CCPs) in the EU making special reference to risks associated with the imminent withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union. Its key finding is that the proposed reform is in principle in the right direction but there are still challenges ahead and a more comprehensive package of measures will be required to address them.

## European Parliament Think Tank

### *The euro-area denominated payment systems and the conduct of monetary policy: some considerations ahead of Brexit*

by Corrado Macchiarelli [@CorradoMacchia1](#) and Mara Monti

23 February 2018

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

The framework for euro-denominated payment systems has undergone significant changes in recent years leading to a concentration of payments performed by Central Counterparty Clearing Houses. As it stands, a large part of euro denominated transactions, derivatives in particular, are cleared through CCPs located in the UK; which poses challenges to the current supervisory framework because of the UK leaving the EU. Against this background, this note discusses the extent to which the current set-up bears risks, including for the conduct of the ECB monetary policy.

## LSE IDEAS

### *Ireland-UK relations and Northern Ireland after Brexit*

by Michael Cox, Adrian Guelke and Paul Gillespie

February 2018

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

This report explores the impact of Brexit from an Irish perspective, explaining Europe's role in improving Ireland-UK relations since 1970s and outlining the threat posed by Brexit to the political settlement in Northern Ireland.

## Policy Exchange

### *Global Champion: the case for unilateral free trade*

by Warwick Lightfoot, Michael Taylor, Geoff Raby and Jonathan Dupont [@jondupont](#)

February 2018

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

The authors argue that, assuming Britain is going to leave the Single Market, the best way of being a champion of free trade is the unilateral elimination of all the UK's remaining tariffs.

## **Institute for Public Policy Research**

*Leaving the EU, not the European model? New findings on public attitudes to Brexit (part one)*

by Marley Morris

18 February 2018

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

As the UK and the EU move to the next stage of the Article 50 negotiations, the UK faces a fundamental choice over the type of country it wants to be post-Brexit. Should it continue to align with EU rules and regulations – such as EU-derived consumer, financial, employment, environmental, food safety and animal welfare standards – or should it opt to diverge from this legislation and move away from Europe's economic and social model?

## **The Henry Jackson Society**

*Terror overseas: understanding the GCC counter extremism and counter terrorism trends*

by Najah Al-Otaibi [@Najahalosaimi](#)

13 February 2018

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

This paper finds that the British Government must extend and deepen its relationship with Gulf states in order to tackle the root causes of extremism and terrorism. The report argues that Britain must go beyond intelligence and information sharing by creating more joint initiatives with the private sector and civil society in the states of the Gulf Co-operation Council. A step change of this kind would achieve better outcomes against terrorism, as well as strengthening Britain's global influence as she leaves the European Union.

## **Utrikespolitiska Institutet (Swedish Institute of International Affairs)**

*UK foreign and security policy post-Brexit: the search for a European Strategy*

by Richard G. Whitman [@RGWhitman](#)

February 2018

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

Exiting the EU presents the need for a major rethink in terms of the future aims, ambitions and conduct of British European strategy. As there is no precedent for a country choosing to leave the EU the consequences of departure for the UK's foreign and security policy are uncertain and the impact on its role in Europe is indeterminate. The scope of the impact of Brexit on European foreign and security policy relationships will be determined by a number of factors and gives rise to prospective scenarios explored in this paper.

## **VISEGRAD GROUP**

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

*Labour market reform and Visegrad countries: deep rooted concerns and how to address them*

by Alena Kudzko [@AlenaKudzko](#)

February 2018

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

The author, as part of the project Think Visegrad, published a policy brief concerning the ongoing labour market reforms in the EU and recommends steps to be taken by the CEE countries, not to end on the economic and political periphery of Europe.

*V4 - Chinese relations: a lost opportunity or a new start?*

by Alexandr Lagazzi [@LagazziA](#)

February 2018

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

The Chinese attention has shifted from the V4 towards the Western Balkans. In its political discussions and economic cooperation with China, the V4 has moved into the background, and to the forefront came the Western Balkans. In this brief, the author analyses whether this has been caused by the position of the V4 within the EU, or by greater Chinese interest in the Western Balkans. Further he suggests that Chinese attention should be exploited to form a common V4 China policy.

## SECTION 4 - EU POLICIES

### JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS

#### **Egmont – Royal Institute for International Relations**

*EU cyber partnerships: assessing the EU strategic partnerships with third countries in the cyber domain*

by Thomas Renard [@tom\\_renard](#)

20 February 2018

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

The European Union is increasingly active on cyber issues internationally, guided by its various foreign policy documents and strategies, including its 2013 Cybersecurity Strategy and the 2015 Council conclusions on cyber-diplomacy. In line with these documents, the EU has deepened its bilateral ties with a number of key countries, resulting in a network of cyber partnerships. This article explores these partnerships in depth. It seeks to explain the different types of purposes that they fulfil, and the various mechanisms that underpin them, based on an ambitious mapping exercise.

#### **International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance**

*Imagining the future of crime and politics*

by Victoria Perotti, Catalina Uribe Burcher and Aida Zekic

14 February 2018

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

Organized crime networks dedicated to illicit trafficking of drugs, people and wildlife – as well as money laundering and cybercrime, among other activities – are engines of instability. This paper, written from the perspective of a fictitious criminal network, depicts a scenario where conflict, democratic decline and new technologies exacerbate the negative impact of organized crime on the state. By describing an imaginary future, it includes the most relevant concerns for practitioners within the field.

#### **Center for Strategic and International Studies**

*Economic impact of cybercrime - no slowing down*

by James Lewis

February 2018

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

The Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), in partnership with McAfee, present Economic Impact of Cybercrime – No Slowing Down, a global report that focuses on the significant impact that cybercrime has on economies worldwide.

## **Institut français des relations internationales**

### *Cybersécurité des infrastructures énergétiques: regards croisés Europe/États-Unis*

by Arnault Barichella

28 February 2018

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

The acceleration of the digitization of energy infrastructures brings many economic benefits, especially in terms of rationalization of energy consumption with efficiency gains. However, this also increases the risk of cyber-attacks, where malware is taking advantage of the increasing digitization of equipment. Recent cyber-attacks targeting Ukrainian critical infrastructure point to the threat as real and growing. Vulnerability is not confined to infrastructure located in the European Union or the United States: some of the attacks on Ukraine have spread to many Western companies including through their subsidiaries, highlighting the danger of contagion through malware.

## **AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES**

### **Institute for European Environmental Policy**

#### *Ideas for defining environmental objectives and monitoring systems for a results-oriented CAP post 2020*

by Kaley Hart, David Baldock and Graham Tucker

February 2018

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

In its November 2017 Communication on the "Future of Food and Farming", the European Commission proposed a new approach to CAP delivery, focusing on performance against objectives and targets. Although details are thin on the ground, this would provide far more flexibility to Member States to set their own objectives and targets (within an EU framework) and design their measures accordingly. This major change could offer a lot of opportunities for countries to focus on designing schemes that really work for the environment and climate, rather than the current risk averse approach taken for fear of falling foul of EU rules.

## **COMPETITIVENESS (INTERNAL MARKET, INDUSTRY, RESEARCH AND SPACE)**

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

#### *What induces firms to license foreign technologies? - International survey evidence*

by Dirk Christian Dohse, Rajeev K. Goel and Michael A. Nelson

January 2018

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

The paper provides firm level insights into the drivers of foreign technology licensing from the perspective of the licensee, using data across 114 nations. Drawing on the theoretical foundations related to knowledge spillovers, results show that manufacturing firms with own R&D capabilities were more likely to license foreign technologies, as were larger firms and those situated in the nations' main business city. Greater literacy facilitated foreign technology licensing, while overall economic prosperity of a nation did not have a significant impact. Remarkably, higher domestic interest rates, related to capital costs and to overall monetary policy, induced firms to license technology from abroad.

## TRANSPORT/TELECOMMUNICATIONS/ENERGY

### Institut français des relations internationales

*The EU battery alliance. Can Europe avoid technological dependence?*

by Carole Mathieu [@CMathieu](#)

20 February 2018

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

With the launch of the Battery Alliance, the European Union is engaged in the industrial battle with Asia and hopes to cover a large part of its domestic demand for electric batteries. Nevertheless, the clock is ticking and the future of battery production in Europe will depend primarily on the strategies pursued by car manufacturers.

### World Economic Forum

*Electric vehicles for smarter cities: the future of energy and mobility*

by Martina Lombardi, Kristen Panerali, Stephane Rousselet and Joseph Scalise

January 2018

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

This report examines the major trends affecting the transformation of energy and mobility systems, with a special focus on cities. Topics addressed include: electrification, decentralization and digitalization of the energy system, along with the shift towards electric, shared and autonomous mobility.

### E3G

*Governance of EU 2030 targets: the jury is still out. State of play of the negotiations on energy Union governance*

by Quentin Genard

19 February 2018

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

The EU's Energy Union Governance regulation is entering the second, and probably last, step of the legislative process that should lead to its adoption. The regulation oversees climate and energy planning and reporting after 2020 and set out rules for member state accountability. Parliamentarians, diplomats and Commission officials are now seeking agreement on a common text after intense discussion to set each institution's negotiating mandate. Core elements are still undecided, however, and the robustness of the framework hangs in the balance.

### European Climate Foundation

*Fuelling Europe's future: how the transition from oil strengthens the economy*

19 February 2018

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

Europe could improve its net GDP and create 206,000 net additional jobs in 2030 through the transition from a mobility system fueled with imported oil to one that is driven by renewable energy. The transition to e-mobility would allow the EU to cut its spending on oil imports by €49 billion in 2030. It will also help reduce CO2 emissions from cars by 88% by 2050 and in parallel help cut air pollution from causing 467,000 premature deaths in Europe every year. This shift will achieve the double bonus of tackling climate change and air pollution and creating a much-needed economic stimulus.

## **Oxford Institute for Energy Studies**

### *The LNG shipping forecast: costs rebounding, outlook uncertain*

by Howard Rogers

March 2018

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

The cost of shipping LNG has always been an important element to include in the assessment of new LNG project breakeven economics, or in selecting the optimum destination for a spot cargo of LNG. Such shipping cost calculations are often based on current short-term charter rate data disclosed by the analytical teams of specialist price reporting agencies or similar. Short-term LNG charter rates rose dramatically in the early 2010s, apparently in response to Asian LNG demand and, subsequently, the Fukushima disaster which created a tight LNG spot market.

## **Oxford Institute for Energy Studies**

### *Oil price paths in 2018: the interplay between OPEC, US shale and supply interruptions*

by Bassam Fattouh and Andreas Economou

February 2018

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

Despite a remaining wide uncertainty engulfing the oil market, 2018 started on a positive note for oil markets with Brent prices breaking through \$70 a barrel for a few days and all the key international crude oil benchmarks flipping into backwardation. In this paper, the authors analyze how the oil price path could evolve in 2018 by evaluating the aforementioned risks underlying the world oil market using a structural model of the oil market and considering various forecast scenarios.

## **EMPLOYMENT/SOCIAL POLICY/HEALTH/CONSUMER AFFAIRS**

### **Institute for Fiscal Studies**

#### *Wage progression and the gender wage gap: the causal impact of hours of work*

by Mónica Costa Dias, Robert Joyce and Francesca Parodi

2 February 2018

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

In the early 1990s, average hourly wages were almost 30% lower for women than for men. The gender wage gap has come down, but it remains at around 20%. There are lots of reasons for the scale and persistence of this gap, but new work, funded by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation shows that one important factor is that mothers spend less time in paid work, and more time working part-time, than fathers do. As a result, they miss out on earnings growth associated with more experience.



## **Barcelona Graduate School of Economics**

### *Deliberative structures and their impact on voting behaviour under social conflict*

by Jordi Brandts, Leonie Gerhards and Lydia Mechtenberg

19 February 2018

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

Inequalities in democracies are multifaceted. They not only incorporate differences in economic opportunities, but also differences in access to information and social influence. The authors studied four different communication protocols which vary the access to communication channels of the two groups and are meant to represent societies with different degrees of openness. They hypothesize that the deliberative structures affect group identities, preferences, and voting. The observed outcomes largely coincide with those predicted by their theoretical analysis.

## **Fondation Robert Schuman**

### *Europe 2050: demographic suicide*

by Jean-Michel Boussemart and Michel Godet

13 February 2018

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

A deafening silence surrounds Europe's demographic suicide, projected for 2050. Although demographic projections for major world regions up to then are known and re-evaluated every two years by the United Nations and regularly by Eurostat for EU Member States, only a data base specialist could use the figures. This article exposes how economic growth and productivity have not been linked to key indicators in population figures.

## **La vie des idées**

### *Les nouveaux fonctionnaires*

by Alex Alber

6 February 2018

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

The modalities of advancement of public executives are changing, which favours the individualization of careers and the dualization of labour markets.

## **ENVIRONMENT**

### **Centre for International Governance Innovation**

#### *Assessing the effectiveness of the eco-patent commons: a post-mortem analysis*

by Jorge Contreras, Christian Helmers and Bronwyn H. Hall

20 February 2018

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

This paper looks at the effect of the "Eco-Patent Commons" (EcoPC) on the diffusion of patented environmentally friendly technologies following its discontinuation in 2016. Established in January 2008 by several large multinational companies, the not-for-profit initiative provided royalty-free access to 248 patents covering 94 "green" inventions. In a previous work, Bronwyn Hall and Christian Helmers (2013) suggested that the patents pledged to the commons had the potential to encourage the diffusion of valuable environmentally friendly technologies. The updated results in this paper show that the commons did not increase the diffusion of pledged inventions, and that the EcoPC suffered from a number of structural and organizational issues.

## Observer Research Foundation

### *An incomplete transformation: multilateral development banks and the green infrastructure gap*

by Mihir Swarup Sharma [@mihirssharma](#)

January 2018

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

The global effort to meet the targets set by the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals will depend crucially on reforming the structure of development finance. Mobilising private capital will be an essential part of this effort, and existing development finance institutions, led by the complex of multilateral development banks (MDBs), will have to re-orient their strategies and functioning to prioritise this mobilisation. While a rhetorical commitment to this re-orientation has been made, there remain significant functional, operational, and geo-political hurdles to the transition. Greater focus on developing-country priorities, willingness to handle and moderate risk, and the transformation of local operations are essential if MDBs are to stay relevant and effective.

## Real Instituto Elcano (Elcano Royal Institute)

### *Cambio climático en 2018: de la gobernanza climática global post Trump a España*

by Lara Lázaro Touza [@lazarotouza](#)

19 February 2018

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

In 2018, substantial progress in the framework of application rules of the Treaty of Paris is expected. It is also expected a better assessment of the progress towards the limitation of temperatures in at least 2°C comparing with the pre-industrial era. The EU will enhance the Energy Union and will be more ambitious on its goals in terms of renewable resources and energetic efficiency by 2030. Spain will submit a first draft of legislation trying to reach these goals.

## Stockholm International Peace Research Institute

### *European regional organizations and climate-related security risks: EU, OSCE and NATO*

by Niklas Bremberg [@NiklasBremberg](#)

February 2018

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

This paper presents a concise analysis of how three regional organizations in Europe with a security mandate have responded to climate-related security risks. The main findings stress that all three acknowledge climate change as a 'threat multiplier' (i.e. a factor that might exacerbate existing drivers of instability and conflict) and are addressing climate security to varying degrees within their mandates. The EU and the OSCE are actively seeking to incorporate climate security in efforts to promote peace and security, whereas NATO's role currently remains more limited to disaster response.

## **Institute for European Environmental Policy**

*A sustainable blue economy – adopting the concept of ecosystem services in EU marine protected area*

by Mia Pantzar [@mia\\_pantzar](#) and Marianne Kettunen [@makeettunen](#)

12 February 2018

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

This report explores how the concept of ecosystem services can be used in the management of marine protected areas (MPA) to support the achievement of EU marine and coastal conservation objectives, while at the same time contributing to the development of a sustainable European Blue Economy. The results are based on survey responses from 50 marine conservation experts across Europe, representing governments, competent authorities, academia, NGOs, business and individuals.

## **Transparency International**

*Safeguarding climate finance procurement: assessment of the procurement policies of the Green Climate Fund*

5 February 2018

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

This study is a collaboration between Transparency International and the Open Contracting Partnership. It looks at the robustness of the institutional procurement policies of the Green Climate Fund (GCF). Now is a good time to take stock: while spending on country projects will be much larger, the GCF's institutional policies are under development now and will likely be important in determining the roll-out of its international policies. The study evaluated policies related to GCF institutional procurement, ethics and conflict of interest.

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

*Mobilising trade policy for climate action under the Paris Agreement. Options for the European Union*

by Susanne Dröge, Harro van Asselt, Kasturi Das and Michael Mehling

February 2018

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

At the level of international trade governance, the increasing number of WTO disputes over national renewable energy policy regulations points to a systemic conflict between national climate policies and WTO obligations, whereas a number of Regional Trade Agreements (RTAs) including environmental standards demonstrate positive ways forward. As a longer-term vision, this research identifies the legal options under the WTO regime, and for the medium term the authors suggest synergies that the EU can achieve through RTA negotiations and reviews. In the short term, the EU and its Member States should push for more transparency on trade-related climate measures.

## ICCT

### *The role of standards in reducing CO2 emissions of passenger cars in the EU*

by Peter Mock [@MockPeter](#)

February 2018

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

Vehicle CO2 performance standards for cars, vans, and trucks—effectively enforced—are at the core of any serious effort to realize lower-carbon transport. To be in line with the EU's climate goals for 2030, the level of ambition of the proposed 2025/30 CO2 standards must increase and must be complemented by a similar CO2 regulation for heavy-duty trucks, as well as by measures to limit the gap between official and real-world CO2 emission levels.

## ICCT

### *Effects of battery manufacturing on electric vehicle life-cycle greenhouse gas emissions*

by Dale Hall and Nic Lutsey [@NicLutsey](#)

7 February 2018

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

This briefing reviews recent research regarding greenhouse gas emissions from the manufacturing of lithium-ion batteries for electric vehicles. The authors analyze this research in the overall context of life-cycle emissions of electric cars as compared to conventional internal combustion vehicles in Europe. Finally, they discuss the primary drivers of battery manufacturing emissions and how these emissions could be further mitigated in the future.

## Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung (Heinrich Böll Foundation)

### *Changing societies through urban commons transitions*

by Michel Bauwens and Vasilis Niaros

8 February 2018

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

This report examines the re-emergence of the urban commons as both a bottom-up emergence by citizens/commoners and a radical municipal administrative configuration. The report looks to answer the following questions: i) what can cities do to respond to the new demands of citizens as commoners; ii) what their role may be in facilitating a social-ecological transition; and iii) what institutional adaptations would favour such a role. The report specifically looks at the municipal coalitions of Barcelona, Bologna, Naples, Frome and Ghent.

## EDUCATION/YOUTH/CULTURE/SPORT

### Institut français des relations internationales

#### *Pour une initiative franco-allemande en faveur des jeunes en Europe*

7 February 2018

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

The political context in France and Germany is favorable to the revival of Europe and Franco-German cooperation. If the main projects of the dialogue between Paris and Berlin are economics and safety, Emmanuel Macron, in his speeches at the Sorbonne on 26 September and in Frankfurt on 10 October 2017, reaffirmed the importance of education and youth mobility in Europe. It is important to involve civil society and especially young people in this dialogue at the service of the European project.

## Migration Policy Institute

### *Mainstreaming 2.0: How Europe's education systems can boost migrant inclusion*

by Aliyyah Ahad and Meghan Benton [@meghan\\_benton](#)

6 February 2018

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

Children who arrive in Europe as immigrants or who have immigrant parents face a variety of barriers to success in European school systems. Some may not speak the language of instruction fluently or have interrupted prior schooling. Others may find their access to top-notch programs and schools limited by their family's incomplete knowledge of how European education systems work. Students who arrive in their mid- to late teenage years also frequently face a race to plug linguistic and subject-matter gaps in order to earn a degree before aging out of the system.

## Migration Policy Institute

### *Designing civic education for diverse societies: models, trade-offs, and outcomes*

by Per Mouritsen and Astrid Jaeger [@AstridJaeger](#)

February 2018

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

Civic education in Europe is being asked to perform a patchwork of shifting, and occasionally competing, functions. Though hardly a new feature in European education systems—dating back in some countries to the 19th century—policymakers and publics have turned with renewed interest to such programs to solve a range of modern challenges, from lagging political participation and youth unemployment, to the integration of newly arrived immigrants and refugees, and the need to protect pupils against the sway of alienation and radicalization.

## SECTION 5 - FOREIGN AFFAIRS

### FOREIGN AND SECURITY POLICY / DEFENCE

#### Ośrodek Studiów Wschodnich (Centre for Eastern Studies)

*The trouble with PESCO: the mirages of European defence*

by Justyna Gotkowska [@jgotkowska](#)

February 2018

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

The creation of Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO) in December 2017 crowned the series of recent debates and actions aimed at strengthening the common security and defence policy of the EU. However, the compromise around PESCO has revealed strategic divergences among France, Germany and the countries on the Eastern flank given the perceptions of threats and challenges, the development of the EU's security and defence policy, and the future of trans-Atlantic relations.

#### Cato Institute

*Public opinion and counterterrorism policy*

by John Mueller and Mark G. Stewart

28 February 2018

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

Public opinion is the primary driver behind the extensive and excessive counterterrorism efforts undertaken since 9/11, and officials and elites are more nearly responding to public fear than creating it. Policymakers can do little, if anything, to reduce the fear of terrorism - if people want to be afraid, nothing will stop them. Moreover, because of the special formlessness, even spookiness, of terrorism's hostile foreign referent in this case, it may be exceptionally difficult to get people to believe that the threat has really been extinguished or at least that it is no longer particularly significant.

#### Utrikespolitiska Institutet (Swedish Institute of International Affairs)

*The future of the French-German axis and its implications for European security and defence*

by Claudia Major [@ClaudMajor](#), Christian Mölling [@Ce Moll](#) and Gesine Höltnann [@gesine\\_holtmann](#)

February 2018

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

The paper identifies four potential future scenarios for the Franco-German axis and their implications for European security and defence. Based on these scenarios and their drivers, it develops elements of a strategy toolbox to influence developments in a desirable direction.

## **Fundacja im. Stefana Batorego (Stefan Batory Foundation)**

### *Prepare for a new Europe*

by Piotr Buras

8 February 2018

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

Globalisation and interdependence until recently have been seen as the guarantors of peace and cooperation. These have turned out to be the source of conflicts and the instruments of pressure. "It's the economy, stupid!" has ceased to be treated dogmatically — the problems of identity and culture move people just as much as their financial situation. What is more important is that this, alongside other factors (in particular Donald Trump becoming the president of the United States), is profoundly, though not yet entirely visibly, changing the fundamental assumptions upon which the project of European integration rests.

## **Stockholm International Peace Research Institute**

### *Multilateral peace operations and the challenges of organized crime*

by Jaïr van der Lijn [@JairvdLijn](#)

28 February 2018

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

The paper explores the 'non-traditional' security challenges that organized crime presents to multilateral peace operations. The challenges of organized crime may be of direct or indirect relevance to multilateral peace operations. Directly, it may behave as a spoiler or evade peace processes. Indirectly, it may decrease the effectiveness of peace operations, particularly long term, contributing to the continued fragility of countries and their peace processes in its role as partner. Based on this understanding, the paper explores the role that peace operations play in preventing and combating organized crime, particularly in weak or collapsed states.

## **New America Foundation**

### *Fighting fire with fire: the growing nexus between atrocity prevention and counterterrorism and its implications for the use of force to protect civilians*

by Colin Thomas-Jensen [@colin\\_tj](#)

14 February 2018

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

The paper explains the increasing relevance of the counterterrorism–atrocity prevention nexus and defines some of the significant challenges of closer collaboration between those communities, with a specific focus on preventing imminent atrocities. Defining when, how, and under whose authority to use force to prevent atrocities against civilians is only one element of broadening a counterterrorism strategy that also includes diplomacy and countering violent extremism (CVE) efforts.



## **Beogradski centar za bezbednosnu politiku (Belgrade Centre for Security Policy)**

*Kragujevac as a case study: co-operation in the defence economy between Serbia and Nato*

by Katarina Djokic

February 2018

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

The paper analyses the potential benefits for Serbia of co-operation with NATO in the field of defence economy. Although the Republic of Serbia has formally envisaged a series of mechanisms for co-operation with NATO in this area, practical co-operation is currently limited. One of the most tangible forms of co-operation is the use of funding from the Trust Fund for the Demilitarization of Surplus Ammunition to improve the capacities of the Kragujevac Technical Overhaul Facility.

## **Real Instituto Elcano (Elcano Royal Institute)**

*NATO and the south: opportunities for coherence and integration*

by Jordan Becker [@189JMB](#)

14 February 2018

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

Challenges from the south present opportunities in the context of Alliance adaptation and modernization. Externally, shared interests in the south can catalyze further cooperation between NATO and its partners. Internally, requirements in the south can stimulate NATO's process of integrating strategic and operational planning for an omnidirectional, multi-domain approach to the defense of Europe.

## **European Centre for International Political Economy**

*Stealing thunder*

by Hosuk Lee-Makiyama [@leemakiyama](#)

2 February 2018

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

European and US officials warn that foreign governments are hacking into "everything that doesn't move" to steal commercial secrets. Europe is securing personal information with all its might, but what about business information?

## **Chatham House - The Royal Institute of International Affairs**

*Drones and the European Union: prospects for a common future*

by Jack McDonald [@jackmcd83](#)

5 February 2018

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

The debate over the use of drones is an opportunity for states to identify elements of military practice that their publics find uncomfortable or troubling, and to explain these areas of military operations in context. Countries would benefit from working together to identify accountability gaps arising from fundamental elements of military cooperation, including the role of intelligence transfers in joint operations, and the distribution of responsibility for lethal actions in the context of coalition operations.

## **Carnegie Endowment for International Peace**

*European security: from managing adversity to a new equilibrium*

by Dmitri Trenin [@DmitriTrenin](#)

February 2018

Link to the article in [English](#) (34 p.) and in [Russian](#) (38 p.)

After the end of the Cold War, the Euro-Atlantic countries failed to create a regional security system that would include Russia. This failure lies at the heart of Europe's current security problem, in which Russia is challenging the world order that emerged at the end of the Cold War under American leadership. This conflict is systemic and can be defined as the Hybrid War. It is highly dynamic and is being waged in an integrated, global environment.

## **Rahvusvaheline Kaitseuringute Keskus (International Centre for Defence and Security)**

*Hacking for influence: foreign influence activities and cyber-attacks*

by Piret Pernik [@PiretPernik](#)

12 February 2018

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

The paper focuses on grey zone cyber-attacks by authoritarian states and their proxies in support of other influence activities against liberal democracies. This paper provides an overview of the Russian theory and practice in using cyber-attacks for soft subversion.

## **Center for Strategic and International Studies**

*Coping with surprise in great power conflicts*

by Mark F. Cancian

February 2018

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

Surprise has always been an element of warfare, but the return of great power competition—and the high-level threat that it poses—gives urgency to thinking about surprise now. Because the future is highly uncertain, and great powers have not fought each other for over 70 years, surprise is highly likely in a future great power conflict. This study, therefore, examines potential surprises in a great power conflict, particularly in a conflict's initial stages when the interaction of adversaries' technologies, prewar plans, and military doctrines first becomes manifest. It is not an attempt to project the future. Rather, it seeks to do the opposite: explore the range of possible future conflicts to see where surprises might lurk.

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

### *Saving transatlantic cooperation and the Iran nuclear deal*

by Corentin Brustlein [@CorentinBr](#), James Dobbins [@Jim Dobbins](#), Dalia Dassa Kaye [@dassakaye](#), Oliver Meier [@meier oliver](#), Marco Overhaus [@moverhaus](#), Neil Quilliam [@NeilQuilliam1](#), Charles Ries [@charles ries](#), Dorothée Schmid, Sanam Vakil [@SanamVakil](#) and Azadeh Zamirirad

February 2018

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

Transatlantic differences over the future of the Iran nuclear deal – or the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) of July 2015 – are damaging a nuclear accord that all parties, except the United States, see as delivering on its purpose. They also increase the risk of Washington and European capitals working at cross-purposes vis-à-vis Iran and broader regional policies. To avoid such a scenario, the E3 (France, Germany, United Kingdom)/European Union and the United States need to set up new channels of communication to avoid a transatlantic rift, to attempt – if at all possible – to preserve the Iran deal, and to secure its benefits for regional and global security.

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

### *The world is at the brink - and the West doesn't know what to do about it*

by Daniela Schwarzer [@D\\_Schwarzer](#) and Henning Hoff [@HoffHenning](#)

February 2018

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

The risk of interstate conflict has never been this high since 1989. A tense international security situation set the tone for this year's Munich Security Conference (MSC). What's worse: Neither Europe nor the United States seem to have any plan to address the threats facing them both. There isn't much time left: Germans and Europeans must become more strategically capable, active and innovative to succeed in the new systemic conflict and help reduce instability.

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

### *Mind the gap: how France and Germany can spearhead joint foreign policy initiatives now*

by Claire Demesmay (ed) [@cd\\_dgap](#)

February 2018

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

Given the current instability on Europe's borders and uncertainty about the international role of the US under President Trump, it is high time for Franco-German foreign policy initiatives. However, differences between the two, both on policy issues and in their strategic cultures, also limit their cooperation. This study shows how France and Germany can bridge - and exploit - these gaps to facilitate joint initiatives on four key topics: Russia, transatlantic relations, Syria and Turkey.

## **GLOBSEC Policy Institute**

*Of concerns and image: the alliance and its southern flank*

by Dario Cristiani [@med\\_eye](#), Kacper Rekawek [@KacperRekawek](#) and Habib Sayah [@Habsolutelyfree](#)

1 February 2018

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

After 15 months of rigorous analysis and intense consultation, the Final Report of the GLOBSEC NATO Adaptation Initiative was launched on 27 November 2017. Its authors advocate a set of specific, innovative and important measures that will enhance NATO capabilities and solidify its status as the ultimate anchor of European stability and transatlantic security.

## **Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (Friedrich Ebert Foundation)**

*Was bleibt vom Westen?: Wohin geht die NATO?*

by Helmut W. Ganser, Wulf Lapins, and Detlef Puhl

February 2018

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

NATO is caught up in a serious crisis. Its meaning and purpose is a subject of controversy – a return to territorial defence in the East or focus on a widening fight against terrorism in the South? Its leadership is uncertain – what does the US want? What do the Europeans want? What remains of the Western Alliance, which sees itself as a democratic community of values? NATO needs a new strategic concept, including the rekindled debate over the role of nuclear weapons, effective combatting of international terrorism and the right way to deal with technological progress in military doctrine. Looking towards the future of the Alliance, another decisive factor will be whether Europeans will want to assume an autonomous role – and if so, in which framework they decide to do this.

## **TRADE**

### **Notre Europe - Jacques Delors Institute**

*Rights and role of the European Parliament in common commercial policy*

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

5 February 2018

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

Over the past decades, the role of the European Parliament in international trade agreements has continuously increased. The controversial debates surrounding trade agreements like ACTA, TTIP, and CETA have shown that it is important to involve the European Parliament (and national parliaments) early in the process. This Policy Paper highlights the foundational legal provisions and rules in the EU Treaties for concluding international trade agreements between the EU and third countries. The Policy Paper also presents the political veto power role of the European Parliament in Common Commercial Policy.

## Centre for International Governance Innovation

### *Has global trade liberalisation left Canadian workers behind?*

by Jeff Rubin

26 February 2018

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

This paper summarizes a range of developments in Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) economies associated with trade liberalization and then examines the extent to which they have been present in the Canadian economy. Among the developments considered are the secular loss of goods-producing jobs, in particular manufacturing jobs; stagnant or anemic wage growth; declining union membership and a diminishing role for collective bargaining; a shrinking middle class; and growing income inequality, as well as a shift in factor income from labor to capital. It then explores to what extent these trends have been present in the Canadian economy and assesses to what extent they have been mitigated, if at all, by the tax and transfer system.

## Centre for International Governance Innovation

### *Trade policy in the age of populism: why the new bilateralism will not work*

by Thomas Cottier

8 February 2018

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

Both the United Kingdom and the United States have embarked on a new trade policy emphasizing the importance of bilateral trade agreements. But, future UK trade agreements will have to adjust to the rules of larger markets and thus oblige industry to produce in accordance with a multitude of different and costly standards. The problems of a highly integrated world economy can no longer be successfully dealt with bilaterally. The paper emphasizes the need to address regulatory issues in multilateral or plurilateral fora. Should Britain leave the European Union and the Customs Union, efforts to bring about a transatlantic partnership succeeding Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership negotiations and including the European Union, United Kingdom, United States, Canada and the European Free Trade Association are particularly warranted.

## Centre for International Governance Innovation

### *Digital trade: is data treaty-ready?*

by Dan Ciuriak [@DanCiuriak](#)

21 February 2018

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

The knowledge-based and data-driven economy represents a new stage in the evolution of the economy, with transformative impacts on how goods and services are developed, produced, traded across borders, distributed and consumed. Data is the essential capital of this new economic age, as it enables the development of artificial intelligence. However, as the world is only at the dawn of this new era, a legitimate question is whether the regulation of data is treaty-ready and what sorts of flexibilities need to be retained to enable appropriate policy responses as necessary. This paper argues that data is not treaty-ready and draws the conclusion that Canada, which has much at stake in claiming a role in the data-driven economy, should be cautious about entering into international commitments, the implications of which are as yet unclear.

## Centre for International Governance Innovation

### *Strengthening multilateral environmental governance through bilateral trade deals*

by Jean-Frédéric Morin and Corentin Bialais [@corentinbialais](#)

28 February 2018

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

This brief examines how trade deals have contributed to the effectiveness of the Multilateral environmental agreements (MEA). Over the past decade, multilateral environmental governance has yielded modest results. Multilateral negotiations appear increasingly slow and polarized. Even established multilateral agreements are weakened by the withdrawal and threat of withdrawal of some countries.

## ENLARGEMENT PROCESS

### Bruegel

#### *The Western Balkans on the road to the European Union*

by Marek Dabrowski and Yana Myachenkova [@YMyachenkova](#)

February 2018

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

In the 1990s, the Western Balkan region suffered from severe conflicts, which ended after intervention by United Nations and NATO forces and with the promise of accession to the European Union. The European Commission in February 2018 set an indicative deadline (2025) for admission to the EU of the two most advanced candidates – Serbia and Montenegro. This could incentivize all Western Balkan countries, including those candidates that have not yet started membership negotiations (Macedonia and Albania) and those waiting for candidate status (Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosovo), to remove domestic political obstacles to EU accession, solve conflicts with neighbors, speed up reforms and accelerate economic growth.

## Centre international de formation européenne

### *China's Balkans silk road: does it pave or block the way of Western Balkans to the European Union?*

by Magda Stumvoll and Tobias Flessenkemper [@tobifle](#)

14 February 2018

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

The presence of China in the Western Balkans has become increasingly visible. Once only remotely interested in this part of Europe, the world's second biggest economy is involved in a multitude of projects: investing considerably in infrastructure development and thereby advancing its influence along the Balkans Silk Road. Engagement in this part of Europe only accounts for a fraction of China's global strategic investment. Yet, the fact that it converges with the European Union's commitment to the European integration of the Western Balkans renders it particularly relevant.

## Group for Legal and Political Studies

*In search of consensus: what is Kosovo's red line?*

by Agron Bajrami [@AgronBajrami](#)

12 February 2018

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

The dialogue for the normalization of relations between Kosovo and Serbia is currently at a rethinking stage. The European Union sees the process as an important part of its Western Balkans enlargement strategy, with the success of the dialogue openly set as a prerequisite for bringing Kosovo and Serbia closer to the EU. Kosovo's progress is more complicated, due to the non-recognition of independence by five EU Member States, while Serbia's path to membership is wide open, if it reaches a comprehensive normalization agreement with Kosovo. Consequently, the main question at the moment is what, exactly, may the final agreement contain.

## European Stability Initiative

*Don't believe the hype - Why Bosnian democracy will not end this October*

30 January 2018

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

This paper explains the background to Bosnia's latest fake crisis – what it is about and why there is no need to intervene – in simple answers to seven questions.

## German Marshall Fund of the United States

*Turkey–EU Relations: dysfunctional framework, status anxiety*

by Galip Dalay [@GalipDalay](#)

15 February 2018

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

Not a day goes by without a news article or public comment on the weakening of Turkey–European relations. Debates surrounding the topic have moved into a space where feelings are high and logic is largely withdrawn. Now, we need to define the root causes behind this crisis, taking into account both the Europe-centric and the Turkey-centric views that attempt to explain the deterioration of the relations. Examining these two accounts and adopting a larger view of the relations reveals that the framework of Turkey–EU relations are dysfunctional, and also intertwined with Turkey's relationship with the West as a whole.

## Belgrade Centre for Security Policy

*Serbia – between the hammer and the anvil: an overview of the security of supply in South-Eastern Europe*

by Dan Breban

February 2018

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

With Gazprom pulling out of Ukraine's transit network of natural gas in 2019, South – Eastern Europe, a region with high import dependency on Russian gas, must prepare itself for a post- 2019 environment that could challenge the stability of the countries' security of supply. This is particularly the case for Serbia which imports over 80% of its natural gas from Russia. This paper highlights two important factors which can mitigate the weakening of Serbia's security of supply. To achieve any positive outcome Serbia has several options available that can influence both factors.



## Research Institute for European and American Studies

### *Turkey: unrepentant threat to peace*

by Tassos Symeonides

25 February 2018

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

In recent weeks, Turkey has gone overboard with naked threats of war in the Aegean. Frustrated because of slow progress in its highjack incursion into Syria and impending research drilling for hydrocarbons by the Republic of Cyprus, aspiring Islamic president-for-life Erdogan is lashing out with fervor unusual even by Turkish thuggish standards. His maniacal rants are seconded by members of his government rushing to warn the world of how Turkish “power” can destroy all enemies and teach lessons to those doubting the potential of an “Ottoman slap.”

## EASTERN PARTNERSHIP

### European Parliament Think Tank

#### *Foreign direct investment in the EU and the Eastern Partnership countries*

by Mario Damen and Benedikt Klaus Wiedenhofer

27 February 2018

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

The analysis will only paint the broad picture of investment in the EU and the Eastern Partnership countries. By doing so, it will show there are fundamental differences between these groups of countries and the role of investment in their economies. The European Union encompasses some of the strongest economies in the world, which are not only desired locations for inward FDI, but also strong players in outgoing FDI to third countries. The Eastern Partnership countries, however, still have less globalised economies and much lower levels of inward and outward investment.

### Institut für Europäische Politik (Institute for European Politics)

#### *Challenges and perspectives for a sustainable transformation in the EU's eastern neighbourhood*

by Iulian Groza [@grozaiulian](#), Mathias Jopp [@Jopp IEP](#), Iurie Leancă [@IurieLeanca](#) and Iulian Rusu [@rusuiulianalexa](#)

26 February 2018

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

The paper aims to make an assessment of the impact of the Eastern Partnership (EaP) on the reform processes in the EaP countries, with a particular focus on the associated countries and to address in more detail the major challenges to the EaP's power of transformation in the region. Further it presents the core elements of the “EaP – 20 deliverables for 2020” endorsed by the EaP Summit on 24 November 2017 in Brussels and introduces a set of key priorities for the future.

### European Policy Centre

#### *Tailor-made cooperation? Armenia's new partnership agreement with the EU*

by Benyamin Poghosyan [@benyamin\\_poghos](#)

15 February 2018

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

At the latest Eastern Partnership Summit on 24 November 2017, Armenia and the EU signed a new Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement (CEPA). It represents a second chance for Armenia to deepen ties with the EU, after the four-year relationship limbo that followed Armenia's surprise rejection of an Association Agreement in 2013.

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

*Perspektiven einer »grünen« Energiewende in der Ukraine*

by Oksana Aliieva and Oleg Savitsky [@oleg\\_savitsky](#)

8 February 2018

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

The paper analyses Ukraine's pathways for the transition to renewable energy and the official 2035 Energy Strategy of the Ukrainian Government, as well as the transformation of the energy sector of Ukraine to make clean, renewable energy sources to overcome the chronic socio-economic crisis and to build a strong economy possible. At the same time improved energy security can be an effective contribution against global climate change will be made.

**Rahvusvaheline Kaitseuringute Keskus (International Centre for Defence and Security)**

*Russia's "Allies"*

by Kalev Stoicescu

January 2018

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

This report focuses on Belarus, Armenia, and Kazakhstan—three countries that are key members of the Russia-dominated Collective Security Treaty Organisation (CSTO) as well as the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU). They play a significant role in their respective sub-regions in Central-Eastern Europe, Southern Caucasus, and Central Asia respectively and have close relations with Russia, but their ties with Moscow are far more complex than they seem at first glance. The report offers conclusions and recommendations for Western nations and organisations with regard to improving cooperation with Belarus, Armenia, and Kazakhstan.

**Rahvusvaheline Kaitseuringute Keskus (International Centre for Defence and Security)**

*Security sector reform in Ukraine - Finding the place for civil society*

by Anna Bulakh [@Bulakh\\_Anna](#)

2 February 2018

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

The analysis provides an overview and analysis of the progress made thus far and various impediments that arise in Ukrainian security sector reform, with particular emphasis on efforts to involve civil society in this important process.

**Rahvusvaheline Kaitseuringute Keskus (International Centre for Defence and Security)**

*The challenge of projecting resilience - The EU and the advancement of the rule of law in Ukraine*

by Maxime Lebrun

February 2018

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

The analysis offers a non-exhaustive discussion of EU actions in Ukraine in support of law-enforcement sector reform and promotion of the rule of law. Advancing internal resilience is necessarily a demanding goal and requires an innovative congruence between political commitments and related initiatives. The author brings the external dimension into the discussion by analysing how the EU is attempting to project resilience into Ukraine by assisting reforms in one particular sector of national security—law enforcement and the rule of law.

## College of Europe

### *Novel solutions to resolve the conflicts in the EU's eastern neighbourhood*

by Syuzanna Vasilyan

February 2018

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

The insecurity caused by the unresolved conflicts in the EU's Eastern neighbourhood requires immediate solutions. To date, the schemes designed for resolving the Abkhazian, South Ossetian, Nagorno-Karabakh and Transnistrian conflicts have proven unsuccessful. Against the background of tensions between the US/EU and Russia, novel solutions hinging on security and political confidence-building measures, and political, economic and social remedies are advised.

## Ośrodek Studiów Wschodnich (Centre for Eastern Studies)

### *The beginning of the celebrations of the centenary of Ukraine's independence*

by Tadeusz A. Olszański

20 February 2018

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

January 2018 saw the first celebrations commemorating the centenary of Ukraine's fight for independence (1917–1921). The first two of these events, commemorating the declaration of independence (22 January 1918) and the battle of Kruty (29 January 1918), were surprisingly small-scale, especially with regard to the participation of Ukraine's leadership in them. This may mean that the ruling elite has no concept of how to use the centenary to solidify its political position, also in the context of the presidential and parliamentary elections planned for 2019.

## Ośrodek Studiów Wschodnich (Centre for Eastern Studies)

### *Dnipropetrovsk Oblast: new times, old rules*

by Tomasz Piechal [@TomaszPiechal](#)

8 February 2018

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

The war in Donbass and the loss of control over part of the country's strongly industrialised areas resulted in the significance of Dnipropetrovsk Oblast increasing for Ukraine in both economic and political terms. This region already accounts for 20% of domestic industrial production. The fact that the military operation is taking place in neighbouring areas has turned Dnipropetrovsk Oblast into a direct supply base for the Ukrainian army and a migration target for many people from the conflict area. Furthermore, the situation in the oblast may serve as a good case study illustrating Ukraine's problems on the regional level four years on from the Revolution of Dignity.

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

### *An uneasy reality. Donor support for IDPs in Ukraine*

by Łukasz Wenerski [@LWenerski](#), Andriy Korniychuk and Oleksandr Kliuzhev

28 February 2018

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

Since the annexation of Crimea and the start of the war in Donbas, internal migrations in Ukraine might have affected from two to three million people. This report aims at analysing the socio-economic reality of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Ukraine as well as the state's response to their challenges from the perspective of the IDP community. In addition, it presents how the Ukrainian NGO sector assesses donor support for IDPs and what Ukrainian civil society expects from the international community in those areas where assistance is needed most.

## Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung / The Academy of Ukrainian Press

### *Ukrainian media landscape - 2017*

by Oleksii Matsuka [@alexmazuka](#), Serhii Tomilenko, Oleksii Pohorelov, Oles Hoian, Andrii Yurychko, Tetiana Lebedieva and Vitalii Moroz [@vitaliymoroz](#)

7 February 2018

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

After four years after Euromaidan, Ukraine's politics and social life have changed significantly. The task of media at this time was not only observing all the aspects of these changes but also broad and objective coverage. This is a hard task when the number of topics is increasing and people are expecting broader and better media coverage. It is worth mentioning that such important processes as European integration of the country, specific ecology and climate change topics, and, certainly, complex economy, financial and regional development reforms should be covered.

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

### *An atmosphere of growing political and societal instability in Ukraine*

by Susan Stewart

February 2018

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

For some time now, both Ukrainians and foreign observers have been inquiring whether the time is right for a 'Third Maidan'. The protests that took place on 17 October 2017 and in subsequent weeks were not the beginning of anything larger. Rather, they were initiated primarily by political actors and did not have the potential for mass mobilization. However, these protests convey important messages about the political and societal situation in the country. Against the backdrop of developments in recent years, they are a sign that the situation could heat up dangerously in the coming months.

## MIDDLE EAST/NORTH AFRICA (MENA)

### Instituto Español de Estudios Estratégicos

#### *Reflexiones mediterráneas*

by Federico Aznar Fernández-Montesinos

14 February 2018

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

The article corresponds to the paper entitled "Current geostrategic situation in the Mediterranean" presented at the IX Conference on Security, Defense and Cooperation organized by the Forum for Peace in the Mediterranean in Malaga in November 2017.

### Barcelona Centre for International Affairs

#### *Socio-political situation in Libya from the urban perspective*

by Mary Fitzgerald

February 2018

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

Six years after the uprising that brought an end to the Gaddafi regime, Libya is experiencing continuing political division and widespread insecurity which in turn has contributed to societal tensions and an array of economic challenges. The civil war that erupted in summer 2014 has resulted in significant loss of life and displaced over 400,000 Libyans inside the country.

## **Euro-Mediterranean Study Commission**

### *Terrorism in the Sahel region: an evolving threat on Europe's doorstep*

by Giuseppe Dentice [@GiuseppeDentice](#)

19 February 2018

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

A combination of several factors such as bad governance and economic, social and environmental disparities has exacerbated the Sahel's vulnerability in recent years. Moreover, the emergence of social and political unrest directly connected to the Arab Spring and the collapse of state power in Libya and Mali contributed to increasing these structural problems. In this volatile landscape, violent extremism, armed militancy or the proliferation of transnational drivers of crime have created the conditions for the expansion of new threats in the Sahel region and in its Euro-Mediterranean neighbourhood.

## **Foundation for European Progressive Studies**

### *The security-migration development Nexus revised: a perspective from the Sahel*

by Bashair Ahmed [@bashairbitzakia](#), Mahamadou Danda, Audra K. Grant, Vassilis Ntousas [@VNtousas](#), Luca Raineri [@Raineri\\_Lu](#), Alessandro Rossi, Souleymane Sagna, Ernst Stetter [@ernststetter](#), Nathalie Tocci [@NathalieTocci](#) and Bernardo Venturi [@bervent](#)

19 February 2018

Link to the article in [English](#) (173 p.)

It aims at re-conceptualizing this nexus through the analysis of this linkage in the Sahel region, and in particular vis-à-vis three case countries: Niger, Senegal and Sudan. The publication also recasts the European Union and the United States approaches to these dynamics and explores current and potential partnerships in the region.

## **Euro-Mediterranean Study Commission**

### *Fragile states and the issue of foreign intervention in the Sahel*

by Viktor Marsai

9 February 2018

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

The EU policy towards the fragile states of the Sahel was either a failure or mixed success because of different reasons. This article concentrates on the shortcomings of EU's engagement in the Sahel, and offers some ideas for a more successful EU-backed state building and crisis management in the Sahel. The article argues in particular that without a more significant financial contribution – including to back EU military missions –, and a real comprehensive approach, the EU cannot contribute decisively to state building processes in the Sahel.

## **Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (Friedrich Ebert Foundation)**

### *Connections between Jihadist groups and smuggling and illegal trafficking rings in the Sahel*

by Serigne Banba Gaye

February 2018

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

This paper analyses the causes as well as the political and economic aspects of the connections between smuggling and trafficking rings in a context where extremist movements continue to grow in the Sahel. These analyses form part of the “political economy” approach. The study is based on an interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary approach which, in light of the numerous interdependencies, recommends avoiding the separation of the political dimension, with its institutional or legal and geographic aspects, from the socio-economic dimension, with its security, economic and social aspects. It also takes account of cultural, ethnic, religious and gender aspects.

## **Barcelona Centre for International Affairs**

### *Bahrain's economy: oil prices, economic diversification, Saudi support, and political uncertainties*

by Eckart Woertz [@eckartwoertz](#)

February 2018

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

In 2011 Saudi Arabia and the UAE sent troops to Bahrain after unrest in the country. This marked the beginning of a more assertive foreign policy in the MENA region that later culminated in an ill-fated military intervention in Yemen and a boycott of Qatar. Bahrain is a crucial ally and client state of Saudi Arabia, which fears growing influence of Iran among the Shiite majority population of the country. Bahrain's economic stability is important for its political stability. It is closely connected to oil prices, Saudi transfers, diversification efforts and economic reform.

## **International Crisis Group**

### *Israel, Hizbollah and Iran: preventing another war in Syria*

8 February 2018

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

A new phase in Syria's war augurs escalation with Israel. As the Assad regime gains the upper hand, Hizbollah probes the south west and Iran seeks to augment its partners' military capacities, Israel has grown fearful that Syria is becoming an Iranian base. “Rules of the game” that contained Israeli-Hizbollah clashes for over a decade have eroded. New rules can be established in Syria by mutual agreement or by a deadly cycle of attack and response in which everyone will lose. A broader war could be one miscalculation away.



## International Crisis Group

### *Averting disaster in Syria's Idlib province*

9 February 2018

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

The de-escalation zone in north-western Syria is on the brink of collapse. Boosted by Russian air support, Syrian regime troops are advancing toward the Idlib region. Amid obstruction by the Syrian regime and Iran-backed militias, Turkish troops took up positions near the front lines in early February. The area is controlled by the jihadist alliance Hei'at Tahrir al-Sham (HTS), which until now has rejected de-escalation. Russia, Iran and Western powers consider HTS an irreconcilable terrorist organisation that must be defeated militarily. Turkey has a more nuanced view, but it has been preoccupied with its fight against Kurdish forces. A regime offensive into the heart of Idlib may be imminent.

## International Centre for Counter-Terrorism - The Hague

### *ISIS child soldiers in Syria: the structural and predatory recruitment, enlistment, pre-training indoctrination, training, and deployment*

by Asaad Almohammad [@Asaadh84](#)

February 2018

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

Research on the engagement of children with the so-called Islamic State relies heavily on the analysis of obtained ISIS documents and ISIS-disseminated propaganda, leaving major elements of the recruitment and deployment process uncovered. Such ambiguities hinder future efforts aimed at dealing with ISIS' child soldiers. Findings suggest that there are two methods of recruitment: predatory and structural. After a thorough exploration of the elements of ISIS' recruitment and deployment process, this paper argues its findings, implications, and limitations.

## Österreichische Institut für Internationale Politik

### *Flüchtlinge im Libanon – zwischen fragiler Staatlichkeit und informeller Wirtschaft*

by Sherin Gharib

February 2018

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

Massive refugee movements pose new challenges to many states in the Middle East. With approximately 1.7 million refugees, Lebanon counts among the states hosting the highest number of displaced persons. At the beginning of the war in Syria, Lebanon first pursued an "open-door" policy towards refugees fleeing the conflict. However, in recent years this has been gradually replaced by a more restrictive, security-based stance towards refugees. The accommodation of such large numbers poses immense social and economic burdens to the small country.

## Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (Friedrich Ebert Foundation)

### *Umgang mit Frustration: Eine Selbsteinschätzung der tunesischen Jugend : FES MENA-Jugendstudie: Länderanalyse Tunesien*

by Julius Dihstelhoff

February 2018

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

Tunisians aged 16 to 30 represent about one third of the total population. In addition, Tunisian youth is widely regarded as the main driver of the 2010/2011 events, where it was instrumental in opposing hopelessness and inequality, and demanding political, social and economic changes.



## EASTERN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

### Vrije Universiteit Brussel - Institute for European Studies

#### *Assessing the effectiveness of the EU's and Russia's cultural diplomacy towards Central Asia*

by Domenico Valenza [@DomenicoValenza](#) and Elke Boers

February 2018

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

This paper attempts to analyse the European Union's cultural diplomacy (CD) efforts in five Central Asian countries. To measure EU effectiveness as a CD actor in Central Asia, a comparative dimension is proposed by analysing the role Russia has pursued. At law and policy level, since Putin's return to the Presidency in 2012, Russia has reaffirmed its ambitions to strengthen both hard and soft presence in Central Asia, viewing the region within its sphere of influence. This engagement was reiterated in the 2015 Strategy of National Security and in the 2016 Foreign Policy Concept.

### Centre d'études et de recherches internationales

#### *Regards sur l'Eurasie - L'année politique 2017*

by Anne De Tinguy (ed.)

February 2018

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

Looking into Eurasia: the year in politics provides some keys to understand the events and phenomena that have left their imprint on a region that has undergone major mutation since the fall of the Soviet Union in 1991: the post-soviet space.

### Carnegie Endowment for International Peace

#### *Cooperation and competition: Russia and China in Central Asia, the Russian Far East, and the Arctic*

by Paul Stronski [@pstronski](#) and Nicole Ng

28 February 2018

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

Since the collapse of Russia's relationship with the West over Ukraine, the Sino-Russian strategic partnership has become more of a reality. Russia and China share a common desire to challenge principles of the Western-dominated international system. But their relationship is complex, with lingering mistrust on both sides. The balance of competition and cooperation is most evident in Central Asia, the Russian Far East, and the Arctic. Engagement in these theatres has tested Russia's and China's abilities to manage their differences and translate the rhetoric of partnership into tangible gains.

## AFRICA

### Observer Research Foundation

*Indian Investments in Africa: scale, trends, and policy recommendations*

by Malancha Chakrabarty [@malancha\\_1chakr](#)

7 February 2018

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

Indian investments in Africa, from both public and private sector entities, have increased considerably in the last decade. Yet despite the growing importance of Indian investments in Africa, only a few empirical studies have been carried out on the subject. This paper undertakes a disaggregated analysis of Indian foreign direct investment outflows to Africa from 2008 to 2016, and presents three main findings.

### Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (Friedrich Ebert Foundation)

*Conflits entre agriculteurs et éleveurs dans un contexte de menaces asymétriques au Mali et au Burkina Faso*

by Serigne Banba Gaye

February 2018

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

This study focuses both on the causes and the political and economic aspects of conflicts between farmers and herders in a context of exploitation of increasingly scarce natural resources, against a backdrop of growing extremist movements in the Sahel.

## ASIA-OCEANIA

### Observer Research Foundation

*The Quad in the Indo-Pacific: why ASEAN remains cautious*

by Premesha Saha [@PremeshaSaha](#)

26 February 2018

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

As India, Japan, Australia and the United States renew their quadrilateral cooperation in the Indo-Pacific, there are suggestions to expand the 'Quad' into a 'Quad-plus' grouping to include the countries of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN). This brief argues that the Quad will not have much to offer to ASEAN; it has, in fact, the potential to dilute ASEAN centrality which is the pillar of the regional bloc. India, too, has a stake in this conversation, as it has long championed the need for 'ASEAN centrality and unity' for peace and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific.

### Utrikespolitiska Institutet (Swedish Institute of International Affairs)

*The impact of forced migration on Afghanistan's domestic politics and foreign relations*

by Admir Skodo

February 2018

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

This brief shows how forced migration from Afghanistan has become integral to the domestic politics and foreign relations of Afghanistan. It discusses the role of forced migration in Afghanistan-Pakistan-India relations, Afghanistan-EU relations, Afghanistan-Sweden relations, and the capacity of the Afghan state to reintegrate returnees.

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

### *Reimagining Europe's partnerships with India and Japan: a new trilateral?*

by Maaïke Okano-Heijmans [@MaaïkeOh](#)

22 February 2018

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

Attempting to manage disrupting transitions in Europe and Asia, the EU and its Member States are nowadays seeking to deepen relations with so-called 'like-minded countries', such as Japan and India. This brief discusses the context and key drivers of this shift in strategy and tactics in Brussels and in European capitals. It argues that success in reframing relationships with key partners in Asia requires a practical long-term vision, a reconsideration of political priorities and official language, as well as a willingness to make political trade-offs. European capitals have so far been unwilling to make most of these adjustments.

## **Japan Institute of International Affairs**

### *Abe's diplomacy at a crucial moment*

by Akiko Iwata

2 February 2018

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

The Japan-US alliance has been made stronger than ever by an unrivaled relationship between Abe and Trump. This solid Japan-US alliance continues to guide both Japan-China and Japan-Russia relations. Following the lower house elections, the conditions were in place for "diplomacy with a bird's eye view of the globe" that would steer Japan's ties with China, Russia and the US vis-à-vis North Korea. Can Abe establish himself as a rule-maker for the international community?

## **Istituto per gli Studi di Politica Internazionale**

### *India: The Modi factor*

by Ugo Tramballi [@UgoTramballi](#) and Nicola Missaglia [@mardilevante](#) (eds.)

13 February 2018

Link to the article in [English](#) (145 p.)

When Narendra Modi was elected Prime Minister of India in 2014, he promised to push through key reforms and bring about the massive economic development needed for the "world's largest democracy" to win its place among global superpowers. The poorest of the world's 20 largest economies, India's potential for catch-up growth is enormous. And so are the limits and contradictions India must overcome for Modi's vision to gain momentum. In a crucial year for local elections, and with the Prime Minister ready to run for a second term in 2019, this volume investigates the economic and political trajectories of Modi's India in its quest for a global role.

## **Istituto Affari Internazionali**

### *Global security challenges and Japan's national security thinking: room to cooperate with the EU?*

by Akiko Fukushima

February 2018

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

Do Japan and the European Union look at global security challenges in the same way? The advancement of information technology has certainly reduced geographical distance. Globalization has made our security more indivisible while technological advances, including in the military sector, have multiplied security threats, increasing tension but also interdependence and vulnerability.

*Indo-Japanese relations on an upward trend*

by Éva Ozsvald and S. Shobha Kiran

23 February 2018

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

This paper analyses several fields of economic interactions. Official development aid (ODA) provided by Japan has been the most successful area of cooperation and was beneficial not only for India's infrastructure development but also for Japanese companies seeking new opportunities. Foreign direct investments from Japan to India has been growing also steadily but they keep lagging behind those to China and Southeast Asian countries. There are still numerous issues that hold back the dynamics of Indo-Japanese economic relations.

**Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (Friedrich Ebert Foundation)**

*Growth and inequality in Pakistan: volume I*

by Hafiz A. Pasha

January 2018

Link to the article in [English](#) (220 p.)

This publication explains and strengthens the interconnectedness of inequality and low growth in Pakistan. Based on extensive research and analyses of all important facets and sectors of Pakistan's economy the volume proposes a comprehensive reform program in key areas and the author calls upon establishing social, ecological sustainability as precondition for sustainable growth.

**International Crisis Group**

*Countering Jihadist militancy in Bangladesh*

28 February 2018

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

Two groups, Jamaat-ul Mujahideen Bangladesh and Ansarul Islam, dominate Bangladesh's jihadist landscape today. Both have perpetrated a string of attacks over the past few years. The ruling Awami League has politicised the threat; its crackdowns on rivals undermine efforts to disrupt jihadist recruitment and attacks. Bangladesh's antagonistic politics have played a part in enabling the jihadist resurgence. The state confronted groups responsible for an earlier wave of violence with some success from 2004 to 2008. Subsequently, especially since the controversial January 2014 elections, bitter political divisions have reopened space for new forms of jihadist activism.

**The Asia Foundation**

*Introducing greening strategies in emerging economies*

by Syed A. Al-Muti

26 February 2018

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

This case study examines the economic structure of Bangladesh and analyses the contribution and potential of the leather sector in ensuring sustainable economic growth. It also explores why it became necessary to relocate the leather processing industry from Hazaribagh to Savar, why initial attempts to relocate the industry failed, and how the development of a coalition that includes members from the development partners, research agencies and business associations eventually resulted in a successful policy shift.

## **The Asia Foundation**

### *Study of private sector perceptions of corruption (STOPP) survey 2017*

February 2018

Link to the article in [English](#) (65 p.)

The study is an annual survey conducted in collaboration with the Sant Maral Foundation in Mongolia. This is the eighth instalment, surveying Mongolian businesses based in Ulaanbaatar. The survey provides a unique and robust tool to raise awareness of corruption, encouraging the business community to take part in anti-corruption efforts, and policymakers and service providers to reduce bureaucracy and improve practices.

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

### *Entspannung in Korea?*

by Eric J. Ballbach [@EricBallbach](#)

February 2018

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

For months, the confrontation between Pyongyang and the international community on the North Korean nuclear and missile program had intensified. The biggest challenge for Seoul will be to maintain contact with Pyongyang - in the context of the conflict over North Korea's nuclear program - after the end of the Olympics. It is in the immediate interests of Germany and the EU to support the current momentum of dialogue and de-escalation in Korea. German and European policy should therefore actively promote a creative, flexible and realistic diplomatic approach in Washington and Pyongyang.

## **Ulkopoliittinen instituutti (Finnish Institute of International Affairs)**

### *Taiwan's role in East Asian security: overlooked actor in a pivotal position*

by Jyrki Kallio [@shamoilija](#)

14 February 2018

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

Taiwan is party to the same territorial disputes in the South China Sea and East China Sea as China, and the claims of the two are practically equal. The recent switch in Taiwan's ruling party may lead to fundamental changes in Taiwan's position. These changes are part of the process of "normalizing" Taiwan as a state actor by cutting the historical ties to China. This is not regarded in positive terms by China, but by proceeding in gradual steps Taiwan may avoid hostile reactions. Showing support for this process is the most tenable way for the international community to promote peace and stability in the region.

## LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

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

*Economic crisis in Brazil: its roots, causes and scenarios*

by Sándor Gyula Nagy [@sgynagy](#) and Judit Ricz

8 February 2018

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

After identifying the main features of the economic crisis, the authors highlight the causal macro-economic factors, such as a diminishing trade balance, a rapid increase of household consumption, a low level of investment and the deterioration of fiscal discipline. Then they focus on the micro-economic factors and analyze the low competitiveness of the Brazilian economy, as well as the structural changes deriving mainly from changes in the directions of trade policy. The main conclusion is that the economic policy decisions have also played a pivotal role on the ongoing, complex Brazilian crisis.

### Real Instituto Elcano (Elcano Royal Institute)

*The elections in Chile and Honduras and regional political trends in 2018*

by Carlos Malamud [@CarlosMalamud](#) and Rogelio Núñez

2 February 2018

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

The election victories of Sebastián Piñera in Chile and Juan Orlando Hernández in Honduras marked the beginning of an intense electoral period in Latin America that will define the regional political map well into the next decade. Chile and Honduras are also new examples of the ongoing erosion of traditional party systems, the appearance of new political forces and emerging leaders, and the corruption and violence that permeate, directly or indirectly, the electoral processes of the region. The unanimity and hegemonies of Bolivarian 'Chavismo' have come to an end; the region's actors will need to adapt to the new times, an imperative that some are still resisting.

### Instituto Español de Estudios Estratégicos

*El posconflicto colombiano: incertidumbre ante un año electoral*

by Emilio Sánchez de Rojas Díaz

7 February 2018

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

The conflict with the FARC-EP in Colombia has entered a critical phase: the application of the agreements signed in Havana. It might seem that the application of the agreements would be purely mechanical, but no expert will miss the complexity of a period where a series of measures must be applied, ranging from the political, with an electoral process under way, through agrarian reform, until reaching the military aspects, where disarmament and demobilization have achieved remarkable success, but to complete the DDR process it should face a reintegration that is the key to success.

## **Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (Friedrich Ebert Foundation)**

*Crisis post electoral en Honduras: El colapso de la institucionalidad y el dramático reclamo de derechos ciudadanos*

by Ana Ortega

February 2018

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

The irregularities suggesting a fraud, which occurred in the recent electoral process, have been the trigger for a political crisis that has deep historical and structural roots, in addition to the collapse of the institutional framework, the crisis of the political system and the failure of the economic project that has been implemented with great rigor since the beginning of the 1990s and deepened after the coup d'état in 2009. The reaction of a large part of the population that argues for electoral fraud was surprising, among other things, for the level of determination and persistence of protests throughout the country despite the repression deployed by the current government to contain them.

## **Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (Friedrich Ebert Foundation)**

*Nuevas voces del feminismo chileno*

by Maria Francisca Valenzuela Tapia (ed.)

February 2018

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

In Chile, as in other parts of the world, in recent years there has been a strong rebirth of organizations, collectives and people who are waging the social and political struggle of feminism. This phenomenon has taken particular strength in Chile hand in hand with student movements. This publication aims to publicize the new ideas, perspectives and proposals shared by the new generations of feminists, to encourage dialogue between different generations, organizations and movements, and also with political parties.

## **CHINA**

### **Institut français des relations internationales**

*La Chine en Méditerranée : une présence émergente*

by Alice Ekman [@alice\\_ekman](#)

22 February 2018

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

The Chinese presence in the Mediterranean is the subject of growing questions in the diplomacy of the Maghreb countries as well as Southern Europe. In fact, over the past five years, China has been declining with growing activism its national priorities at the Mediterranean level. This activism can be summed up in three main axes: creation of China-Southern Europe sectoral cooperation forums, investments in transport, energy and telecommunication infrastructures, conduct of military exercises in the Mediterranean within the framework of a global development of the Chinese maritime presence.



## **Elinkeinoelämän tutkimuslaitos (Research Institute of the Finnish Economy)**

*The application of artificial intelligence at Chinese digital platform giants: Baidu, Alibaba and Tencent*

by Kai Jia, Martin Kenney, Juri Mattila [@JuriMattila](#) and Timo Seppälä [@timoiseppala](#)

26 February 2018

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

The Chinese digital platform Giants use the so-called Platform Business Group (PBG) strategy where a platform firm aims to link together a number of different platforms it owns so as to offer multiple services to its users. In this way they are able to exploit enormous datasets on individuals for use in the development of artificial intelligence algorithms. If they succeed in their efforts to expand into the global market, their business strategies will introduce a different threat to the conventional European industries from those already present.

## **European Institute for Asian Studies**

*China's Belt and Road initiative is neither a strategy, nor a vision. It is a process.*

by Grzegorz Stec [@grzestec](#)

February 2018

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

According to the author, the Belt and Road initiative (BRI) has constantly been in flux since first being introduced. Due to the nature of the Chinese foreign policy, the author argues that we should see BRI as a process rather than a defined strategy or a clear vision. BRI progresses through an evolutionary process.

## **Istituto Affari Internazionali**

*Europe, Japan and a rising China: policies and prospects*

by Noemi Lanna

February 2018

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

China's growing power and assertiveness is challenging the major actors of the international system. Anxieties associated with the implications of hegemonic transition loom large in US debates where fear of confrontation and military conflict coexist with more optimistic visions of China's integration into the Western liberal order. Albeit in different ways, Europe and Japan too face the complex task of dealing with a rising China.

## **Observer Research Foundation**

*Understanding Sino-Indian border issues: an analysis of incidents reported in the Indian media*

by Mihir Bhonsale

12 February 2018

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

Reports of incursions by the Chinese People's Liberation Army along the Line-of-Actual Control (LAC) are rife in the Indian media. A commonly held opinion is that the Indian media tend to sensationalise their reportage of these incursions, or "China's transgressions", as the Indian government calls them. This paper analyses these incidents, as reported in select Indian newspapers, over a period of 12 years.

## Center for Strategic and International Studies

### *Seven Chinas: a policy framework*

by David Kelly [@davidkpolycyn](#)

5 February 2018

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

The debate about China's changing role in global affairs is often framed as a dichotomous choice between a peacefully rising China that seeks to be a constructive stakeholder and an increasingly dangerous China that is challenging the status quo, both in terms of its norms and the place of the United States. The reality is more complicated. The author examines the nature of Chinese identity, or rather, Chinese identities, plural, and how they exhibit themselves in Chinese foreign policy. He concludes that some of these narratives facilitate cooperation, but most point toward deep-seated tensions between China and the West in the years ahead.

## Stiftung Mercator / Global Public Policy Institute

### *Authoritarian advance: responding to China's growing political influence in Europe*

by Thorsten Benner [@thorstenbenner](#), Jan Gaspers, Mareike Ohlberg [@MareikeOhlberg](#), Lucrezia Poggetti [@lucrepogge](#) and Kristin Shi-Kupfer [@gusiting](#)

February 2018

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

If Europe intends to stop the momentum of Chinese influencing efforts, it needs to act swiftly and decisively. In responding to China's advance, European governments need to make sure that the liberal DNA of their countries' political and economic systems stay intact. Some restrictions will be necessary, but Europe should not copy China's illiberalism. While staying as open as possible, Europe needs to address critical vulnerabilities to Chinese authoritarian influencing through a multi-pronged strategy that integrates different branches of government, businesses, media, civil society, culture/arts as well as academia.

## Ośrodek Studiów Wschodnich (Centre for Eastern Studies)

### *The Silk railroad. The EU-China rail connections: background, actors, interests*

by Jakub Jakóbowski [@J\\_Jakobowski](#), Konrad Popławski [@PoplawskiKonrad](#) and Marcin Kaczmarek [@M\\_Kaczmarek](#)

February 2018

Link to the article in [English](#) (102 p.) and [Polish](#) (99 p.)

The report discusses the current state and future prospects of rail connections between China and the countries of the European Union. Special emphasis is placed on the role of Central Europe. It presents the goals and the policy adopted by the Chinese side in the process of building rail connections with European countries, compares the current and the planned transport corridors, offers an analysis of the economic potential of the China-Europe rail connections. It also discusses various business models of cooperation with China in rail transport.

## UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

### Real Instituto Elcano (Elcano Royal Institute)

*@realDonaldTrump: a brief content analysis*

by Juan Antonio Sánchez-Giménez [@Elcano\\_Juan](#) and Evgueni Tchubykalo [@chubykalo](#)

15 February 2018

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

In 2017, Donald Trump's Twitter account –@realDonaldTrump– has been the information channel most frequently chosen by the US President to express opinions, which also became the main tool in the hands of the White House's public diplomats generating most headlines in the media. Given this new political and diplomatic trend, several issues have arisen that need to be considered in order to understand new ways of political communication.

### Carnegie Endowment for International Peace

*Tackling women's underrepresentation in U.S. politics: comparative perspectives from Europe*

by Saskia Brechenmacher [@SaskiaBrech](#)

20 February 2018

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

The United States fall behind most established democracies when it comes to women's representation in politics. Women remain underrepresented at the federal, state and local levels. The current uptick in women running for office, while encouraging, is unlikely to close this gender gap. To accelerate the pace of progress, US reformers could learn from European experiences and push for measures that tackle broader institutional barriers to equal political representation.

### Center for Strategic and International Studies

*Trump's 2019 missile defense budget choosing capacity over capability*

by Thomas Karako [@tomkarako](#) and Wes Rumbaugh

28 February 2018

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

Trump's 2019 budget request includes \$12.9 billion for missile defense programs. The proposed budget continues the recent trend of procurement consuming a greater portion of overall missile defense spending, reflecting a choice for prioritizing near-term capacity over longer-term capability. With the exception of two new Pacific radars and a modest effort for tracking hypersonic threats, the request includes strikingly few changes to the program of record. The submission fails to address past shortfalls for more research and development of new missile defense technologies and capabilities.

## SPECIAL FOCUS - RUSSIA

### The Henry Jackson Society

#### *Russia's economic prospects – modernisation or stagnation?*

by David Clark

6 February 2018

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

The paper warns that Russia's reduced economic prospects could lead the Kremlin to adopt a more aggressive foreign policy in the years ahead. Without major reforms, Russian economic growth is likely to remain stuck at a level significantly below that of the early years of Vladimir Putin's first presidency, with both GDP and living standards essentially flat since the 2008 financial crisis. The economic reforms necessary would pose a considerable threat to the authoritarian brand of government that has defined Putin's time in office. However, the report argues that the West should maintain efforts to help Russia achieve a transition to a modern form of capitalism.

### Institut français des relations internationales

#### *Russo-British relations in the age of Brexit*

by Richard Sakwa

February 2018

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

London's hostility towards Moscow not only prevents the establishment of a constructive diplomatic dialogue "reinventing" the bilateral relationship, but also exacerbates tensions and fuels the risk of a "new cold war." The analysis provides an overview of the historical and political reasons behind the deterioration of Russian-British relations. It also considers the different options available to the United Kingdom in terms of foreign policy, as Brexit seems to be strengthening its Atlanticist roots.

### Real Instituto Elcano (Elcano Royal Institute)

#### *La UE y Rusia: entre la confrontación y la interdependencia*

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

1 March 2018

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

The author addresses the question of Russia being the biggest strategic challenge for the EU, pointing to the need for the further study of some key aspects of the development of UE-Russia relationship. These include the perceptions that the EU and Russia have of each other, the Russian threat to Europe's security and defense, the economic and energetic interdependence, and the biggest difficulties for the UK in establishing a better relationship with Russia. According to the author, the main obstacle resides in the incompatibility of the interests and values of Russia and the EU.

## Center for the Study of Democracy

### *Assessing Russia's economic footprint in the Western Balkans. Corruption and state capture risks*

by Martin Vladimirov, Milica Kovačević, Marija Mirjagic, Igor Novakovic, Nemanja Todorović Štiplija, Emina Nuredinoska and Slagjana Dimiškova

February 2018

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

The Western Balkans have become one of the regions, in which Russia has increasingly sought to reassert its presence in the past decade. The assessment of the Russian economic footprint in Serbia, Montenegro, Macedonia and Bosnia and Herzegovina is aimed at better understanding the impact of the interplay between existing governance gaps and the inflow of authoritarian capital in the region. Although the Russian investments in the region increased, Russia's economic footprint as share of the total economy in the Western Balkans has shrunk or stagnated in the wake of international sanctions over the annexation of Crimea.

## Istituto per gli Studi di Politica Internazionale

### *Russia 2018: predictable elections, uncertain future*

by Aldo Ferrari (ed.)

16 February 2018

Link to the article in [English](#) (146 p.)

Russia has been increasingly in the spotlight over the last years. In 2018, the world's eyes will be upon two events taking place in the country: the presidential elections, and the World Cup, which will kick off in June.

## European Union Institute for Security Studies

### *The real and hidden costs of Russia's foreign policy*

by Stanislav Secieru [@StasSecieru](#)

28 February 2018

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

Vladimir Putin has expressed his intention to run for another term in 2018 election. His high approval ratings, the vast administrative resources at his disposal and the non-competitive political environment in Russia make the outcome a foregone conclusion. However, if the election result is predictable, it is still unclear what direction the country will take afterwards. The analysis attempts to explore whether Russia's foreign policy will take a softer and more economic-oriented turn after the elections. Alternatively, if Russia continues down the same path, which factors will be responsible?

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

### *Beyond 'pro' and 'anti' Putin: debating Russia policies in France and Germany*

by Barbara Kunz [@BaKu](#) [Ifri](#)

February 2018

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

France and Germany are key in shaping European policies toward Russia. However, while the general public is largely skeptical of Vladimir Putin in both countries, the picture is more diverse in the political realm. Whereas Germany remains focused on multilateralism and a rules-based international order, French political parties have been split on Russia. The differences between and within France and Germany impact on Franco-German relations go beyond the question on how to deal with Russia.

## MISCELLANEOUS

### Ústav mezinárodních vztahů (Institute of International Relations Prague)

#### *The decline of the Big Five*

by Veronika Bílková

13 February 2018

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

Is the supremacy of the Big Five, inherited from the mid-20th century, on the brink of its decline? Have the Big Five started to lose informal privileges which have been bestowed upon them over the past 70 years? Will that be followed by the reduction in, or even total abolition of, formal privileges? While answering all these questions in the affirmative would certainly be too audacious, there are signs indicating that the privileged position of the Big Five is no longer accepted without reserves.

### La vie des idées

#### *Denouncing Denigration: #metoo and #balancetonporc*

by Abigail Saguy [@AbigailSaguy](#)

27 February 2018

Link to the article in [English](#) (6 p.) and [French](#) (7 p.)

Recent press articles revealing numerous cases of sexual harassment and assault in the United States have encouraged women to step forward, especially on Twitter with the use of #metoo. Comparing existing legislation in France and in the United States, the author examines two different approaches designed to tackle this issue.

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

#### *Failure to define killer robots means failure to regulate them*

by Johannes Lang, Rens van Munster [@r\\_vanmunster](#) and Robin May Schott

23 February 2018

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

A brief on the disagreement among member states regarding the definition of lethal autonomous weapons. Disagreements are stalling formal UN discussions on the compliance of autonomous weapons with international humanitarian law. A pragmatic approach that focuses on the weapon's critical functions, such as target selection and firing can help move discussions forward in the future.

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