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Dear Readers,

Welcome to issue 56 of the Think Tank Review compiled by the EU Council Library* ([click to share on Twitter](#)). It references papers published in March 2018. As usual, we provide the link to the full text and a short abstract.

As in previous issues, we bring you a wealth of attractive and captivating topics, which include a statistical analysis of populism and economic freedom, rethinking the EU's post-Brexit budget priorities, the view on Germany's new coalition government in regard to climate and energy. This issue also includes papers on Greece's "clean exit" from the third bailout, euroscepticism in Italy, balanced migration, as well as the future of the Schengen area, to name just a few. We would also like to point out several other interesting reads such as the article on ways to reform European education systems to build a true European Education Area by 2025 by Commissioner Tibor Navracsics, or on the European Union and its Eastern partners.

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Unsurprisingly, the special focus is on North Korea, which has recently shown a willingness to negotiate about potential denuclearization, in a remarkable development that followed unprecedented meetings in Pyongyang. The featured articles deal with North Korea's chemical, biological, and conventional weapons, Japan's view of the North Korean threat, the US - Japan ROK Cooperation, and the crisis and new political agenda for the Korean peninsula and the regional powers.

The first section, EU Politics and Institutions, explores various themes, such as the middle class in

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focus and corresponding priorities for the 2019 elections and beyond, regional solidarity policy after 2012, as well as a piece on European identity.

In section 2, Economic and Financial Affairs, one can find articles on performance budgeting as a means of improving EU spending, on how to enhance credibility and commitment to fiscal rules, and on the new global economic governance.

Section 3, EU Member States, this time encompasses 13 states, bringing articles on the tobacco products market in Bulgaria, a comparison between Estonia and Singapore in terms of defence innovation, on the situation in the northern part of Cyprus, and on social protection in France. We also cover the Gibraltar issue, and the gender pay gap in Spain, as well as the political economy of the low-carbon transition in Slovakia. The subsection on Brexit highlights the implications of Brexit for food and agriculture in developing countries, and the extremely important issue of the impact of the UK-EU agreement on residence and citizenship rights for EU families. Also, the House of Commons Library research service published recently a [briefing paper](#) on Brexit and the new guidelines on the framework for future EU-UK relations.

In Section 4, EU Policies, we bring articles on prison management of terrorism-related offenders and the question of whether separation is effective, on equality and the fight against racism and xenophobia, on structural weaknesses in the Common European Asylum System and the reception of refugees in Turkey. Others deal with the role of business in the circular economy, the age of artificial intelligence and a possible European strategy for human-centric machines, the geopolitics of power grids and the political and security aspects of Baltic synchronization, as well as the need to focus more on the integration of migrant women.

In Section 5, Foreign Affairs, the topics cover diverse issues such as permanent structured cooperation as an important step for consolidating EU security and defence cooperation. This section also brings articles on non-proliferation regime for cyber weapons, on global trade, on water and food security in Turkey in a changing climate, and on China's pursuit of overseas security. China also features in the article on its role in UN peacekeeping.

The last part of the Think Tank Review is also dedicated inter alia to themes such as Russia-UK security relations, the arrival of the post-Putin era in Russian domestic politics, Venezuela's crisis, commercial warfare initiated by Trump, and the American economy from the European viewpoint.

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

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

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Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies

The middle class in focus: priorities for the 2019 elections and beyond

by Eoin Drea [@EoinDrea](#)

2 March 2018

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

While growth and employment are increasing, vast swathes of the established middle classes have lost faith in their ability to achieve a higher standard of living and to match the social mobility achieved by preceding generations. Topics such as globalization, free trade, immigration and even stable political systems are viewed as tools of the "elite" designed to prevent progress for working and middle class families. Politically, this has manifested itself in a fracturing of the traditional party political system and the rise of a protectionist, combative populism. To confront these challenges, this paper identifies five social and economic priorities that should form key aspect of centre right policy formation.

Real Instituto Elcano (Elcano Royal Institute)

El nuevo reparto de diputados en el Parlamento Europeo: aceptable pero mejorable

by Victoriano Ramírez González, José A. Martínez Aroza and Antonio Palomares Bautista

23 March 2018

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

The composition of the European Parliament during the 2019-24 legislature will comply with all the restrictions established in the Lisbon Treaty. One of them is that there should be degressive proportionality. Yet the stipulation has been broken in both of the last two legislatures (2009-14 and 2014-19). The European Parliament has proposed a composition to the European Council that fulfils degressive proportionality. Hence, the distribution is acceptable, although it can be improved.

Iniciativas institucionales a favor de una democracia europea sólida y participativa

by Susana del Río Villar [@Su_delRio](#)

27 March 2018

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

This paper focuses on three current vectors: the consolidation of the European Commission President election system; the inclusion of a supranational district where transnational lists will compete, and the proposals of French President, Emmanuel Macron, to promote conventions among EU citizens.

Notre Europe - Jacques Delors Institute

Allegro ma non troppo: les opinions publiques européennes à la fin

by Daniel Debomy

26 March 2018

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

The Jacques Delors Institute regularly monitors changes in public opinions towards the European Union. What is the state of play at the end of 2017? This brief analyses the European Commission's Eurobarometer surveys and the European Parliament's Parlemeter surveys. There has been improvement on opinions of membership of the EU and the benefits of membership, but European citizens remain circumspect.

Bertelsmann Stiftung

More initiative for Europe's citizens

by Dominik Hierlemann and Christian Huesmann

March 2018

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

In a media resonance analysis, the article shows that there has been hardly any reporting on the European citizens' initiative (ECI) in the national print and online media in the EU. But, in order to have an impact, individual initiatives must become better known. In five reform options, the authors outline how citizens and politicians can be better reached.

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

Mapping the quality of government in Europe: an analysis at national and regional level within the EU member states

by Nicholas Charron, Victor Lapuente [@VictorLapuente](#) and Bo Rothstein
March 2018

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

Over the past decades, the EU has witnessed parallel processes of convergence and divergence. On the one hand, peripheral regions have caught up with core regions. On the other hand, there are rising disparities between better-off and worse-off regions, and there are indications that these socio-economic disparities among regions (sometimes within the same country) are due to differences in the governance of public institutions.

Fondation Robert Schuman

L'Europe face au défi de l'identité: qui sommes «nous»?

by Thierry Chopin [@Th_Chopin](#)
19 March 2018

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

The revival of populism and extremism is a strong symptom of the identity crisis that is affecting many of the European Union's Member States. From Denmark to Italy, Austria, France and the Netherlands, various national elections are confirming the strength of populism and the parties on the far right who are imposing their discourse in public debate, the heart of which comprises economic and cultural protectionism, as well as that of identity. The question of identity seems to be a point shared by many populist and far right parties in Europe. All set the following question: what links societies that are challenged by the crisis and the process of globalization?

An analysis of Franco-German relations in the political context following the most recent elections

by Cyrille Schott
5 March 2018

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

Symbolism has its place in History. As Emmanuel Macron said in his speech in the Sorbonne: "Europe is also an idea – Europe will simply live because of an idea ..." To live, the Franco-German friendship, the foundation of Europe, itself needs to be an idea, to be marked by symbolism.

Notre Europe - Jacques Delors Institute

For a regional solidarity policy after 2020

by Marjorie Jouen
29 March 2018

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

The post-2020 budget debate is at last beginning, free of the long-standing muddled negotiations on the Brexit terms and the laborious formation of the new German government. The Commission is attempting to quicken the pace in order to obtain an agreement on the financial outlook under the current term of office. As regards the cohesion policy, despite it demonstrating positive results, its weight in the European budget, accounting for almost one third, makes it a priority target.

SECTION 2 - ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

Centre for European Policy Studies

Domestic banks as lightning rods? Home bias during the Eurozone crisis

by Orkun Saka

28 March 2018

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

In contrast to the recent literature focusing only on sovereign debt, this paper shows that banks' private sector exposures were (at least) equally affected by a rise in home bias. Finally, it proposes a new debt reallocation channel based on informational frictions and show that crisis-country debt was not only reallocated to domestic banks, but also to the informationally closer foreign banks. The results of this study imply that informational asymmetries among banks played a key role in the recent fragmentation across Eurozone debt markets.

Bruegel

Rethinking the European Union's post-Brexit budget priorities

by Zsolt Darvas [@ZsoltDarvas](#) and Guntram Wolff [@GuntramWolff](#)

19 March 2018

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

There will be a €94 billion Brexit-related hole in the EU budget for 2021-27 if business continues as before and the United Kingdom does not contribute. EU countries might be reluctant to increase contributions to fill this hole while also covering spending on new priorities. The authors show that freezing agriculture and cohesion spending in real terms would fill the Brexit-related hole, but new priorities would then need to be funded by an increase in the percent of GNI contribution.

Cash outflows in crisis scenarios: do liquidity requirements and reporting obligations give the SRB sufficient time to react?

by Alexander Lehmann

28 March 2018

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

Bank failures have multiple causes though they are typically precipitated by a rapidly unfolding funding crisis. The European Union's new prudential liquidity requirements offer some safeguards against risky funding models, but will not prevent such scenarios. The speed of events seen in the 2017 resolution of a Spanish bank offers a number of lessons for the further strengthening of the resolution framework within the euro area, in particular in terms of inter-agency coordination, the use of payments moratoria and funding of the resolution process.

European Parliament Think Tank

Performance budgeting: a means to improve EU spending

by Magdalena Sapala [@SapalaMagdalena](#)

March 2018

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

In 2015, the European Commission launched an initiative entitled 'The EU budget focused on results'. It is aimed at changing spending culture and making results a horizontal priority for the EU budget. The initiative is based on a popular contemporary budgeting method known as 'performance budgeting'. This paper presents the method and its application to the EU budget.

College of Europe

Is the bank-sovereign link truly severed?

by Phedon Nicolaides and Tony O'Connor [@_toconnor](#)

28 March 2018

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

This paper examines the degree to which the Banking Recovery and Resolution Directive and the Single Resolution Mechanism Regulation have severed the dependence of banks on sovereigns. The authors review the cases in which public aid has been granted to banks since the entry into force of the above legislation, as well as outlining the circumstances in which state shareholdings have been bailed-in. The authors conclude that the current rules on public assistance to banks need revision as they neglect the fact that for some banks the state is already a shareholder.

Deutsches Institut für Wirtschaftsforschung (German Institute for Economic Research)

Weltwirtschaft und Euroraum: Expansion setzt sich fort, verliert aber etwas Schwung

by Ferdinand Fichtner [@f_fichtner](#), Guido Baldi, Geraldine Dany-Knedlik, Hella Engerer, Stefan Gebauer and Malte Rieth

13 March 2018

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

Global economy is likely to grow by over four percent this year and somewhat less next year. DIW Berlin has slightly raised its forecast for both years. Developed economies and emerging markets are experiencing an upturn; however, growth rates are likely to be slightly lower in the future. Monetary policy remains expansionary but gradual increases in interest rates in major economies and the European Central Bank's phasing-out of government bond purchases may curb growth in the US and the euro area. This would also weaken the expansion in emerging economies. Risks to global growth stem from protectionist activities in the US and political uncertainty in Europe.

Notre Europe - Jacques Delors Institute / Bertelsmann Stiftung

No escape from politics: four tests for a successful fiscal instrument in the euro area

by Lucas Guttenberg [@lucasguttenberg](#) and Johannes Hemker [@hemker_h](#)

26 March 2018

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

With his proposal for a euro area budget, Emmanuel Macron has put a common fiscal instrument back at the centre of the euro area reform debate. This paper makes two contributions to the debate. It argues that a common fiscal instrument is desirable and then proposes four tests that it argues a new fiscal instrument needs to pass to be both economically and politically successful.

SAFE - Sustainable Architecture for Finance in Europe

Governing cryptocurrencies through forward guidance?

by Matthias Goldmann [@MattHGoldmann](#) and Grygoriy Pustovit

March 2018

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

While the debate about the needs and merits of cryptocurrency regulation is ongoing, the unprecedented price hikes of cryptocurrencies towards the end of 2017 triggered an unexpected sort of regulation in the form of public statements by governments and financial supervisors. Some regulators addressed the challenge by adopting a 'sandbox' approach. One could conceive a 'sandbox for regulators', an arrangement which would facilitate the exchange of information on regulatory initiatives among authorities but also the coordination of communication and forward guidance.

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

Enhancing credibility and commitment to fiscal rules

by Grzegorz Poniatowski [@gponiatowski1](#)

March 2018

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

This paper addresses the problem of the effective design of EU fiscal governance, focusing on the EU's numerical fiscal rules, their enforcement, flexibility, monitoring, and the credibility of the sanctions for their breach.

LUISS School of European Political Economy

The new global economic governance: can Europe help win the peace?

by Marco Buti

6 March 2018

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

The author argues that it is high time that the international community shifted its focus from "winning the war" – i.e. responding to the 2008 crisis – to "winning the peace" – i.e. overcoming the legacy of the crisis and creating conditions for strong, sustainable, balanced and more inclusive growth. He finds making the case for global cooperation in a multilateral context all the more critical in the context of rising populism and protectionist threats. But how can global governance become more effective? And what should be the role of the EU in this process? Can it be in the lead and help "win the peace"?

SECTION 3 - EU MEMBER STATES

BELGIUM

Center for the Study of Democracy

ARISA: assessing the risk of isolation of suspects and accused - Country report on the factors affecting the social status of suspects and accused - Belgium

28 March 2018

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

The country report summarizes the findings of the analysis of the factors affecting the social status of suspects and accused in Belgium. The report offers information about the legal restrictions and remand measures applied on suspects and accused during the criminal proceedings, their impact on the accused person's economic status, personal life, and family and community links, and the rules and practices for disclosing information about the proceedings to third persons, to the public and to the media.

BULGARIA

Center for the Study of Democracy

ARISA: assessing the risk of isolation of suspects and accused - Country report on the factors affecting the social status of suspects and accused - Bulgaria

March 2018

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

The country report summarizes the findings of the analysis of the factors affecting the social status of suspects and accused in Bulgaria. The report offers information about the legal restrictions and remand measures applied on suspects and accused during the criminal proceedings, their impact on the accused person's economic status, personal life, and family and community links, and the rules and practices for disclosing information about the proceedings to third persons, to the public and to the media.

Center for the Study of Democracy

The tobacco products market in Bulgaria: trends and risks

March 2018

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

The illicit tobacco market is one of the key sources of revenue for organized crime in Bulgaria. During the economic turmoil in 2009-2014 the annual proceeds from this criminal activity have reached between 0.5% and 1% of the country's GDP. At the same time the budget revenues from tobacco taxation (both excise and VAT) contribute for 9 and 10% per year of the overall tax revenues in Bulgaria. This report examines the development of the illicit tobacco market in Bulgaria through the prism of economic risks, the political environment in the country and the region, and recent changes in the involved criminal networks and the institutional capabilities for counteraction.

CYPRUS

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

Time is running out in the northern part of Cyprus

by Nikolaos Stelgias [@nikolaosstelya](#)

19 March 2018

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

The collapse of the talks in Crans-Montana caused significant concerns to the Turkish Cypriots that believe in the Federal solution of the Cyprus issue. They hope that the establishment of a united federal Cyprus will lead to the resolution of all their socio-political and economic problems and are searching for a political framework through which they will channel their dissatisfaction and their aspirations. The Turkish Cypriots, being cut off from the international scene, depend solely on Turkey and the Anatolian economy which is currently facing systemic problems. They understand that the need for the social, political and economic reconstruction of "TRNC" is urgent.

ESTONIA

Rahvusvaheline Kaitseuringute Keskus (International Centre for Defence and Security)

Hedgehog meets dolphin: can Estonia adopt Singapore's secret weapon—defence innovation?

by Mikk Raud

March 2018

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

Significantly more than Estonia, Singapore has also realised the need to incorporate innovation into the defence sector. Most importantly, the Singaporeans have recognised that, instead of relying on numbers, their strongest basis to be competitive is to rely on knowledge, intelligence, information and technology. The paper introduces Singapore's strategic thinking and the distinctive policy frameworks it has relied on to shape defence innovation. While giving an overview of the current status of defence innovation in Estonia, it also points out three key takeaways for Estonia from the concepts and ideas applied in Singapore.

FINLAND

Elinkeinoelämän tutkimuslaitos (Research Institute of the Finnish Economy)

Economic dynamics and changes in values and attitudes among Finnish regions: a descriptive analysis

by Paolo Fornaro [@PaoloFornaro87](#)

9 March 2018

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

Finland is characterized by a substantial heterogeneity across its regions. Key economic indicators, such as the GDP per capita and the unemployment rate, vary widely for different areas. This heterogeneity, however, has not been stable over time. Moreover, he examines regional values and attitudes and finds that there has been a strong regional convergence in terms of trust in political parties and in the EU. On the other hand, he does not find a significant convergence with respect to the attitude towards immigration.

FRANCE

Institut Montaigne

Protection sociale : une mise à jour vitale

March 2018

Link to the article in [French](#) (124 p.)

The French social protection system accounted for more than 32% of GDP in 2015. Inherited from the post-war period, its mission is to financially cover citizens facing social risks. It is based on the principles of solidarity and insurance, two values that guarantee every citizen a quality protection. However, social protection is in danger today. New technologies are emerging as an unprecedented opportunity for in-depth reform. Given the many possibilities raised by these new technologies, it is clear that social protection actors have not yet fully engaged in their digital transformation. Health, in particular, could be revolutionized by a greater use of new technologies.

La Vie des Idées

Faut-il libéraliser la SNCF?

by Jean Finez and Laurent Quessette

22 March 2018

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

The announced reforms of the SNCF point, once again, to its indebtedness and the status of railway workers. But is the problem well posed? The article goes back to the history of the debate and the related political issues.

Terra nova

État d'urgence, terrorisme et sécurité intérieure: comment trouver la sortie?

by Jean-Eric Callon , David Lévy [@davidelielevy](#), Benjamin Oudet, Marc-Olivier Padis [@Mo_Padis](#) and Yves Trotignon

29 March 2018

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

This report, developed jointly by legal professionals and experts in strategy, takes stock of the state of emergency and its consequences for the organization of the institutions and the justice system. Given the importance of issues related to civil liberties, and the threat that terrorism poses to the society, it is indeed the whole of the political debate on the fight against terrorism that must be better informed and better conducted, for a greater guarantee of the rule of law.

Quel avenir pour la French Tech?

by Mathis Cohen [@cohenmathis](#) and Thibaud Frossard [@ThibaudFrossard](#)

15 March 2018

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

At the heart of the technological ecosystem is the entrepreneur. And around it, the investors, the incubators, the researchers. A priori, the State is legitimate to intervene in this kind of context only when it is necessary to repair market failures or to orient the ecosystem in a determined direction. That's what the previous government had to do when the ecosystem was weakened and funding was lacking. Thus the French Tech was born.

GERMANY

E3G

Deficit of ambition: how Germany's new coalition government falls short on climate & energy

by Alexander Reitzenstein [@AlexReitzenst](#) and Sabrina Schulz [@sbschulz](#)

March 2018

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

This briefing provides background for international stakeholders on the new German Government's climate ambition by contextualizing key political events since the elections and the set-up of the new Cabinet, analyzing key elements of the coalition treaty with a focus on climate related policies, and giving an outlook on what to expect from the new Government in the upcoming legislative term.

Global Public Policy Institute

Germany's politics and bureaucracy for preventing atrocities

by Sarah Brockmeier [@sarahbrockmeier](#) and Philipp Rotmann [@PhilippRotmann](#)

13 March 2018

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

This paper explores the prospects for a more active German policy on atrocity prevention and outlines some of the main challenges that need to be addressed before the country can make more effective contributions to the prevention of genocide and other mass atrocities. It introduces and describes the political context as well as recent history of Germany's institutional setup for atrocity prevention, and assesses some of the key strengths and weaknesses of that setup before concluding with an outlook on what to expect from Germany in the realm of atrocity prevention in next few years.

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

Cautiously ambitious: German government sets the right tone for strong EU policies

by Daniela Schwarzer [@D_Schwarzer](#)

March 2018

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

Five months after the general elections, German Chancellor Angela Merkel has formed a new government after the Social Democratic Party base approved a grand coalition with the conservative CDU/CSU. The coalition continues the paradigm of post-war German foreign relations by focusing on partnerships. At the same time, this paradigm is under threat: Both the EU and US relations have become less certain.

GREECE

Centre for International Governance Innovation

Greece's "clean exit" from the third bailout: a reality check

by Miranda Xafa [@MXafa](#)

1 March 2018

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

A smooth exit from the current program appears likely in August after completion of the fourth review; however, several more steps are necessary. Greek Prime Minister may try to capitalize on a smooth exit from the program by calling early elections in the fall of 2018. The "twin deficits" in the fiscal and external accounts have all but disappeared, but fiscal imbalances have migrated to private sector balance sheets. Tax arrears and non-performing loans remain at record-high levels while growth disappointed in 2017. Without further reform to improve the entrepreneurial climate and attract investment, the Greek economy risks being trapped in a low-growth equilibrium.

Center for the Study of Democracy

ARISA: Assessing the risk of isolation of suspects and accused - Country report on the factors affecting the social status of suspects and accused - Greece

28 March 2018

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

The country report summarizes the findings of the analysis of the factors affecting the social status of suspects and accused in Greece. The report offers information about the legal restrictions and remand measures applied on suspects and accused during the criminal proceedings, their impact on the accused person's economic status, personal life, and family and community links, and the rules and practices for disclosing information about the proceedings to third persons, to the public and to the media.

ITALY

Notre Europe - Jacques Delors Institute

Italy's euroscepticism: a case of victimhood and a tale of missed opportunity

by Beda Romano [@BedaRomano](#)

8 March 2018

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

Italy is now among the most eurosceptic countries in the EU: in the fall of 2017, 52% of Italians tend not to trust the EU, while the country was traditionally pro-EU. Why? This paper analyses this change, explaining that it is the reflection of a country that failed the modernization required by the single currency. The founding rules of the euro are seen as a straightjacket by the Italians. Moreover, the way Europe has reacted to the refugee crisis has provoked resentment in Italy. Thus euroscepticism would be the reflection of citizens who attribute to the euro membership a risk of losing acquired rights and long-standing benefits.

Real Instituto Elcano (Elcano Royal Institute)

A guide to understanding Italy: the 2018 elections and beyond

by Ilke Toygür [@ilketoygur](#)

16 March 2018

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

Italy has been in the news for a long time. With a complicated party system under frequent change, economic instability, the return of its long-standing problem of corrupt politicians and a new electoral law, it has been suggested that Italy is the Eurozone's 'Achilles heel'. Being the first major European election of 2018, there are many aspects to discuss. This paper analyses the election results and suggests some recommendations related to the future of both Italy and European integration.

Center for the Study of Democracy

ARISA: Assessing the risk of isolation of suspects and accused - Country report on the factors affecting the social status of suspects and accused - Italy

28 March 2018

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

The country report summarises the findings of the analysis of the factors affecting the social status of suspects and accused in Italy. The report offers information about the legal restrictions and remand measures applied on suspects and accused during the criminal proceedings, their impact on the accused person's economic status, personal life, and family and community links, and the rules and practices for disclosing information about the proceedings to third persons, to the public and to the media.

NETHERLANDS

Centraal Planbureau (CPB Netherlands Bureau for Economic Policy Analysis)

Economy gathering steam/Government stimulates - Central Economic Plan (CEP) 2018

6 March 2018

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

The Dutch economy is gathering steam. The economic boom is the result of a favourable international economy, low interest rates, expansive budgetary policy and a persistently strong housing market. These last two factors distinguish the Netherlands from other countries. Positive domestic dynamics between increasing employment, higher disposable income levels, higher consumption and more investments will lead to a 3.2% economic growth in 2018 and 2.7% in 2019. Over the 2017–2019 period, the Dutch economy is projected to outperform that of the Eurozone by 0.6 percentage points, in each of those years.

Forecasting long-term interest rates

Kan Ji and Douwe Kingma

22 March 2018

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

The long-term interest rate in the Euro area is an important exogenous input in CPB macro-econometric models to project the world economy and the Dutch economy, so it is important to have a reliable projection for it. However, there were concerns about the CPB practice of forecasting the long-term interest rate, especially over the inconsistency of long-term interest rate projections in the short and medium term. Therefore, this paper compares the old CPB practice with several alternative forecasting methods for long-term interest rates, and evaluates these methods.

SLOVAKIA

E3G

Climate & energy snapshot: Slovakia - The political economy of the low-carbon transition

by Sandra Esser, Julian Schwartzkopff and Sabrina Schulz

March 2018

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

This paper presents an assessment of the political economy of Slovakia regarding the low-carbon transition.

SPAIN

Real Instituto Elcano (Elcano Royal Institute)

El cambio de modelo económico chino: una oportunidad para las empresas españolas

by Adrián Blanco Estévez

7 March 2018

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

During the last year, Spanish enterprises have gained a remarkable presence in China. However, Spain's investment position doesn't match its potential. The Chinese growth model is experiencing a change, it's becoming more open and suitable for trade, and the private sector is also growing. This creates new investment opportunities and a better positioning for Spanish businesses. Public policies are key to overcome current obstacles.

Real Instituto Elcano (Elcano Royal Institute)

España ante el Brexit

by Salvador Llaudes [@sllaudes](#), Ignacio Molina [@_ignaciomolina](#), Miguel Otero Iglesias [@miotei](#) and Federico Steinberg [@SteinbergF](#)

12 March 2018

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

This paper focuses on how Brexit will affect Spain. The report looks into potential situations that Spain might find itself in post-Brexit, followed by a detail into what type of future relationship is best for Spain. Next, the report explores the subject of Gibraltar and, finally, a section on possible cooperation in the fields of defense, security and promotion of European values.

Real Instituto Elcano (Elcano Royal Institute)

Gibraltar: una posible solución de soberanía difuminada y funciones compartidas

by Ignacio Molina [@_ignaciomolina](#)

5 March 2018

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

One of the key aspects of Brexit negotiations is Gibraltar's possible co-sovereignty. This paper tries to find the most acceptable solution for the EU and UK.

Fundación de Estudios de Economía Aplicada

Brechas salariales de género en España

by Brindusa Anghel, J. Ignacio Conde-Ruiz [@conderuiz](#) and Ignacio Marra de Artíñano

7 March 2018

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

This paper aims to analyse pay gap evolution in Spain.

Fundación de Estudios de Economía Aplicada

El nivel educativo de la población en España y sus regiones: actualización hasta 2016

by Angel de la Fuente and Rafael Doménech

17 March 2018

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

This report outlines an analysis of Spanish educational attainment until 2016 by national and regional level.

UNITED KINGDOM

Oxford Institute for Energy Studies

UK dependence on imported hydrocarbons: how important is Russia?

by Jack Sharples

March 2018

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

The arrival of the first Russian LNG supplies to the UK coincided with the deterioration of UK-Russia diplomatic relations, triggering debates over the role of Russia in UK hydrocarbon imports. UK gas import demand is currently largely met by pipeline imports from Norway and LNG imports from Qatar. However, as the UK seeks to cope with fluctuations in domestic gas demand through increased LNG imports and gas trade with north-western Europe, following the closure of the UK's only seasonal gas storage facility, the challenge to UK energy security is not dependence on Russian gas supplies but rather increasing exposure to international gas market volatility.

Fabian Society

Labour country: how to rebuild the connection with rural voters

by Tobias Phibbs

27 March 2018

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

Labour must reconnect with the politics and culture of the countryside to be confident of winning the next general election. To secure a working majority the party will need to capitalise on the demise of Ukip and the decline of the Liberal Democrats and gain seats in both rural and semi-rural constituencies. The report shows Labour still has a way to go to win over rural voters. It argues that to gain countryside seats Labour needs to be seen as 'a natural party of the countryside'.

Policy Exchange

In defence of collective security

by John Bew [@JohnBew](#)

March 2018

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

As Vladimir Putin celebrates another election victory, today's Labour party should remember that there can be no coherent response to the Skripal affair without an appreciation of how our collective security is underscored by NATO and the role their own party played in its creation. The author argues that our current system of collective security, based on NATO, was painstakingly put in place by Attlee and Ernest Bevin and that the current Labour leadership betrays that legacy.

Policy Exchange

Second-guessing policy choices: the rule of law after the Supreme Court's UNISON judgment

by Stephen Laws

14 March 2018

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

The Supreme Court quashed the government's use of its statutory power to impose fees for employment tribunal proceedings in UNISON's (UK Public Service Union's) case. The author argues that the Supreme Court went badly wrong in the UNISON case, taking over a policy question that was not for it to decide. The paper argues that the Supreme Court's judgment turns the rule of law on its head, transforming it into a test that allows the courts, with the benefit of hindsight, to quash government decisions on the basis not of how they were made but of how they turn out in practice.

Centre for Climate Change Economics and Policy

10 years of the UK climate change act

by Sam Fankhauser, Alina Averchenkova and Jared Finnegan

30 March 2018

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

A good climate law contains statutory targets, assigns clear duties and responsibilities and provides clarity about the long-term direction of travel. Economy-wide, multi-year targets, set well in advance, help to define a clear yet flexible path towards the long-term climate objective. In the UK the introduction of the Act and its carbon budgets has helped to reduce emissions, particularly in the power sector, while the economy has continued to grow. Although the Act is technically consistent with the Paris Agreement, it will probably need supplementing by 2020, for instance by including a target for achieving 'net zero' emissions.

ResPublica

A new bargain: people, productivity and prosperity

by Jake Sumner and Phillip Blond [@Phillip_Blond](#)

12 March 2018

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

Launched ahead of the Chancellor of the Exchequer's 2018 Spring Statement, "A New Bargain: people, productivity and prosperity" makes the case for a 'New Bargain' between employers, unions and government and is an opportunity for those who champion corporate reform and more responsible business, to seek institutional changes that place the role and value of people at the heart of successful economic activity.

Sheffield Political Economy Research Institute

Family hunger in times of austerity: families using food banks across Britain

by Rachel Loopstra [@rloopstra](#), Hannah Lambie-Mumford [@hlambiemumford](#) and Ruth Patrick [@ruthpatrick0](#)

March 2018

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

This brief draws on data from a large scale survey of households using Trussell Trust food banks to understand food bank use amongst families with children in 2016/17. It shows the family demographics of food bank users and the particular vulnerability of certain families (single parent families / families with three or more children) to food bank use. Looking forward, the continued emphasis on conditionality and reducing entitlement levels in social security provision means that children in families will be made even more vulnerable in the years to come.

Demos

Reducing the odds: an education pilot to prevent gambling harms

by Ian Wybron [@IanWybron](#)

15 March 2018

Link to the article in [English](#) (120 p.)

This report marks the culmination of a two-year project to develop, pilot and refine educational resources for British secondary schools as part of wider efforts to prevent gambling related harms. The project has been a partnership between Demos, the PSHE Association, Mentor UK, the National Problem Gambling Clinic, and a range of independent teachers and advisers.

BREXIT

Trinity College Dublin - Department of Economics

Implications of Brexit for food and agriculture in developing countries

by Alan Matthews [@xAlan_Matthews](#)

March 2018

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

Brexit will have important repercussions for the agri-food trade of developing countries because of the UK's size (it is the sixth largest economy in the world) and its important role as an importer of agri-food products (it accounts for 12% of the EU's imports from developing countries). These effects will occur through a variety of different channels: the consequences of higher trade costs on UK-EU27 trade; possible changes in future UK tariffs and trade policy after Brexit; possible changes in UK and EU27 agricultural policy; impacts on UK agricultural production capacity; and macroeconomic channels such as changes in future UK economic growth and the value of sterling. This paper reviews the potential significance of these changes, and makes recommendations as to how developing countries might respond to these changes.

UK in a Changing Europe

The impact of the UK-EU agreement on residence rights for EU families

by Colin Yeo [@ColinYeo1](#)

March 2018

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

EU citizens and their family members living in the UK under EU law have been very concerned about the nature and quality of their rights of future residence in the UK following Brexit. There are a number of serious problems facing EU families in the UK after Brexit.

UK in a Changing Europe

The impact of the UK-EU agreement on citizenship rights for EU families

by Colin Yeo [@ColinYeo1](#)

March 2018

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

As EU law and UK implementation of EU law has changed and grown, the framework of British nationality law has remained the same. This has resulted in a number of difficulties that EU citizens and their families will face in acquiring or proving British citizenship. The post-Brexit immigration statuses of temporary and settled status will ameliorate these problems for children born after Brexit and reduce the administrative barriers to naturalisation for adult EU citizens, but will not have retrospective effect. The historic problems with the interaction of British nationality law with the UK interpretation of EU law are likely to deprive many EU citizens of their entitlement to the acquisition of citizenship.

Centre for European Reform

Plugging in the British: EU foreign policy

by Ian Bond [@CER_IanBond](#)

6 March 2018

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

As part of the EU, the UK has been able to leverage the resources of other Member States to support Britain's foreign and development priorities. After Brexit, that will be harder.

Fondation Robert Schuman

Wishful Brexiting: Or the complicated transformation of what Britain wants into reality

by Jérôme Gazzano and Andi Mustafaj

26 March 2018

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

On 2 March Theresa May delivered a speech at Mansion House that structured the future partnership between the UK and the EU. She presented her view of the "hard facts" of Brexit as well as her suggestions for future relations with the continent. This statement came in addition to the twelve priorities that come under the Brexit negotiations, set out on 17 January 2017 at Lancaster House, as well as the compromises included in the Florence speech on withdrawal and transition on 22 September 2017, and the presentation of British commitments to a continued common policy on security and defence in Munich on 17 February 2018.

European Parliament Think Tank

Future trade relations between the EU and the UK: options after Brexit

by Piet Eeckhout [@PietEeckhout](#)

16 March 2018

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

This study analyses the various options for the future trade relations between the EU and the UK after Brexit.

Centre for European Reform

Will the unity of the 27 crack?

by John Springford, Sam Lowe and Beth Oppenheim

15 March 2018

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

Some British politicians believe that the 27 will divide during the Brexit trade negotiations, because of their differing economic interests. But disagreements between the 27 are minor, thanks to Theresa May's red lines. This brief argues that the EU will continue to stick together. The UK will not be offered a 'sweetheart deal'. The only way for Britain to maintain a comparable level of single market access to that which it enjoys today would be for Theresa May to soften her red lines and accept the accompanying overarching obligations.

Centre for European Reform

Brexit and the financial services industry: the story so far

by Mark Boleat

27 March 2018

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

The City will survive Brexit, but it will not emerge unscathed. In order to remain competitive Britain's financial services industry will need to adapt, as it has always done.

European Policy Centre

Brexit: half in, half out or right out?

by Andrew Duff [@AndrewDuffEU](#)

6 March 2018

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

Following the presentation of the draft 'secession treaty' by the Commission on 28 February and the interventions of four former, wannabe or acting UK Prime Ministers, Andrew Duff discusses the prospects of the future relationship between the European Union and the UK.

SECTION 4 - EU POLICIES

JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS

The Henry Jackson Society

Prison management of terrorism-related offenders: is separation effective?

by Julia Rushchenko

7 March 2018

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

Separating Islamist extremists from the rest of the prison population is the only viable solution to prevent the spread of radicalisation to other prisoners – and to ensure meaningful rehabilitation, according to this report. As those who have fought with Islamic State return to the UK from the battlefield, policymakers must urgently confront the issue of how extremism is managed in prisons – or face the prospect of foreign fighters spreading their ideology to other inmates. The report argues that, while prisons and probation are supposed to be strong partners in deradicalisation, instead of promoting disengagement from violence they often facilitate extremism. The report says that "disregarding the danger of recruitment by charismatic inmates and turning a blind eye to the possibility of jihadists forging alliances in prison leads to the spread of Islamism and creates either 'lone wolves' or extremists who become part of a group".

Centre for European Policy Studies

Complaint mechanisms in border management and expulsion operations in Europe: effective remedies for victims of human rights violations?

by Sergio Carrera and Marco Stefan

26 March 2018

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

Border control, surveillance operations and expulsion of irregular immigrants – particularly through return flights – can pose serious challenges to human rights. Is Europe properly equipped to ensure effective access to remedies for alleged rights violations or possible abuses of force against immigrants and asylum seekers? This paper examines whether adequate complaint mechanisms and bodies are in place and to what extent they succeed in monitoring and redressing human rights violations in the context of border management and joint return flights.

International Centre for Counter-Terrorism - The Hague

Terrorism, diplomacy, and state communications

by William Maley

22 March 2018

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

In countering the communications of terrorist organisations, States face a number of distinct challenges. Blatant lying can be at the expense of a state's authority, credibility, and instrumental effectiveness. Effective state communications need to be integrated, multidimensional and persuasive. Often they are anything but. Messages can be poorly formulated, and can be understood in unexpected ways, not least because there may be multiple audiences for a particular message. Nonetheless, effective messaging can be of great psychological value, helping to trigger 'cascades' that can undermine even ruthless enemies.

Tony Blair Institute for Global Change

Balanced migration: a progressive approach

by Harvey Redgrave [@Harveyred1](#)

28 March 2018

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

Anxiety about immigration is fueling new forms of authoritarian populism and undermining faith in liberal democracy. A significant proportion of that anxiety can be explained by a general mistrust in the ability of governments to competently manage the system. The policy recommendations contained in this paper are designed to meet the challenge of managing migration in the 21st century: a system of digital identity verification to tackle illegal migration, the adoption of human capital points-based systems, labour-market reform to reduce exploitation in the workplace, and a national strategy for social integration to drive greater social contact and encourage an inclusive citizenship.

European Parliament Think Tank

The future of the Schengen area: latest developments and challenges in the Schengen governance framework since 2016

by Sergio Carrera, Marco Stefan, Ngo Chun Luk and Lina Vosyliūtė [@LinaVosyliute](#)

March 2018

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

This study takes stock of the main developments that have occurred in the Schengen Governance Framework since 2016. It analyses the legitimacy of a number of states' decisions to maintain internal border controls. The most recent policy proposals in the field of internal police checks are assessed in light of relevant EU legal standards. The paper also questions the legality of the border walls and fences, which have been recently erected at the EU external borders and within the Schengen area.

European Parliament Think Tank

Equality and the fight against racism and xenophobia

by Wouter Van Ballegooij

March 2018

Link to the article in [English](#) (260 p.)

This study specifically focuses on EU action and cooperation concerning equality and the fight against racism and xenophobia. Despite existing EU legislation and action it argues that there are still significant gaps and barriers to equal treatment and to adequate prevention and prosecution of, and compensation for, hate crimes within the European Union. The impact of the gaps and barriers identified – in action and cooperation – at EU level are assessed both in terms of economic impact and their impacts on economic rights and freedoms. To address these gaps and barriers, the study provides some options for EU action in the field.

Institut français des relations internationales

Les partenariats entre l'Union européenne et les pays africains sur les migrations: un enjeu commun, des intérêts contradictoires

by Matthieu Tardis

20 March 2018

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

Since 2015 and the refugee crisis, the dialogue between the EU and African countries on migration issues has reached a new intensity. Wishing to put an end to irregular arrivals in the central Mediterranean and to increase the number of returns of irregular migrants, the EU proposed a new partnership framework for third countries in the wake of the March 2016 agreement with Turkey. The paper argues that while the asymmetry of partnership frameworks allows the EU to impose its objectives, it must, however, be careful to better consider the interests and challenges of its African partners at the risk of further destabilizing this already fragile continent. The deterioration of the situation of migrants and the population of the Agadez region in Niger is an example of the unanticipated effects of the European approach.

Migration Policy Institute

Cracked foundation, uncertain future: structural weaknesses in the Common European Asylum System

by Hanne Beirens

March 2018

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

European asylum systems faced a number of sharp challenges as more than 1 million asylum seekers and migrants travelled to Europe during the 2015-16 crisis. Many new arrivals moved onward to other EU destinations without registration or security checks, national reception systems quickly reached capacity, and Member States clashed over how to share responsibility for processing and offering protection to those in need. Yet the number of arrivals was not solely to blame for this dysfunction. Weaknesses in the legal and operational structure of the Common European Asylum System existed long before the crisis, and many persist to this day. This report draws attention to these enduring challenges, which stretch across every stage of the asylum system—from registration and reception to the asylum procedure and adjudication. Taking a systems approach, it traces the evolution of these deficiencies and their knock-on effects in other phases of the asylum process and policy areas, while also examining some of the innovative approaches Member States and localities are using to tackle these blind spots.

Migration Policy Institute

Scaling up refugee resettlement in Europe: the role of institutional peer support

by Hanne Beirens and Aliyyah Ahad [@Aliyyah_Ahad](#)

March 2018

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

In recent years, the EU has stepped up its commitment to bringing refugees to Europe through safe and legal channels—from the announcement of the EU Resettlement Scheme and the 2016 EU-Turkey agreement to calls by the President of the European Commission to create an additional 50,000 resettlement spots. But while a handful of Member States have well-established refugee resettlement programs, meeting these goals will require others to quickly build capacity and actively participate. This pressure has led many government representatives to turn to their peers (in Europe and beyond) for knowledge, advice, and operational support. This report maps the wide array of activities that incorporate elements of peer support—from study visits and general training to ongoing mentoring and information exchanges—with a close focus on ways program designers can better align the activities they develop with their goals for a program.

Barcelona Centre for International Affairs

Acollida de refugiats a Turquia: una perspectiva urbana

by Laura Batalla [@lbadam](#)

March 2018

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

Turkey hosts three millions Syrian refugees. This paper analyses how Turkey manages to host them.

Islamic State's English-language magazines, 2014-2017: trends & implications for CT-CVE strategic communications

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

12 March 2018

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

Islamic State (IS) has used English-language magazines as a crucial component of its propaganda strategy, particularly targeting Muslims living in the West. This paper provides a quick reference guide to IS's English language magazines released between June 2014 and September 2017 examining key themes and propaganda strategies deployed across three issues of Islamic State News, four issues of Islamic State Report, fifteen issues of Dabiq and thirteen issues of Rumiya. It concludes by highlighting four trends and their implications for CT-CVE strategic communications practitioners.

COMPETITIVENESS (INTERNAL MARKET, INDUSTRY, RESEARCH AND SPACE)

European Political Strategy Centre

The age of artificial intelligence: towards a European strategy for human-centric machines

27 March 2018

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

In the words of the late Stephen Hawking, 'AI could be the biggest event in the history of our civilisation. Or the worst. We just don't know.' Deployed wisely, AI holds the promise of addressing some of the world's most intractable challenges, from climate change and poverty to disease. Used in bad faith, it can lead the world on a downward spiral of totalitarianism and war, endangering – according to Hawking – the very survival of humankind itself. Finding a policy response to what is undoubtedly 'the next big thing' is both urgent and challenging. Europe needs an ambitious and rapid deployment strategy, covering both business and public administration.

Lisbon Council for Economic Competitiveness and Social Renewal

How local government reform is key to Europe's digital success

by David Osimo [@osimod](#)

13 March 2018

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

This policy brief proposes a six-step programme for improving public-service delivery throughout Europe. Building on the success of the recent Tallinn Declaration – signed by 32 European Union and European Free Trade Association member states – the author takes a fresh look at the key challenge of digital government in an age of proliferating action plans and heightened political commitment.

European Parliament Think Tank

Should we fear artificial intelligence?

by Peter J. Bentley, Miles Brundage [@Miles_Brundage](#), Olle Häggström [@OHaggstrom](#) and Thomas Metzinger [@ThomasMetzinger](#)

26 March 2018

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

For better or worse, artificial intelligence (AI) is predicted to have a huge impact on the future of humanity. As new promises and concerns reach increasingly mainstream audiences, the debate is starting to capture the public imagination. In this publication, the authors present four opinion pieces, each responding to the question: should we fear AI? The four authors come from different disciplinary backgrounds and present diverging perspectives on whether we should fear the future of AI, and how we should proceed with its development.

Centre for European Policy Studies

The role of business in the circular economy: markets, processes and enabling policies

by Martin R. Stuchtey [@MRStuchtey](#), Stef Kranendijk, Vasileios Rizos [@vasileios_rizos](#) (rapp.), Arno Behrens [@arnobehrens](#) (rapp.), Eleanor Drabik [@Elliedrabik](#) (rapp.), David Rinaldi [@Rinaldi_David](#) (rapp.) and Katja Tuokko [@katjatuokko](#) (rapp.)

26 March 2018

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

The circular economy is attracting significant interest worldwide, as evidenced by the numerous government strategies, business commitments and partnerships devoted to its development. It is clear that the transformation of markets and industries on a large scale will not be an easy achievement. It will require well-designed and ambitious policies to foster the transition as well as new business models. This report analyses the key obstacles that need to be addressed, explores numerous policy areas at the EU and national level where support can act as a catalyst for market transformation, and puts forward actionable policy recommendations.

TRANSPORT/TELECOMMUNICATIONS/ENERGY

Rahvusvaheline Kaitseuringute Keskus (International Centre for Defence and Security)

The geopolitics of power grids: political and security aspects of Baltic synchronization

by Emmet Tuohy [@ectuohy](#), Tomas Jermalavicius, Anna Bulakh [@Bulakh_Anna](#), Nolan Theisen [@nolan_theisen](#), Julia Vainio, Artūras Petkus, Hayretdin Bahşi and Yuri Tsarik

March 2018

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

In 2015, the Baltic states declared their intent to withdraw from the BRELL agreement and desynchronize their power grids from the IPS/UPS synchronous area to which they still belong as part of the legacy of Soviet occupation. After a few years of study and discussion, they are on the verge of reaching agreement to synchronize with the former via Poland. The three countries and Poland are expected to formalize this consensus in June 2018 at the latest. The report aims to demonstrate that electricity synchronization is an issue with more than just financial and technical aspects, and broaden the perspective of decision-makers and the general public alike.

World Economic Forum

Fostering effective energy transition: a fact-based framework to support decision-making

March 2018

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

The report introduces the "Energy Transition Index", which benchmarks 114 countries on the current level of their energy system performance, and the readiness of their macro environment for transition to a secure, sustainable, affordable and inclusive future energy system. The framework and rankings are intended to enable policy makers and businesses to identify the destination for energy transition, identify imperatives, and align policy and market enablers accordingly.

Oxford Institute for Energy Studies

Norwegian gas exports – assessment of resources and supply to 2035

by Marshall Hall

March 2018

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

Norwegian net gas production reached a record high of 122 bcm in 2017, confounding many industry observers who had in 2016 and 2017 been sceptical of the ability of the Norwegian Continental Shelf (NCS) to maintain production at 110-115 bcm. In January 2018, the Norwegian Petroleum Directorate (NPD) made significant upward revisions to its gas production projections which now show output of 121-123 bcm pa from 2018 to 2022. The paper examines the reliability of the NPD's past projections and the plausibility of its updated projections based on aspects such as the demand for gas for improved oil recovery and published field development plans.

Oxford Institute for Energy Studies

Gazprom in Europe – two “anni mirabiles”, but can it continue?

by James Henderson and Jack Sharples

March 2018

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

Gazprom has confounded many expectations by enjoying two record years of gas sales in Europe in 2016 and 2017. External factors have certainly played a role in its success, with overall European demand rebounding, indigenous production continuing to fall and alternative sources of imports failing to deliver at the expected levels (especially LNG). In addition, Gazprom has demonstrated a level of flexibility in its pricing strategy, with the result that its market share in Europe has grown to 35%. The paper explores whether Gazprom's two anni mirabiles in 2016 and 2017 can be repeated or whether Russian gas faces a more challenging environment.

Center for Strategic and International Studies

A tale of three coal markets: common challenges and unique attributes of U.S., Chinese and Indian markets

by Jane Nakano and Sarah Ladislaw [@sladislaw](#)

28 March 2018

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

The United States, China, and India together constitute about 70 percent of global coal consumption and 64 percent of global coal production. Each country is an important contributor to the global coal supply and demand picture and yet each stands at a very different stage in its relationship with coal.

Ośrodek Studiów Wschodnich (Centre for Eastern Studies)

From vassalisation to emancipation. The model of Ukrainian-Russian gas co-operation has been revised

by Szymon Kardaś [@szymonkardas](#) and Tadeusz Iwański
7 March 2018

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

Ukraine and Russia are entering a new stage of gas relations in 2018, one dictated not so much by a desire to co-operate but rather by the need to do so resulting from contractual obligations with regard to their partners in the EU, the transport infrastructure available, and Ukraine's income from transit. This co-operation will be very difficult, and will most likely entail further court disputes, as well as periodical cuts in gas supplies. At the same time, if Nord Stream 2 and Turkish Stream are completed, Russia is likely to become independent of Ukraine's gas mains in the next five years.

E3G

Crude awakening: making oil major business models climate-compatible

by Ben Caldecott [@bencaldecott](#), Ingrid Holmes [@IngridHolmes7](#), Lucas Kruitwagen [@LucasKruitwagen](#), Dileimy Orozco [@dile_o](#) and Shane Tomlinson
March 2018

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

The low carbon transition to deliver global warming increases of no more than 1.5/2°C in line with the Paris Agreement on climate change is happening. The objective of this research was to demonstrate a robust and credible pathway for the oil and gas majors to achieve this under a range of transition scenarios. The authors believe that the IOCs and those with financial interests in them must come to grips with a future that will not look like the past. The lesson of 2017 is that climate impacts will be increasingly influential in the decision-making of governments and investors.

Fondation Robert Schuman

Vers un acte II de l'Union de l'énergie: un nouveau leadership énergie-climat européen

by Emmanuel Tuchscherer
12 March 2018

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

2018 is a year for the European Commission to reflect on the priorities to give to the energy-climate issue. The Juncker Commission will publish a communication at the end of the spring regarding its energy-climate priorities for 2025. In view of this the present paper describes the areas which might be given to the next European Commission to turn the Union's ecological leadership into a lever for industrial development, growth and sustainable employment.

Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung

Assessing the Energiewende: an international expert review

by Thomas Cunningham, Annika Hedberg [@AnnikaAhtonen](#), Syed Nazakat [@SyedNazakat](#) and Lixia Yao
March 2018

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

In view of the enormous challenges of the "Energiewende", every new German government must ask itself the following question: How can we reconcile our long-term goal with the need to ensure a reliable, cost-effective and resource-saving energy supply also in the short to medium term? What's more, with its "Energiewende", Germany aspires to play an international leading role – from political, economic, ecological, social, technological, geo-strategic and security policy points of view. Against this backdrop, four international experts analyze the progress made so far and make recommendations.

Real Instituto Elcano (Elcano Royal Institute)

A G20 agenda for technological justice

by Andrés Ortega [@andresortegak](#) and Francisco Andrés Pérez [@FranAndresP](#)
6 March 2018

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

Technological and scientific developments are generating huge opportunities for tackling societal challenges. However, they are unequally distributed, and they tend to cause economic and political disruptions in our societies that widen inequalities. The authors propose adopting the concept of 'technological justice' within our societies as a new paradigm for the international system to reconcile technological advances with the societal challenges facing our global society, especially poverty and sustainability. This paper proposes a number of policies and measures by which the G-20 could take on a central role in pushing this major contribution onto the global agenda.

Istituto Affari Internazionali

The rise of lithium batteries: a new form of energy dependence?

by Federico Mascolo
7 March 2018

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

A battery revolution lies at the core of the energy transition and it is well underway. While the positive impact of this is clear, what is less evident is that a new form of energy dependence could materialize as a result of an overreliance on a single key component: lithium.

Expert-Grup

Tarife mai transparente – o solutie în plus pentru securitatea energetica

by Sergiu Tofilat
12 March 2018

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

The energy complex has natural monopoly components, where there is a unique network for delivering energy (or natural gas) to consumers. But in any monopoly there is the risk of an abusive increase in tariffs, taking into account the dominant position and the lack of competition. In order to avoid such risks, the state intervenes with regulatory policies and sets the level of tariffs so as to ensure cost recovery and obtain a reasonable profit margin, depending on the country's risk.

EMPLOYMENT/SOCIAL POLICY/HEALTH/CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Open Society European Policy Institute

An end to manels: closing the gender gap at Europe's top policy events

by Christal Morehouse, Alla Volkova and Silvia Fierăscu

9 March 2018

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

The number of women who speak at key policy-shaping conferences across Europe is far below that of their male peers. Looking at five years of high-level conferences in Europe, this report finds that a woman has only one opportunity to speak for every three times a man speaks. The situation is not improving, but it can. Two conferences of the 23 conferences included in the report have shown that, with a concerted effort, they can drastically increase the number of female speakers and move toward gender parity. The onus is now on governments, businesses, and conference organizers to ensure they are sending and receiving representative delegations at these events.

Centre for European Policy Studies

On international women's day: more focus needed on integrating migrant women

by Mikkel Barslund [@mBarslund](#) and Nadzeya Laurentsyeva

8 March 2018

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

To mark international women's day, the authors tackle the challenge facing policy-makers of how best to integrate women migrants into the labour market. Their lack of integration into the labour market is not only a story of lost opportunity at the individual level. It also carries important macroeconomic implications. Even the more modest ambition of reducing the employment gap for women immigrants to that of their male counterpart would have a significant employment effect, which, even in the face of documented discrimination in the labour force, should be attainable.

Institute of Economic Affairs

Fast food outlets and obesity: what is the evidence?

by Christopher Snowdon [@cjsnowdon](#)

March 2018

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

The easy availability of fast food is not only said to cause obesity in children but, according to the BBC, there is also 'quite a lot of evidence that having fast food nearby leads to more obesity in adults'. But is there? Dozens of studies have looked at the impact of fast food outlets on obesity. This report looks at their conclusions.

Bruegel

Why is it so hard to reach the EU's poverty target?

by Zsolt Darvas [@ZsoltDarvas](#)

5 March 2018

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

The European Union's Lisbon strategy goal of tackling poverty was a notable failure, while the Europe 2020 strategy's poverty target is out of reach. Both strategies were based on variants of the 'at risk of poverty' indicator, which has an inappropriate and misleading name. The author demonstrates theoretically and empirically by cross-section, time series and panel co-integration evidence that the 'at risk of poverty' indicator essentially measures income inequality, not poverty.

European Trade Union Institute

European social dynamics: a quantitative approach

by Christophe Degryse and Philippe Pochet

6 March 2018

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

This paper tries to understand, through the cross-analysis of two databases, the gradual evolution of Social Europe in terms of processes and results. Using a database of the Observatory of European Institutions (OEI) set up within Sciences-Po Paris and an internal ETUI database on legislative acts in the European social policy area, the paper shows the phases of acceleration and slowdown, and, even stagnation, of Social Europe, as well as its particularities and similarities in comparison to other areas of European policy.

Terra Nova

Économie collaborative: comment encadrer et encourager le pouvoir de la "multitude"?

by Alain Busson, Séléna Coquil and Alice Vasseur

12 March 2018

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

Based on sharing, on the pooling of assets of all kinds and new forms of work organization, the collaborative economy develops by challenging traditional models. This "new economy", based on digital transformation and "peer-to-peer" mechanisms, offers ergonomic and low-cost services in many areas: transport, accommodation, personal services. It makes possible to increase the use of often underemployed assets and gives many people the possibility of receiving additional income. This report explores answers to the main problems generated by this "new economy" and outlines a series of proposals to enable society to take full advantage of these organizational innovations while preserving the fundamental rights of those who contribute to them.

Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin für Sozialforschung (Social Science Research Center Berlin)

Social location matters: inequality in work and family life courses at the intersection of gender and race

by Silke Aisenbrey and Anette Fasang

March 2018

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

Which constraints and privileges do members of empowered or disempowered groups face in combining work and family life courses? To address this timely and highly relevant question, the paper empirically analyses work and family life courses at the intersection of gender and race in the United States. Using longitudinal data from the National Longitudinal Study of Youth (NLSY), it studies parallel work-family trajectories of white and African American men and women combining an intersectional comparison with a quantitative life course perspective. Uncovering complex population level regularities that are not immediately visible are also an important precondition for assessing the causes and consequences of social inequality in work-family life courses.

ENVIRONMENT

German Marshall Fund of the United States

Smart cities: an answer to social and environment risks?

by Catherine Sabbah [@csabbah](#)

6 March 2018

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

The pace of technological change in the last 20 years has abounded. In some ways, we struggle to keep pace with these changes from a policy and practice perspective. This is perhaps nowhere more apparent than with the notion of "smart cities" and the use of "smart technology." This paper joins the discussion by exploring how smart technology can address new social and environment risks in Paris — drawing on lessons learned from case studies of how New York City and Chicago have incorporated smart technology into managing security and urban planning.

New Climate institute

Opportunity 2030: benefits of climate action in cities

by Thomas Day, Sofia Gonzales-Zuniga, Niklas Höhne [@niklashoehne](#), Hanna Fekete [@HannaFekete](#), Sebastian Sterl [@sebastiansterl](#), Frederic Hans, Antoine Warembourg [@antoine_wbr](#), Anda Anica and Pieter van Breevoort

March 2018

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

This report presents analysis on the impacts of climate action through energy efficiency retrofit in residential buildings, enhanced bus networks and services, and district-scale renewable energy in major global regions, based on the development and utilisation of new impact assessment methodology tools.

Real Instituto Elcano (Elcano Royal Institute)

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

by Lara Lázaro Touza [@lazarotouza](#)

5 March 2018

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

The year 2018 promises advances in the development of the implementing guidelines for the Paris Agreement and in the evaluation of progress towards the objective of limiting average temperatures to well below 2-degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. The EU will push the development of the Energy Union, and it is expected to raise the ambition of its renewable energy and energy efficiency targets for 2030, among other actions. Spain will present the first draft of the Climate Change and Energy Transition Law.

Friends of Europe

Oceans governance and plastics. A review of the marine plastic landscape

by Raphaël Danglade [@RaphaelDanglade](#) and Adrián Tóth
March 2018

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

The momentum for better ocean governance and reduced marine litter is welcome and on the rise. However, given the scale of the problem and the state of our oceans, it seems strategies, declarations and action plans are only a drop in the ocean, and they alone will not solve the wide range of issues in the coming years. According to the authors, Europe and other international players should take the lead and demonstrate that supporting critical innovations, financing strategic research and adopting a new and consistent 'reducing-reusing-recycling' circular model allow economic growth, jobs and sustainable development spur.

Centre for Climate Change Economics and Policy

Producer cities and consumer cities: using production- and consumption-based carbon accounts to guide climate action in China, the UK, and the US

by Andrew Sudmant [@AndrewSudmant](#), Andy Gouldson [@andy_gouldson](#), Joel Millward-Hopkins, Kate Scott [@KateSco11](#) and John Barrett [@j_r_barrett](#)
March 2018

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

Meeting the commitments made in the Paris Agreement on climate change will require different approaches in different countries. However, a common feature in many contexts relates to the continued and sometimes increasing significance of the carbon footprints of urban centres. Although a growing number of cities have adopted targets for their production-based emissions, very few have even started to analyse or address their consumption-based emissions. This presents a potential challenge for urban policymaking if consumption emissions rise while production emissions fall, and for climate mitigation more broadly if emissions are effectively migrating to areas without carbon reduction targets or capabilities.

EDUCATION/YOUTH/CULTURE/SPORT

Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies

Education in Europe in focus: towards a true education area by 2025

by Tibor Navracsics [@TNavracsicsEU](#)
27 March 2018

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

This paper sets out ways to reform European education systems to ensure that they equip Europeans with a forward-looking set of key competences that prepares them for the workplace, but also helps to create a European identity. It argues that education and training—enhanced through mobility, transnational cooperation and structural reforms—are critical to boosting individual, economic and societal resilience. The ultimate goal is to build a true European Education Area by 2025, which would, inter alia, improve students' mobility, prepare the ground for the mutual recognition of diplomas and boost language learning.

SECTION 5 - FOREIGN AFFAIRS

FOREIGN AND SECURITY POLICY / DEFENCE

Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik (German Development Institute)

A European peace facility could make a pragmatic contribution to peacebuilding around the world

by Mark Furness [@MPFurness](#)

26 March 2018

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

The question of how the EU should finance peacebuilding in developing countries has challenged policy-makers and pundits for many years. At one level this is a technical and legal issue of budget lines and financing rules. It nevertheless touches on the much deeper political and even moral issues of whether the EU should use development aid to finance security provision, how best the EU can respond to the legitimate needs of partners in conflict-affected countries and what kind of civil and/or military engagements the EU can support as part of its external relations.

Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik (German Development Institute)

A bridge over troubled water? The Instrument contributing to stability and peace (IcSP) and the security-development nexus in EU external policy

by Julian Bergmann [@bergmann_jph](#)

14 March 2018

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

The enduring civil war in Syria, the crisis in Mali, the armed conflict in Ukraine's Donbass region as well as numerous fragile situations worldwide demonstrate that the EU is currently facing serious and complex security challenges. In order to provide an adequate response to these challenges, the EU seeks to implement a "joined-up" approach to its external action and aims to strengthen its capacities at the interface of security and development policies. While there is a clear recognition within the EU of the various links between these two policy fields, there are different understandings of this interface, the author writes.

Utrikespolitiska Institutet (Swedish Institute of International Affairs)

Order, integration and the development of the European security and defence: key uncertainties and future scenarios

by Björn Fägersten and August Danielson [@AugustDanielson](#)

March 2018

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

Over the past decade, European security and defence has been characterised by uncertainty, fragmentation and reluctance, the authors claim. The report maps out possible future scenarios by identifying and analysing four key uncertainties that are thought to shape the future of European security and defence policy, namely order, integration, capabilities and cohesion.

Centre international de formation européenne

Permanent structured cooperation: not a panacea but an important step for consolidating EU security and defence cooperation

by Kyriakos Revelas

1 March 2018

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

The paper briefly analyses and discusses PESCO and issues related to its implementation. PESCO is also examined here with reference to what else is being done in parallel as part of the Security and Defence Union within a long-term European integration.

Institut français des relations internationales/ Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung (Heinrich Böll Foundation)/ Deutsche Gesellschaft für Auswärtige Politik e.V.

La politique étrangère européenne en 2027: se préparer à l'inattendu. Risques et méthodes d'atténuation

by Katja Borck, Julie Hamann and David Quin (eds.)

March 2018

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

The report provides five scenarios on major risks threatening European foreign policy interests, provided by a group of 30 young German, French and Polish scholars.

Utrikespolitiska Institutet (Swedish Institute of International Affairs) / GIGA German Institute of Global and Area Studies

Comparative exceptionalism: universality and particularity in foreign policy discourses

by Nicola Nymalm and Johannes Plagemann

March 2018

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

As a prerequisite for comparative work, the authors established two features common to all exceptionalist foreign policy discourses. In order to systematize different versions of exceptionalism, they then proposed four ideal types, each of which reflects exceptionalism's common trait of a claim to moral superiority and uniqueness but diverges across other important dimensions, with implications for its potentially offensive character. The article concludes by formulating a research agenda for future comparative work on exceptionalist foreign policy discourses and their repercussions for great power relations and global politics.

Instituto Español de Estudios Estratégicos

El futuro de la proliferación NBQR: la sombra del cisne negro

by José Ignacio Castro Torres

7 March 2018

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

Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) is a worrying issue for a medium to long-term future. States' uncertain situation in the new global system, coupled with new technologies' arrival, can lead these actors to looking at what these weapons, mainly nuclear ones, could offer them. For non-state actors WMD could be a way to obtain security, economical income, power or carry out terrorist attacks. Regarding these possibilities, a prospective approach should be applied through anticipation and proactivity, to avoid non-desired events from a proliferation viewpoint scenario, the author say.

Norsk Utenrikspolitisk Institutt (The Norwegian Institute of International Affairs) / The Polish Institute of International Affairs

Nordic-Baltic security in times of uncertainty: the defence-energy nexus

by Bartosz Bielszczuk, Aleksandra Gawlikowska-Fyk, Jakub Godzimirski [@jmgdupi](#), Artur Kacprzyk [@ArturKacprzyk](#), Wojciech Lorenz [@LorenzWojciech](#) and Marcin Terlikowski [@Mterlikowski](#)

March 2018

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

In the new strategic situation, when Russia is interested in regaining the status of regional and global power, there is a real threat that Kremlin will use Europe's dependence on Russian gas to divide NATO and the EU. The report shows that energy and defence in the Nordic-Baltic region are closely interrelated.

Norsk Utenrikspolitisk Institutt (The Norwegian Institute of International Affairs)

European defence and third countries after Brexit

by Øyvind Svendsen

14 March 2018

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

The UK's departure from the EU has driven the 'ever closer Union' in the EU's Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP). The paper identifies some key obstacles towards expanded European defence integration. The 'third country' role in the CSDP will inevitably be altered by the UK, one of the largest military powers in Europe. For current third countries – like Norway and Iceland – this should lead to caution regarding immediate participation and a pragmatic approach to the developments, the author point out.

Istituto Affari Internazionali

Non-proliferation regime for cyber weapons. A tentative study

by Cristian Barbieri, Jean-Pierre Darnis [@jpdarnis](#) and Carolina Polito

March 2018

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

The paper provides an analysis on the cyber weapons proliferation, leveraging the lessons learned from past international agreements, and offering a potential way forward to ensure that an open, stable, and secure cyber space is in place.

Friends of Europe

Women, peace and security. Time to move from UN resolutions to national resolve

by Shada Islam [@shada_islam](#), Sarah Bentz and Osama Qayyum

March 2018

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

Despite growing recognition of women's effectiveness at promoting peace and awareness of the disproportionate impact conflict has on them, women and girls continue to be left out of peace negotiations. Progress has been made in the last 30 years – but it has been slow and difficult. Continued failure to include women in peacebuilding ignores their demonstrated effectiveness and weakens current strategies to respond effectively to global security threats.

Istituto Affari Internazionali / Centre for European Policy Studies / European Peacebuilding Liaison Office

Report on EU comprehensive approach to conflict prevention and peacebuilding

by Giovanni Faleg [@gioFALEG](#), Nicoletta Pirozzi, Bernardo Venturi [@bervent](#) and Nabila Habbida
23 March 2018

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

The report assesses the evolution of the EU's comprehensive approach into the integrated approach, in comparison with three other international organisations: the UN, NATO and the OSCE. It provides a set of recommendations aimed at improving the coherence and impact of EU's integrated responses at the strategic and operational levels.

GLOBSEC Policy Institute

NATO's intelligence - adaptation challenge

by Artur Gruszczak
26 March 2018

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

The paper examines NATO's intelligence resources, assets and capabilities against the backdrop of its security environment, strategic concepts and international collaborative efforts. It also assesses the Alliance's adaptability to the dynamic expansion of information production and diffusion in the context of strategic forecast, situational awareness and operational planning. The publication looks at NATO's readiness to utilize potential synergetic intelligence opportunities in cooperation with the European Union.

The Finnish Institute of International Affairs

Nordic foreign and security policy cooperation: the new strategic environment as a catalyst for greater unity?

by Tuomas Iso-Markku
12 March 2018

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

The deterioration of the Nordic states' immediate security environment after the Ukrainian crisis has given a new sense of relevance to Nordic foreign and security policy cooperation. The focus of the cooperation has shifted to issues of regional security, with the Nordic states exchanging views on and information about developments in the Nordic-Baltic region, the author points out.

European Council on Foreign Relations

Keeping Europe safe after Brexit

by Marta Dassù [@martadassu](#), Wolfgang Ischinger [@ischinger](#), Pierre Vimont and Robert Cooper
20 March 2018

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

There is a strong rationale for close EU-UK cooperation on security and defense after Brexit. Each side should preserve the principle of cooperation in different arrangements for different areas, from policing to foreign policy. All this is achievable but needs clear principles if it is to succeed. These include: a broad understanding of the components of European security, agreement that unique arrangements are required for a unique situation, and a commitment not to treat security like just another element within the Brexit negotiations, the authors write.

Carnegie Endowment for International Peace

Preventing escalation in the Baltics: A NATO playbook

by Ulrich Kühn [@UliTKuehn](#)

28 March 2018

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

The risk of escalation sparking a wider conflict—deliberately, inadvertently, or accidentally—between Russia and NATO is dangerously high. This is particularly the case in the Baltics. Amid the rollout of the February 2018 US Nuclear Posture Review, security analysts have understandably focused much attention on its implications for the US nuclear arsenal, intra-alliance ties with key North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) partners, and Washington's icy relations with Moscow. But nuclear deterrence only partially addresses NATO members' shared concerns about Russian behavior, especially in light of Moscow's growing propensity to undermine the alliance, the author points out.

Istituto per gli Studi di Politica Internazionale

Report 2018. Big powers are back. What about Europe?

by Alessandro Colombo and Paolo Magri (eds.)

March 2018

Link to the article in [English](#) (243 p.) and [Italian](#) (297 p.)

Under the pressure of the new US administration's aggressive rhetoric, 2017 has revealed that traditional dynamics among great powers are back in the international context of the XXI century. Contrary to the most optimistic predictions and discourses of the early post-Cold War period, the "game of big powers" is regaining centre stage. The report reflects upon this change, only partly offset by positive news coming from the global economy over the past year. The first part of the publication focuses on the global context; the second investigates the role Europe can play in a "world of big powers"; the last part addresses Italian foreign policy.

TRADE

College of Europe

Global trade: time for Europe to take the lead?

by Geoffrey Harris

12 March 2018

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

The project of a Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership was presented in both the US and the EU as a major political enterprise with 'geo-economic' implications and a declared intent to reaffirm transatlantic leadership and to secure, in the face of emerging rivals, a rules-based international economic and political order. These objectives have not been achieved. The current cooling of transatlantic relations, reflected most visibly in the G7 and G20 meetings during the first months of the Trump Presidency in 2017 and at the World Economic Forum in Davos a year later, means that the conditions for any revival of this project are currently difficult to imagine, according to the author.

Bruegel

Europe in a new world order

by Maria Demertzis [@mariademertzis](#), André Sapir and Guntram B. Wolff [@GuntramWolff](#)

19 March 2018

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

According to the authors, the EU should rethink its position in the global order. The US will remain the EU's most natural partner in economic, cultural and probably military terms. But if differences grow significantly in the course of the current administration, not least because of different social models, the EU needs to stand ready to defend its interests. The EU should prioritise measures that help to sustain the multilateral trading system. It should be firm in its response to the US, based on the principle of multilateralism, the authors write.

ENLARGEMENT

İstanbul Politikalar Merkezi (Istanbul Policy Center)

Revitalizing Turkey-EU relations?

by Atila Eralp

March 2018

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

This paper examines the current vicious cycle of cooperation and discontent between Turkey and the EU and attempts to inject new insights into the discussion by contextualizing the debate on the EU-Turkey relationship in terms of global trends and the future of Europe debate. It examines important areas of cooperation between the EU and Turkey and identifies possible areas for further cooperation. The paper concludes by looking at the future prospects and possible scenarios for the relationship.

İstanbul Politikalar Merkezi (Istanbul Policy Center)

Water and food security in Turkey in a changing climate

by Tuğba Ağaçayak and E. Fuat Keyman

20 March 2018

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

Water and food security in a changing climate have become unprecedented challenges for Turkey and its future. Currently, the country is experiencing a period of drought, and climate projections indicate a fall in water potential. Turkey is a water-stressed country, and by the second half of the century it will reach the level of water poverty. The Global Food Security Index estimates that food security in Turkey is 49th out of 113 index countries and 8th in the MENA region. Thus, water and food security have become an important debate within the discussion on climate change, the authors write.

DEVELOPMENT

Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik (German Development Institute)

From damage control to sustainable development: European development policy under the next EU budget

by Svea Koch, Niels Keijzer [@keijzer_niels](#) and Christine Hackenesch
26 March 2018

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

Under the current budget for the period of 2014 to 2020, including the inter-governmental European Development Fund (EDF), over 90 billion euros are available for the EU's external action. Geographically, the EU needs to strike a balance between the cooperation with middle-income countries (MICs) and a focus on the poorest countries. This can only be achieved by focusing geographic allocations to LDCs, neighbouring countries and sub-Saharan Africa, while engaging with MICs in other regions through thematic programmes, the authors claim.

European Centre for Development Policy Management

Sailing new waters in international cooperation: on the way to framing future EU's engagement with more advanced developing countries

by Mariella Di Ciommo and Meritxell Sayós Monràs
30 March 2018

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

The EU Global Strategy and the European Consensus on Development present the drivers for the EU's engagement with more advanced (MADCs) and middle-income developing countries (MICs) but do not offer clear guidance. Although the EU's priorities in the neighbourhood have led to a substantial increase in aid to MICs, there are big differences between different countries and between EU external financial instruments. Income-based measures for development leave little space for political manoeuvre but are manifestly inadequate as a policy-making tool in a diverse world. Future policy choices on MICs and MADCs could involve less resources for other countries.

OCP Policy Center

Food trade policy and the dietary transition

by Will Martin
23 March 2018

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

The irony facing many developing countries today is that increased food trade and the implications of globalization has created a situation where certain segments of the population are eating too much, while just in their proximity lies a more significant segment of the population who are suffering from the complete opposite, malnutrition. This paper aims at explaining this phenomenon.

WESTERN BALKANS

Group for Legal and Political Studies

Reforming from the bench - marking offside: the (in)effectiveness of the EU benchmarking mechanism in the Western Balkans

by Ardita Abazi Imeri, Aleksandra Ivanovska and Amela Hrasnica [@AHrasnica](#)

30 March 2018

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

The purpose of this analysis is to highlight and compare the key developments in relation to the selected benchmarks in the six countries, whereas an in depth discussion of the benchmarks in the separate countries is to be found in the national studies. Following a brief explanation of the methodology, this analysis provides a contextual overview of where the countries stand in the process of EU integration as well as an overview of the benchmarking mechanism across the Western Balkans.

Group for Legal and Political Studies

EU's benchmarking mechanism on 'fundamentals first': results and challenges - benchmarking in Kosovo

by Albana Rexha [@albanarexha](#)

February 2018

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

This analysis represents a first major attempt to critically evaluate the degree to which the objectives are achieved and the extent to which targeted problems are solved in order to further advance in the EU accession process.

Ulkopoliittinen instituutti (Finnish Institute of International Affairs)

Propaganda and disinformation in the Western Balkans: how the EU can counter Russia's information war

by Sophie Eisentraut and Stephanie de Leon

March 2018

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

In recent years, Russia has ramped up its influence operations in the Western Balkans. Utilizing propaganda and disinformation, Moscow stirs lingering regional tensions and undermines the EU's credibility in Western Balkans nations. It is in the EU's vital interest to confront Russian efforts to destabilize this region – European security relies on peace, prosperity, and stability in the Western Balkans. The analysis makes concrete policy recommendations how to push back Russian propaganda while reaching out to Western Balkan nations.

Forum Obywatelskiego Rozwoju

Abusing the people: global challenges of authoritarian populism

8 March 2018

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

This publication is a part of the effort to counter authoritarian populism in Serbia, the Western Balkans and around the world. The articles for this publication have been written by the leading scholars, activists and professionals in the international freedom movement and represent their personal views and reflections on relevant trends in their countries and globally.

EUROPEAN NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICY

College of Europe

The European Union in its neighbourhood: an accidental regional hegemon

by Sieglinde Gstöhl and Sofía López

23 March 2018

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

The EU has since the 1990s intentionally or inadvertently 'exported' not just political values but various types of norms to a growing number of Western Eastern and Southern neighbouring countries. Yet, the EU needs to become more aware of the implications of its accidental hegemony. It needs to supply the right regional public goods, manage perceptions, monitor the projected norms and offer close neighbours ways to participate in their making.

EASTERN PARTNERSHIP

Istituto Affari Internazionali

The European Union and its Eastern partners: beyond the limits of current approaches to regional cooperation

by Florent Marciacq and Tobias Flessenkemper

5 March 2018

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

The Eastern Partnership, concluded between the European Union on the one side and Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine on the other, has faced major challenges and yielded mixed results since its launch almost ten years ago, the authors say. According to the article, the EU's capacity to adapt to existing circumstances and learn from its experience will be key in promoting a more effective approach in the future.

GLOBSEC Policy Institute

Georgia on the European way: creation of effective model for DCFTA and SME strategy implementation - awareness and involvement of Georgian small and medium enterprises and civil society in implementation of the deep and comprehensive free trade area with the EU - survey results

14 March 2018

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

The project addresses the lack of awareness of opportunities provided by the "Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area" (DCFTA) agreement between Georgia and the EU. It seeks to bolster the role of Georgian civil-society organizations (CSOs) in a nation-wide DCFTA communication campaign and their capacities to assist small and medium local entrepreneurs (SMEs) in their preparations for access to the EU single market.

European Union Institute for Security Studies

Third powers in Europe's East

by Nicu Popescu [@nicupopescu](#) and Stanislav Secrieru [@StasSecrieru](#) (eds.)

13 March 2018

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

This Chaillot Paper examines the geopolitical repercussions of the rising presence of third powers in the region, and how the growing constellation of partnerships between the EaP countries and these powers serves a range of strategic purposes for the actors involved.

MIDDLE EAST/NORTH AFRICA (MENA)

Center for Strategic and International Studies

Military spending: the other side of Saudi security

by Anthony Cordesman

13 March 2018

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

The recent changes to the Saudi national security sector and military command made in February 2018 are hard to interpret. One can speculate that these changes were either a further effort to assert control by a new regime, or part of a serious effort by the Crown Prince to improve Saudi military planning, budgeting and fiscal management, and military operations. Saudi Arabia does face real threats and must deal with real security challenges. The Kingdom may sometimes overreact to the Iranian threat and extremist challenges, but both sets of threats are present, and affects all the other Gulf states as well as of the United States.

E3G

MENA stability in a changing climate: a transatlantic agenda on preventive investment

by Taylor Dimsdale and Nick Mabey

March 2018

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

This briefing takes stock of EU-US progress in improving resilience to resource and climate shocks in MENA. It is based on a systematic assessment of regional trends, risk factors, and economic and financial support packages. It has also been informed and substantially improved by consultation with experts including two high level workshops in Brussels and Washington, DC.

Global Public Policy Institute

Iraq after ISIL: sub-state actors, local forces, and the micro-politics of control

by Erica Gaston and Andras Derszi-Horvath

March 2018

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

As the Islamic State of Iraq swept through central and northern Iraq in 2014, local, substate, and hybrid security forces mobilized to resist. These substate and local forces provided an important bulwark against ISIL filling gaps in the Iraqi Security Forces and holding territory regained from ISIL. But have these groups lived up to their promise in terms of promoting stability? How do any security gains balance against other potential side effects, in terms of protection of civilians, rule of law and governance, or community dynamics? How will the greater reliance on these quasi- or non-state actors impact the long-term prospects for the Iraqi state?

Fundación Alternativas

La cuestión kurda en Siria e Irak tras caída de ISIS

by David Meseguer

15 March 2018

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

The military operation, code - named "Olive Branch" launched by Turkey over Afrin's Kurdish-Syrian enclave, the independence referendum held in Iraqi Kurdistan and the expulsion of ISIS of the large part of the territory that it controlled, among other factors, are being evaluated to determine if the collaboration with the Kurds was just an exceptional situation or if, by the contrary, there is a strong urge on part of the different actors involved in the conflicts in Syria and Iraq to integrate their political demands in future post-war scenarios.

Barcelona Centre for International Affairs

El mariscal Al Sisi se enroca en Egipto

by Ricard González

March 2018

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

Despite the fact that he is losing followers, Al Sisi's control over Egypt remains stronger than ever. This paper discusses the overall situation of his government.

European Institute of the Mediterranean

The transformation of violent extremist groups: new threats and challenges

by Amr Elshobaki

March 2018

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

This paper examines the key factors that have driven the transformations of extremist groups in the past five decades, through an analysis of the narratives developed by the first generation of violent extremist organizations, exemplified by al-Jihad and al-Jemaah al-Islamiyya in Egypt, and the second wave (al-Qaeda and ISIS). The paper also maps new violent groups in Egypt, especially some that broke away from the Muslim Brotherhood and started promoting violence.

Istituto Affari Internazionali

Unsustainable instability in Libya

by Karim Mezran

13 March 2018

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

A major question, and threat, facing Libya today is the eventuality of a disappearance of the state as it has been known for the past 60 years. There is a subtle and well determined cohort of people in and outside the country that are profiting from the dire situation and are actively seeking to stall attempts to reconstruct the state's institutions and bring a modicum of law and order to the country.

Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies - European University Institute

Lebanon's border areas in light of the Syrian war: new actors, old marginalisation

by Jamil Mouawad

March 2018

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

This paper unpacks how governance operates in Lebanon's border areas. It argues that, historically, a deliberate policy of marginalization and insecurity towards these areas has been adopted by the Lebanese state. In light of the Syrian war, the paper shows that the advent of new international and national actors in these areas (to protect the borders or to support the refugees), has further contributed to the reproduction or even the exacerbation of their precarity and marginalization.

Euro-Mediterranean Study Commission

The eastern Mediterranean: new dynamics and potential for cooperation

by Nimrod Goren (ed.), Muriel Asseburg, Thanos Dokos, Ehud Eiran, Gabriel Mitchell [@GabiMitch](#), and Panayotis Tsakonas

March 2018

Link to the article in [English](#) (78 p.)

While the Arab Middle East is in turmoil and is capturing international attention mostly due to crises and instability, the Eastern Mediterranean sub-region is witnessing some positive diplomatic momentum. Signs of increased political cooperation between different countries, new opportunities for economic and energy cooperation, as well as common threats related to security and refugee flow all lead to the emergence of the Eastern Mediterranean as a new sub-region. However, this positive momentum is challenged by a variety of geo-political factors and many mounting obstacles to the promotion of democracy, tolerance and human rights.

EASTERN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

RAND Europe

Getting out from "in-between": perspectives on the regional order in post-Soviet Europe and Eurasia

by Samuel Charap [@scharap](#), Alyssa Demus and Jeremy Shapiro [@JyShapiro](#) (eds.)

5 March 2018

Link to the article in [English](#) (73 p.)

While the competitive dynamic between Russia and the West has come to a head in Ukraine, all of the "in-between" states — Ukraine, Belarus, Moldova, Georgia, Armenia, and Azerbaijan — are objects of a contest among outside powers. This contest has become a negative-sum game, benefiting none of the parties. The perspectives collected in the document explore alternatives to the current approaches to the regional order for the states "in between".

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

Georgia positions itself on China's new Silk Road - Relations between Tbilisi and Beijing in the light of the Belt-and-Road initiative

by Franziska Smolnik

March 2018

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

China's importance and presence in Georgia are growing. The Belt and Road initiative, Beijing's vision of a new Silk Road, has met with active approval here – in contrast to a number of West European capitals. The government in Tbilisi is carefully positioning Georgia as an essential part of the south Eurasian corridor. Large infrastructure projects are being carried out to facilitate transit. Georgia is also using formats such as the Tbilisi Belt & Road Forum to promote its location. However, whether the new Silk Road will be a purely win-win situation for the country, still remains to be seen.

Central Asia-Caucasus Institute and Silk Road Studies Program

Political reform in Mirziyoyev's Uzbekistan: elections, political parties & civil society

by Anthony C. Bowyer

March 2018

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

Since taking over from long-time President Islam Karimov in 2016, President Shavkat Mirziyoyev has pursued an aggressive policy to transform Uzbekistan's decision-making processes, invigorate civil society, encourage political competition, address human rights and develop a civic culture consistent with the country's status as a modernizing, forward-looking regional power in Eurasia with a steadily increasing majority of citizens under the age of 30. To declare significant these changes, which seem to take place daily, is to perhaps understate their potential in light of the last 30 years of history.

AFRICA

Carnegie Endowment for International Peace

Regional cooperation on democratization and conflict management in Africa

by Gilbert M. Khadiagala [@gkhadiag](#)

March 2018

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

While the African Union is leading efforts to establish continent-wide norms for acceptable political conduct, regional institutions are also contributing substantially to democratization and peacebuilding in their neighbourhoods. Bodies such as the Economic Community of West African States have been actively managing conflicts and preventing movement toward authoritarianism. However, country-level commitment to democratic governance remains uneven and inconsistent. Addressing the region's challenges calls for further integration and cooperation, which will require significant resources and new notions of sovereignty with responsibility.

Pew Research Center

At least a million sub-Saharan Africans moved to Europe since 2010

by Phillip Connor [@pc_connor](#)

22 March 2018

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

International migration from countries in sub-Saharan Africa has grown dramatically over the past decade, including to Europe and the United States. Indeed, most years since 2010 have witnessed a rising inflow of sub-Saharan asylum applicants in Europe, and lawful permanent residents and refugees in the US. The factors pushing people to leave sub-Saharan Africa – and the paths they take to arrive at their destinations – vary from country to country and individual to individual. In the case of Europe, the population of sub-Saharan migrants has been boosted by the influx of nearly 1 million asylum applicants (970,000) between 2010 and 2017.

South African Institute of International Affairs

The African peer review mechanism at 15: achievements and aspirations

by Steven Gruzd [@rhymeswbruised](#) and Yarik Turianskyi [@Yarik_T](#)

7 March 2018

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

As the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) turned 15 on 9 March 2018, this milestone provides an ideal opportunity to acknowledge recent progress. The APRM Secretariat's new 'Three Rs strategy' has begun to restore, reinvigorate and renew the mechanism. Reviews have been re-started, there is greater innovation and energy around the APRM, and confidence is being rebuilt. Yet challenges remain: increasing political commitment, fostering civil society involvement, garnering sustainable funding, implementing action plans, and demonstrating value addition.

Norsk Utenrikspolitisk Institutt (The Norwegian Institute of International Affairs)

Tanzania: a political economy analysis

by Stein Sundstøl Eriksen

1 March 2018

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

The report was commissioned by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs with the intention to consolidate and enhance expertise on Tanzania, so as to improve the quality of the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs' future country-specific involvement and strategy development. Such political economy analyses focus on how political and economic power is constituted, exercised and contested.

European Association on Development Research and Training Institutes

The European powers and the Sahel-Maghreb crisis

by Rasmus Alenius Boserup and Luis Martinez

2 March 2018

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

The authors analyse how European policy-makers have recently come to perceive the Sahel as a threat to Europe's own security and stability. Focusing on the most significant recent developments with trans-national jihadism and cross-border migration, the report argues that, although European powers spearheaded by France have succeeded in reducing a number of the most immediate threats to the survival of states and societies in some of the most vulnerable parts of the Sahel, the international community has failed to generate the conditions that would foster long-term peace and development.

ASIA-OCEANIA

Center for Strategic and International Studies

Perspectives on Taiwan

by Bonnie S. Glaser [@BonnieGlaser](#) and Matthew P. Funaiolo (eds.)

12 March 2018

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

The papers in this publication were written by the 10 members of the 2017 Taiwan-US Policy Program (TUPP) delegation. Each participant was asked to reflect on his or her in-country experience and produce a short article analyzing a policy issue related to Taiwan.

Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik (German Development Institute) / Asian Development Bank Institute

Fostering green finance for sustainable development in Asia

by Ulrich Volz

13 March 2018

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

Placing the Asian economies onto a sustainable development pathway requires an unprecedented shift in investment away from greenhouse gas, fossil fuel and natural resource intensive industries towards more resource efficient technologies and business models. The financial sector will have to play a central role in this 'green transformation'. This study discusses the need for greening the financial system and the role of financial governance. It reviews the state of green lending and investment in Asia and provides an overview of green financial governance initiatives across Asia.

Brookings Institution

Regulating for a digital economy: understanding the importance of cross-border data flows in Asia

by Joshua P. Meltzer [@JoshuaPMeltzer](#) and Peter Lovelock

20 March 2018

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

The world is experiencing unprecedented increases in connectivity and global data flows. This is underpinning the so-called fourth industrial revolution, which is characterized by end-to-end digitization of all assets and integration into a digital ecosystem. It heralds the fourth major upheaval in modern manufacturing after the lean revolution of the 1970s, outsourcing in the 1990s, and automation in the 2000s. The Asia Pacific continues to be one of the fastest growing regions in the world, both economically, and in terms of connectivity.

RAND Europe

Vector check: prospects for US and Pakistan air power engagement

by Jonah Blank, Richard S. Girven, Arzan Tarapore, Julia A. Thompson [@Julia Thompson](#) and Arthur Chan

16 March 2018

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

The report examines factors regarding prospects for US and Pakistan air power engagement from a variety of angles: it discusses the historical context of US-Pakistan engagement, highlighting the two prior cycles of deep partnership and precipitous downgrade; it outlines Pakistan's strategic calculus with five nations (India, China, Afghanistan, Saudi Arabia, and Iran), which inform most important security decisions, and highlights Pakistan's overarching focus on potential conflict with India; and it looks at future trends for partnering, while examining several potential scenarios.

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

World Economic Forum

The Brazil competitiveness and inclusive growth lab report

March 2018

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

The report addresses issues relating to international trade, innovation, public policy efficiency and the institutional and legal environment for businesses.

Istituto Affari Internazionali

Roadblocks and avenues for Brazil-Europe cooperation: exploring a wider security agenda

by Leonardo Paz Neves

March 2018

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

Since 2013, Brazil and Europe have both been dealing with several crises that seem to have prevented them from advancing a common agenda. This apparent lack of interest contrasts with the track record of yearly bilateral summits, a practice started when the European Union granted Brazil the status of strategic partner. Despite this recent distancing, it is possible to identify a number of issues, especially in the security field, wherein Europe and Brazil share priorities and thus could benefit from cooperating.

Center for Strategic and International Studies

Venezuela's crisis is now a regional humanitarian disaster

by Moises Rendon [@MoisesRendon](#) and Mark L. Schneider [@MarkLSchneider](#)

23 March 2018

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

Venezuela has been subjected to an unprecedented man-made humanitarian crisis, including extreme food and medicine shortages, thousands of children dying of malnutrition, and malnourished people contracting formerly eradicated diseases. While Venezuela's dictatorial regime has repeatedly rejected humanitarian aid from the outside, the country's humanitarian, economic, social, and institutional collapse, along with fierce political repression, have caused 1.2 million Venezuelans to flee the country over the past two years, with hundreds of thousands more and possibly millions expected to flee in the future.

International Crisis Group

Containing the shock waves from Venezuela

21 March 2018

Link to the article in [English](#) (52 p.) and [Spanish](#) (57 p.)

As Venezuela's President Nicolás Maduro prepares to seek reelection, the country's socio-economic implosion has become a major problem for its neighbours. Venezuelans are fleeing hunger and poverty by the hundreds of thousands, while disease and crime are spreading across borders. The priority is international support for humanitarian assistance along the borders. A negotiated transition is essential to restore representative politics and socio-economic well-being.

Brookings Institution

Uruguay's cannabis law: pioneering a new paradigm

by John Hudak [@JohnJHudak](#), Geoff Ramsey [@GRamsey_LatAm](#) and John Walsh

21 March 2018

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

Uruguay is the first country to legalize and regulate its domestic non-medical cannabis market. In light of this pioneering role, the choices and experiences of Uruguayan authorities hold important lessons for other jurisdictions that may consider whether and how to regulate cannabis. To this end, this report examines the conditions that led Uruguay's government to pass its cannabis law in 2013, studies its progress so far, and identifies areas that policymakers should consider addressing.

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

Colombia's peace and Venezuela's turmoil - An emerging regional crisis landscape in South America

by Günther Maihold [@GMaihold](#)

March 2018

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

The two Andean neighbours are so closely connected by ideological confrontation, border disputes, illegal violent actors, migration flows, the narcotics trade and economic exchange that the individual problems become almost indistinguishable – both within and between the two countries. The bottom line is that the political and economic crisis in Venezuela is eroding efforts to consolidate peace efforts in Colombia. Avoiding lasting harm will require the two states to pursue integrated solutions supported by the international community.

Real Instituto Elcano (Elcano Royal Institute)

Una aproximación al crimen transnacional organizado: redes de narcotráfico Colombia-España

by Andrés Cajiao, Paola González, Daniel Pardo and Oswaldo Zapata

15 March 2018

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

Transnational organized crime groups affect states in different ways. Their structure, how they work and how they hide make them hard to eliminate. Colombia is on a transition period towards peace but its weak Government body and its fragile and complex security context don't allow it to ensure stability. This paper aims to identify those items to be examined and the research lines on organized crime.

CHINA

Centre for International Governance Innovation

The macro prudential assessment framework of China: background, evaluation and current and future policy

by Liansheng Zheng

7 March 2018

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

Driven by the push for international regulation cooperation and the domestic demand to deal with potential systemic risks, China introduced the Macro Prudential Assessment (MPA) framework on 1 January 2016. International regulation coordination, the need to handle domestic accumulated financial risks, adapting to changes in banks' balance sheets and interest rate liberalization are the main incentives for China to launch a regulation system with macro prudential perspectives and micro prudential standards.

Observer Research Foundation

Examining China's adherence to international norms

by Arthur Waldron

7 March 2018

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

According to the author, China has often showed a lack of willingness to abide by not only established international law but also certain norms that the global community has fostered over the years. It has flouted the decision issued by an arbitration court at The Hague regarding its claims in the South China Sea; it has also appropriated intellectual property. According to the paper, today it is clear that China intends to use extant international laws to serve its own interests when possible, to ignore them otherwise, and ultimately, change them to suit its own norms.

RAND Europe

China's pursuit of overseas security

by Timothy R. Heath

21 March 2018

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

China's ascent as the world's second-largest economy has brought the country tremendous prosperity, but integration into the global economy has also exposed growing numbers of its citizens and their assets to potential harm. The report examines China's pursuit of security for its overseas interests. It surveys Chinese writings and Western reporting to describe the country's likely approach to protecting its economic and strategic interests abroad.

European Institute for Asian Studies

China's international relations in the new era of Xi Jinping – implications for Europe

by Tim Rühlig [@ruehlig](#)

March 2018

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

At the 19th National Congress of the Chinese Communist Party last October, China's President Xi Jinping outlined the country's future foreign policy. In Europe, most observers interpreted Xi's speech as a turn to a more nationalist foreign policy that strives for fundamental changes in the international order along the lines of Chinese interests. This perception is fundamentally mistaken: China's rise may indeed call into question whether the liberal Western approach to development and international cooperation is without alternative. However, China rather strives for reforms from within the existing system than to fundamentally change it.

South African Institute of International Affairs

China in the era of 'Xi Jinping thought': five key trends for Africa

by Cobus van Staden [@stadenesque](#)

19 March 2018

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

This briefing identifies five trends that could affect Africa, emerging from China's 19th Communist Party Congress, held in Beijing in October 2017.

Elinkeinoelämän tutkimuslaitos (Research Institute of the Finnish Economy)

Ctrip: China's online travel platform - local giant or global competitor?

by Tiani Shao and Martin Kenney

5 March 2018

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

In a large number of sectors, Chinese internet platform firms have grown to enormous size, leveraging a rapidly growing, largely protected, domestic market. The paper describes the formation and growth of the largest Chinese travel and tourism platform, Ctrip, within the context of the changing Chinese economy.

Center for a New American Security

No safe harbour. Countering aggression in the East China Sea

by Patrick Cronin, Daniel Kliman [@dankliman](#) and Harry Krejsa [@HarryKrejsa](#)

29 March 2018

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

China is challenging America's and Japan's long-standing ability to uphold a peaceful order in the Asia-Pacific region. This is particularly true in the East and South China Seas between the Asian mainland and maritime Asian nations. An increasingly assertive China seeks to revise the postwar security system from which all nations have derived benefit. China's inroads into the South China Sea have encountered relatively few impediments, but in the East China Sea a strong US-Japan alliance has blunted Beijing's efforts to rewrite unilaterally the rules of the road.

Institute for Security and Development Policy

China's role in UN peacekeeping

5 March 2018

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

Historically, Chinese foreign policy was defined by a lack of international engagement and non-participation in multilateral organizations, such as the UN. Deng Xiaoping's time in office as Chinese leader from the late 1970s to the end of the 1980s did mark a softening in China's position on peacekeeping and its broader engagement with the outside world. During this period, China began to contribute towards the UN peacekeeping budget and shifted its position in ways which allowed for the direct involvement of its personnel in missions from the 1990s onwards.

German Marshall Fund of the United States

Europe's response to the Belt and Road Initiative

by Garima Mohan [@GarimaMo](#)

30 March 2018

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

According to the author, Europe's initial enthusiasm about the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is tempering. BRI is undermining the EU's internal cohesion, has the potential to impact European security, and is creating stiff competition for European companies on trade, investments, and market access in Europe and Asia. European policymakers are also beginning to realize the impact of BRI beyond the European continent — notably on the power balance and stability in Asia. Asian markets are important export destinations for Europe, and a majority of its sea-borne trade transits through the Indo-Pacific.

RUSSIA

Center for Strategic and International Studies

Putin and Russia's new nuclear weapons: whoever dies with the most toys wins?

by Anthony H. Cordesman

8 March 2018

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

Vladimir Putin has shown he is a master in exploiting Russian nationalism and American and European sensitivities. His latest gambit—publicizing new Russian nuclear systems—several of which are still developmental, may have key components that are untested, or do not yet exist—give him political credibility in asserting Russian national strength in a Russian election year, and emphasize the one key area where Russia remains a leading global super power: its possession of nuclear weapons. The question is whether they represent any real change in the nuclear balance, Russian and US ability to pose an existential threat to the other state, and mutual assured destruction.

Center for Strategic and International Studies

Contested seas. Maritime domain awareness in Northern Europe

by Kathleen H. Hicks [@kath_hicks](#) and Andrew Metrick

28 March 2018

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

Northern Europe, and specifically the Baltic and Norwegian Seas, has been the site of increasingly provocative and destabilizing Russian actions. The country's use of a range of military, diplomatic, and economic tools to undermine the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and its allies highlights the need to monitor and understand Russian activity. The region is characterized by complex factors like unique geographic features, considerable civilian maritime traffic, the presence of advanced Russian and Western military capabilities, and strategic proximity to Russia and the Kola peninsula, home to the Russian Northern fleet.

European Council on Foreign Relations

The arrival of post-Putin Russia

by Ivan Krastev and Gleb Pavlovsky

1 March 2018

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

Russia's March 2018 election marks the arrival of the post-Putin era in Russian domestic politics. Following the vote, Vladimir Putin will focus on shaping the new era, in a process he views not as a search for a successor but as a transfer of power from his generation to the "Putin generation". Despite widespread expectations that the regime will undergo a major transformation, it is unlikely that post-Putin Russia will be an anti-Putin Russia. Moscow will likely maintain its current foreign policy objectives even after Putin's exit from the Kremlin, but without him Russia may be a weak international player.

Chatham House - The Royal Institute of International Affairs

Putin and Russia in 2018–24: what next?

by Andrew Wood

15 March 2018

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

Following his re-election on 18 March 2018, Vladimir Putin will embark on what will, under present constitutional arrangements, be his final six-year term in office. Notwithstanding some modest economic recovery latterly, all indications are that economic performance will be mediocre at best in the coming years. The West should also pay close attention to the Kremlin's human rights record over the next several years, and the way it fits with Russia's existing international obligations.

La Vie des Idées

Anti-corruption et capitalisme de connivence en Russie

by Gilles Favarel-Garrigues

13 March 2018

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

In Russia, anti-corruption rhetoric has become a political weapon: by publicizing the condemnation of the dubious practices of high-ranking politicians, the corrupted ruling power neutralizes its enemies while defusing accusations of wrongdoing.

Ulkopoliittinen instituutti (Finnish Institute of International Affairs)

EU member states and Russia: National and European debates in an evolving international environment

by Marco Siddi [@MarcoSiddi](#) (ed.)

15 March 2018

Link to the article in [English](#) (124 p.)

Between 2015 and 2017, the international scenario became even more complex, with significant repercussions for Europe-Russia relations. The report zooms in on the debates on Russia in several EU member states that play a key role in the Union's relations with Moscow. It reveals how national perspectives evolved and sometimes diverged due to different assessments of the crises and of Russia's role in them.

Российский совет по международным делам (Russian International Affairs Council)

Defining dialogue: how to manage Russia-UK security relations. Part 2

by Andrey Kortunov, Malcolm Chalmers [@MChalmers_RUSI](#), Sarah Lain [@sarahlain12](#) and Maria Smekalova

29 March 2018

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

The report represents findings from the second round of the UK–Russia Track II bilateral security dialogue, held by Royal United Services Institute for Defence and Security Studies in collaboration with the Moscow-based Russian International Affairs Council (RIAC). Initially conceived during a moment in relations when the United Kingdom and the Russian Federation appeared to be on a modestly upward trajectory, relations between the two countries worsened in March 2018 due to the poisoning with a nerve agent of Sergei Skripal and his daughter. The UK has laid the blame for the event on Moscow.

Institut français des relations internationales

Putinism: a praetorian system?

by Jean-Robert Raviot

March 2018

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

Almost 20 years after Vladimir Putin's accession to the presidency in 2000, how should the Russian political system be defined? Authoritarian modernization initiative, guided or non-competitive democracy, neo-Soviet regime, new nomenklatura, militocracy, "government in uniform"—there is no shortage of descriptions. The study proposes a framework for analyzing the evolution of the Russian political system under Putin's leadership which is not restricted to a comparison with the western model of liberal democracy.

Norsk Utenrikspolitisk Institutt (The Norwegian Institute of International Affairs)

How to understand and deal with Russian strategic communication measures?

by Jakub M. Godzimirski [@imgnupi](#) and Malin Østevik [@malinoestevik](#)

March 2018

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

Russia's use of communicative tools to promote the country's strategic objectives in the aftermath of the 2014 crisis in Ukraine has posed a new strategic challenge to the Western policy-making community. NATO, the EU and national authorities have become increasingly aware of this new challenge, and have taken measures to reduce the negative impacts of Russian (dis)information campaigns.

Real Instituto Elcano (Elcano Royal Institute)

Putin después de Putin

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

20 March 2018

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

The paper focuses on some key aspects of Putin electoral victory and on the characteristics of his new term of office.

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

Russia's reform failures and Putin's future challenges

by Peter Havlik

March 2018

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

Vladimir Putin's presidency will last until 2024 – longer than most other Russian or Soviet leaders ruled. The paper provides a brief review of past economic developments and reform attempts. The author argues that past reforms have in effect failed, yet the main economic challenges currently facing Russia remain essentially the same as two decades ago: excessive dependence on energy, lack of diversification, poor investment climate, corruption, etc. What has changed is the resort to assertive behaviour and inward-looking economic policies which replaced the European integration vector prevalent at the beginning of the 2000s.

Ośrodek Studiów Wschodnich (Centre for Eastern Studies)

Putin for the fourth time. The state of and prospects for Russia (2018-2024)

March 2018

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

The report is intended, firstly, to act as a summary of the results of Putin's rule until now, in the areas of domestic policy, the economy and foreign policy, and the security and defense spheres related to these policies. Secondly, it aims to characterize the main challenges which the Russian authorities face on the threshold of Putin's fourth term. Thirdly and finally, it outlines the prospects for the Kremlin's policy, and offer forecasts of future developments in those areas in Russia.

Istituto Affari Internazionali

Towards Putin's last presidency?

by Carolina De Stefano

7 March 2018

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

Questions linger as to whether some of the recent political and institutional trends will be confirmed during Putin's current stint as Russian president. As this will probably, though not certainly, be Putin's last term, succession struggles in Moscow and attempts by the president to secure a safe departure from office are likely to impact on Russian politics in the years to come.

Istituto Affari Internazionali

The challenges of Putin's fourth (and last?) term

by Andrea Aversano Stabile

13 March 2018

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

Among the many crucial elections of 2018, the race for the presidency in Russia was extremely predictable.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Carnegie Endowment for International Peace

Renewing US political representation: lessons from Europe and U.S. history

by Rachel Kleinfeld [@RachelKleinfeld](#), Richard Youngs [@YoungsRichard](#) and Jonah Belser

12 March 2018

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

Democracy in the United States faces a dilemma. Voters feel increasingly unrepresented by both of the dominant parties. Yet these parties now control large swaths of uncompetitive seats at the state and national levels, reducing options for new voices. Obvious solutions, such as increasing party representativeness or creating a third party, may increase polarization, which would likely impede governance. Examples of party revitalization in contemporary Europe and from US history suggest that locally grounded movements that reinvigorate political competitiveness may offer a path forward.

Center for Strategic and International Studies

A national machine intelligence strategy for the United States

by William A. Carter, Emma Kinnucan [@e_kinnucan](#), Josh Elliot, William Crumpler and Kirsten Lloyd

March 2018

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

If the United States wants to avoid being left behind in the "MI Revolution", it needs to develop a coordinated national strategy that covers research and development, industrial specialization, and the social impacts of these technologies. This report offers a framework for determining which guiding principles should shape US policy in response to the growth of MI applications in defense, education, health care, and the economy. The authors offer recommendations for how the United States can maintain a competitive advantage in MI and navigate the risks and challenges associated with it.

Pew Research Center

The generation gap in American politics

1 March 2018

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

Generational differences have long been a factor in US politics. These divisions are now as wide as they have been in decades, with the potential to shape politics well into the future. From immigration and race to foreign policy and the scope of government, two younger generations, Millennials and Gen Xers, stand apart from the two older cohorts, Baby Boomers and Silents. And on many issues, Millennials continue to have a distinct, and increasingly liberal, outlook.

RAND Europe

Finding the right balance. Department of defense roles in stabilization

by Linda Robinson [@RobinsonL100](#), Sean Mann, Jeffrey Martini and Stephanie Pezard [@StephaniePezard](#)

March 2018

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

The pendulum regarding the level of US military participation in stabilization efforts has swung dramatically since 2001, from a low level of preparation and participation in the early days of the Afghanistan and Iraq operations in 2003, to widespread stabilization activities costing billions of dollars in the ensuing years, to significantly scaled-back forces and resources devoted to stabilization in recent years. To remedy the initial lack of preparation, the US Department of Defense (DoD) issued a directive with guidance on stabilization requirements in 2005 and then updated it with more expansive requirements in 2009. This report supports DoD efforts to update this guidance.

RAND Europe

Modern political warfare. Current practices and possible responses

by Linda Robinson [@RobinsonL100](#), Todd C. Helmus [@Helmus](#), Raphael S. Cohen, Alireza Nader [@AlirezaNader](#), Andrew Radin [@andrewmradin](#), Madeline Magnuson and Katya Migacheva

March 2018

Link to the article in [English](#) (355 p.)

The United States today faces a number of actors who employ a wide range of political, informational, military, and economic measures to influence, coerce, intimidate, or undermine US interests or those of friends and allies; many of these measures are often collectively referred to as "political warfare." The report analyzes political warfare as it is practiced today by both state and non-state actors, and provides detailed recommendations regarding the most effective ways that the US government, along with its allies and partners, can respond to or engage in this type of conflict to achieve US ends and protect US interests.

Centre for European Policy Studies

The American economy: a European view

by Anton Brender and Florence Pisani

23 March 2018

Link to the article in [English](#) (133 p.)

Each year, 25% of the world's output is produced by less than 5% of the planet's population. The juxtaposition of these two figures gives an idea of the power of the American economy. Not only is it the most productive among the major developed economies, but it is also a place where new products, services and production methods are constantly being invented. Even so, the United States is progressively manifesting worrying signs of dysfunction. Over the past twenty years, signs of actual regression are becoming more and more numerous. How can this paradox be explained? Answering this question is the thread running throughout this study.

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

The stupendous US record gets suppressed

by Amity Shlaes [@AmityShlaes](#)

March 2018

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

In recent years, the consensus regarding the American past has slipped leftward, and then leftward again. No longer is American history a story of opportunity, or of military or domestic triumph. America's has become, rather, a story of wrongs, racial and social. Today, any historical figure who failed at any time to support abolition, or, worse, took the Confederate side in the Civil War, must be expunged from history. Wrongs must be righted, and equality of result enforced.

Real Instituto Elcano (Elcano Royal Institute)

Lo que hay que saber sobre la guerra comercial iniciada por Trump

by Federico Steinberg [@steinbergf](#)

6 March 2018

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

This paper tries to give provisional answers to a number of questions raised in the wake of Trump's decision on unilaterally imposing new aluminium and steel tariffs.

Real Instituto Elcano (Elcano Royal Institute)

La igualdad de género en la América de Trump

by María Solanas Cardín [@Maria_SolanasC](#)

6 March 2018

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

During his first year, President Trump overturned a number of measures approved by his predecessor for fighting against gender inequality. His government has suspended numerous measures against labour and salary discrimination, sexual harassment in the workplace and sexual abuse in schools and universities, along with other policies guaranteeing sexual and reproductive rights to women. The intense social and political mobilization of women that has responded to this rollback of protections could translate, via the midterm elections in November, into a much stronger presence of women in the institutions of a country currently falling far short of gender equality in politics and whose society appears intensely divided on this issue.

SPECIAL FOCUS - NORTH KOREA

Vrije Universiteit Brussel - Institute for European Studies

Centripetal and centrifugal forces of North Korean threat on the U.S.-Japan-ROK Cooperation

by Tongfi Kim [@tongfi_kim](#)

March 2018

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

The shared threat emanating from Pyongyang creates a centripetal force that binds Washington, Tokyo, and Seoul because the three partners need mutual assistance. On the other hand, however, the high stakes involved in the North Korea policy of these states also intensify discord over the means to address the threat, thereby producing a centrifugal force. Policies that hurt each other's fundamental security interests have to be pursued only with careful consultation with the partners, for both the policies' effectiveness and for the maintenance of the partnerships.

RAND Europe

Low-cost options for airborne delivery of contraband into North Korea

by Richard Mason

27 March 2018

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

For a number of years, various activist groups in South Korea have used hydrogen balloons to carry political, religious, and humanitarian materials across the border into North Korea. The balloon delivery techniques have evolved over time, and the activist groups are overtly interested in new technologies to pursue their goals. The report reviews open-source reporting to assess the technical state of balloons and drones as means of delivering material into North Korea. It also compares efforts in Korea with Cold War efforts to achieve similar goals in Central and Eastern Europe and assesses plausible technological developments that might improve the airborne delivery of contraband.

Center for Strategic and International Studies

The other side of the North Korean threat: looking beyond its nuclear weapons and ICBMs

by Anthony H. Cordesman

16 March 2018

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

The United States, South Korea, Japan—and every other state affected by the stability and security of Northeast Asia—has a strong incentive to find a way to end North Korea's nuclear threat and its development and deployment of ICBMs. At the same time, no one can afford to forget that North Korea poses a much wider range of threats from its conventional forces and shorter-range missiles—particularly as it develops ballistic and cruise missiles with precision strike capabilities.

Center for Strategic and International Studies

More than a nuclear threat: North Korea's chemical, biological, and conventional weapons

by Anthony Cordesman

11 March 2018

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

North Korean development of biological weapons both poses a serious potential threat to the United States and its strategic partners, and illustrates the broader dangers of proliferation. Biological weapons pose dangers that are growing steadily with the proliferation of the civil, dual-use, and military technologies that can be used to develop and manufacture biological weapons – such as genetic engineering and drones.

Институт мировой экономики и международных отношений Российской академии наук (Institute of World Economy and International Relations of the Russian Academy of Science)

Crisis and new political agenda for the Korean peninsula and the regional powers

by V. Mikheev and A. Fedorovsky (eds.)

March 2018

Link to the article in [English](#) (33 p.) and [Russian](#) (70 p.)

The report reviews fundamental reasons, main features and consequences of the political crisis with regard to the Korean peninsula in the context of North Korean missile and nuclear programs. It presents an assessment of domestic political and economic processes in DPRK after Kim Chen Un's coming to power. Analysis covers Pyongyang's key foreign policy priorities, commonalities and differences between the Republic of Korea and regional powers (China, Russia, USA and Japan) regarding key issues of missile and nuclear crisis, prospects for multinational cooperation to maintain peace and security on the Korean peninsula.

Istituto Affari Internazionali

Japan's view of the North Korean threat

by Kazuto Suzuki

26 March 2018

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

North Korea represents the greatest threat to Japan by far. To put this into perspective, threat perceptions are greater over North Korea today, than the Soviet Union during the Cold War.

MISCELLANEOUS

Vrije Universiteit Brussel - Institute for European Studies

Science diplomacy in search of a purpose in the populist era

by Luk Van Langenhove [@ivanlangenhove](#) and Elke Boers

March 2018

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

Science diplomacy as a practice has a long past but only a short history. It became a policy concern of Foreign Affairs only recently. This article points to the strengths and weaknesses of Science Diplomacy as a soft power instrument aimed at improving International Relations. It also lists a number of threats coming from populist and protectionist forces that hinder the further development of Science Diplomacy.

International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance

Gender-targeted public funding for political parties: a comparative analysis

by Magnus Ohman

6 March 2018

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

This report focuses on the particular political party regulations where the provision of public funding (state assistance) to political parties is linked to gender-related activities by those parties. Such provisions exist today in around 30 countries worldwide and it is a form of regulation that has become increasingly common in the past two decades.

Barcelona Graduate School of Economics

Personal liberties, religiosity, and effort

by Joan-Maria Esteban, Gilat Levy and Laura Mayoral

19 March 2018

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

The authors study the role of religiosity in influencing the choice of labour effort. Many religions promote restrictions on personal liberties such as divorce, abortion, gender parity, or gay marriage, often regulated by law. The authors assume that the higher the degree of religiosity of an individual, the less he enjoys such personal liberties, and the less he likes to be in a society which allows them, while seculars enjoy such liberties. By standard consumer theory, the differential valuation induced by religiosity influences individual decisions on other dimensions as well, notably labour supply.

Demos

Mediating populism

by Sophie Gaston [@sophgaston](#) and Peter Harrison-Evans [@Pete_H_E](#)

March 2018

Link to the article in [English](#) (103 p.)

This paper seeks to peer behind the curtain of the British media, to better understand how the growth of new media is transforming news practices, and how the rise of populism is reshaping the power dynamics between politicians and media institutions - and the democratic implications of these developments. In particular, the authors explore the role that traditional media organisations have played in the legitimisation and discreditation of populist parties, and the impact of these institutional decisions in the formation of public opinion towards them.

German Marshall Fund of the United States

Responsible reporting in an age of irresponsible information

by Heidi Tworek [@HeidiTworek](#)

23 March 2018

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

Disinformation and misinformation seem to be everywhere. The problem of disinformation is exacerbated by two deeper and longer-standing crises within the American media system: a crisis of business model and a crisis of norms. Though issues of disinformation are not new, their appearance in new forms of weaponized information and social media call for new best practices within media organizations. This brief suggests some simple solutions to help journalists and editors avoid playing an unintentional role in information warfare and to increase trust in journalism.
