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Dear Readers,

Welcome to issue 57 of the Think Tank Review compiled by the EU Council Library\* ([click to share on Twitter](#)). It references papers published in April 2018. As usual, we provide the link to the full text and a short abstract.

Issue 57 covers a plethora of captivating and thought-provoking topics including the simplification of the Stability and Growth Pact, economic recovery and inflation, French foreign policy led by President Macron, the dark net and its use by terrorists, the standing of European firms in the global corporate research race, and EU climate strategy. This month the special focus is on Africa and the cooperation between the EU and the African continent. Topics that are also covered are, among others, Ghana's oil industry, an analysis of Ethiopia's political economy, the human rights situation in South Africa, as well as the transmutation of Jihadi organisations in the Sahel and the regional security architecture.

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The first section, EU Politics and Institutions, includes articles on the control of globalisation and European integration as an instrument of sovereignty, as well as the future of the Franco-German reform drive.

In Section 2, Economic and Financial Affairs, you will find articles on a number of subjects such as market discipline and liquidity key issues in the EMU reform, as well as the reform of the financing of the European Union.

Section 3, EU Member States, provides stories on 11 countries, offering intriguing and stimulating articles about private sector corruption in Bulgaria, Denmark's security policy, the young Germans'

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vision of Europe, elections in Hungary, the evolution of the Portuguese and Spanish political systems, Chinese tourism in Spain, Portugal's economic prospects, best practices in combatting violence against women in Sweden and many more. The subsection on Brexit highlights a risk analysis of the UK's environmental policy post-Brexit, a comparison of political dynamics and prospects in Northern Ireland and Scotland, and the implementation of a Brexit deal for UK citizens living in the EU-27.

Section 4, EU Policies, explores issues ranging from artificial intelligence and how it might affect the risk of nuclear war, natural gas demand in Europe, labour market reforms in Europe, and the geography of future water challenges.

In Section 5, Foreign Affairs, the topics covered include the EU as a force for peace in international cyber diplomacy, EU cultural and science diplomacy from Turkey, the rights and security of a person in Belarus, Iran's priorities in a turbulent Middle East, the Saudi revolution, the impact of Brexit on Europe-Japan relations, organised crime in Brazil, the United States/Europe partnership, and many more.

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

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

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## SECTION 1 - EU POLITICS AND INSTITUTIONS

### Fondation Robert Schuman

#### *Un moment européen*

by Jean-Dominique Giuliani [@JD\\_Giuliani](#)

9 April 2018

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

Year 2018 heralds the return of Europe to the international stage. Whilst it has experienced a serious economic crisis, which led to real disenchantment by its citizens, Europe now seems in a better position to value its assets and rise to the challenges it faces. A political rebound might help it return to the top.

#### *Reprendre le contrôle de la mondialisation: l'intégration européenne comme instrument de souveraineté*

by Benoît Cœuré

3 April 2018

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

There has been a backlash against globalization and international cooperation in recent years. In Europe, Brexit and Euroscepticism have challenged the notion of the EU as a political construct based on shared sovereignty, freedom of movement across borders and economic integration under a common legislative framework. Still, the EU can provide a lasting answer to those fears. Indeed, just as the EU is under threat from the backlash against globalization, it can provide a way to manage globalization.

### Open Europe

#### *The rocky road ahead for the Franco-German reform drive*

by Leopold Traugott [@LeopoldTraugott](#)

April 2018

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

It is questionable whether the Franco-German engine can ultimately deliver far-reaching reform. Many of the proposals initially promoted by Paris were dead on arrival in Berlin, some face substantial obstacles and there are only a few that are likely to materialize with relative political ease. For certain projects, such as a European military crisis force, France is already seeking solutions outside the EU. On some of the issues sketched out below, reform is long since overdue. With the continued rise of populist and Eurosceptic forces within the EU, and not least with the withdrawal of the UK, pressure on the EU to show its resilience and capacity to act looms even larger.

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

*The cost of non-Europe, revisited*

by Thierry Mayer, Vincent Vicard [@VVicard](#) and Soledad Zignago [@SZignago](#)

April 2018

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

In this paper the authors quantify the "Cost of Non-Europe", i.e. the trade-related welfare gains each country member has reaped from the EU. Thirty years after the terminology of non-Europe was used to give estimates of the gains from further integration, the authors use modern versions of the gravity model to estimate the trade creation implied by the EU, and apply those to counterfactual exercises where for instance the EU returns to a "normal", shallow-type regional agreement, or reverts to WTO rules. Those scenarios are envisioned with or without the exit of the UK from the EU (Brexit) happening, which points to interesting cross-country differences and potential cascade effects in doing and undoing of trade agreements.

## SECTION 2 - ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

### Bruegel

#### *Making a reality of Europe's capital markets union*

by André Sapir, Nicolas Véron [@nicolas\\_veron](#) and Guntram B. Wolff [@GuntramWolff](#)

27 April 2018

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

The deepening and integration of the EU's capital markets is a long-term structural endeavour. Although difficult to achieve, it is worthwhile for several reasons: a meaningful body of economic analysis strongly suggests that purely bank-based financial systems are more prone to crises and might produce lower growth performance; widely-accepted analysis suggests that cross-border capital market integration can be an important complement to fiscal risk sharing; and the departure from the EU of the UK – home to the EU's main capital market centre – makes the project even more relevant.

#### *State contingent debt as insurance for euro-area sovereigns*

by Maria Demertzis [@mariademertzis](#) and Stavros A. Zenios [@StavrosZenios](#)

26 April 2018

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

The euro-area sovereign debt crisis is receding. Europe is on a recovery path, growth is broad-based and unemployment is falling. One after the other, countries hit hardest by the crisis are exiting their adjustment programmes. However, debt remains high in most countries and future debt crises should not be ruled out. While the memories are fresh, it is a good time to think about insurance against future shocks.

### European Parliament Think Tank

#### *How could the Stability and Growth Pact be simplified?*

by Friedrich Heinemann

April 2018

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

Past reforms of the Stability and Growth Pact (SGP) have improved its economic rationale, but this progress has come at the expense of simplicity, transparency and, possibly, enforceability. This study surveys and evaluates reform models that could reduce complexity without compromising the SGP's indispensable flexibility.

### Centre for European Policy Studies

#### *Convergence in the European Union: inside and outside the euro*

by Daniel Gros

27 April 2018

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

The convergence process in Europe has bifurcated: the new member states from Central and Eastern Europe are catching up in terms of income per capita, as one would expect, with the initially poorer ones growing generally at a faster pace. Within the euro area, however, the North has diverged from the South since the start of the financial crisis. This pattern, reflecting East-West convergence but also North-South divergence within the euro area, can be observed for a number of indicators, such as real wages, investment and consumption.

### *The European ETF market: what can be done better?*

by Apostolos Thomadakis

24 April 2018

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

Growing demand in recent years for low-cost, easily tradeable, liquid and transparent investment products, resulted in the global expansion of the Exchange-Traded Fund (ETF) industry. However, despite the fact that US and European markets have each grown at a yearly average rate of approximately 18%, the latter represents only 16% of the global market. The lag in the European ETF market demonstrates that: i) it is highly fragmented with multiple listings across many exchanges, ii) Europe's capital markets have not been successful in attracting retail investors, iii) more on-exchange ETF trading is necessary, and iv) regulation and innovation can further develop and harmonise the market to move it towards more transparency and cost-efficiency.

### *Swimming upstream: policies to ensure broadly shared prosperity by restructuring the market*

by Dean Baker [@DeanBaker13](#)

20 April 2018

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

This paper is about alternative policies that can be pursued in Central and Eastern Europe and how international institutions can support them. It suggests policies about macroeconomic and full employment, policies on patents, copyrights, and other claims to intellectual property, rules on corporate governance that determine control over corporate profits, rules on finance, including the taxation of financial transactions, protectionism of highly paid professionals and competition policy.

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

#### *Debt mutualisation, inflation and populism in the Eurozone*

by Alfredo Arahuetes García and Gonzalo Gómez Bengoechea [@ggbengoechea](#)

5 April 2018

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

This paper summarizes the main options that literature and policy makers have explored to implement common debt issuance in the Eurozone. It describes the role that monetary policy is playing as a fiscal tool and why it is not sustainable due to the limitations that inflation and populism impose on political stability and debt sustainability. The current economic and institutional environment requires some form of debt mutualization to avoid the reappearance of sovereign crises. The balance between monetary normalization and debt mutualization should allow a soft transition from ECB's sovereign interventions to some form of fiscal solution 'from the center'.

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

#### *Economic recovery and inflation*

by Marek Dabrowski

17 April 2018

Link to the article in [English](#) (49 p.)

In the last decade, advanced economies, including the euro area, experienced deflationary pressures caused by the global financial crisis of 2007–2009 and the anti-crisis policies that followed—in particular, the new financial regulations (which led to a deep decline in the money multiplier). However, there are numerous signs in both the real and financial spheres that these pressures are disappearing. The largest advanced economies are growing up to their potential, unemployment is systematically decreasing, the financial sector is more eager to lend, and its clients—to borrow.

## Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies - European University Institute

*EFN report: economic outlook for the euro area in 2018 and 2019*

by Massimiliano Marcellino (ed.)

20 April 2018

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

The objective of the EFN is to provide a critical analysis of the current economic situation in the euro area, short-term forecasts of the main macroeconomic and financial variables, policy advice, and in-depth study of topics of particular relevance for the working of the European Economic and Monetary Union.

## LUISS School of European Political Economy

*The fallacy of fiscal discipline*

by Paolo Canofari [@PaoloCanofari](#), Alessandro Piergallini and Giovanni Piersanti

12 April 2018

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

Fiscal discipline is commonly evaluated on the basis of the debt-GDP ratio, which exhibits a stock variable measured relative to a flow variable. In this paper, the authors considered a wealth-based sustainability index of government debt policy derived from a baseline endogenous growth model. The authors calculate the index from 1999 onwards for countries in which the after-growth real interest rate is positive, consistently with the theoretical setup. Results are radically different from common wisdom. Policy implications of authors' findings are discussed.

## Istituto Affari Internazionali

*Verso un nuovo bilancio Europeo?*

by Massimo Bordignon [@massimo\\_bordign](#)

5 April 2018

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

The Commission's proposals and the ongoing political debate make it possible to revise the European budget in the direction of favoring European public goods to the detriment of traditional policies such as agriculture and cohesion policies. The Commission also proposes to use the European budget, through dedicated funding lines, to address specific problems of the euro member countries. According to the author, given the characteristics and dimensions of the European budget this appears nevertheless unrealistic, making necessary to find alternative solutions for the euro area.

*I temi della condizionalità nel negoziato sul Quadro finanziario pluriennale 2021-2027*

by Cesare Pinelli

5 April 2018

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

In the euro area, since 2010 onwards, the term Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-2027 has been served to regulate the financial policies of the Member States, being a form of "macroeconomic conditionality". Its results today are not considered to be in line with expectations.



*Reforming the European Monetary Union: the challenge of reconciling risk sharing with market discipline*

by Cesare Nicola Bilotta

11 April 2018

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

The economic crisis has underscored the need to reform institutions charged with regulating the financial architecture of the Eurozone. Since the introduction of the Single Resolution Mechanism (SRM) in 2014, however, all attempts at meaningful reform have failed.

**Jacques Delors Institute - Berlin**

*A done deal? Why innovation could struggle to be a priority in the next MFF*

by Pola Schneemelcher [@pola\\_schnee](#) and Philipp Ständer [@P\\_Staender](#)

16 April 2018

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

Despite the unresolved Brexit gap in the next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF), the Commission promotes a higher budget for the next research and innovation programme, the successor of Horizon 2020. So far this proposal has not met much resistance. The authors analyze why a higher R&I budget is, however, not a safe bet, with which other new – and old – priorities it will have to rival – and why Member States in a mediating position should stand up for a future-oriented budget.

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

*Market discipline and liquidity key issues in the EMU reform*

by Vesa Vihriälä [@vesa\\_vihriala](#)

9 April 2018

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

The EMU institutions need to be reformed. There is, however, a deep disagreement about the right way to proceed. Some see increased risk sharing and centralization of decision making as being essential, while others emphasize risk reduction and market discipline. A recent paper by a group of French and German economists combines these elements in an interesting way.

*Common or own goals: Reforming the financing of the European Union*

by Seppo Kari, Niku Määttänen [@NikuMaattanen](#), Olli Ropponen, Saara Tamminen and Tarmo Valkonen

3 April 2018

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

This study evaluates the Monti report and the suggested new own resources from the point of the view of optimal taxation and fiscal federalism. Monti report emphasizes the objectives of EU and vaguely describes European added value as criteria. The report also leaves aside the need to coordinate the budget reform and national tax policies. According to the authors, the potential added value of the EU is linked to mobility of tax bases and the harmful environmental effects of production and consumption. They recommend therefore harmonization of the corporate income tax bases and environmental and energy tax bases and use of minimum tax rates independently of the results of the budget financing reform.

## SECTION 3 - EU MEMBER STATES

### BULGARIA

#### CSD (Center for the Study of Democracy)

*Private sector corruption in Bulgaria*

by Alexander Stoyanov

13 April 2018

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

The analysis is one of the first attempts to explore the phenomenon of private corruption in Bulgaria. The problem of private corruption is relatively new in terms of research practice as the prevailing view of corruption is that it is a governance problem and does not strictly apply to private sector management.

#### Bertelsmann Stiftung

*Should Bulgaria join the euro now? Why being a Maastricht model student isn't enough*

by Henrik Enderlein [@henrikenderlein](#), Lucas Guttenberg [@lucasguttenberg](#) and Max Emanuel Mannweiler [@MaxEMannweiler](#)

13 April 2018

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

The authors claim that while the Bulgarian case for joining the euro seems compelling on first sight, neither Sofia nor Brussels should jump the gun now. Not only does Bulgaria still lack the institutional capacity to be a reliable member of the club; it would also lose important degrees of freedom to foster growth and deal with crises at home. This paper argues that the Maastricht criteria may be a necessary, but by no means a sufficient condition for stable euro membership. Bulgaria's accession should be, according to the authors, based on prudence, rather than precipitation.

### DENMARK

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

*Overstretched? Denmark's security policy and armed forces in light of the new defence agreement*

by Piotr Szymański

20 April 2018

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

In January 2018, Denmark adopted a new Defence Agreement for 2018–2023 – a cross-party strategy for the development of the Danish armed forces. The Agreement provides for an increase in defence spending of 20%, as well as a greater balance between out-of-area operations and collective defence. The Agreement also provides for the armed forces' greater assistance to the police in anti-terrorism measures and border control, and investments in cyber capabilities.

## FRANCE

### Fondation Robert Schuman

*Démocratie, laïcité et liberté religieuse: quels équilibres en France et en Europe?*

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

16 April 2018

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

The terrorist attacks of the recent past that have struck France have re-opened debate over identity and the place of religion, notably Islam, in French society. This debate has led to questions about the potential for unity and cohesion of Republican values in the modern world.

### Institut français des relations internationales

*Macron, an I: quelle politique étrangère?*

by Thomas Gomart [@ThomasGomart](#) and Marc Hecker (eds.)

April 2018

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

Comprising 14 brief analyses, this collective study contributes to the initiative launched by Ifri in 2016 to analyse French foreign policy. It aims to give an update on the action Emmanuel Macron has taken on the principal international issues since his arrival in office.

*137 nuances de terrorisme: les djihadistes de France face à la justice*

by Marc Hecker

April 2018

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

This study analyses the profiles and backgrounds of 137 individuals sentenced in France in jihadist cases. It shows that these individuals are characterised by a lower level of education and professional integration, a greater degree of poverty, they commit more crimes and have a closer ties to the Maghreb and sub-Saharan Africa than the average of the French population. Beyond the numbers, a qualitative analysis helps to better understand the processes of radicalization and change in terrorism. The roles played by the dynamics of group, Internet or prison are detailed. This report is all the more pertinent because some 60 people convicted of terrorism should be released within the next two years.

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

*L'impact budgétaire de 30 ans d'immigration en France: (I) une approche comptable*

by Xavier Chojnicki [@xchojnicki](#), Lionel Ragot and Ndeye-Penda Sokhna

April 2018

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

This paper assesses the net contribution of immigration to public finances in France since the end of the 1970s. The paper develops an accounting method that disaggregates the primary public deficit between the immigrant population and the native population. It calculates this net contribution over a relatively long period of time (1979-2011), showing that the net contribution of immigrants has generally been negative, but that it has never been at the origin of the primary deficit of France.

## GERMANY

### Oxford Institute for Energy Studies

*The role of natural gas, renewables and energy efficiency in decarbonisation in Germany: the need to complement renewables by decarbonized gas to meet the Paris targets*

by Ralf Dickel

May 2018

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

In this extensive review of German energy policy and its impact over the past few years, the author analyses the reasons why gas has, to date, failed to make a strong case for a long-term role in the country. He argues that the gas industry has failed to make the important distinction between a carbon-free energy sector and an all-renewable energy sector and has so far not addressed decarbonising natural gas as a necessary complement and competitor to renewables to meet the targets of the Paris Agreement in time.

### Stiftung Mercator

*The young and the restless: why young Germans have no vision for Europe*

by Ulrike Franke [@RikeFranke](#)

April 2018

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

The young are the future! Or so the world believes. Few tropes are used as regularly in democratic politics as references to the young who will determine – and hopefully save – the world of the future, by coming up with new ideas and visions. According to the paper, this hope is particularly present within the European Union, because the EU has a vision problem.

## GREECE

### LUISS School of European Political Economy

*Greece: clean exit, for whom?*

by Lorenzo Codogno [@lorenzocodogno](#)

3 April 2018

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

There seems to be a strong convergence of interests between the Greek government, the European Commission and Eurozone Member States (and the IMF): they all want a clean exit from the Third Economic Adjustment Programme for Greece. Political motivations may well collide with the need to reduce risks and favour a smooth and successful return to normality with a post-programme in place.

### Peterson institute for international economics

*How to solve the Greek debt problem*

by Jeromin Zettelmeyer, Emiliios Avgouleas, Barry Eichengreen, Miguel Poiaras Maduro, Ugo Panizza, Richard Portes, Beatrice Weder di Mauro and Charles Wyplosz

11 April 2018

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

The brief argues that the debt relief measures outlined by the Eurogroup will not be sufficient to restore the sustainability of Greece's debt. At the same time it shows that Greece's debt sustainability can in fact be restored without aggravating moral hazard—i.e., encouraging future governments in Greece and elsewhere in the euro area to take risks in the belief that they will be

bailed out—and within the framework of EU law, in particular Article 125 of the Lisbon Treaty, which prohibits EU members from assuming liability for the debts of other members.

## HUNGARY

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

*Free, but not fair elections in Hungary – further crackdown on civil society is likely*

by András Rácz

April 2018

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

On 8 April 2018, parliamentary elections were held in Hungary. According to the final results, the ruling coalition led by Prime Minister Viktor Orbán won a constitutional majority. The electoral campaign was characterised by the massive overlap between the state and the ruling party, by abuse of administrative resources, and by the overwhelming media superiority of the governing coalition. Hence, the preliminary report of the OSCE election observation mission labelled the election as free but not fair.

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

*Energy policy goals and challenges for Hungary in the 21st century*

by Diána Szóke

24 April 2018

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

The brief attempts to outline some of the main goals and challenges shaping energy policy in Hungary. After providing an overview of the Hungarian energy mix, it examines three strategic energy policy challenges in detail. These are Hungary's dependence on (primarily Russian) energy imports, the role of nuclear energy in light of the Paks project, along with the impacts of climate change over the long-term. Finally, the brief looks at the specific security-related concerns raised by these dilemmas, ranging from the geopolitical dynamics of Central Europe to the emergence of new security concerns, such as the cyber security of critical energy infrastructure.

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

*Orbán reloaded: what the EU and Germany should do now*

by Milan Nič [@milann\\_sk](#) and Péter Krekó [@peterkreko](#)

April 2018

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

Hungary's strongman Viktor Orbán and his right-wing populist Fidesz party won a third government mandate in polls dominated by identity politics, an unfair voting system and a fragmented opposition. After decrying the EU as part of a Western conspiracy against Hungary in his campaign, Orbán will now resume his course of both using and abusing Brussels to cement his power at home. His hope is to build a new Eurosceptic alliance within the EU that would increase his otherwise marginal influence in the bloc and his political maneuver space in Hungary.

## IRELAND

### Economic and Social Research Institute

*Estimating the effect of an increase in the minimum wage on hours worked and employment in Ireland*

by Seamus McGuinness [@seamusmcguinness](#) and Paul Redmond [@PaulRedmond9](#)

18 April 2018

Link to the article in [English](#) (49 p.)

On 1 January 2016, the Irish minimum wage (MW) increased from €8.65 to €9.15 per hour, an increase of approximately 6%. Using data from the Quarterly National Household Survey (QNHS) for the years 2015 and 2016, there are estimations about the effect of the increase in the minimum wage on the hours worked and likelihood of job loss among low paid workers using a difference-in-differences estimator.

## PORTUGAL

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

*Portugal's economic prospects: was the political miracle responsible for the economic miracle?*

by Luís Teles Morais [@luistm](#)

19 April 2018

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

This paper looks at recent developments in the Portuguese economy from the troika period to the current recovery in the context of the political framework.

## SPAIN

### Barcelona Graduate School of Economics

*The effect of abortion legalization on fertility, marriage and long-term outcomes for women*

by Libertad González, Sergi Jiménez-Martín, Natalia Nollenberger and Judit Vall-Castello [@juditvall](#)

April 2018

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

The authors evaluate the short- and long-term effects for women of access to subsidized, legal abortion by exploiting the Spanish legalization of abortion in 1985. Using birth records and survey data, they find robust evidence that the legalization led to an immediate decrease in the number of births to women aged 21 and younger. Using data from the Labour Force Survey and exploiting the rollout of abortion clinics across provinces and over time, they also find evidence that the affected cohorts of women, who were able to postpone fertility as a result of the legalization of abortion, achieved higher educational attainment and had higher life satisfaction 20 years after the reform.

### Real Instituto Elcano (Elcano Royal Institute)

*Spain's main listed companies notch up record revenues abroad*

by William Chislett [@WilliamChislet3](#)

10 April 2018

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

In less than 30 years, Spain's main listed companies, ranging from construction and engineering groups to banks, have established a significant presence on the global corporate stage. Their

international revenues, as a share of total income, have more than doubled and in recent years have offset the downturn in their domestic market.

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

*La evolución de los sistemas políticos de España y Portugal: convergencias en la diferencia*

by Patrícia Lisa [@Llisa\\_Patricia](#) and Ignacio Molina [@\\_ignaciomolina](#)

16 April 2018

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

The paper compares the Portuguese and Spanish political systems analyzing their similarities and differences.

*El turismo chino en España: oportunidad y nuevas tendencias*

by Emilio Hernández

13 April 2018

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

The Spanish tourism industry needs to adapt to the trends of the Chinese tourists as China is becoming one of the most important actors interested in tourism in Spain.

## **SWEDEN**

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

*Social distance, immigrant integration, and welfare chauvinism in Sweden*

by Tina Goldschmidt and Jens Rydgren [@jens\\_rydgren](#)

April 2018

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

Populist radical right-wing parties across Europe garner support for welfare chauvinistic promises to limit government spending on immigrants and focus on natives' welfare instead. Using Swedish register-linked survey data from 2013, the authors study three hypothetical pathways into welfare chauvinism. Based on authors' sample of native-born Swedes, the authors find that both negative prejudice and the share of unemployed immigrants among the neighborhood population provide two distinct and independent routes into chauvinism, while workplace competition does not.

### **European Parliament Think Tank**

*Exploring best practices in combatting violence against women: Sweden*

by Eeva Eriksson and Amy Blessing

April 2018

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

This paper was produced by the Policy Department on Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs at the request of the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality (FEMM). The paper examines the status of women in Sweden, a country known for its proven track record on gender equality: it delves into the issue of preventing violence against women and protecting victims of violence. Gender equality is a cornerstone of Swedish society, thus violence against women is a priority for the Swedish Government. Various vulnerable groups might still require greater legislative protection and government response.

## UNITED KINGDOM

### Policy Network

#### *Labour's campaign comeback*

by Charlie Cadywould [@CCadywould](#)

April 2018

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

According to the author, the UK election was not the referendum on Theresa May's Brexit plans that many arch-remainers would like it to have been, nor was it all about Jeremy Corbyn. There is no evidence to support the idea that millions of people voted Labour because they thought the party wouldn't win, although few thought that it would. Nor can we put it all down to young people, private renters, austerity, immigration, or any other single issue or group that have been identified as being responsible for the rapid change in Labour's fortunes. Many of these trends are long-term phenomena that explain changing electoral divides, but cannot alone explain the sharp shift from April to June 2017.

### Fabian Society

#### *Raising the bar: how household incomes can grow the way they used to*

by Andrew Harrop [@andrew\\_harrop](#) (ed.)

15 April 2018

Link to the article in [English](#) (107 p.)

The UK economy may be growing – but most households are not feeling the benefit. Stagnating wages, a rise in insecure work, public spending cuts and regional inequalities have all contributed to a squeeze on family incomes, according to the study. The report explores how to create the sustainable economic growth that will be needed if living standards are to rise significantly – and how to ensure that rising prosperity is fairly shared. Proposals for government action include active management of the exchange rate, expansionary fiscal policy and egalitarian tax reform.

### Institute of Economic Affairs

#### *Commonwealth countries must work together to remove barriers to economic growth*

by Shanker Singham

16 April 2018

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

While it is coincidental that this timing directly overlaps with the UK's exit from the European Union, many in the UK have turned their focus back onto the Commonwealth, after years of neglect. The Commonwealth is an alignment of nations, a potentially powerful network that has lain dormant in recent history. It is also unique in that it counts as members some of the most developed countries in the world as well as the smallest microstates.

### Institute for Fiscal Studies

#### *The rise and rise of women's employment in the UK*

by Barra Roantree and Kartik Vira

27 April 2018

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

The UK economy looks dramatically different today from how it did in the 1970s. One of the most striking changes in the labour market is the increased share of women in employment. Focusing here and throughout this briefing note on those aged 25–54 (often called the 'prime working-age' group) the proportion in paid work (including self-employment) is up from 57% in 1975 to 78% in



2017. This increase was most rapid over the late 1980s, with the employment rate rising by 10 percentage points between 1983 and 1990 alone. But it has continued rising almost continuously since and is already well above its pre-recession peak.

## Demos

*Britain's self-employed millions urgently need a new deal*

by Alan Lockey [@Modern\\_Lockey](#)

25 April 2018

Link to the article in [English](#) (96 p.)

The report explores what the most pressing concerns and aspirations of Britain's self-employed workers are today. The report also proposes thirty policy recommendations across six areas – savings, tax, training, working conditions, the platform economy and welfare.

## BREXIT

### Scottish Centre on European Relations

*Brexit, Northern Ireland and Scotland. Comparing political dynamics and prospects in the two 'Remain' areas*

by Kirsty Hughes [@KirstyS\\_Hughes](#) and Katy Hayward [@hayward\\_katy](#)

24 April 2018

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

The two Remain-voting areas of the UK (Northern Ireland and Scotland) have already experienced strong impacts from Brexit. The process has upset existing political dynamics both within Northern Ireland and Scotland and between them and London – and it has deepened political divisions in both. According to the paper, the centralising tendencies in evidence from Westminster seem unlikely to be the best way of managing the political dynamics and tensions exacerbated by Brexit in both Northern Ireland and Scotland. Less than a year from the UK's withdrawal from the EU, the fallout of Brexit for these Remain-voting areas seems to be even more profound and unpredictable than first imagined.

### UK in a Changing Europe

*The continuing impact of Brexit on equality rights*

by Sandra Fredman [@SandraFredman](#), Alison Young, Sir David Williams and Meghan Campbell [@megkatcampbell](#)

26 April 2018

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

The report identifies the unique legal challenges Brexit imposes on equality rights by looking at the EU Charter, Human rights and the role of the Court of Justice in the EU.

*UK environmental policy post-Brexit: a risk analysis*

by Charlotte Burns [@CharlieBEU](#), Viviane Gravey [@VGravey](#) and Andrew Jordan

12 April 2018

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

The paper tries to identify what, if any, are the risks to the environment post-Brexit. Authors of the report look at the meaning and challenges behind the government's promise of a 'green Brexit.' It seeks to provide clarity about the potential environmental implications raised by a number of prominent post-Brexit trade models such as the Norwegian, Canadian and no deal models.

## Scottish Centre on European Relations

*Brexit roundup: where are we heading?*

by Kirsty Hughes [@KirstyS\\_Hughes](#) and Anthony Salamone (eds.)

16 April 2018

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

The UK could still change its mind – Article 50 could be withdrawn. Assuming that this autumn a withdrawal agreement and an accompanying political declaration on a framework for the future UK-EU relationship are agreed (the latter declaration referenced in the withdrawal agreement), the big political question ahead is whether this will be voted through or not in the House of Commons. And if it isn't, there would then be a major political crisis – perhaps a general election, perhaps a further EU referendum (which given the timing might need EU-27 agreement to extend the March 2019 deadline for Brexit, as allowed under Article 50).

## Migration Policy Institute

*Next steps: implementing a Brexit deal for UK citizens living in the EU-27*

by Meghan Benton [@meghan\\_benton](#), Aliyyah Ahad [@Aliyyah\\_Ahad](#), Michaela Benson [@Michaelabenson](#), Katherine Collins, Helen McCarthy and Karen O'Reilly

April 2018

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

The period since the 2016 Brexit referendum has been a tumultuous one for UK citizens living in another EU Member State (the EU-27), as well as for EU nationals living in the UK. The report assesses the progress that has been made in rapidly evolving EU-UK negotiations, then turns to examine the challenges national and local governments across the European Union are likely to face in implementing a Brexit deal on citizens' rights.

## European Parliament Think Tank

*Update of the study on the impact of Brexit in relation to the right to petition and on the competences, responsibilities and activities of the Committee on Petitions*

by Eleanor Spaventa

April 2018

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

The in-depth analysis, commissioned by the European Parliament's Policy Department for Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs at the request of the PETI Committee, provides an update to the prior study on the impact of Brexit on EU-27 and UK citizens. In particular, this analysis considers the citizens' part of the Draft Withdrawal Agreement (DWA) which was agreed between the UK and the EU on 19 March 2018 and endorsed by the European Council on 23 March 2018. It highlights those situations that might remain unprotected by the Draft Withdrawal Agreement. The update is limited to the right to reside of EU-27 and UK citizens post Brexit.

## Centre for European Reform

*Plugging in the British: EU defence policy*

by Sophia Besch [@SophiaBesch](#)

26 April 2018

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

Both the EU and the UK have an interest in agreeing a post-Brexit defence relationship as soon as possible, to prevent Britain falling out of European defence co-operation. As Britain and the EU have wrangled over Britain's departure from the EU and its future relations with the Union, the main focus has been on trade and economic relations. That makes sense but there has been far

less discussion of the other areas in which EU member-states work together, and how the UK might be able to co-operate with them in the future.

### **Institut Thomas More**

*Brexit : Quelles conséquences pour la puissance britannique ?*

by Pierre-Alain Coffinier and Jordi Lafon

16 April 2018

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

The current crisis between the UK and Russia is the first real challenge to British power since the Brexit vote. Its allies immediately stood beside Britain. But will it always remain so? More than ever this early spring what Brexit means for the UK's position in the world raise questions.

### **Institute of Economic Affairs**

*Under control: what HMRC can do to prepare and optimise customs processes for all outcomes*

25 April 2018

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

The UK's IEA International Trade and Competition Unit and customs and trade experts at ACITA have formulated recommendations focused on customs processes for HMRC and the Department for Exiting the European Union, as they prepare for the UK leaving the EU. The actions highlighted below should be priorities for the spending and powers under the TCT Bill.

## **VISEGRAD GROUP**

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

*They love me, they love me not, they love me a little. Public opinion and the European Union in the Visegrad countries*

by Daniel Debomy, Piotr Starzynski, Hedvig Lehmann, Michal Barta, Darina Imreova and Martin Slosiarik

6 April 2018

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

This analysis of public opinion in the Visegrad countries since their entry into the European Union brings into relief contrasting developments and situations. In these countries, alongside the more or less favourable opinions expressed today, attitudes towards the EU remain characterised by anxieties which, at least in part, have deep historical roots. This is arguably one of the causes of the suspicions of and resistance to common European projects, particularly when it comes to migration policy.

## SECTION 4 - EU POLICIES

### JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS

#### International Centre for Counter-Terrorism - The Hague

*Cut from the same cloth? Lone actor terrorists versus common homicide offenders*

by Marieke Liem [@MariekeLiem](#), Jelle van Buuren and Hanneke Schönberger

12 April 2018

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

The term "lone actor" has been applied to a variety of violent individuals, including jihadists, right-wing extremists, school shooters, and others whose crimes were ideologically motivated and generated much societal impact. It may be argued, however, that such a classification of this rare subset of violent offenders is an artificial one, based on political perspectives rather than on empirical findings. In this study, the authors examine and compare characteristics of European single perpetrators or lone actor terrorists to a large sample of European 'common' homicide offenders.

#### The Henry Jackson Society

*Terror in the dark. How terrorists use encryption, the dark net, and cryptocurrencies*

by Nikita Malik

April 2018

Link to the article in [English](#) (61 p.)

The report assesses how new technologies are used by criminals, extremists and terrorists.

#### Fondation Robert Schuman

*Schengen: de la résistance à la résilience?*

by Yves Bertoncini

23 April 2018

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

Regular predictions announcing the "death of Schengen" have been rather excessive, if not meaningless. Indeed, they echo the high tension that opposes the 26 countries sharing this area, notably becoming clear during the massive influx of refugees in 2015-2016 and then during the terrorist attacks of the last few years. Tension like this is symptomatic of a double crisis, whose causes must be identified to provide effective remedy: an often-mentioned solidarity crisis between the States of the EU, but also a confidence crisis, which reflects the difficulty in sharing a so-called area "without internal borders."

#### Migration Policy Institute

*Responding to the ECEC needs of children of refugees and asylum seekers in Europe and North America*

by Maki Park, Caitlin Katsiaticas and Margie McHugh

April 2018

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

This report explores the findings of a nine-country study of ECEC Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) policies and practices designed to serve young children of refugees and asylum seekers. It draws on fieldwork conducted in Belgium, Canada, Germany, Greece, Italy, the Netherlands, Sweden, Turkey, and the US - major host countries with varied refugee and asylum-

seeker populations, migration-management policies, and ECEC systems - to highlight both common challenges and promising practices.

*It's relative: a cross-country comparison of family-migration policies and flows*

by Kate Hooper and Brian Salant

April 2018

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

Policymakers in a number of countries have been revisiting issues related to family-based migration, including how national laws balance family unity and other immigration priorities. Germany and Sweden, for example, introduced restrictions on the family-reunification rights of some newly arrived asylum seekers at the height of the 2015–16 European migration crisis. And in the US, the Trump administration has raised questions about the value of family-sponsored immigration and its central place within the US immigration system. This paper offers a comparative look at family-migration trends and policies in nine countries: Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Sweden, the UK, and the United States.

## European Policy Centre

*EPIM policy update April 2018*

by Katharina Bamberg [@KatBamberg](#), Marie De Somer [@MarieDeSomer](#), Marta Llonch and Frank Mc Namara [@FrankJMcNamara](#)

20 April 2018

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

The EPIM (European Programme for Integration and Migration) policy update covers the elections in Italy and Hungary, which both highlighted the continued significance of immigration for European electorates. It looks at the latest developments in the negotiations of the legislative reforms of the Eurodac Regulation, the Dublin Regulation, the Reception Conditions Directive and the Asylum Procedures Directive.

## Centre for European Policy Studies

*Saving EU criminal justice: proposal for EU-wide supervision of the rule of law and fundamental rights*

by Petra Bárd [@BardPetra](#)

24 April 2018

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

The paper examines how the rigid insistence on mutual trust by the EU's legislative institutions puts into jeopardy the operation of mutual recognition-based instruments, as well as the whole body of EU law and values underlying EU integration. The author argues that the values the EU values and mutual recognition of member states can and should mutually reinforce each other, and also offers recommendations to overcome the challenges described.

## Real Instituto Elcano (Elcano Royal Institute)

*Cifrado, IoT y RGPD: tres desafíos de Ciberseguridad en 2018*

by Javier Alonso Lecuit

23 April 2018

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

The EU will face new cybersecurity challenges due to the rise of the Internet of Things. It will also see some changes in the data protection with the implementation of GDPR.

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

*On the way to a global compact on refugees - The "Zero Draft": a positive, but not yet sufficient step*

by Steffen Angenendt and Nadine Biehler

18 April 2018

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

In December 2018, the UN General Assembly is due to adopt a "Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration" and a "Global Compact on Refugees" initiatives which are intended to give new momentum to the international cooperation in refugee and migration policy. The first drafts are promising, but the "Zero Draft" for the Refugee Compact is not yet ambitious enough. With regard to the ongoing negotiations on the Refugee Compact, the German government should, in particular, submit proposals on how to strengthen the implementation of the Compact, how to improve the resettlement of refugees, and how to provide sustainable financial support to host countries.

## **AGRICULTURE**

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

*National co-financing of CAP direct payments*

by Allan Matthews [@xAlan\\_Matthews](#)

March 2018

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

The idea of national co-financing of the EU's income support to farmers was introduced into the debate on the next Multi-Annual Financial Framework (MFF), in June 2017. The European Commission mentioned the idea only in passing and it was immediately rejected by the Ministers of Agriculture, a stance that can be understood on political economy grounds. This paper makes four arguments in favour of this policy instrument – for example that it would make better value for money choices in the CAP more likely – while also responding to some of the criticisms of the proposal.

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

### **RAND Europe**

*How might artificial intelligence affect the risk of nuclear war?*

by Edward Geist and Andrew J. Lohn [@AndrewJLohn](#)

20 April 2018

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

Advances in artificial intelligence are enabling previously infeasible capabilities, potentially destabilizing the delicate balances that have forestalled nuclear war since 1945. Will these developments upset the nuclear strategic balance, and, if so, for better or for worse?

## Vrije Universiteit Brussel - Institute for European Studies

*Innovation diplomacy caught between the two opposing logics of cooperation and competition: case study on EU-China S&T cooperation in the field of solar PV*

by Daniel Gehrt

April 2018

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

In recent years, the European Commission has promoted the idea of science diplomacy in various strategic documents. This positive view on international S&T cooperation is linked to the assumption that collaboration is generally beneficial and resulting in a win-win situation for both sides. The question is whether this assumption is maintained when applied to a relatively mature technological domain, with clear commercial interests at stake. In the case study that is underlying the present working paper, this question has been tested by taking the example of EU-China S&T cooperation in the field of solar PV.

*The rhetoric of 'science diplomacy': innovation for the EU's scientific cooperation?*

by Jerneja Penca [@JernejaPenca](#)

April 2018

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

The EU policy discourse has endorsed the notion of "science diplomacy" that points to the interaction between scientific research and foreign policy as instrumental in the societal and political progress. But while the EU is promoting its ambitions in the field of "science diplomacy", the Commission admits to lack an implementation agenda. The EU is openly interested in documenting and evaluating its "science diplomacy policy" with the view of improving it. However, across the policy discourses and academic literature dealing with the policy nexus of foreign and science policy, there is a disconnect between the quest to reflect on the actions invoking "science diplomacy" on the one hand, and a critical questioning of the concept itself on the other.

## Policy Exchange

*Batteries for electric cars: a case study in industrial strategy*

by Geoffrey Owen

17 April 2018

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

Can the UK lead the world in the development and production of batteries for electric cars? This is the stated aim of the government's support programme for the battery sector. Yet, in the light of the current state of the UK battery sector and the strength of international competition, world leadership in car batteries is almost certainly unattainable. If the demand for electric cars grows as fast as many forecasters expect, investment in battery production should be financed by the private sector, the author argues.

## Bruegel

*Are European firms falling behind in the global corporate research race?*

by Reinhilde Veugelers [@R\\_Veugelers](#)

12 April 2018

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

This paper shows that in most sectors there is a high degree of concentration among a few top companies in research and development spending. R&D spending is much more concentrated than sales and employment. In 2015, for example, the top 10 percent biggest spenders on R&D, accounted for 71 percent of the R&D spending of the 2500 companies that spend most on R&D. This concentration is most obvious in the high-tech biopharma and digital sectors, though it is also

true for other sectors, such as the vehicles sector. US companies are overrepresented among these R&D superstars, especially in digital sectors where they take up half of the top slots.

### **Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments**

*Human-machine teaming for future ground forces*

by Mick Ryan [@WarintheFuture](#)

25 April 2018

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

This study examines the key drivers, opportunities, and challenges for ground forces in developing future human-machine teams. It provides an intellectual foundation for the detailed analysis of the personnel, equipment, training, education, doctrine, sustainment, and infrastructure required by allied forces in the next five years and out to 2030 to build a future human-machine force. Ultimately, these efforts should be considered in order to explore the future potential of exploiting this as-yet-underdeveloped capability.

### **German Marshall Fund of the United States**

*The future of transatlantic strategic superiority - British, German, and French perspectives*

by Sylvie Matelly [@matellysy](#), Christian Mölling [@Ce\\_Moll](#), Trevor Taylor and Martin Quencez (ed.)

27 April 2018

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

This paper provides crucial information to understand the context in which the transatlantic dialogue on defence innovation can take place. Fostering the convergence of European approaches, while taking into account the national specificities, will be necessary to address issues such as the use of commercial technologies in the military realm, the integration of civilian personnel and talents into the defence world, the asymmetric response to peer-competitors' increasing capabilities, and the development of new operational concepts allowing for the creative use of new technologies.

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

*Small businesses and sustainability innovation: confronting the gap between motivation and capacity*

by Sarah Burch [@SarahLynnBurch](#)

April 2018

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

With potentially slim profit margins and limited human or technical capacity, small businesses seek evidence of the business case behind sustainability. This business case, however, might consist of more than a simple financial return on investment.

### **Bipartisan Policy Center**

*Advancing innovation, competition, and access to therapeutic antibodies through patent policy*

April 2018

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

This brief examines the patent policies that govern therapeutic antibodies—how they work, how they differ from patent policies for other drugs, and how uncertainties and inconsistencies around their application may impact future innovation. It demonstrates why policies must keep pace with medical innovation and, finally, highlights how recent improvements to patent policies will help protect the promise of next-generation therapeutic antibodies for patients.



## Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung

*Humanity will not so swiftly replace itself*

by Aljoscha Burchardt

16 April 2018

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

Terms such as artificial intelligence and machine learning have triggered a wave of expectations, full of both hopes and fears. Hopes that we are on the brink of finding solutions to the great problems of humanity are tempered by fears, most commonly that of being made redundant. A sober look at the facts.

*Rules for robots: why we need a digital magna carta or the age of intelligent machines*

by Olaf Groth [@OlafGrothSF](#), Mark Nitzberg and Mark Esposito [@Exp\\_Mark](#)

16 April 2018

Link to the article in [English](#) (12 p.) and [German](#) (14 p.)

We stand at a turning point in human history, on the threshold of an unknown digital future. A powerful new technology, artificial intelligence (AI), permeates every area of our lives, largely thanks to advances in neural networks, modelled loosely on the human brain. Our societies and economies have become increasingly dependent on the use of artificial intelligence. A new set of rules is needed in order to ensure that freedom, inclusion and growth are safeguarded in the future. This article explains why we need a digital Magna Carta for the age of cognitive machines.

## TRANSPORT/TELECOMMUNICATIONS/ENERGY

### Oxford Institute for Energy Studies

*Natural gas demand in Europe in 2017 and short term expectations*

by Anouk Honoré

April 2018

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

Following a continuous decline between 2010 and 2014, natural gas demand in Europe started to rise again in 2015. The trend continued in 2016 and 2017 reaching 548 bcm. Final detailed statistics of gas demand by sector for 2017 will not be available for each of the 31 countries considered in the paper for several months but it seems that, as in the two previous years, a combination of drivers explain the rising numbers: the impact of temperatures, continued economic recovery, and increasing gas deliveries to the power sector. This paper provides a brief overview of the main dynamics that have impacted gas demand in Europe in 2017 and identifies key drivers for future demand in the next five years.

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

*Energy atlas: facts and figures about renewables in Europe*

April 2018

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

The European Energy Atlas shows a clear alternative: It not only provides a compass on the different energy discussions in different Member States but also reveals how a Europeanization of the energy transition will be the more efficient and cost-effective option for all Europeans.

## Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies

### *European energy security in focus: the case against Nord Stream 2*

by Dimitar Lilkov and Roland Freudenstein

13 April 2018

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

The Nord Stream 2 project aims to double the capacity Russia currently possesses for delivering natural gas directly to Germany through the Baltic Sea. This paper provides an overview of the current developments surrounding the project and of opposition to the pipeline by the European Commission and a growing number of EU member states. The paper contends that while the pipeline offers uncertain economic gains, it would dangerously weaken the EU's strategic goals in Eastern Europe, disrupt the European Energy Security Strategy and damage member state unity.

## Bruegel

### *Addressing Europe's failure to clean up the transport sector*

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

9 April 2018

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

Under the Paris Agreement, the European Union has committed to cut its greenhouse gas emissions to 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2030. Between 1990 and 2015, emissions decreased significantly in all sectors with the exception of transport, which has seen a 20 percent increase. Transport is thus becoming a key obstacle to EU decarbonisation and more aggressive policies are needed to decarbonise this sector. A particular focus should be decarbonisation of road transport because it is responsible for more than 70 percent of overall transport emissions.

## EMPLOYMENT/SOCIAL POLICY/HEALTH/CONSUMER AFFAIRS

### Foundation for European Progressive Studies

#### *Living with uncertainty - social implications of precarious work*

by Alicja Bobek, Sinead Pembroke and James Wickham

26 April 2018

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

The report identifies three main types of precarious employment in Ireland: part-time work with variable hours ('if-and-when' contracts), temporary work and solo self-employment. It explores trends across various sectors of the economy including human health, transportation and storage, education, construction, accommodation, administration and support.

## RAND Europe

### *Understanding government telework - An examination of research literature and practices from government agencies*

by Cortney Weinbaum [@cortney\\_dc](#), Bonnie L. Triezenberg, Erika Meza and David Luckey

2 April 2018

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

This report provides an overview of the literature on telework, examines telework practices from across seven government agencies, and explains how government agencies benefit when employees engage in telework. In national security agencies, the benefits of working outside government facilities must be balanced with the need to protect classified and sensitive information. This work can serve as a reference in understanding mechanisms that can be used to

accommodate changing workforces that demand flexible work hours and the option to work from alternate locations.

## **Bruegel**

*The impact of industrial robots on EU employment and wages: a local labour market approach*

by Francesco Chiacchio, Georgios Petropoulos [@georgionomix](#) and David Pichler

18 April 2018

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

This paper studies the impact of industrial robots on employment and wages in six European Union countries, that make up 85.5 percent of the EU industrial robots market. In theory, robots can directly displace workers from performing specific tasks (displacement effect). But they can also expand labour demand through the efficiencies they bring to industrial production (productivity effect).

## **European Trade Union Institute**

*Drifting into labour market insecurity? Labour market reforms in Europe after 2010*

by Sotiria Theodoropoulou

14 April 2018

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

This paper examines the impact of fiscal austerity on EU labour market policies. Using a case study approach, it examines: the extent of change in unemployment benefit levels and policies; the effect of this on groups of workers; and whether the logic of activation policies has shifted. Overall, the broad direction of policy has not altered greatly under austerity. However, risks remain that an underlying move towards greater flexibility may lock in 'low road' growth strategies that will make it harder to bring down debt and unemployment in future.

## **Institute for Fiscal Studies**

*Subjective expectations of survival and economic behaviour*

by Cormac O'Dea and David Sturrock

16 April 2018

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

This paper investigates individuals' expectations about their own survival to older ages and compares these to projected and actual survival rates. The extent to which individuals have, on average, reasonable expectations about survival to older ages is important in a context of increasing personal responsibility for, and control over, the accumulation and use of retirement savings.

## **ENVIRONMENT**

### **Ecologic Institute**

*Local communities and indigenous peoples platform – potential governance arrangements under the Paris Agreement*

by Arne Riedel [@ArneRiedel](#) and Ralph Bodle

14 April 2018

Link to the article in [English](#) (61 p.)

Climate change hits local communities and indigenous peoples. These stakeholders also possess and must further develop capacity to respond both to adaptation and mitigation – sometimes through the same measures. Local communities and indigenous peoples have been recognized as

important stakeholders in the climate process for some time, with roots going back to the Rio process in the early 1990s. The "FijiBonn" Conference of the Parties in November 2017 saw a significant step forward in their involvement. This happened through making operational the LCIP Platform decided in Paris in 2015.

*Innovation, renovation, transformation: good practice examples of projects promoting green growth across Central, Eastern and Southern Europe*

by Sonja Kotin-Förster, Moritz Schäfer, Patrick Steiger, Andreas Prah, Matthias Duwe [@Matthias\\_Duwe](#), Ewa Iwaszuk [@borntosleep71](#), Philipp Voß, Laurens Duin and Ana Frelid-Larsen

19 April 2018

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

Together with Ecofys, Ecologic Institute produced a brochure, which highlights examples of green growth that stem from a range of sectors (energy, buildings, transport, agriculture and industry) and are located throughout Central, Eastern and Southern Europe. The brochure presents cutting-edge technologies, forward-thinking entrepreneurs, smart combinations of financing options, and innovative project designs from across Europe.

*Stakeholder exclusion likely? Public participation under the governance regulation: an assessment of Article 10 in the light of the Aarhus Convention*

by Heidi Stockhaus

24 April 2018

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

This report's analysis of the Commission's proposal for Article 10 of the Regulation for the Governance of the Energy Union (GReg) of November 2016 details the following gaps: Scope of application, Early participation, and Standards for participation.

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

*Tres razones para ser ambiciosos en la Ley de Cambio Climático y Transición Energética*

by Lara Lázaro [@lazarotouza](#)

24 April 2018

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

The Spanish's ratification of the Paris Agreement, the opportunities created by the escalated energetic transition and the growing calls by citizens, are some of the key factors in the approval of a text gathering international environmental compromises.

### **New Climate Institute / PBL Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency / IIASA International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis**

*GHG mitigation scenarios for major emitting countries – an overview of recently adopted policies. The April 2018 update of the November 2017 report*

April 2018

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

This document presents an overview of climate and energy policies adopted between July 2017 and April 2018 in 25 countries and regions. The policy information compiled by New Climate Institute, PBL and IIASA in this document supplements the November 2017 report on the projected greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions under currently implemented policies and mitigation commitments.

## **RAND Europe**

*Is climate restoration an appropriate climate policy goal?*

by Robert J. Lempert, Giacomo Marangoni, Klaus Keller and Jessica Duke

5 April 2018

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

Using a simple integrated assessment model, the analysis examines climate restoration through the lens of risk management under conditions of deep uncertainty, exploring the technology, economic, and policy conditions under which it might be possible to achieve various climate restoration goals and the conditions under which society might be better off with (rather than without) a climate restoration goal. This report also explores near-term actions that might help manage the risks of climate restoration.

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

*EU trade and climate policy linkages: potentials in times of repositioning*

by Susanne Dröge [@droege\\_s](#) and Felix Schenuit [@FelixSchenuit](#)

April 2018

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

The EU was instrumental in successfully negotiating the Paris Agreement in 2015 and is now seeking a rapid international implementation. To this end, climate policy should be brought into line with as many foreign policies as possible, including trade policy. Free trade in environmental goods or the application of national emission standards to traded goods can accelerate climate protection globally. The legal support for this agenda through the World Trade Organization (WTO) and its dispute settlement bodies will merely be a longer-term option.

## **Institute for European Environmental Policy**

*Trade liberalisation and biodiversity*

by Onno Kuik and Marianne Kettunen [@makettunen](#)

15 April 2018

Link to the article in [English](#) (127 p.)

The objective of this study was to identify and analyse the use of existing methodologies for assessing biodiversity impacts of trade with a view to assist the Commission in developing a robust methodology and related indicators to assess the impacts of trade liberalisation on biodiversity. The assessment included a systematic analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of different methodologies as well as gaps in the overall assessment framework.

## **European Parliament Think Tank**

*The EU spending on fight against climate change*

by Beata Grzebieluch, Anna Dembek and Nicolas Meier

27 April 2018

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

The present note was drafted as a background document for the hearing on 'The EU Budget and the Paris Climate Agreement' of the EP BUDG and ENVI Committees. It aims at providing an introduction to the topic, looking at the EU commitments in the field of climate from a budgetary angle. It contains a brief overview of the policy context, a presentation of budgetary aspects, including a short part on methodology of tracking the climate-related expenditure and on distinction between adaptation and mitigation measures, and finishes with concluding remarks on the state of play as regards EU budget for fight against climate change.

### *Post 2020 CO2 emission targets for cars and vans: the right level of ambition?*

by Mihael Mihov and Koen Rademaekers

25 April 2018

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

This report summarises the presentations and discussions of the workshop on "Post 2020 CO2 emissions targets for cars and vans: the right level of ambition?" which was organised for the ENVI Committee and held on 27 March 2018. The presentations highlighted the role of light duty vehicles in achieving emissions reductions, the proposed post-2020 targets and the increase in their efficiency, as well as the way forward for electric vehicles and the possible steps for further improvement. The workshop and this report have been commissioned by Policy Department A at the request of the Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI).

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

#### *The geography of future water challenges*

by Louise van Schaik [@LouiseVanSchaik](#)

23 April 2018

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

Where in the world will people's lives be affected by water issues by the year 2050? What is the impact of the growing global population, further urbanisation and climate change on these water risks, the food supply and migration? This new report points to pressure on security and migration arising from too little, too much or polluted water. Many integrated solutions are possible to divert this trend towards a sustainable and climate-resilient world.

### **New Climate Institute**

#### *The EU can increase its climate targets to be in line with a global 1.5 °C target*

by Michel Cornet, Quentin Jossen, Julien Pestiaux, Pascal Vermeulen and Markus Hagemann, Takeshi Kuramochi and Niklas Höhne

24 April 2018

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

The study finds that the EU can go much further than its current commitments in terms of GHG reductions: it has the potential to reach -55% to -62% below 1990 by 2030, consistent with the Paris commitment of staying "well below 2°C, pursuing 1.5°C". The key to realize these reductions is to apply EU-wide the best practice policies identified in various Member States including The Netherlands, Denmark, UK, Germany and Norway. The conclusion is that technical issues are not the blocking factor to reach ambitious GHG targets. With sufficient political will, far-reaching policies could be implemented and support the relevant reductions.

## **EDUCATION/CULTURE/YOUTH/SPORT**

### **College of Europe**

#### *Redefining a post-Brexit EU-UK partnership in research and higher education*

by Ludovic Highman [@LudoHighman](#)

12 April 2018

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

This paper argues that the UK's science and higher education sectors will suffer from a lack of connectivity to EU partners, whether with regard to research collaboration or mobility. More uncertainty and delays will only further damage the research output of all EU universities, and

diminish mobility opportunities for students and staff, while isolating the UK from its region. In order to prevent such an unfortunate scenario for British and European science, agreeing as soon as possible an EU-UK research and higher education deal, including at the very least 'associate country' status for the UK, is of the essence.

## COHESION

### **Pour la solidarité - PLS**

*Les régions ultrapériphériques - Défis et perspectives*

by Antoine Masquelin [@AMasquelin](#), Paul Hammoud and Tristan Thomas  
10 April 2018

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

In 2018, the European Union faces numerous stakes: unemployment, migrations, social inequalities... The Outermost Regions, although geographically distant from continental Europe, remain in the centre of the concerns and of Community actions. It seems that the ORs are even more affected by these problems than the continental Europe States and they are amongst the most affected, in particular, by climate change, sustainable development, transport networks, digital accessibility.

## SECTION 5 - FOREIGN AFFAIRS

### FOREIGN AND SECURITY POLICY / DEFENCE

#### Center for Strategic and International Studies

*Defense outlook 2018*

by Kathleen H. Hicks [@kath\\_hicks](#), Mark F. Cancian, Alice Hunt Friend [@ahfdc](#), Todd Harrison [@ToddHarrisonDC](#), Rebecca K.C. Hersman, Andrew P. Hunter [@andrewphunter](#), Seth G. Jones [@SethGJones](#), Thomas Karako [@tomkarako](#), John Schaus [@schaus\\_csis](#), Ian Williams, Seamus P. Daniels and Ariel Fanger [@Ariel\\_Shira](#)

April 2018

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

The assessment of the Trump administration's strategy documents and FY 2019 budgets for defense. In December 2017, the president signed the National Security Strategy (NSS), the capstone document for national security. The secretary of defense then released the National Defense Strategy (NDS), which contains his vision for the department. The secretary has also published one targeted strategy document—the Nuclear Posture Review (NPR), which describes plans for nuclear capabilities—and will soon publish a second—the Missile Defense Review (MDR), which will do the same for missile defense.

#### RAND Europe

*Discontinuities and distractions — Rethinking security for the year 2040*

by Andrew R. Hoehn, Andrew Parasiliti [@ATParasiliti](#), Sonni Efron [@sonniefron](#) and Steven Strongin

April 2018

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

This report discusses how to better define, anticipate, and address global trends and discontinuities that could shape the world through the year 2040. Nineteen participants from a wide range of disciplines and professions analyzed continuities and discontinuities from previous eras, and anticipated likely or consequential developments in the coming 25 years.

*Understanding deterrence*

by Michael J. Mazarr

10 April 2018

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

The challenge of deterrence — discouraging states from taking unwanted actions, especially military aggression — has again become a principal theme in US defense policy. Because many potential adversaries are significantly more capable than they were a decade or more ago, moreover, the risks of actually fighting a major war are more significant than ever — making it even more imperative to deter conflict. Yet much of the emerging dialogue on deterrence remains characterized by unsupported assertions, claims that contradict the empirical record, and little reference to classic analyses.



## College of Europe Policy Brief

*Between continuity and erosion: three scenarios for the future of transatlantic relations*

by Hans Binnendijk

12 April 2018

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

The promotion and defense of the international liberal order has created strong transatlantic bonds: politically, economically and militarily. At present, 26 of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's (NATO) 29 members are rated by Freedom House (2018) as free, which is the highest score of any region in the world; US-EU two-way trade in goods and services is about USD 1.1 trillion annually with the EU being America's number one customer, supporting about 2.6 million US jobs. NATO countries together spend about USD 900 billion on defense annually while being bound by the world's most successful alliance.

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

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

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

April 2018

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

In light of the current instability on Europe's borders and uncertainties about the international role of the US under the administration of President Donald Trump, it is high time for Franco-German foreign policy initiatives. With the formation of a new German government, a window of opportunity opens for new joint action by the two countries at the core of the EU. At the same time, differences between France and Germany could impede any such cooperation. This study shows how Paris and Berlin can bridge – and exploit – these gaps to facilitate joint initiatives, even in the short term, on four key topics: Russia, transatlantic relations, Syria and Turkey.

## Real Instituto Elcano (Elcano Royal Institute)

*The European Commission: an enabler for the European Security and Defence Union*

by Chantal Lavallée

26 April 2018

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

The European Commission has found its way into the European security and defense sector. To the surprise and skepticism of many, given that this sector has long been considered a reserved domain of the Member States, ambitious Commission initiatives have come to fruition. Looking at recent developments, this paper examines the Commission's leadership capacity to bring security and defense-related issues into the EU framework, giving a new impetus to this strategic area and ultimately enabling the European Security and Defence Union.

*Coherence and focus on capability priorities: why EDA's role in CARD, PESCO and EDF matters*

by Jorge Domecq

19 April 2018

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

The year 2017 has seen the launch of ambitious new EU tools on defence (CARD, PESCO, European Defence Fund) which now need to be implemented in a coherent and coordinated manner. As the secretariat for both CARD and PESCO (together with the EEAS and EUMS), the central operator for EU-funded defence activities and a privileged interlocutor and promotor of the European defence technological and industrial base, the European Defence Agency (EDA) is actively involved in all the initiatives with the aim of ensuring coherence, efficiency and a steady focus on capability priorities.

## LSE IDEAS

### *A 'Hybrid Threat'? European militaries and migration*

by Julia Himmrich [@juliahimmrich](#)

25 April 2018

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

The military has become an important part of European responses to increased migration flows. This paper explores the effectiveness and long term impact of military involvement in migration enforcement.

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

#### *The EU as a force for peace in international cyber diplomacy*

by Annegret Bendiek [@annegretbendiek](#)

April 2018

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

Ever since the cyber attacks against the computer networks of European governments and defence and foreign ministries have become public knowledge, security policy-makers have insisted that the EU Member States need to develop more adequate cyber-defence and cyber-retaliation capabilities. Faced with increasing activities infrastructures, Europe would be well-advised to adhere to the step-by-step cyber-diplomacy plan, which is based on the principle of due diligence, claim the author of this article.

### **Stockholm International Peace Research Institute**

#### *Setting the stage for progress towards nuclear disarmament*

by Tytti Erästö [@TyttiErasto](#), Sibylle Bauer, Shannon N. Kile and Petr Topychkanov [@PTopych](#)

April 2018

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

Recognizing that the current international context is hardly conducive to arms control and disarmament, this paper identifies 10 practical steps to revitalize the 1968 Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) as the principal normative and legal foundation of the global nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime. At the same time, it recognizes the NPT's inherent compatibility with other disarmament initiatives, most notably the 2017 Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

### **Norsk Utenrikspolitisk Institutt (The Norwegian Institute of International Affairs)**

#### *Towards a comprehensive results-based reporting and performance assessment framework: for UN peacekeeping operations*

by Cedric H. de Coning and Emery Brusset

19 April 2018

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

This report considers the tools and processes that DPKO and DFS currently use to assess the performance of senior personnel, individual units and peacekeeping operations, and proposes a methodology for reorganizing these tools into a single overarching comprehensive planning, reporting and performance assessment framework.

### *Sustaining peace: can a new approach change the UN?*

by Cedric H. de Coning

23 April 2018

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

When António Guterres started as UN Secretary General, he emphasised that conflict prevention had to be a top priority of the UN. This is why the UN are currently working on specifying the new 'sustaining peace' approach, passed by concurrent resolutions of the UN General Assembly and the Security Council in 2016. What are the challenges with their implementation? How does the current geopolitical situation impact the concept? And does it have the potential to make the UN fit for the 21 century.

### *Sikkerhetspolitiske rammebetingelser i bevegelse*

by Torgeir Larsen [@ttlar](#)

13 April 2018

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

This analysis highlights developments that affect the framework conditions for Norway's security. Some moves stand out: Geopolitical power displacement challenges the institutionalized world order, and the US has shown signs of a more pending attitude towards the role of guarantor and leading superpower. At the same time, a more complex threat may force NATO to change the challenge of unity in the alliance. Viewed from a Norwegian point of view: What dilemmas, challenges and key issues could meet Norwegian decision makers in the coming years?

## TRADE

### **Peterson Institute for International Economics**

#### *NAFTA termination: legal process in Canada and Mexico*

by Tetyana Payosova, Gary Clyde Hufbauer and Euijin Jung [@jung\\_euijin](#)

April 2018

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

The mechanics of US withdrawal from the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) have been widely explored, with an emerging consensus among legal experts that President Donald Trump does have the authority to pull out of the accord. This brief examines the legal procedures in Canada and Mexico in the event that either country decides to withdraw or terminate NAFTA.

### **OCP Policy Center**

#### *Will the African free trade agreement succeed?*

by Rim Berahab and Uri Dadush

18 April 2018

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

The recently signed African continental free trade agreement represents a counter current to protectionist tendencies across the Atlantic and the Pacific, and may well move the economic integration of the African continent forward. Translating the vision into action, however, will call upon signatories to undertake deeper domestic reforms and to confront specific challenges related to the agreement itself. This brief explains why the agreement is important for Africa and identifies policy implications for Africa and for third countries.

## Stockholm International Peace Research Institute

*The challenge of emerging technologies to non-proliferation efforts: controlling additive manufacturing and intangible transfers of technology*

by Kolja Brockmann [@KoljaBrockmann](#) and Robert Kelley

23 April 2018

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

This paper examines (a) the state of the art in additive manufacturing (AM); (b) its ability to produce military equipment and dual-use items; (c) the application of export controls to AM and their implementation at the national level; and (d) the challenges that implementation and compliance present for governments, companies and research institutes. The conclusions summarize potential options and considerations when expanding controls on AM.

*The challenge of software and technology transfers to non-proliferation efforts: implementing and complying with export controls*

by Mark Bromley and Giovanna Maletta [@gio\\_maletta](#)

23 April 2018

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

This paper examines (a) the different ways in which transfers of software and technology occur; (b) the proliferation-related challenges they generate, (c) the way controls are structured in the multilateral export control regimes and implemented in EU member states, and (d) the particular challenges that implementation and compliance present for EU governments, companies and research institutes. The conclusions highlight steps that different stakeholders can take to improve the consistency and effectiveness of software and technology controls.

## Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies - European University Institute

*Things have changed (or have they?): tariff protection and environmental concerns in the WTO*

by Petros C. Mavroidis and Damien J. Neven

16 April 2018

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

This paper considers the APEC (Asian Pacific Economic Cooperation) and proposed EGA (Environmental Goods Agreement) agreements which grant tariff concession in favour of "green" goods. The authors find that the practical significance of the APEC agreement should not be overestimated as it involves modest tariff concessions over a subset of goods which are not heavily traded. The authors also model the mechanism through which these tariff preferences provide incentives to change production in favour of green goods in exporting countries and highlight the challenges that the implementation of these agreements involve.

## Bertelsmann Stiftung

*A safety net to foster support for trade and globalisations: international survey on attitudes towards trade and globalisation 2018*

by Christian Bluth [@christianbluth](#)

April 2018

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

Since Donald Trump became US President, the commitment to free trade is no longer self-evident. In many countries it made way for a protectionist reflex, not only in the US. But are the citizens buying this new narrative? This international survey analyses what people actually think about globalisation, trade and protectionism.

## ENLARGEMENT

### Vrije Universiteit Brussel - Institute for European Studies

*The perception of the EU cultural and science diplomacy in Turkey*

by Naciye Selin Senocak

April 2018

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

The study provides insights into the ways in which neighbourhood countries think and behave in the areas of cultural and science diplomacy, as well as benchmarks against which future evolutions can be tracked. The objective is to evaluate the degree to which non-EU populations notice and appreciate European culture and science diplomacy actions, and to understand the Southern partners' image of the EU.

### Friedrich Ebert Stiftung

*Beyond enlargement: why the EU's Western Balkans policy needs a reset*

by Toby Vogel [@tobyvogel](#)

April 2018

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

Brussels has pledged that the next round of EU enlargement may begin as early as 2025. First in line are Serbia and Montenegro, but EU officials claim all the "Western Balkan Six" (WB6) are potential candidates; the ball, in short, is in the court of national governments. In this report, Toby Vogel of the Democratization Policy Council argues that the existing enlargement model is in need of a major rethink. The heart of Vogel's argument concerns the position of the EU itself, as well as the US, with respect to the entire Euro-Atlantic project in the Balkans.

### EUROPEUM (Institute for European Policy)

*Eastern Monitor - enlargement to the Western Balkans: finally ready to commit?*

by Jana Juzová

25 April 2018

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

The release of the European Commission's "Enlargement Strategy" represents an attempt by the EU to demonstrate its commitment to the region's future inside the EU and to motivate Western Balkan leaders to accelerate the adoption and implementation of the necessary reforms. The Strategy represents a breaking point after a decade of enlargement fatigue because it offers, for the first time, a clear date for possible accession of the "frontrunners". However, it fails to address some of the most problematic obstacles the enlargement to the Western Balkans currently faces.

### European Union Institute for Security Studies

*Belgrade and Pristina: lost in normalisation?*

by Donika Emini [@donikaemini](#) and Isidora Stakic

20 April 2018

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

The newly adopted European Commission Communication on a credible enlargement perspective for an enhanced EU engagement with the Western Balkans reaffirms that the normalisation of relations between Kosovo and Serbia is key to their advancement on their respective EU paths. But during the seven years of the Brussels Dialogue (EU-facilitated dialogue between Belgrade and Pristina), relations between Kosovo and Serbia have oscillated between normalisation and a state of strained peace and conflict prevention.

## Istituto per gli Studi di Politica Internazionale

*Turkey: towards a Eurasian shift?*

by Valeria Talbot [@TalbotValeria](#) (ed.)

24 April 2018

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

This report aims to analyse the challenges and opportunities of Turkey's eastwards shift, addressing some key questions. What are the domestic drivers of Turkey's "Eurasianism"? What are the strategic and economic interests at stake? Who are Turkey's main partners and competitors in Eurasia? How are Turkey and Russia reshaping their relations beyond the Syrian context? What are the main features and interests in the cooperation between Ankara and Beijing? How will the Eurasian shift affect Turkey's relations with the EU?

## DEVELOPMENT

### Norsk Utenrikspolitisk Institutt (The Norwegian Institute of International Affairs)

*Building tax systems in fragile states: challenges, achievements and policy recommendations*

by Odd-Helge Fjeldstad, Morten Bøås, Julie Brun Bjørkheim [@JulieBrunB](#) and Frida Margrethe Kvamme

March 2018

Link to the article in [English](#) (49 p.)

This report systematises and analyses existing knowledge on taxation in fragile states. Efforts to support domestic revenue mobilisation in conflict situations require a different approach and other means than in the more stable developing countries. Complexity, limited experience and security concerns suggest that one should be cautious to adopt bilateral technical assistance programmes of the kind implemented in other developing countries. Instead, the study argues in favour of engagement via multilateral institutions, including multi-donor trust funds and other forms of pooled resources. The report recommends nine entry points for Norwegian support to taxation in fragile states.

### Overseas Development Institute

*Channelling private investment to infrastructure: what can multilateral development banks realistically do?*

by Chris Humphrey

April 2018

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

The paper reviews how multilateral development banks can coordinate demand for infrastructure investment and supply of institutional investment resources.

## EASTERN PARTNERSHIP

### College of Europe

*Between a rock and a hard place: the EU and the Eastern Partnership after the 2017 Brussels summit*

by Mihai-Răzvan Corman and Adrian Băluțel [@AdrianBalutel](#)

2 April 2018

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

This brief offers an overview of the main outcomes of the EaP summit and discusses some of the events that led to the summit's modest results. It then goes on to critically discuss the recent shift

in the EaP, which sees the EU prioritizing sector-specific cooperation at the expense of norms and values promotion. It is argued that the EU's seemingly unambitious and sobering approach in favour of sector-specific regulatory convergence might offer unsuspected potentialities.

### **East European Security Research Initiative Foundation**

*Rights and security of a person in Belarus*

by Andrei Porotnikov

20 April 2018

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

The situation concerning security of a person in Belarus is ambivalent. On the one hand, the existing system of law enforcement agencies effectively provides internal and external security. On the other hand, its priority is to ensure the integrity of the existing political regime.

### **Carnegie Endowment for International Peace**

*The house that Lukashenko built: the foundation, evolution, and future of the Belarusian regime*

by Artyom Shraibman

April 2018

Link to the article in [English](#) (42 p.) and [Russian](#) (38 p.)

Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko has built a highly consolidated, adaptive authoritarian regime. Examining how the Belarusian political system is structured and how its relationships with its citizens, Russia, and the West have evolved may help shed light on possible paths that Minsk could take as Lukashenko ages and economic challenges continue to mount.

### **Friedrich Ebert Stiftung**

*Ukrainian prism: foreign policy 2017*

by Hennadiy Maksak [@HMaksak](#), Hanna Shelest, Nadiia Bureiko, Nadiia Koval and Maria Koval (eds.)

11 April 2018

Link to the article in [English](#) (228 p.)

This analytical study represents a systematic and comprehensive analysis of the Ukrainian foreign policy in 2017.

## **MIDDLE EAST/NORTH AFRICA (MENA)**

### **Carnegie Endowment for International Peace**

*Unheard voices: what Syrian refugees need to return home*

by Maha Yahya [@mahamyahya](#), Jean Kassir and Khalil el-Hariri

16 April 2018

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

As the Syrian regime regains territory, there have been growing calls in neighbouring countries for refugees to go home. Yet refugees have conditions for a return – conditions that political efforts to resolve the Syrian conflict have largely ignored. To understand refugee attitudes toward return, the Carnegie Middle East Center listened to the concerns of Syrians – both male and female, young and old – struggling to build meaningful lives in Lebanon and Jordan. Above all, their attitudes make it clear that both a sustainable political settlement and a mass, voluntary return are contingent upon international peace processes that account for refugee voices.

## Center for Strategic and International Studies

### *Al Qaeda's struggling campaign in Syria - Past, present, and future*

by Seth G. Jones, Charles Vallee and Maxwell B. Markusen

April 2018

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

With President Donald Trump threatening to pull out of Syria, the Bashar al-Assad regime ramping up its military campaign against rebels, and the Islamic State in decline, al Qaeda has attempted to resurge and reposition itself at the center of global Salafi-jihadist activity. Syria has been perhaps its most important prize. For some, al Qaeda's cunning and concerted efforts in Syria and other countries highlight the group's resilience and indicate its potential to resurge and rejuvenate.

### *Syria, Turkey, and the Eastern Mediterranean*

by Jon B. Alterman and Heather A. Conley

April 2018

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

Two Eastern Mediterranean countries – Syria and Turkey – present some of the most vexing problems for US foreign policy today. The Syrian civil war has become a magnet for both terrorists and US adversaries. Turkey, a NATO ally, is facing terrorism and a refugee crisis. Domestically, it is increasingly turning away from democratic principles and making choices that are at odds with the US. The US needs to take a new strategic approach to the Eastern Mediterranean. An urgent part of that strategy, outlined in the paper, is recalibrating US policy toward Syria and Turkey.

## Oxford Institute for Energy Studies

### *Progress, challenges, uncertainty: ambivalent times for Iran's energy sector*

by David Ramin Jalilvand [@davidrijalilvand](#)

April 2018

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

According to the paper, after more than a decade of announcements and negotiations, the launch of natural gas exports to Iraq and the conclusion of oil and natural gas contracts with Chinese, French, and Russian companies mark significant positive developments for Iran. These initial steps remain below the hopes and expectations of Iranian officials and executives as expressed in the context of the Iran Petroleum Contract (IPC) and the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). But they do constitute important initial successes on Iran's journey to reconnecting its energy industry internationally. Iran is keen to build on these developments but the future of relations with the global energy industry will depend to a large extent on how the standoff over the JCPOA unfolds.

## International Crisis Group

### *Iran's priorities in a turbulent Middle East*

13 April 2018

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

Iran is a rising power in the Middle East, having exploited opportunities arising from the US invasion of Iraq and wars in Syria and Yemen. But where the Islamic Republic's enemies see a grasping would-be empire, its own strategists see an embattled state redressing historical wrongs. To craft sensible policy toward Iran's regional ambitions, its adversaries must better understand what drives Iranian leaders, particularly their strong defensive impulse. The Islamic Republic must accept that its approach is perceived as offensive – and adjust accordingly.



## Gulf Research Center

### *Demography, migration, and the labour market in the UAE*

by Françoise De Bel-Air

April 2018

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

The objective of the paper is to draw a sketch of the population and migration dynamics of the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

## Barcelona Centre for International Affairs

### *Libya: moving beyond the transitional mood*

by Virginie Collombier

April 2018

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

The Libyan Political Agreement (LPA) signed in December 2015 was to be a transitional agreement to establish a unified, legitimate government and organize political life prior to the finalization of the constitutional process allowing for the election of a new legislative authority. Yet the continued opposition of key constituencies to the agreement – within the Tobruk-based House of Representatives (HoR) and the self-styled Libyan National Army (LNA) – has undermined hopes that the agreement could present a way out of the conflict. But political and institutional divisions persist, accompanied by outbreaks of violence and localized conflict. Despite the fact that the majority of the Constitutional Drafting Assembly (CDA) voted in favour of a draft constitution in July 2017, implementation procedures for its official adoption have stalled.

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

### *Control of the Syrian airspace: Russian geopolitical ambitions and air threat assessment*

by Can Kasapoğlu

April 2018

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

Russia has mounted its anti-access/area denial (A2/AD) footprint in the Levant and also boosted the Syrian Arab Air Defense Force's capabilities. Syrian skies now remain a heavily contested combat airspace and a dangerous flashpoint. Moreover, there is another grave threat to monitor at low altitudes. Throughout the civil war, various non-state armed groups have acquired advanced man-portable air defense systems (MANPADS), which pose a menacing challenge not only to the deployed forces, but also to commercial aviation around the world. Control of the Syrian airspace is becoming an extremely crucial issue, and it will be a determining factor for the war-torn country's future status quo.

### *Tripoli's militia cartel: how ill-conceived stabilisation blocks political progress, and risks renewed war*

by Wolfram Lacher [@W\\_Lacher](#)

April 2018

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

Since the establishment of the UN-backed Government of National Accord (GNA) in Tripoli, in March 2016, a handful of local militias have gradually brought much of the Libyan capital under their control. Although nominally loyal to the GNA, these armed groups today in fact dominate the government. The pillaging of state funds – a hallmark of Libya's political economy – now benefits a narrower group than at any previous point since the 2011 revolution. Actors excluded from this arrangement are building alliances to alter the balance of power in Tripoli by force. New security

arrangements for the capital are urgently needed to avert renewed conflict and prepare the ground for a broader political settlement.

### **Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung**

*How to combat the causes of refugee flows: the EU-Jordan compact in practice*

by Manuel Schubert and Imke Haase

16 April 2018

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

The 2016 Supporting Syria and the Region Conference in London heralded a decisive paradigm shift in European development cooperation in the midst of the Syrian refugee crisis. In the process, not only were new sources of finance mobilised, but development policy focus was also shifted to long-term strengthening of initial host country resilience. In light of the EU-Jordan Compact, this article shows the extent to which the promising approach of a Compact has proven itself in practice.

*Scattered dreams: the independence referendum, the fall of Kirkuk and the effect on Kurdish and Iraqi politics*

by Nils Wörmer and Lucas Lamberty [@LCLamberty](#)

16 April 2018

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

Even before the official defeat of the so-called Islamic State (IS) in Iraq, the Kurdish independence referendum has brought the country on the brink of yet another civil war and has fundamentally changed the political situation in the country. Iraq's new reality necessitates a shift in German Iraq policy, including an adjustment of the Federal Republic's military contribution to the country.

### **Institute for National Security Studies**

*The Saudi revolution*

by Yoel Guzansky

22 April 2018

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

In contrast to the bottom-up Arab revolutions that took place over the past decade, the revolutionary processes currently underway in Saudi Arabia that aim to change the economic and social fabric in this conservative kingdom are driven top-down by Crown Prince and acting ruler Mohammad bin Salman from his palace in Riyadh.

### **South African Institute of International Affairs**

*Morocco joins the AU: motives and meanings*

by Carmel Rawhani [@carmelrawhani](#)

April 2018

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

Morocco left the Organization of African Unity (OAU) in 1984, when the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic (SADR, also known as Western Sahara), which the Moroccan monarchy considered to be part of its territory, was granted membership of the organization. This move was tantamount to recognition of the SADR's sovereignty, independence and right to separate statehood. Thirty-four years later, the SADR is still a member of the OAU's new incarnation, the AU. After successfully campaigning to re-join the AU, Morocco was voted back in with an overwhelming majority on 30 January 2017.

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

*Marroquíes y segundas generaciones entre los yihadistas en España*

by Fernando Reinares [@f\\_reinares](#) and Carola García-Calvo [@carolagc13](#)

27 April 2018

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

According to the authors, although a large majority of Spain's Jihadist are Moroccan or have Moroccan origins, it is more likely that somebody from Morocco gets involved in Jihadist activities if they are living in Spain than if they're living in Morocco.

## **New America Foundation**

*Iraq after ISIS: what to do now*

by Bartle Bull and Douglas Ollivant [@DouglasOllivant](#)

23 April 2018

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

After all Iraq's extraordinary difficulties over recent decades, today the country is enjoying an increasingly positive mood. ISIS has been driven from its last territorial holdings, oil revenues are improving, and the next national elections, the fifth since the fall of Saddam Hussein, are on track. As Iraq looks ahead to a post-ISIS future, numerous challenges lie ahead.

## **CENTRAL ASIA**

### **Vrije Universiteit Brussel - Institute for European Studies**

*Health diplomacy of the European Union and its member states in Central Asia*

by Neil Collins, Kristina Bekenova and Ainur Kagarmanova

April 2018

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

In the soft power context, health is increasingly seen as an area that generates particular diplomatic benefits because it is ostensibly non-political and can bring both immediate and long-term advantages equally to the donor and the recipient country. Since the European Union's role in the international affairs is increasing, the EU is expected to play a central role in global health guided by the principles of solidarity, i.e. to provide an equitable and universal access to quality health services.

### **Observer Research Foundation**

*Understanding the complexities of the Afghan peace process*

by Vinay Kaura

April 2018

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

Afghanistan President Ashraf Ghani's bold peace offer to the Taliban has aroused hopes of peace in the country torn by war for many years now. Ghani has demonstrated remarkable boldness and vision for bringing about a positive shift in the structure of the Afghan conflict. This paper seeks to address the structural complexities involved in the Afghan peace process.

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

*Could India become an economic superpower?*

by Péter Goreczky, Anna Juhos, Tamás Novák and Dinoj Upadhyay

23 April 2018

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

This paper gives a short answer to the same questions concerning international politics and economics. Its aim is to launch the scientific debates in Hungary and promote dialogue among experts. In this issue, the topic is: "could India become an economic superpower?"

## **Observer Research Foundation**

*The Asia – Africa growth corridor: bringing together old partnerships and new initiatives*

by Anita Prakash

April 2018

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

Ties between India and Japan are historical and enduring. In the Asia-Africa Growth Corridor (AAGC), the leaders of the two countries have married their respective countries' "Act East" policy and "Free and Open Indo Pacific" aspirations. The AAGC is envisioned to provide a renewed opportunity for partnership where both regions can complement each other's development and growth. The AAGC will bring out the economic gains for Africa through its integration with India, South Asia, Southeast Asia, East Asia and Oceania. It is also a roadmap for creating new channels for production of goods and services, and for connecting institutions and people in the two regions.

## **Centre for International Governance Innovation**

*Building a cohesive society: the case of Singapore's housing policies*

by Beatrice Weder di Mauro [@bweder](#)

April 2018

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

Singapore is an interesting case study on dealing with and overcoming ethnic and racial divisions. In its short history as an independent state, Singapore has succeeded in forging a cohesive society in a country that was born among race riots. Singapore is a multinational and multicultural society with three main ethnic groups: Malay, Indian and Chinese. Social inclusion and overcoming racial segregation were key concerns of the government at independence and continue to be central pillars of policy today.

## **ASIA-OCEANIA**

### **RAND Europe**

*A preliminary assessment of Indonesia's maritime security threats and capabilities*

by Lyle J. Morris [@LyleJMorris](#) and Giacomo Persi Paoli [@GPersiPaoli](#)

17 April 2018

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

The paper identifies the threats and priority areas for Indonesia in the maritime security domain as a first step in an overall assessment of capability requirements and gaps.

## Japan Institute of International Affairs

*Budding ties? The impact of Brexit on Europe-Japan relations*

by Irina Angelescu

12 April 2018

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

This paper looks at why Brexit is important for Japan, and briefly outlines its potential economic, political and defence impact. It also focuses on the specific forms of economic and political engagements between Japan and the EU. Finally, it concludes with some observations about the opportunities and limitations posed by Japan's renewed interest in European affairs, and possible consequences for the US.

## Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars

*Public diplomacy and the evolution of U.S.-Japan relations*

by Yasushi Watanabe

March 2018

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

Among experts, the concept of "public diplomacy" is getting more ambiguous and problematic. It has been long time since such a new concept as "New Public Diplomacy" has come into vogue, with the multiplication of non-state actors and the emergence of new digital technologies. However, at the time when diplomacy has become more multidimensional and public engagement has become the "whole of government diplomacy", what are the quintessential properties of "public diplomacy" per se?

## Instituto Español de Estudios Estratégicos

*Cisnes blancos coreanos (análisis de un posible momento histórico)*

by Francisco Márquez de la Rubia

11 April 2018

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

The latest events in relation to the Korean crisis have surprised the entire international community. Inter-Korean diplomacy seems to have paved the way for a thaw between the two Koreas and a possible solution to the nuclear crisis in the peninsula. However, the next milestones could mark not only the particular history of the two Korean republics and their respective allies, but also mark the struggle for hegemony in Southeast Asia and therefore the emergence of a new global geopolitical reality.

## European Union Institute for Security Studies

*Along the road: Sri Lanka's tale of two ports*

by Plamen Tonchev [@TonchevPlamen](#)

18 April 2018

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

This brief is the first publication in the EUISS series 'Along the road', which will examine the security implications of China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). Through a collection of case studies from infrastructure projects and countries situated 'along the road', this series will seek to gather concrete evidence of the success or failure of Beijing's new geopolitical project.

## **Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung**

*Of streams of data, thought, and other things: digitalisation, energy policy, and innovation capacity from an Asian perspective*

by Peter Hefele

16 April 2018

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

What influence do digitalisation processes have on the use of energy and raw materials? What innovation dynamics result from the potential, still far from exhausted, of these developments? And what influence does all this have on the geoeconomic and geopolitical interrelationships in the international system? This article addresses these questions from an Asian perspective.

## **Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies - European University Institute**

*Global interactions and the 'twin' gender gaps in employment and wages: evidence from Vietnam*

by Nicola D. Coniglio and Rezart Hoxhaj [@RezartHoxhaj](#)

12 April 2018

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

The paper investigates the role of firms with global ties – foreign firms and exporters – in shaping the 'twin' gender gaps in employment opportunities and wages in Vietnam for both skilled and unskilled workers. The analysis shows that foreign firms contribute by boosting employment opportunities in the formal sector for unskilled female workers. The presence of foreign firms has, meanwhile, only limited effects on gender gaps in employment for skilled workers.

## **New America Foundation**

*After the Pyeongchang olympics: prospects for inter-Korean relations*

by Jon Min Dok and Hyeong Jung Park

April 2018

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

This paper presents the perspectives of two experts, from North and South Korea, on the prospects of improved relations between the two countries.

## **LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN**

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

*El pulso del crimen organizado a una potencia regional: Brasil*

by Sonia Alda [@soniaaldamejias](#) and Javier Martín

26 April 2018

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

After an increase of violent attacks in Rio de Janeiro, the Brazilian Government decided to delegate the security competences of the city to the Armed Forces. This decision brought back the debate about the country militarization which seems to be a trend in Latin-American countries. This paper aims to explain the causes and consequences of this decision.

## **Barcelona Centre for International Affairs**

### *Latin America's farewell to arms in Haiti*

by Monica Hirst

April 2018

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

In April 2017, the UN Security Council approved resolution 2350, which simultaneously determined the end of the UN Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) and the establishment of the UN Mission for Justice Support in Haiti (MINUJUSTH). While the conclusion of the Mission in Haiti took place together with the ending of the UN Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) and of the UN Mission in Liberia (UNMIL), Haiti was the only country to receive a replacement mission. Its tasks were to consolidate the justice and human rights system and complete the creation of a local police force.

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

### *Labour clauses for sustainability? Colombian trade agreements exemplify potential and limits*

by Evita Schmieg

April 2018

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

Modern free trade agreements increasingly seek to address environmental and social concerns. While the EU pursues a dialogue-led "soft approach", the US relies on threats of trade sanctions. Colombia offers an interesting example in this connection. It has agreements with the US, Canada and the EU, which the respective parliaments declined to ratify until they included provisions to improve the situation of labour and the trade unions. Controversy over the fundamental relationship between trade policy, sustainability and human rights has coloured the discussion in recent years.

## **Istituto Affari Internazionali**

### *The economic agenda between Brazil and the EU: prospects for a bilateral and global upgrading*

by Anna Ayuso [@AyusoAnna](#) and Susanne Gratius

27 April 2018

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

Brazil is still the European Union's largest economic partner in Latin America, despite Europe's trade position having slightly declined following China's rise to be Brazil's main export market. The signature of the long-awaited EU–Mercosur association agreement, including free trade, would clearly improve bilateral relations and guarantee a long-term engagement of European enterprises in the Brazilian market. At the same time, both partners should push towards global economic and financial governance by creating new forums for convergence and the adoption of common positions at the World Trade Organization, the International Monetary Fund and the G-20.

## **Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung**

### *More than just bitcoin: the potential of blockchain technology, using the example of Latin America*

by Christian Hübner

16 April 2018

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

Today, blockchain technology (BT) has already claimed a prominent position in the sphere of digitalisation. It is becoming increasingly clear that it has countless potential applications, that extend far beyond the Bitcoin digital currency. Eventually, it might even be a safe alternative to weak state institutions, particularly in emerging and developing countries, claims the author of this article.

## CHINA

### Center for Strategic and International Studies

*Kyaukpyu: connecting China to the Indian Ocean*

by Gregory B. Poling [@GregPoling](#)

April 2018

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

Chinese state-owned firms have reached agreements with Myanmar to construct a \$7.3 billion deep-water port and \$2.7 billion industrial area in a special economic zone at Kyaukpyu along the coast of the Bay of Bengal. The strategic town is the terminus of a \$1.5 billion oil pipeline and parallel natural gas pipeline running to Kunming in China's Yunnan Province. Despite fears that the project could eventually be used for Chinese military access, political and legal restrictions in Myanmar make this unlikely. The project is aimed mainly at helping China avoid the vulnerable Strait of Malacca and aid the development of its south-western hinterland.

*Security implications of China's military presence in the Indian Ocean*

by Zack Cooper [@ZackCooper](#)

April 2018

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

According to the paper, the security implications of China's push into the Indian Ocean region are mixed. In peacetime, these efforts will certainly expand Chinese regional influence. In wartime, however, China's Indian Ocean presence will likely create more vulnerabilities than opportunities.

### Centre for Climate Change Economics and Policy

*China, the world and the next decade: better growth, better climate*

by Ehtisham Ahmad, Isabella Neuweg and Nicholas Stern [@lordstern1](#)

26 April 2018

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

This paper argues that China's internal reform agenda, which is rebalancing the economy for strong, clean and inclusive growth, is strongly linked to its actions in its major trading partner countries, especially those associated with the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). With China's influence, both through its powerful international voice and its role as one of the world's biggest sources of finance, the country's trading partners are in a good position to embark on cleaner growth that will, in turn, facilitate China's own domestic rebalancing.

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

*China's global connectivity politics: on confidently dealing with Chinese initiatives*

by Paul J. Kohlenberg and Nadine Godehardt [@NGodehardt](#)

April 2018

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

European attitudes towards China and its Belt and Road Initiative are changing. While the People's Republic under Xi Jinping is the only country in the world pursuing a global vision, distrust of China's expanding influence is growing. The European debate about China is becoming increasingly emotional with interpretations fluctuating between alarmism and reassurance. Ideas about the 'essence of China' and expectations that the country should fit into the liberal order according to Western standards, however, threaten to limit Europe's scope of action in dealing with the People's Republic.



## Ośrodek Studiów Wschodnich (Centre for Eastern Studies)

*High on the party, low on the state: a quantum leap in the process of China's reconstruction*

by Jakub Jakóbowski [@J\\_Jakobowski](#) and Michał Bogusz

18 April 2018

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

The National People's Congress approved a series of changes to the structure and organisation of the Central People's Government and an amendment to China's constitution. The purpose of these changes is to secure continued governance by the Communist Party of China (CPC), to maintain domestic stability and to break the impasse in economic and social reforms. The general thrust of these changes involves a transfer of control in terms of how the state apparatus works to organs of the CPC, at the cost of central government institutions and local governments. These changes will considerably impact the functioning of the state and China's international relations.

## Istituto Affari Internazionali

*Beijing's ambitions in the South China Sea: how should Europe respond?*

by Nicola Casarini

6 April 2018

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

Beijing's growing assertiveness in the South China Sea is putting Europe's economic interests in the area at risk. More than one third of Europe's external trade takes place with the Indo-Pacific region and any escalation of tensions in this area will undoubtedly have a direct impact on Europe.

## RUSSIA

### RAND Europe

*Russian social media influence - Understanding Russian propaganda in Eastern Europe*

by Todd C. Helmus [@Helmus](#), Elizabeth Bodine-Baron [@bodinebaron](#), Andrew Radin [@andrewmradin](#), Madeline Magnuson, Joshua Mendelsohn, William Marcellino, Andriy Bega and Zev Winkelman

9 April 2018

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

The study examines Russian-language content on social media and the broader propaganda threat posed to the region of former Soviet states that include Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Ukraine, and, to a lesser extent, Moldova and Belarus.

### Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies

*Filling the void: why the EU must step up support for Russian civil society*

by Barbara von Ow-Freytag

27 April 2018

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

Over the past 15 years, the space for civic engagement in Russia has continuously shrunk, and it looks set to be cut further during Vladimir Putin's fourth presidential term. However, growing local initiatives and rising protests across the country undercut the narrative that Russian civil society is dead. And despite the pressure, Russian civil society is proving to be more active, resilient and diverse than is generally assumed. The European debate has to refocus on Russia as a major driver of global authoritarianism and of 'closing space' for civil society, a worldwide pushback against civil activism.

## **CSD (Center for the Study of Democracy)**

*Mapping the links between Russian influence and media capture in Black Sea countries*

19 April 2018

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

Russia's influence over the media sector in Central and East Europe and its effect on democratic governance in these countries has become a growing concern. To address these issues, the Center for the Study of Democracy (CSD) has engaged in analyzing the Russian economic footprint and ownership links in the media sector in the Black Sea region. The preliminary results provide an overview of the tools used by Russian-controlled media for disseminating content and political messages. This brief summarizes the main conclusions from the discussion on the topic, held on 22 February 2018.

## **Institut Thomas More**

*EU-Russia: specific co-operations or global partnership?*

by Jean-Pierre Schaeken Willemaers

24 April 2018

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

In the context of a new world order where, among others, the US is rethinking its foreign policy and advancing American interests and China is securing its new status as superpower, isn't it time for the EU to realize that it needs to strengthen its own position? Wouldn't an improved relationship with Russia now it is back on the world stage, be a coherent way to achieve this objective despite the challenges involved? This could initially take the form of specific areas of cooperation which would eventually come to some kind of partnership. Wouldn't such an approach lead to a strong entity having the ability to punch its weight between America and Asia?

## **Institut français des relations internationales**

*From Chechnya to Syria: the evolution of Russia's counter-terrorist policy*

by Pavel K. Baev

April 2018

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

The struggle against terrorism is supposed to be one part of security policy in which Russia has every necessary capability and know-how, and its special services can draw on vast experience without encountering the legal and institutional constraints that often interfere with Western efforts. Yet, instead of strength, counter-terrorism is a major weakness in the country's still uncertain state-building. Russia is facing growing threats from both home-grown and international terrorism, and its counter-terrorist policy, instead of deterring these threats, generates more security challenges on the domestic front and new tensions in relations with the West, in particular with the EU.

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

*A test of strength: the escalation of the crisis in Russian-American relations*

by Marek Menkiszak [@MarekMenkiszak](#)

11 April 2018

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

On 6 April, the Trump administration introduced additional, more severe sanctions against Russia. The immediate consequence of the new sanctions has been a downturn on the Russian stock market and the weakening of the rouble, as well as financial problems for the companies sanctioned. These sanctions represent the next stage of the crisis in Russian-American relations. The crisis may deepen further as a result of the military response announced by the US in

response to a chemical attack in Duma, Syria on 7 April. An escalation of the crisis does not suit the Kremlin, which still seems to hope that the recently announced further Putin-Trump meeting could initiate the process of normalisation of Russian-American relations.

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

*Russian-Chinese relations in Eurasia: harmonization or subordination?*

by Marcin Kaczmarek [@M\\_Kaczmarek](#)

9 April 2018

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

Russia and China have largely managed to avoid direct competition in the post-Soviet space, particularly in Central Asia, even though they have been pursuing distinct regional cooperation projects, namely the Eurasian Economic Union and the Silk Road Economic Belt. China is more interested in the practical benefits of regional cooperation. It aims at preventing other powers from establishing closed politico-economic blocs. Russia is struggling to maintain the image of a strategic leader in Eurasia. Its concept of 'Greater Eurasia' imitates China's project as Moscow wants to create the impression of Russia and China being equal partners in Eurasia.

## **UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

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

*The future of the United States and Europe: an irreplaceable partnership*

by Patricia Lewis [@PatriciaMary](#), Jacob Parakilas [@Jparakilas](#), Marianne Schneider-Petsinger [@MPetsinger](#), Christopher Smart [@csmart](#), Jeffrey Rathke [@JeffRathke](#) and Donatienne Ruy [@Donatienne Ruy](#)

April 2018

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

The partnership between the US and Europe has been an anchor of the world's economic, political and security order for more than seven decades. The US relationship with the European Union is the deepest in the world – but we should not take it for granted. Transatlantic relations are at a critical point in their history, and it is necessary to reassess their trajectory, as well as the prospects for EU-US cooperation.

*Civilians and “By, with, and through” - Key issues and questions related to civilian harm and security partnership*

by Melissa Dalton [@natsecdalton](#), Daniel Mahanty [@danmahanty](#), Jenny McAvoy [@McAvoyJenny](#), Hijab Shah, Julie Snyder and Kelsey Hampton

April 2018

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

The US National Security and Defense Strategies, as well as trends in US military operations, reflect a growing preference for working by, with, and through allies and partners to achieve US security objectives. Partnered operations may be pursued to limit deployment of US forces, and therefore minimizing risk to them, and may have the real and perceived benefits of burden sharing of costs, personnel, and assets. While "fighting together" can augment the capacity of any one state acting alone, it can simultaneously complicate—or even degrade—transparency, accountability, and consistency in minimizing and accounting for civilian harm.

## *Space threat assessment 2018*

by Todd Harrison [@ToddHarrisonDC](#), Kaitlyn Johnson and Thomas G. Roberts [@ThomasGzRoberts](#)

April 2018

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

The US depends on space across the full spectrum of military operations. These space systems, both US government satellites and those of commercial and international partners, are vulnerable to a wide array of threats, ranging from jamming and cyberattacks to direct-ascent anti-satellite (ASAT) weapons. While the need to improve the resiliency of space systems to different forms of attack is often discussed publicly, the progress other nations are making in developing and deploying counterspace weapons is not.

## **Pew Research Center**

*The Public, the political system and American democracy*

26 April 2018

Link to the article in [English](#) (158 p.)

At a time of growing stress on democracy around the world, Americans generally agree on democratic ideals and values that are important for the US. But for the most part, they see the country falling well short in living up to these ideals, according to a new study of opinion on the strengths and weaknesses of key aspects of American democracy and the political system.

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

*Las relaciones de la Comunidad de Inteligencia de EEUU con sus presidentes y con la Administración Trump*

by Gustavo Díaz Matey

27 April 2018

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

This paper analyses the evolution of the intelligence security community, its structure and products. It also tries to study the relationship between US presidents and this community, in particular during Trump era.

## **Bipartisan Policy Center**

*America's electoral future: demographic shifts and the future of the Trump coalition*

by Robert Griffin, Ruy Teixeira and William H. Frey

April 2018

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

This report has assessed the potential electoral effect of shifting race, age, and education demographics under a variety of different scenarios. It is clear that this effect is likely to be significant but that neither party can be assured of long-term dominance simply from shifting demographics. Indeed, the simulations in this report also show the potentially strong effect of shifts in party preference and turnout among various demographic groups.

### *Evidence use in Congress: options for charting a new direction*

by Edward "Sandy" Davis [@SandyDavisBPC](#), Tim Shaw [@tshawDC](#), Nick Hart [@NickRHart](#) and G. William Hoagland

11 April 2018

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

The options presented in this report are intended to start a conversation about how Congress can organize itself to access and use evidence to improve its decision-making processes, and ensure that federal programs function as effectively and efficiently as possible. Members of Congress, their staff, and the American public must determine an appropriate strategy for enabling a culture of evidence and discouraging the dissemination of false or misleading information about government policies. This paper provides a starting point for those interested in encouraging Congress to make better use of evidence in policymaking.

### **Vrije Universiteit Brussel - Institute for European Studies**

#### *From nuclear threats to nuclear talks: a big win for President Donald Trump?*

by Linde Desmaele [@dsm\\_ld](#)

April 2018

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

US President Donald Trump surprised the world by accepting North Korean leader Kim Jong-un's invitation to talk, thereby setting the scene for potentially the first ever meeting between a North Korean leader and a sitting US president. A Trump-Kim summit, which American officials say will take place this coming May or June at a location yet to be determined, would mark a turning point in US-North Korea relations.

### **Istituto Affari Internazionali**

#### *All is not quiet on the Western Front. Trump's Iran policy and Europe's choice on the nuclear deal*

by Riccardo Alcaro

7 April 2018

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

The US and Europe have failed to build upon their greatest cooperation success in over a decade, the 2015 nuclear deal with Iran. While Europe has advocated conditional engagement, President Trump, alarmed by Iran's growing influence in the Middle East, has re-oriented US foreign policy towards confrontation. He aims at containing and isolating Iran through de-legitimation, sanctions and support for an anti-Iran. Most importantly, Trump is determined to condition America's continued participation in the nuclear deal on Europe's agreeing to exert further pressure on Iran by unilaterally changing the terms of the deal which would be a mistake for Europe.

## SPECIAL FOCUS - AFRICA

### Fondation Robert Schuman

*La coopération Union européenne/Afrique: l'externalisation des politiques migratoires européennes*

by Victoire d'Humières

30 April 2018

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

At the European Union-Africa summit in Valetta in 2015 heads of state and government of both continents gathered to address migration in the midst of the humanitarian crisis. A shared awareness of the long-term challenges regarding the effective management of migration emerged, as the pressure on the Union's borders was predicted to last.

### Center for Strategic and International Studies

*Urbanization in Sub-Saharan Africa - Meeting challenges by bridging stakeholders*

by Jamal Saghir and Jena Santoro

April 2018

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

Urbanization is transforming the world. Urban centres play a critical role in fighting poverty and sustaining economic growth, and are often considered the future of prosperity in the developing world. While strategic urbanization is highly dependent on national macroeconomic policymaking, city governments, the private sector, development practitioners, and urban planners also have critical roles to play. Linking the urbanization management efforts of different stakeholders presents an opportunity for economic growth in a region undergoing an immense demographical shift.

### Oxford Institute for Energy Studies

*Ghana's oil industry: steady growth in a challenging environment*

by Monica Skaten

April 2018

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

The paper examines Ghana's petroleum industry, its steady growth, and its initial challenges, such as the maritime border dispute and political interventions. Polarization between the two main political parties in Ghana, the National Democratic Congress (NDC) and the New Patriotic Party (NPP), has had important consequences for the industry. While an internal Ghanaian political dynamic explains particular traits and processes in the industry, the steady pace of growth, despite low prices, also reflects Ghana's eagerness, across political party lines, to develop the industry in order to support general economic growth.

### European Association on Development Research and Training Institutes

*Crise et développement - La région du lac Tchad à l'épreuve de Boko Haram*

by Géraud Magrin and Marc-Antoine Pérouse de Montclos (eds.)

1 April 2018

Link to the article in [French](#) (294 p.)

This study is the first to address the Boko Haram crisis from a perspective transcending the political and linguistic boundaries between English-speaking Nigeria and the three French-speaking countries bordering Lake Chad. Based on the observation that the crisis has shaken the

relationship system that made the Lake Chad region resilient, this study aims to shed light on the crucial choices that will define its future development trajectory.

### **International Crisis Group**

#### *Preventing Boko Haram abductions of schoolchildren in Nigeria*

12 April 2018

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

In February a faction of the jihadist Boko Haram movement seized 113 children from Dapchi in north east Nigeria. It later released 107 of them. Five reportedly died; one remains captive. This comes four years after militants captured 276 girls from Chibok, another north-eastern town, 112 of whom are still missing. The Dapchi incident casts a shadow over the government's earlier claims of victory over a resilient Boko Haram insurgency. It could further set back girls' education and thus the region's development.

#### *Electoral poker in DR Congo*

4 April 2018

Link to the article in [English](#) (34 p.) and [French](#) (36 p.)

After repeated delays, President Joseph Kabila's government in the Democratic Republic of Congo has made progress over the past few months toward organising elections for 23 December 2018. But there are still important concerns about the transparency and quality of the polls. Regional and international actors should push for the confidence-building measures in the 2016 Saint Sylvester agreement, focusing on steps to help level the playing field and improve trust in electoral preparations.

#### *Cameroon's Anglophone crisis: how the Catholic Church can promote dialogue*

26 April 2018

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

Fighting is spreading between security forces and militants from Cameroon's English-speaking minority. The government largely rejects Anglophone grievances, while armed militants appear inclined to continue fighting. The Catholic Church, representing nearly a third of Cameroonians, could be an arbitrator, but its clergy have taken divergent positions on the crisis. The Church should bridge its divides and state its impartiality on the thorniest question facing Anglophone regions – federalism versus decentralisation.

### **Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik**

#### *Regional migration governance in Africa and beyond: a framework of analysis*

by Eva Dick and Benjamin Schraven [@Ben\\_Schraven](#)

19 April 2018

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

In the context of the global refugee crisis, trans-Saharan and trans-Mediterranean (irregular) migration from Africa to Europe has recently received huge public and political attention, particularly within Europe. Calls for reducing and containing irregular migrant flows and addressing the "root causes" of forced migration dominate the European policy discourse. However, migration within the African continent is much more prevalent than migration from Africa to Europe or other parts of the world. About two-thirds of African international migrants are living in another African country.

## Centre for International Governance Innovation

### *Issues and challenges in mobilizing African diaspora investment*

by Cyrus Rustomjee

April 2018

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

African countries face major challenges in securing the financing and investment needed to attain the SDGs. Given current public and private levels of investment, annual shortfalls in available financing to meet their SDGs is estimated at up to US\$210 billion (UN Conference on Trade and Development [UNCTAD] 2016). The AfDB estimates needs amount to US\$130– \$170 billion a year, with an annual financing gap in the range of US\$68–\$108 billion (AfDB 2018). Faced with these challenges, many African countries are exploring innovative new sources of financing for investment to supplement traditional domestic and external resources.

## South African Institute of International Affairs

### *Infrastructure and impacts: strengthening environmental and social safeguards*

by Chelsea Markowitz

24 April 2018

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

Growing awareness of the negative environmental and social (E&S) externalities of large infrastructure projects has driven sustainability considerations to the top of infrastructure financing debates in developing countries. This policy insight explores how multilateral development banks and national governments (and other domestic entities) can work together to improve E&S safeguards in sub-Saharan Africa. It forms part of a larger discussion paper on social and environmental safeguards, which employs a case study analysis of South Africa and Ethiopia.

### *South Africa's hazardous ballet with human rights diplomacy*

by Alfredo Tjiurimo Hengari [@Tjiurimo](#)

April 2018

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

At its transition in 1994, South Africa emerged as an exceptional case of a rising power that would pursue the diplomacies of human rights. The human rights deficits in South Africa's multilateral diplomacy have been sufficiently demonstrated through its voting patterns and positions while serving as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council. Its record at the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC) is more unpleasant. To reverse this downward drift, South Africa should reconceptualise its diplomacies through a series of smart actions, rehabilitating policy positions that diverge from a coherent human rights outlook.

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

### *Riyal Politik. The political economy of Gulf investments in the Horn of Africa*

by Jos Meester, Willem van den Berg and Harry Verhoeven

26 April 2018

Link to the article in [English](#) (87 p.)

The Gulf and the Horn of Africa share a long history of economic and political engagement. This report explores the extent and impact of Gulf state economic engagement in the Horn as well as the linkages between these financial streams and prospects for regional stability in the Horn of Africa. It traces the historic ties framing perceptions of the relationship between the regions, and describes the determinants and instruments of Gulf investment, trade and aid to the Horn.



## **Euro-Mediterranean Study Commission**

*The Sahel: Europe's African borders*

by Dalia Ghanem-Yazbeck [@DaliaGhanemYazb](#) (ed.), Raquel Barras Tejudo, Giovanni Faleg and Yahia H. Zoubir

April 2018

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

This study is composed of four chapters. The first chapter assesses the jihadist threat in the Sahel; the second the impact of foreign interventions; the third weighs the importance of including Algeria, an indisputable military power and peace broker; and finally the fourth assesses climate and demographic challenges for Sahelian security. All four chapters provide EU policy-makers with a set of policy recommendations to better approach what have become Europe's African borders.

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

*¿Por qué África?: desentrañando la geopolítica criminal del tráfico ilícito de cocaína entre América Latina y Europa (vía España)*

by Daniel Sansó-Rubert Pascual

12 April 2018

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

This paper tries to discover why Africa is involved in the cocaine trafficking path between South America and Spain.

## **Norsk Utenrikspolitisk Institutt (The Norwegian Institute of International Affairs)**

*Ethiopia: a political economy analysis*

by Jon Harald Sande Lie and Berouk Mesfin

26 April 2018

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

This report provides an overview and analysis of some key issues pertaining to the political economy of Ethiopia in a historical perspective.

## **Istituto Affari Internazionali**

*Avoiding the sandstorm in the Sahel: a reflection on security, migration and development*

by Luca Barana

18 April 2018

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

The Sahel is a crucial region for policy-making at the European and international level and has gained new relevance due to the so-called "migration crisis". New policy tools implemented by the European Union, such as the EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa, target this region, but could deepen policy contradictions between securitization and development cooperation. In order to explore the interconnection between the different policy areas of migration, development, security and peace in the region, the Istituto Affari Internazionali (IAI) and the Foundation for European Progressive Studies (FEPS), in collaboration with the Centre for African Studies (CSA) came together in Rome on 20 February 2018 to present the volume *The Security-Migration-Development Nexus Revised: A Perspective from the Sahel*.

*The transmutation of Jihadi organizations in the Sahel and the regional security architecture*

by Djallil Lounnas

13 April 2018

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

Since 2017, the jihadi scene in the Sahel has witnessed major changes with the merger of all the groups that were affiliated with Al-Qaeda, leading to the creation of a new and powerful one: the Group in Support of Islam and Muslims (GSIM), under the leadership of Iyad Ag Ghali. In parallel, and since 2015, the Islamic State in the Greater Sahara (ISGS) has emerged as a direct competitor to the Al-Qaeda affiliates in the Sahel. However, the collapse of ISIS in the Middle East raises the prospect of a new re-composition of the jihadi scene in the Sahel, namely a rapprochement between the GSIM and the ISGS. In this context and facing this major threat, the Sahelian states have been trying to set up a regional organization, the G5 Sahel, with the help of the EU and especially of France. However, almost four years after the launch of this organization, it remains unclear whether it will be able to overcome its weaknesses and to confront the growing jihadi organizations.

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

*Somali diaspora groups in Sweden – Engagement in development and relief work in the Horn of Africa*

by Nauja Kleist

19 April 2018

Link to the article in [English](#) (115 p.)

The aim of this report is to examine Somali-Swedish diaspora engagement in development and relief work, with a focus on what drives, motivates, challenges and supports it.

## MISCELLANEOUS

### Carnegie Endowment for International Peace

*Fighting the hydra: lessons from worldwide protests against corruption*

by Sarah Chayes

April 2018

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

In the past half-decade, a succession of uprisings against corruption has broken out worldwide. The frequency and significance of these events forces the question: What is going on? And does this international phenomenon hold lessons for others beset with systemic political corruption, not least in the US? A look at countries as diverse in culture and political history as Brazil, Burkina Faso, Guatemala, Lebanon, Romania, South Africa, and South Korea suggests that it does.

### La Vie des Idées

*Un genre de pape*

by Anthony Favier

3 April 2018

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

On the occasion of 5 years since the accession of Pope Francis to the throne of Saint Peter, Anthony Favier looks back on the course and action of a pontiff torn between the desire for change and the need to embody a Catholic unity, which is weakened today.

*Le moment pamphlétaire*

by Cédric Passard

17 April 2018

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

The author returns to the pamphleteering moment of the end of the nineteenth century in France to question the meaning and limits of freedom of expression, including hateful, in a society in the process of democratization.

### Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung

*Of Facebook revolutions and Twitter presidents: how digitalisation changes political decision-making*

by Torben Stephan [@hauptstadtkind](#)

16 April 2018

Link to the article in [English](#) (10 p.) and [German](#) (11 p.)

In 2010, the internet was thought to be an instrument of global democratisation. But with the onset of the "Arab winter", that hope has given way to severe disappointment. Now the internet is even blamed for the increasing populism. This article is an attempt at a sober assessment of the situation.

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

*Cooperation in Eurasia: linking identity, security, and development*

by Carlo Frappi and Gulshan Pashayeva (eds.)

12 April 2018

Link to the article in [English](#) (193 p.)

This work aims to analyse the nexus between identity, security and development in the post-bipolar Eurasian landmass, focusing on multilateral organisations and regional complexes. Accordingly, this publication is divided into two parts, focusing respectively on "Cooperation and Competition at the Multilateral Level" and on "Regional Case Studies".

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

*Geo-economics as concept and practice in international relations: surveying the state of the art*

by Sören Scholvin and Mikael Wigell

27 April 2018

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

Recent cases of power politics such as China's One Belt, One Road strategy, Venezuela's petro-diplomacy during the era of Hugo Chávez and Western sanctions against Iran and Russia indicate that economic means have become critical to how states exert power. Military means, meanwhile, appear to matter less. This shift in power politics is captured by the term 'geo-economics', an analytical approach and, at the same time, a foreign policy practice. This paper traces the rise of geo-economics since the end of the Cold War. It surveys the state of the art, distinguishing between approaches that stand in the tradition of Edward Luttwak's work and conceptualisations of geo-economics that go in very different directions.