



Council of the European Union
General Secretariat

THINK TANK REVIEW

Library and Research

JUNE 2018

ISSUE 58

Dear Readers,

Welcome to issue 58 of the Think Tank Review compiled by the EU Council Library* ([click to share on Twitter](#)). It references papers published in May 2018. As usual, we provide the link to the full text and a short abstract.

This issue addresses a lion's share of the most burning topics of the recent weeks. In May, think tanks focused on the Western Balkans, digital innovations, cybersecurity and new technologies including artificial intelligence, as well as on the current situation of immigrants and refugees worldwide. Populism also riveted the attention of a large number of the think tanks' researchers and analysts and generated a fair number of articles covering related issues included in the Review.

The issue's special focus is on the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) for 2021-2027, following the presentation by the Commission of the proposal for the new long-term budget and resources for the European Union.

This month, articles in the first section of the Think Tank Review, EU Politics and Institutions, raise questions over Europe's role in improving the world order and on how the European Parliament should reach young Europeans ahead of the 2019 election.

Section 2, Economic and Financial Affairs, presents articles on a variety of topics, including the issue of strengthening the euro area architecture, global inequalities, state aid, financial literacy and inclusive growth in the European Union.

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Section 3, EU Member States, includes, for instance, thought-provoking pieces on the recent Slovenian general election, France's defence partnerships after Brexit, EU enlargement and public opinion in Bulgaria, the rule of law in Poland, naturalisation and citizenship in Latvia and Estonia, and democratic transition and linguistic minorities in Estonia and Latvia.

Section 4, EU Policies, comprises stimulating articles on topics such as the integration of refugees into society, Common Agricultural Policy reform post-2020, the ethics of artificial intelligence, the concept of 'worker' in EU law, trends shaping innovation in the digital age, Industry 4.0 and European innovation policy and ESIF funding for education and training, culture, sport and youth.

We would also like to draw your attention to section 5, Foreign Affairs, which covers topics such as progress made in the Western Balkans enlargement process, Europe's fight against Russian propaganda and cyberattacks, prospects and opportunities for the NATO-Brussels summit, strategies against authoritarian political warfare, EU trade policy and Georgia's path towards the West.

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

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SECTION 1 - EU POLITICS AND INSTITUTIONS

Fondation Robert Schuman

What European "power"?

by Pierre Hassner

28 May 2018

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

A few years ago people were scrutinising the "enigma of European power", the key to which they thought was "power through norms". Currently we would rather tend to wonder about the "enigma of European impotence". Of course the first explanation of this contrast can be found in the economic and financial crisis, in the failure of European States to meet the standards they themselves had enacted and in the differences found within their Union. However a good introduction to the ambiguity of the idea of power can also be observed.

Egmont - Royal Institute for International Relations

Between Rome and Sibiu: a trajectory for the new European narrative

by Jan Hoogmartens

28 May 2018

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

According to the author, without a convincing narrative, the European project is threatened by extinction. It runs the risk of being misrepresented by populists and may no longer be embraced by its citizens. As this brief will explain, this narrative should not only focus on practical cooperation in areas where there is a will to work together and where this work can deliver tangible results, but also on the values that underpin the institutions on their trajectory to find new solutions to concrete concerns of EU citizens.

The dangerous geopolitics of populism, and what NATO and the EU can do about it

by Sven Biscop

16 May 2018

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

Undemocratic governments are at risk of creating a geopolitical void in central Europe. By antagonizing fellow European states in NATO and the EU, at a time when the US is less than fully invested in these institutions, they are isolating themselves. By artificially stirring anti-EU feeling they are rendering their citizens more vulnerable to Russian propaganda. In a worst-case scenario, these states might end up detached from the West, and entering into a geopolitical limbo.

European Council on Foreign Relations

Can Europe save the world order?

by Anthony Dworkin [@AnthonyDworkin](#) and Mark Leonard [@markleonard](#)

24 May 2018

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

The liberal rules-based order is under threat from both established opponents and former supporters. Europe has a vital interest in the preservation of a rules-based system, but it needs to rethink the elements of that order for a new global environment.

Foundation for European Progressive Studies

A new direction for the EU: comparing its deficits to concrete progressive proposals

by Leonidas Makris

29 May 2018

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

The author will be suggesting certain ideological, institutional and methodological paths for the EU to address its relevant political, functional, epistemological and philosophical deficits.

Jacques Delors Institute - Berlin

Follower power - In 2019 the EP should reach out to young Europeans

by Paul-Jasper Dittrich [@paul2jasper](#)

4 May 2018

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

In this paper, the author examines the day-to-day social media communications of European officials and proposes a comprehensive "get-out-the-vote" online campaign for the EP supported by European influencers and local offline networks to encourage young Europeans to go to the polls.

Chatham House - The Royal Institute of International Affairs

Exploring transatlantic responses to far-right populism in Europe: simulation exercise

by Jacob Parakilas [@Jparakilas](#) and Thomas Raines [@TomHRaines](#)

3 May 2018

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

The paper summarizes the findings of a recent simulation exercise exploring how governments on both sides of the Atlantic might respond to a descent towards populist authoritarianism in an EU member state.

Policy Solutions/ Foundation for European Progressive Studies

Populism report

by Tamás Boros [@BorosTamas_PS](#) and Gábor Gyóri

24 May 2018

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

As a result of a series of disappointing electoral performances, populist parties failed to achieve major breakthroughs in 2017. Populist parties weren't exactly weak last year, but inflated expectations made even otherwise impressive results – such as Marine Le Pen's 33.9% in the French presidential election or the Austrian FPÖ's 5.5-point growth to 26% in the parliamentary elections – look relatively unimpressive. The current year appears to shape up differently: Populists achieved a major breakthrough in Italy, and this marked the first populist victory in one of the four largest EU Member States. One of Europe's leading populists, Viktor Orbán of Hungary, is also on the threshold of another massive election victory, and his party's strongest challenger, Jobbik, is also a populist force. The regional divide is also deepening, with populists gaining in strength in some areas of central and eastern Europe and in Italy, while their figures are stagnant throughout most of western and northern Europe.

Center for American Progress / American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research

Europe's populist challenge - Origins, supporters, and responses

by Matt Browne [@GlobalProgresMB](#), Dalibor Rohac [@DaliborRohac](#) and Carolyn Kenney
May 2018

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

This report examines the drivers of populist support, focusing first on the current state of play before endeavouring to understand the reasons for populism's resurgence in Europe. It then offers a series of policy recommendations that policymakers can use to fight back.

Pew Research Center

In Western Europe, public attitudes toward news media more divided by populist views than left-right ideology

by Amy Mitchell [@asmitch](#), Katie Simmons, Katerina Eva Matsa, Laura Silver [@lauraruthsilver](#), Elisa Shearer [@ElisaShearer](#), Courtney Johnson [@CourtneySurveys](#), Mason Walker and Kyle Taylor [@KyleTaylor](#)

14 May 2018

Link to the article in [English](#) (119 p.)

According to the report, France, Spain and Italy are more fragmented in their news sources and more negative toward the news media than other countries.

Fundación Alternativas / Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (Friedrich Ebert Foundation)

El estado de la Unión Europea 2018: los Estados europeos ante las reformas de la Unión

by María Pallares (coord.)

30 May 2018

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

This report on the state of the EU (2018), differently from the previous ones, focuses on the perspective of the Member States and not only on the perspective of the European institutions based in Brussels, Strasbourg and Luxembourg.

SECTION 2 - ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

LUISS School of European Political Economy

Strengthening the euro area architecture: a proposal for purple bonds

by Lorenzo Bini Smaghi and Michala Marcussen

11 May 2018

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

The euro area is currently facing a dilemma. While it is widely recognized that its architecture needs to be strengthened, some of the key proposals to achieve this goal encounter political difficulties. Genuine Eurobonds with joint and several liability would bring significant economic benefits and stability. However, they would require transfer of sovereignty on fiscal policy from the Member States to the euro area, something that does not appear to be politically feasible in the foreseeable future. On the other hand, just keeping the status quo exposes the fragility of the euro area in the event of a new crisis.

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

Foreign currency bank funding and global factors

by Signe Krogstrup and Cédric Tille

18 May 2018

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

The literature on drivers of capital flows stresses the prominent role of global financial factors. Recent empirical work, however, highlights how this role varies across countries and time, and this heterogeneity is not well understood. The paper revisits this question by focusing on financial intermediaries' funding flows in different currencies. A portfolio model shows that the sign and magnitude of the response of foreign currency funding flows to global risk factors depend on the financial intermediary's pre-existing currency exposure. Analysis of data on European banks' aggregate balance sheets lends support to the model predictions.

European Parliament Think Tank

Country-specific recommendations for 2017 and 2018: a tabular comparison and an overview of implementation

by Alessandro Gasparotti [@alegasparotti](#), Martin Hradisky, Michal Axel Minkina and Siiri Aurora Valkama

31 May 2018

Link to the article in [English](#) (117 p.)

This study presents the 2017 Country-Specific Recommendations generally endorsed by the European Council of 22/23 June 2017 and adopted by the Council of 11 July 2017; the assessment of the implementation of 2017 Country-Specific Recommendations based on the Commission Country Reports published on 7 March 2018; the 2018 Country-Specific Recommendations proposed by the European Commission on 23 May 2018; and the [Council Recommendation on the economic policy of the euro area](#) approved by the Council.

European Parliament Think Tank / Rand Europe / University of Luxembourg

Ensuring high-quality job creation from EU funding programmes: how can the best practice of Horizon 2020 be better integrated into other programmes (ESF, Youth Guarantee, Globalisation Fund)?

by Joanna Hofman [@JoannaBHofman](#), Matteo Barberi [@Matteo_Barberi](#), Milda Butkute, Dovydas Caturianas, Martin Sacher, Sashka Dimova and Katherine Stewart

28 May 2018

Link to the article in [English](#) (184 p.)

This study examines four EU funds and programmes in how they support job creation and quality employment. It also assesses the methodologies and indicators used to measure job quality and it identifies lessons and recommendations to improve current practices.

European Parliament Think Tank / Centre for European Policy Studies

Oversight and management of the EU trust funds - Democratic accountability challenges and promising practices

by Sergio Carrera, Leonhard Den Hertog [@LdenHertog](#), Jorge Núñez Ferrer [@jnunez_ferrer](#), Roberto Musmeci [@roberto_musmeci](#), Lina Vosyliute [@LinaVosyliute](#) and Marta Pilati [@Marta_Pilati22](#)

23 May 2018

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

This study provides a comparative assessment of the governance and oversight frameworks of selected EU trust funds (EUTFs) and the Facility for Refugees in Turkey (FRT). It explores how these EUTFs and the FRT add to and 'mix' the instruments set up under the EU Multiannual Financial Framework. It addresses the issue of their added value in light of the EU Better Regulation guidelines, their impact on the role of the European Parliament as a budgetary authority and the right to good administration.

European Parliament Think Tank / College of Europe

State aid and EU funding: are they compatible?

by Phedon Nicolaides

15 May 2018

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

State aid involves the transfer of state resources. These are resources which are controlled by public authorities. EU funds which are granted directly to undertakings without coming under the control of a public authority of a Member State cannot be considered to be state resources. However, EU funds channelled through managing authorities become state resources and can constitute state aid if all the other criteria of Article 107 TFEU are satisfied.

Jacques Delors Institute - Berlin

Takes two to tax – On fair taxation of the digital economy

by Pola Schneemelcher [@pola_schnee](#)

11 May 2018

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

The ongoing digital transformation poses enormous challenges to current tax law. This is because value creation through intangibles raises problems to two core paradigms of international tax rules: where to tax and what to tax. In order to solve these problems, the European Commission published two proposals, a so-called interim tax and a comprehensive solution. The author

assesses the proposals and makes the case that they do not sufficiently address the crucial question of how to value data.

Bruegel

Financial literacy and inclusive growth in the European Union

by Uuriintuya Batsaikhan and Maria Demertzis [@mariademertzis](#)

9 May 2018

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

Growing financialisation and complexity demands financial literacy to be an integral part of the research agenda and policy design globally. It applies particularly to developed countries, since research findings suggest that financial literacy becomes more important with higher levels of economic development. The EU contains in itself world's best performers (Sweden, Denmark) as well as those that score below global average (Romania, Portugal) in financial literacy rankings. The findings for the EU echo that low-income individuals, women, young people and less educated people tend to consistently underperform in literacy tests.

Foundation for European Progressive Studies

The single safe asset: a progressive view for a 'first best EMU'

by Daniela Gabor [@DanielaGabor](#)

24 May 2018

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

The Single Safe Asset is an important if underappreciated element of the on-going debates on the EMU architecture. This brief first describes the 'Northern' and 'technocratic' view of safe assets and then proposes three pillars of a progressive standpoint to frame the debate: (1) Single and national safe assets; (2) Public not private single safe asset; (3) ECB, not ESM/EMF, backstop for EMU safe assets.

Centraal Planbureau (CPB Netherlands Bureau for Economic Policy Analysis)

Capital position of banks in the EMU: an analysis of Banking Union scenarios

by Beau Soederhuizen and Rutger Teulings

29 May 2018

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

This paper provides details of the simulations of shocks to the capital position of banks in the EMU that underpins the Financial Risk Report 2018 of the CPB. This involves investigating the potential impact of two legacy problems on the capital position of banks. These problems are the high amount of government debt, especially in Italy, and the high level of non-performing loans on banks' balance sheets.

Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik (German Development Institute)

Towards a more accountable G20? Accountability mechanisms of the G20 and the new challenges posed to them by the 2030 Agenda

by Sören Hilbrich and Jakob Schwab

May 2018

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

The legitimacy of the G20 is frequently challenged: the group has been criticized by non-Member States, NGOs and in both the scientific and broader public debate with regard to the content and effectiveness of its policy measures and its limited membership structure. Accountability mechanisms can attenuate these shortcomings in different ways: they can increase the capacity of

the citizens of the Member States to surveil the activities of the G20 and can form the basis of learning processes within the group so as to increase effectiveness.

ESADEgeo - Center for Global Economy and Geopolitics

The geopolitical dissonance of markets or why executives and investors may be underestimating political and geopolitical risk

by Ángel Pascual-Ramsay [@apascualramsay](#)

May 2018

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

The changing political and geopolitical paradigm described in the paper brings opportunities to executives and investors, but it also generates major risks that can hardly be ignored. It is important to understand that these risks are not just ethereal 'macro' issues with little direct impact on business operations and results but rather threats that can directly affect businesses' bottom lines and valuations, as the sterling's devaluation following the Brexit vote attests.

Overseas Development Institute

Gender-responsive public expenditure management: a public finance management introductory guide

by Bryn Welham, Karen Barnes-Robinson, Dina Mansour-Ille [@dmansourille](#) and Richa Okhandiar

May 2018

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

This public financial management introductory guide to gender-responsive public expenditure management is written for finance and planning ministries, and those who support them, who seek a better understanding of how the impact of public expenditure differs by gender in low-capacity environments. It reviews the literature on the links between public expenditure and gender responsiveness, outlines a number of reforms, addresses the reality of budget reform, and recommends how a ministry of finance or planning can begin to integrate gender considerations into public expenditure management systems.

Economic development in fragile contexts: learning from success and failure

by Alastair McKechnie [@Alastairmk](#), Andrew Lightner [@andrew_lightner](#) and Dirk Willem te Velde [@DWteVelde](#)

May 2018

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

This paper seeks to understand not only the reasons why economic transformation is so challenging in fragile contexts, but to examine case studies of success. By doing so, the authors hope to draw out lessons and identify practical steps that can be taken by governments and development partners to replicate these successes and support a sustainable, peaceful path to prosperity for fragile states.

The taxation of foreign aid: don't ask, don't tell, don't know

by Iain Steel [@IainASSteel](#), Roel Dom [@Roel_Dom](#), Cathal Long [@cathal_long](#), Nara Monkam [@NaraMonkam](#) and Paddy Carter [@CarterPaddy](#)

May 2018

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

Foreign aid is often exempt from taxation in recipient countries. Research on the topic is sparse, debate infrequent, and the system has become entrenched over 70 years. This note is intended to contribute to the discussion on the rationale for official development assistance tax exemptions by setting out the arguments for and against them.

Институт Отворено общество - София (Open Society Institute - Sofia)

Try harder. Findings of the European Catch-Up Index 2017

by Marin Lessenski [@marinlessenski](#)

May 2018

Link to the article in [English](#) (105 p.)

The report presents the findings of the European Catch-Up Index project of the European Policies Initiative (EuPI) of the Open Society Institute- Sofia with funding provided by OSI-Sofia.

SECTION 3 - EU MEMBER STATES

BALTIC COUNTRIES

Instituto Español de Estudios Estratégicos

Las Repúblicas Bálticas cumplen 100 años

by Andrés González Martín

30 May 2018

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

According to the author, it is not easy to understand the singular relevance that the Baltic republics of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania have without considering their history, their present political, social, demographic, cultural reality, and the threat from Russian revisionism. For centuries, Danes, Germans, Swedes, Poles and Russians have dominated the Baltic republics. However, national sentiment, cultural identity and desire for independence have not been diluted there.

European Parliament Think Tank / University of Zürich

Naturalization and citizenship in Latvia and Estonia

by Susanne Tonsmann

16 May 2018

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

The author argues that Latvia and Estonia have introduced two legal statuses that are unique in the EU in that they give their holders a status that is not citizenship but that is not statelessness either, namely the non-citizenship status in Latvia and undetermined citizenship status in Estonia. He claims that the statuses give some far-reaching rights to their holders while staying short of citizenship. Debates about the status of non-citizens in Latvia and aliens in Estonia need to be read against the background of the two states' history as Soviet republics and political and legal decisions that were taken in the 1990s, the author also writes.

European Parliament Think Tank / University of Milan

Democratic transition and linguistic minorities in Estonia and Latvia

by Angela di Gregorio

16 May 2018

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

The author of this in-depth analysis claim that in order to understand the situation of political representation rights of ethnic and linguistic minorities in Estonia and Latvia it is essential to provide a historical-political framework that contextualizes the presence of such substantial minorities in the two countries. The author also points out that while from one side, full integration is the goal that needs to be pursued, at the same time it's important to ensure the cultural and national values of Latvians and Estonians.

BULGARIA

Институт Отворено общество - София (Open Society Institute - Sofia)

EU enlargement and public opinion in Bulgaria

by Marin Lessenski [@marinlessenski](#)

May 2018

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

According to the data from a nationally representative public opinion survey by the Open Society Institute – Sofia conducted in April 2018, which included a question on attitudes in Bulgaria in regard to the process of EU enlargement, the majority of Bulgarian citizens would support the accession of the Western Balkans to the EU, but not that of Turkey if a referendum on the issue was held in the spring of 2018,.

CROATIA

Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (Friedrich Ebert Foundation)

Iskustvo migracije i planirani odlasci mladih iz Hrvatske

by Dunja Potočnik and Mirjana Adamović

May 2018

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

Croatia, in its latest period, especially after joining the EU, faces an increasingly negative emigration wave as a result of the global economic crisis, argue the authors. During the recent third migration wave, which took place from 2006 to 2016, some 164,000 residents have left the country. Two thirds of young Croatians are considering moving abroad for some time or permanently in case they failed to achieve their private and professional goals in their home country.

DENMARK

Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (Friedrich Ebert Foundation)

Back to its roots: why do the Danish social democrats want a more restrictive immigration policy?

by Peter Nedergaard

May 2018

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

According to the paper, the new immigration policy of the Danish Social Democratic Party can be seen as a sign of an incipient revolt against the dominant liberal, pro-immigration discourse in many Social Democratic parties in Europe.

FRANCE

Foundation Robert Schuman

Emmanuel Macron, France and Europe "France is back in Europe": on which terms ?

by Thierry Chopin [@Th_Chopin](#)

14 May 2018

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

France has an ambivalent relationship with European integration and for a long time has blown hot and cold about it. For over ten last years, France's influence has been decreasing due to its own political, economic and social weaknesses, which has in turn influenced the rise of Euroscepticism,

both amongst the political classes and public opinion. Since 2008, the economic crisis has exacerbated Euroscepticism within the population: mistrust of the EU increased by nearly 25 percentage points between 2008 and 2016.

German Marshall Fund of the United States

France's defence partnerships and the dilemmas of Brexit

by Alice Pannier [@AlicePannier](#)

30 May 2018

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

Brexit places France in a unique position in Europe's defence and security architecture. France's new centrality creates opportunities for the country to act as a bridge-builder with the UK, but it also creates new dilemmas as the two countries now face a mixture of converging and conflicting interests. The Macron government has fully embraced this duality and developed a defence cooperation strategy of diversification of partners and frameworks for military partnerships and capability developments. This adaptive strategy makes sense in the uncertain current context, but it is taking France in some contradictory directions vis-à-vis the UK, EU and US.

Institut français des relations internationales

Refonte stratégique du nucléaire civil en France: autorité, rationalisation, partenariats

by Marc-Antoine Eyl-Mazzega

29 May 2018

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

In 2017, nuclear electricity accounted for about 10.6% of world electricity production, 25.5% of EU electricity production and 71.6% of French electricity production. There are 450 operational reactors in 30 countries worldwide, including 128 reactors in 14 EU countries. France has 58 reactors in 19 plants and ranks as the world's second in terms of nuclear power generation. While the public debate on the Multiannual Energy Program has begun, the analysis focuses on the geopolitical and economic issues related to the future of French civil nuclear power.

La vie des idées

La lutte politique des étudiants

by Julie Le Mazier [@jlemazier](#)

8 May 2018

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

The blockades of universities by students are said to be only acts of public disorder, often supported and organized by militants. The author examines why this judgment does not reflect what is happening on university campuses in such situations.

GERMANY

Institut français des relations internationales

Cinq thèses sur la "crise des réfugiés" en Allemagne

by Nele Katharina Wissmann [@NeleWissmann](#)

May 2018

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

In the summer of 2015 a direct link was established between the refugee crisis and the "open door policy" in Germany. Germany has reacted by progressively toughening its asylum rights, and seems to be permanently closing its doors to many groups of migrants. This phenomenon reflects

more the shortcomings of the authorities concerning refugee registration than a real political orientation of the government in response to the increase in the number of refugees.

Ośrodek Studiów Wschodnich (Centre for Eastern Studies)

Rebuilding Germany's air defence capabilities: on the eve of crucial decisions

by Justyna Gotkowska [@jgotkowska](#)

17 May 2018

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

As NATO has returned its focus to collective defence since 2014, very short, short-range and medium-range surface-based air defence has become a desirable capability. Germany, which has been recalibrating the Bundeswehr to resume participation in conventional military conflicts, is in the process of re-creating air defence capabilities. In 2018–2019, the German Defence Ministry is expected to take decisions regarding two crucial air defence programmes: the NNbS and the TLVS.

Centre for European Reform

The German wage puzzle

by John Springford [@JohnSpringford](#)

2 May 2018

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

The Eurozone's recovery has been powered in part by monetary stimulus in the form of quantitative easing (QE), which the ECB has continued despite comparatively fast growth in 2017. In March 2018, the inflation rate picked up to 1.4%, which prompted demands that the ECB start to withdraw its stimulus. Unemployment across the Eurozone is falling fairly rapidly. But the ECB should ignore the temptation to reduce its bond-buying programme for now: wage growth is subdued despite falling unemployment – and Germany appears to be the culprit.

Hanns-Seidel-Stiftung (Hanns Seidel Foundation)

Was ist konservativ? Ein Plädoyer für Maß und Mitte

by Philipp W. Hildmann

15 May 2018

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

After the 2017 general election and the local election in Bavaria which is to take place in October 2018, Germany is facing a debate over the rebirth and return of conservatism, according to the author.

Bei bester Gesundheit? Deutschlands E-Health im Check-up - Zukunftsplattform Bayern: Digitales Gesundheitswesen 2020

by Maximilian Th. L. Rückert and Dominik Pförringer

2 May 2018

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

The German health care system is becoming increasingly digitalized for patients and doctors, industry and education. With the use of modern and fast storage and processing technologies, the long-term data harvesting offers a barely imaginable knowledge potential: databases of mass comparative data and their analysis. The possibilities of e-health are infinite and in their variety really unimaginable, the authors claim.

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

The global debate on the future of artificial intelligence - The need for international regulation and opportunities for German foreign policy

by Marcel Dickow [@MarcelDickow](#) and Daniel Jacob [@danielmjacob](#)

May 2018

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

Artificial intelligence makes it possible to analyse the large amounts of data collected today in completely new ways. Companies and countries are spending considerable resources to take advantage of these analytical possibilities. However, artificial intelligence is also dependent on the quality of the underlying data; it is completely unsuited for many tasks and has, so far, largely escaped human control. Germany should therefore use its influence in international forums to regulate the use of artificial intelligence in politically sensitive areas.

Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (Friedrich Ebert Foundation)

The future of the German automotive industry: transformation by disaster or by design?

by René Bormann, Philipp Fink, Helmut Holzapfel, Stephan Rammler, Thomas Sauter-Servaes, Heinrich Tiemann, Thomas Waschke and Boris Weirauch

May 2018

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

Across the world, the established models of the automotive industry of the 20th century are increasingly dissolving. The enormous implications of that shift on economic, employment, and innovation policies have put the automotive industry in Germany and Europe under pressure. This is happening at a time when the industry is on an expansion course, with rising sales, growing employment, and increasing exports. Our mobility is undergoing change and the concomitant trends towards electrification, networking, automation, and sharing are revolutionising the automotive industry and will lead to a new form of automobility.

Mercator Institute for China Studies

China kennen, China können - Ausgangspunkte für den Ausbau von China-Kompetenz in Deutschland

by Matthias Stepan [@M1pan](#), Andrea Frenzel, Jaqueline Ives [@jacky_ives](#) and Marie Hoffmann

7 May 2018

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

China has developed rapidly in recent decades and has long since become an important economic and political partner for Germany. This study provides - without claim to completeness - an overview of the local education offers in relation to China. The analysis of statistical data and information gained in more than 100 individual interviews, supplemented by a small-scale student survey, will also provide an insight into the status and existing need for "China competence".

GREECE

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

The Turkish military procurement programme

by Nicholas Pounis

22 May 2018

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

The increase of the Turkish challenges in the Aegean sea and the Eastern Mediterranean, coupled with the completion of the grand armed Turkish armament program, puts Greece ahead of unprecedented threats to its sovereign rights. At the same time, the changes that have been observed in the way that Turkey's foreign policy is exercised may bring the two countries in the next few years near a war incident, analysts believe.

HUNGARY

Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (Friedrich Ebert Foundation)

Women's affairs 2018: societal problems and solution strategies in Hungary

by Anikó Gregor and Eszter Kováts

May 2018

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

In response to a question from a journalist about the recall of Réka Szemerkényi, the Hungarian ambassador to the US, the Hungarian Prime Minister answered in 2017 that he did not deal with women's affairs. With his dismissive statement, he revealed his attitude towards issues that he deemed 'women's matters', the author writes.

IRELAND

Trinity College Dublin - Department of Economics

National accounts for a global economy: the case of Ireland

by John Fitzgerald

May 2018

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

Globalisation is affecting the way economic activity is reflected in the national accounts. Intellectual property, which is now part of the capital stock, interacts with the choice of global firms as to their legal structure, producing different national accounting outcomes for individual countries. This is but one manifestation of the challenges that a global economy presents for national accounting. Using the example of Ireland, consideration is given to the data needed to meet the needs of users of national accounts. In particular, more information is required to separately identify all the activity of multinational enterprises and domestically owned firms, the author writes.

ITALY

Centre for European Policy Studies

Who lost Italy?

by Daniel Gros [@DanielGrosCEPS](#)

30 May 2018

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

According to the author, the EU seems to have lost Italy. The majority of the population today has a negative opinion of the EU, representing a complete reversal since the start of the euro, when the country viewed the new currency as a welcome corrective to its own economic problems of high inflation. This stark shift in public opinion constitutes the root cause of the present turbulence in the financial markets. From an economic point of view, there would be no cause for concern. There has been much talk about the need for (further) structural reform in Italy. In reality, however, even a government that did not do anything would not necessarily portend a catastrophe.

European Parliament Think Tank

Counter terrorism and external border management in Italy

by Amy Blessing and Kristiina Milt

25 May 2018

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

The paper examines Italy's external border management, through the lens of counter terrorism. Hotspots and Standard Operating Procedures are given specific attention, alongside the Italian and European legislative framework. By exploring the role and interaction of different organisations with national authorities, this paper provides a comprehensive overview of their different mandates and contribution to Italy's external border management.

LATVIA

German Marshall Fund of the United States

Latvian banking: recent reforms, sustainable solutions

by Joshua Kirschenbaum

24 May 2018

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

Latvia's non-resident banking sector, which caters to clients from Russia and other countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), has finally become politically untenable. To that end, on 26 April, Latvia's parliament took the dramatic step of amending the anti-money laundering (AML) law to prohibit Latvian banks from maintaining accounts for shell companies.

LITHUANIA

East European Security Research Initiative Foundation

Assessing the essential elements for democratic control of armed forces in Lithuania

by Grazvydas Jasutis and Jonas Zemaitis

May 2018

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

Though the democratic control over the military establishment has received little sustained scholarly attention in Lithuania in the recent years, their insights needed to be reassessed and reviewed. Their concerns were explicitly raised about the credibility of parliamentary oversight,

which lacked in relevant civilian expertise on military matters leading to transparency issues in the procurement of weapons. Insufficient consideration towards the activities of intelligence services was among those posing some difficulties to the democratic political process.

POLAND

Fundacja im. Stefana Batorego (Stefan Batory Foundation) / European Stability Initiative

Where the law ends. The collapse of the rule of law in Poland – And what to do

by Piotr Buras and Gerald Knaus [@rumeliobserver](#)

29 May 2018

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

No member state of the EU has ever gone as far in subjugating its courts to executive control as the current Polish government has done, argue the authors. The Polish case is a test on whether it is possible to create a Soviet-style justice system, in an EU member state, where the control of courts, prosecutors and judges lies with the executive and a single party.

SLOVENIA

Foundation Robert Schuman

Great uncertainty in Slovenia just one month prior to the general elections

by Corinne Deloy

9 May 2018

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

Slovenian Prime Minister Miro Cerar (Modern Centre Party, SMC) resigned from his office after the Supreme Court cancelled the referendum of 24 September 2017 which had focused on the construction of a second railway line linking Divaca to Koper, Slovenia's only trading port on the Adriatic Sea. After the vote by the Drzavni Zbor (National Assembly), the lower house of parliament, in support of the second railway line, an organisation called the "Taxpayers should not pay" led by Vili Kovacic, and supported by the opposition parties, gained the necessary number of signatures to trigger the organisation of a popular referendum on the issue.

SPAIN

Real Instituto Elcano (Elcano Royal Institute)

España en el mundo en 2018: perspectivas y desafíos

by Ignacio Molina [@_ignaciomolina](#) (ed.)

April 2018

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

The sixth edition of an annual collective work analyses the position of Spain in 2018, taking under examination what happened during the previous year.

Leuven Center for Global Governance Studies

Remedial secession for economic harm in international law: the Catalan case

by Anne Verhelst

May 2018

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

In seeking independence, Catalan separatists persistently pinpoint the 'unfair redistribution system imposed by Madrid' as one of the main reasons for wanting to secede. Madrid has the power of

taxation and carries out an intra-territorial fiscal transfer on the basis of the solidarity principle laid down in the Spanish Constitution. Catalonia sees itself as subject to economic, linguistic, historical and cultural injustices on the part of Spain, and wants to secede for this reason. In international law, the theory of remedial secession argues that groups should have a right to secede as an ultimate remedy for grave harm caused to them by the government that exercises jurisdiction over them.

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

Secession or solidarity - Catalonia will not get both simultaneously

by Sabine Riedel

May 2018

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

Since the arrest of the former head of the Catalan government, Carles Puigdemont, a solidarity movement has emerged that paints him as a victim of the justice system. However, even if the German government prevents his extradition this is hardly likely to influence the trials against his colleagues remanded in custody in Madrid. The Spanish public prosecutor's office accuses them not only of rebellion, but also of embezzling money from the autonomous communities' liquidity fund (FLA) for their independence campaign.

Fundación de Estudios de Economía Aplicada

Transformación digital y consecuencias para el empleo en España - Una revisión de la investigación reciente

by Lucas Gortazar [@lucas_gortazar](#)

May 2018

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

The author reviews recent literature on the impact the digitalisation has on the economy of employment. After a brief summary of the historical experience on the effects of past technological revolutions and the theoretical framework of reference, he reviews the empirical evidence on the topic in Europe and the US, and presents some policy proposals to deal with the problems posed by the digitalisation.

Población especialmente vulnerable ante el empleo en España en el año 2018

by Florentino Felgueroso [@ffelgueroso](#)

May 2018

Link to the article in [Spanish](#) (77 p.)

The starting point of this study is the dissatisfaction caused by the available indicators of poverty, unemployment and precarious employment to quantify, and characterise the most vulnerable employment.

Trends in employment and social security incentives in the Spanish pension system: 1980-2016

by Pilar Garcia-Gomez, Silvia Garcia-Mandico, Sergi Jiménez-Martín [@sergijim64](#) and Judit Vall-Castello [@juditvall](#)

May 2018

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

The authors analyse, using aggregate data for over four decades in Spain, the relationship between financial incentives and retirement decisions.

Instituto Español de Estudios Estratégicos / Centro de Estudios de Seguridad & Defensa / Fundación Global Democracia y Desarrollo

La inmigración irregular y las políticas públicas de seguridad: caso de España y República Dominicana

by Francisco Espinosa Navas and Rafael David Sánchez Gómez

May 2018

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

This study analyses the issue of irregular immigration and security public policies using the case of Spain and the Dominican Republic.

THE NETHERLANDS

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

Hybrid conflict: the roles of Russia, North Korea and China

by Frans-Paul van der Putten, Minke Meijnders [@Minke_M](#), Sico van der Meer [@SicovanderMeer](#) and Tony van der Toog [@TonyvanderToog](#) (eds.)

16 May 2018

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

The report is the outcome of a project conducted by the Clingendael Institute as a member of the Dutch National Network of Safety and Security Analysts (ANV) on behalf of the National Coordinator for Security and Counterterrorism (NCTV) of the Netherlands. The rationale to focus on these three countries was that they are believed to engage in various forms of hybrid conflicts in parts of their home regions. Moreover, they have political systems that are based on values that contrast with those on which the Dutch political system is founded. From a Dutch security perspective, this raises the question of whether these activities potentially affect the Netherlands.

UNITED KINGDOM

Policy Exchange

The state of the Union - Lessons for a shared, prosperous future

by Arthur Aughey

21 May 2018

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

By any comparative international standards, the Union has proved both successful and durable as an arrangement of state. When placed in the broadest international context, the UK can sometimes look like an oddity. But the Union on which it is predicated is a remarkably enduring constitutional arrangement and a surprisingly cohesive national state. The report calls for a confident approach to the politics of the Union and recommends a Charter of the Union to reinforce the relationship between the UK's nations.

The smart state

by Jonathan Dupont

29 May 2018

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

The UK should become a global hub for 'GovTech', with digital technology offering the chance to transform the relationship between the state and the citizen, and create a more efficient, responsive and innovative state, according to the report. Like today's leading companies, government should be structured as a platform and centred around the needs of the individual,

rather than the legacy structures of government departments. Whilst the UK is already a world leader in open data, the government needs to overcome the challenges of legacy systems, maintaining user trust on data security and skills shortages to realise the full potential of digital government.

Adam Smith Institute

A third way for Britain's railways - Injecting competition into UK rail

by Sam Dumitriu [@Sam Dumitriu](#)

3 May 2018

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

Britain's railways need more, not less, competition. This paper calls for a new, fresh and dynamic approach to running Britain's passenger train services that best reflects the markets they serve while also driving down costs and improving the service for the end user. By creating choice, fares will be lowered, service standards will be raised and costs can be reduced proving a 'win-win' for both passenger and taxpayer.

ResPublica

Watershed: closing the loopholes in gambling advertising

by James Noyes and Anna Faith Hazelwood

28 May 2018

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

The paper outlines the practical ways in which greater compliance, fairness and social responsibility can be encouraged in the advertising and licensing of gambling. The recommendations we put forward are not focussed on creating new legislation, but on upholding the regulatory powers already enshrined in the [2005 Gambling Act](#), such as the Gambling Commission's power to revoke a license.

Oxford Institute for Energy Studies

Decarbonisation of heat and the role of 'green gas' in the United Kingdom

by Malcolm Keay

8 May 2018

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

The paper looks at the possible role of 'green gas' in the decarbonisation of heat in the UK. The option is under active discussion at the moment because of the UK's rigorous carbon reduction targets and the growing realisation that there are problems with the 'default' option of electrifying heat. Green gas appears to be technically and economically feasible. However, as the paper discusses, there are major practical and policy obstacles which make it unlikely that the government will commit itself to developing 'green gas' in the foreseeable future.

Institute of Economic Affairs

Robocalypse now? Why we shouldn't panic about automation, algorithms and artificial intelligence

by Len Shackleton

11 May 2018

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

There is growing concern - almost a moral panic - that innovative technologies threaten jobs on an unprecedented scale. The paper examines the plausibility of prophecies of massive job loss. It then considers the prospects for new occupational roles being created to replace old jobs. The paper also critically examines the new policy proposals, which involve a dramatic expansion of the

state's already considerable role in the labour market. There are problems with these approaches that their advocates downplay or are unaware of, possibly because they are being pushed on ideological rather than pragmatic grounds.

Demos / McKell Institute

The social benefits of economic ties - The scope for an Australia-UK free trade agreement

by Sophie Gaston [@sophgaston](#)

22 May 2018

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

This paper highlights how an Australia-UK Free Trade Agreement (FTA) could become a prototype for a more socially conscious era of free trade, which could help to anticipate and stem the protectionist trend sweeping many Western countries. Since the UK's vote to leave the EU, there has been vocal support for a UK-Australia FTA, which could deliver symbolic, as well as economic, benefits. However, in a time of increasing social and economic insecurity, a protectionist agenda has been gaining traction, with many citizens becoming more sceptical about the benefits of free trade. There is an opportunity for both countries to take a proactive approach to this developing trend.

Policy Network

Higher education and regional growth: local contexts and global challenges

by Rick Wylie (ed.)

22 May 2018

Link to the article in [English](#) (137 p.)

This publication focuses on the many ways in which universities can impact upon the development of regions and what the implications of this are for regional policy. Drawing upon the experiences of practitioners and scholars, and insights from case studies of policy and institutional programmes, the contributions in this publication explore the role of universities in a regional context, in particular their contribution to social and economic development.

Fabian Society

Pathways to progression: improving progression rates for young retail workers

by Andrew Harrop [@andrew_harrop](#) and Cameron Tait [@cameronritait](#)

3 May 2018

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

Across the economy as a whole, 9 out of 10 low-paid teenagers in 2001-2004 escaped low pay by their late 20s (2014-2016). But in contrast more than a quarter (27%) of employees the same age in retail had not escaped low pay over that period, just over half a million workers aged between 18 and 29 are currently working in low-paid retail work. Improving pay and progression for retail workers can help companies by increasing retention, broadening the pool of talent and improving productivity. The retail sector must come together with the government on an industrial strategy with good jobs at its heart.

Institute for Fiscal Studies

Securing the future: funding health and social care to the 2030s

by Anita Charlesworth and Paul Johnson (eds.)

24 May 2018

Link to the article in [English](#) (189 p.)

On 5 July this year the NHS will be 70. In all its 70 years it has rarely been far from the headlines. It has been through more than its fair share of reforms, crises and funding ups and downs. Over that period, the amount we spend on it has risen inexorably. Yet, today, concerns about the adequacy of funding are once again hitting the headlines, as the health and social care systems struggle to cope with growing demand. Looking forward, funding pressures are only going to grow. The population is getting bigger and older, and expectations are rising along with the costs of meeting them.

Centre for Policy Studies

Powerful patients, paperless systems: how new technology can renew the NHS

by Alan Mak

May 2018

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

This report proposes ambitious reforms to the NHS, shedding paper, pagers and fax machines to create a fully digital NHS that will help patients take control of their treatment.

Institute for Public Policy Research

End of life care in England: a briefing paper

by Jack Hunter [@JackIPPR](#) and Martina Orlovic

20 May 2018

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

Every year in England and Wales over 500,000 people die. For three-quarters of these people, death does not come suddenly. Instead, dying is a process that may take days, weeks or even years, involving a progressive decline in functioning and frequent interactions with health professionals. During this time, many receive some form of end of life care, designed to ease any pain or distress caused by their symptoms, and to maximise their quality of life until the moment of their death.

BREXIT

European Parliament Think Tank / Dublin City University

The institutional consequences of a 'hard Brexit'

by Federico Fabbrini

15 May 2018

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

The in-depth analysis considers the institutional, budgetary and policy implications that a so-called 'hard Brexit' would pose on the EU. It analyses from a legal perspective how a withdrawal of the UK from the EU without a withdrawal treaty, transition deal and framework on future relations would affect each specific EU Institution, the EU budget for the remaining years of the current MFF, and EU policies in the crucial fields of trade, security and justice. While the study does not endorse a 'hard Brexit' it provides guidelines for the EU to be prepared in case such scenario were to materialise.

European Policy Centre

Brexit: what Theresa May's white paper must do

by Andrew Duff [@AndrewDuffEU](#)

16 May 2018

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

The Article 50 secession treaty must be accompanied by a Political Declaration outlining the framework for the future relationship between the UK and EU. Drafting the Political Declaration is now an urgent necessity, the author writes. There are essentially three parts to the future relationship: economic partnership; security partnership; and governance. All three can only be accommodated inside an association agreement. The essence of the association agreement is a rules-based market orientated deal - not the customs union. Governance of the association agreement must be by dynamic joint EU-UK institutions.

Centre for European Reform

Plugging in the British: EU justice and home affairs

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

25 May 2018

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

Police and judicial co-operation in criminal matters is one of the issues yet to be agreed in the draft withdrawal agreement between the UK and the EU. This suggests that a deal on justice and home affairs (JHA) will be no easier to negotiate than one on trade. The UK government wants a 'bespoke' treaty with the EU, going beyond any existing deals the bloc has with other third countries. But the EU's main guiding principle for negotiations with the UK is 'no better out than in'. In JHA, this means that a non-EU, non-Schengen country cannot have more rights and fewer obligations than an EU member-state or a Schengen country.

Terra nova

Quelle architecture financière pour l'Europe post-Brexit ? Droit financier et géographie de la monnaie

by Vincent Bignon [@BignonVincent](#)

2 May 2018

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

This note argues that Brexit is an opportunity to change the financial architecture of the European Union by aligning the borders of the European financial area (the one where financial contracts are exchanged) with the borders of the euro zone (where the common currency circulates).

Institute of Economic Affairs

Improving global financial services regulation

by Catherine McBride and Shanker Singham

4 May 2018

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

As the most globally active financial services provider, the UK has the potential to be a key player in helping to develop a more efficient international regulatory framework after it leaves the EU. All entities that have efficient and attractive financial services offerings will benefit from having better global financial services regulation. The UK financial services industry is a major component of its economy.

Policy Exchange

Getting over the line - Solutions to the Irish border: why the UK (including Northern Ireland) can leave the Customs Union, avoid a hard border – and preserve the Good Friday agreement

by Graham Gudgin and Ray Bassett

9 May 2018

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

The paper sets out in detail the argument that the Irish border is not the insoluble obstacle to Brexit negotiations that it has been made out to be and the UK can leave the single market and customs union while preserving a frictionless border in Ireland. This can be achieved by the use of new technology and in the context of a Free Trade Agreement between the UK and EU, in an arrangement that goes beyond the Customs Partnership and in no way threatens the [Good Friday Agreement](#).

UK in a Changing Europe

Brexit and the island of Ireland

by Anand Menon [@anandMenon1](#) (ed.)

22 May 2018

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

This report looks at Ireland's role in the Brexit process. It examines the many different political layers involving the Democratic Unionist Party, Good Friday Agreement and Sinn Fein. What do the people of Ireland think of Brexit? The possibility of a united Ireland? And is there much difference in opinion between Catholics and Protestants towards Brexit?

Northern Ireland and the UK's exit from the EU - What do people think?

by John Garry, Kevin McNicholl, Brendan O'Leary and James Pow

May 2018

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

This report looks at what people think about the implications for Northern Ireland of the UK's exit from the EU. It includes a survey of the attitudes of a representative sample of over 1,000 people in Northern Ireland and a forum of 48 ordinary people from across Northern Ireland – balanced among Leave and Remain voters – listened to expert presentations and engaged in discussion and deliberation.

Governing UK fisheries after Brexit – lessons from Iceland, Norway and the Faroe Islands

by Craig McAngus [@craigmcangus](#), Christopher Huggins [@chris_huggins](#), Arno van der Zwet [@ArnovanderZwet1](#) and John Connolly

31 May 2018

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

This project examines how independent coastal states outside the EU (Iceland, Norway, and the Faroe Islands) govern and manage their offshore fisheries in order to help inform policy-makers in the UK of the opportunities and challenges of Brexit. The research focuses on how these states and territories engage with European partners to effectively manage fisheries and further their interests. The recalibration of UK fisheries policy is also a potential source of tension between the constituent nations of the UK, with devolved institutions making a case that they ought to have a greater say on fisheries governance.

The Henry Jackson Society

Defending Europe: "global Britain" and the future of European geopolitics

by James Rogers [@james_rogers](#)

29 May 2018

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

There is a serious risk that as the UK withdraws from the EU (and/or its leading Member States) either may decide to enact rules that might (indirectly) damage the wider order on which it depends or, even, might seek to wrest control of the foundations on which it was built. Put another way, Britain will no longer be able to prevent so readily policies or initiatives that it dislikes or perceives will destabilize NATO, or the wider Atlantic order of which it is part. This problem may be further compounded by the fact that, as they have grown, these different structures - NATO and the EU have developed their own narratives, which do not necessarily sit easily with one another.

European Council on Foreign Relations

Separation anxiety: European influence at the UN after Brexit

by Richard Gowan [@RichardGowan1](#)

8 May 2018

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

Brexit comes at a bad time for Europe at the United Nations, as the US, Russia, and China are challenging the liberal internationalism that the EU promotes – and that some EU members question too. There is no need for complex diplomatic mechanisms to manage UK-EU coordination at the UN after Brexit, but both sides need to commit personnel and resources to protecting a liberal United Nations.

SECTION 4 - EU POLICIES

JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS

European Parliament Think Tank

EU asylum, borders and external cooperation on migration: recent developments

by Nikolai Atanassov, Costica Dumbrava, Maria-Margarita Mentzelopoulou and Anja Radjenovic
18 May 2018

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

This publication takes stock of recent EU developments in the area of asylum, borders and external cooperation on migration. It discusses key initiatives put forward by the EU in order to respond to migratory challenges, focusing on three major aspects: reforming the common European asylum system, strengthening the EU's external borders and reinforcing the EU's external cooperation on migration.

The fight against terrorism: cost of non-Europe report

by Piotr Bakowski and Wouter Van Ballegooij
25 May 2018

Link to the article in [English](#) (218 p.)

Significant benefits could be achieved by the EU and its Member States by addressing the gaps and barriers in the area of the fight against terrorism, notably by developing an evidence-based EU criminal policy cycle involving the European Parliament and national parliaments. In this context, the EU institutions should conduct comprehensive ex-ante assessments and ex-post evaluations of counterterrorism measures, in line with better law-making principles. The effectiveness and fundamental rights compliance of counter-radicalisation programmes should continue to be monitored.

Centre for European Reform

To manage migration, the EU needs to rethink its neighbourhood policy

by Luigi Scazzieri [@LScazzieri](#)
17 May 2018

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

According to the paper, the EU's effort to outsource control of its borders has come at a high cost, and is likely to become unsustainable. To manage migration, the EU needs to revamp its southern neighbourhood policy.

Institut der deutschen Wirtschaft Köln (Cologne Institute for Economic Research)

Trotz geringerer Zuzugszahlen noch immer eine Herausforderung

by Wido Geis
8 May 2018

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

Since the high influx of refugees in 2015 and 2016, the number of refugees coming to Germany has fallen significantly. In total, around 187,000 asylum seekers were registered in 2017. 223,000 people filed a formal application for asylum, which is the sixth highest value in the history of the Federal Republic after the years 2015 and 2016 and 1991 to 1993.

Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung

Facts and findings: ambitious plans, difficult implementation - An interim review of the European migration and refugee policy

by Christina Krause and Olaf Wientzek [@AguirreOI](#)

May 2018

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

Three years after the beginning of the migration crisis, the debate on the EU's Migration and Asylum policy is still ongoing. Where does the EU stand with its efforts to address the most urgent challenges but also to fundamentally reform the EU's Migration and Asylum Policy? What are the current and future challenges? This paper attempts to highlight the global context and to take stock of the most important successes and challenges. Finally, it presents a number of short and long-term policy recommendations for the development of a more sustainable EU Migration and Asylum Policy.

Friends of Europe

Refugee integration: millennials do it differently

by Shada Islam [@shada_islam](#), Amanda Rohde and Saskia Llewellyn [@saskiallewellyn](#)

15 May 2018

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

Integrating refugees into European society and structures stands at the centre of political debates across the EU. Europe's younger generation is doing things differently. With fresh ideas and different perspectives on the world, millennials have been testing out innovative initiatives and approaches to help refugees become part of local communities in many parts of Europe. Given that many admirable German initiatives are already well-known, this publication selected less-publicised projects from other European countries, some of which are not necessarily known for their pro-refugee policies.

Instituto Español de Estudios Estratégicos

El aprovechamiento de las tecnologías por los grupos terroristas de perfil islamista: evolución y lecciones aprendidas

by Carlos Echeverría Jesús

22 May 2018

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

Radical Islamist groups have traditionally shown as central characteristics their innovative spirit and an enormous motivation at the very moment of organizing themselves and implementing their plans. Their capacity to assimilate the technological advances must be pointed out. In fact, technological advances do provide with opportunities but also with obstacles at the very moment of combatting this threat on behalf of states.

AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES

European Parliamentary Think Tank

CAP reform post-2020 - Setting the scene

by James McEldowney

May 2018

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

The Commission proposals for the [common agricultural policy post-2020](#) have generated a range of responses and have been the subject of discussion within the European Parliament's Committee

for Agriculture and Rural Development. They include proposals for: greater simplification to be achieved through increased subsidiarity involving a new delivery model, more effective targeting of direct payments, a shift towards a more results-based approach, and higher ambitions in respect of resource efficiency, environmental care and climate action. Other elements will involve addressing issues such as generational renewal, the investment gap in agriculture, the role of research, innovation and training, risk management and a new green architecture.

European Parliament Think Tank / Institute for European Environmental Policy

Research for AGRI committee - Towards the CAP post 2020 - Appraisal of the EC communication on 'the future of food and farming' of 29 November 2017

by David Mottershead, Kaley Hart, Anne Maréchal, Stephen Meredith, Anna Lorant, Faustine Bas-Defossez, David Baldock [@David Baldock](#), Jean-Christophe Bureau and Alan Matthews [@xAlan Matthews](#)

15 May 2018

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

This study assesses the European Commission's plans for Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) reform as set out in November 2017 and subsequently. It discusses the extent to which those plans address the performance of the CAP against its objectives, compares them with the views and ideas of stakeholders and makes recommendations.

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

Fair play: the recent Common Agricultural Policy and its limited effect on development

by Bettina Rudloff [@BettinaRudloff](#) and Michael Brüntrup

21 May 2018

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

According to the paper, critics of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) are increasingly using its development policy (side) effects in the debate: European subsidies would promote poverty and food insecurity in developing countries through cheap European exports and destroy prospects for those populations, especially for young people in rural areas. But is this accusation justified, and what implication does it have for the future CAP?

European Policy Centre

Agriculture in Europe: greener practices and a brighter future for the sector

by Carolin Löprich

30 May 2018

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

The future of the EU's Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) is closely linked to the discussion on the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) for 2021-2027. With the upcoming negotiations on the next MFF, there is an opportunity to future-proof Europe's agricultural sector and create new incentives for farmers to align their practices with the EU's environmental and climate goals. To ensure the viability of the sector, the MFF post-2020 must focus on making Europe's agriculture greener.

COMPETITIVENESS (INTERNAL MARKET, INDUSTRY, RESEARCH AND SPACE)

Oxford Institute for Energy Studies

Capacity mechanisms in EU law: a comment on the free movement of goods

by Kaisa Huhta

21 May 2018

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

The EU internal market in electricity is experiencing challenges in ensuring resource adequacy through the operation of the energy-only market alone. To guarantee the uninterrupted availability of affordable electricity, many Member States have adopted national capacity mechanisms, which compensate for the availability and readiness of existing and forthcoming generation capacity to supply electricity.

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

The growing relevance of geopolitics for European business

by Frans-Paul van der Putten

May 2018

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

Today's international business environment is less predictable, more volatile, and involves more politics than in previous decades. The declining economic weight of the US and growing doubts about its leadership role in global governance have important implications for European companies. There is a growing likelihood of high-profile incidents in which large enterprises suffer major financial and reputational damage from geopolitical risks. But while managers increasingly regard geopolitics as relevant to their activities, for many companies this insight has not yet resulted in changes to their behaviour.

Jacques Delors Institute - Berlin

Missions for EU innovation policy: why the right set-up matters

by Philipp Ständer

29 May 2018

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

The introduction of research and innovation missions in "Horizon Europe" will be one of the most significant changes on previous EU research programmes. In the past, governments used missions to steer technology breakthrough in various fields ranging from defence to climate policy. In this policy paper, the author argues that the proposed missions are a promising tool for EU innovation policy, as long as they get sufficient political support and the underlying governance is right.

European Political Strategy Centre

10 trends shaping innovation in the digital age

16 May 2018

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

Innovation is advancing at an ever-faster speed in today's digital age, with knowledge-based capital assuming higher importance, and digitally-savvy market players rise. What are the main trends that are currently reshaping and disrupting innovation? How is the toolbox being redefined? What are the keys to success in a world where data, network effects and flexible talent are the new gold?

Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (Friedrich Ebert Foundation)

Industry 4.0 and European innovation policy: big plans, small steps

by Daniel Buhr and Thomas Stehnken

May 2018

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

The term Industry 4.0 has become synonymous for the industrial production of the future. The concept is linked to hopes for more growth. Consequently, several industrialised countries have created funding programmes for various fields of industry. Likewise, the European Commission has taken up the cause of the digital transformation of the European economy and wants to interlink the national initiatives of the EU Member States. The present study examines exactly who is doing what on the European level in order to exploit the potential of Industry 4.0.

Fundación Alternativas

Análisis de estrategias, políticas y marcos de referencia digitales

by Fernando San Martín Yagüe

25 May 2018

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

This work reviews some of the general recommendations of international multilateral bodies on how to foster the development of the digital sector.

Elinkeinoelämän tutkimuslaitos (Research Institute of the Finnish Economy)

Henkilödatasta merkittävä yritysten arvon luonnin lähde

25 May 2018

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

Innovation is advancing at an ever-faster speed in today's digital age, with knowledge-based capital assuming higher importance, and digitally-savvy market players rise. What are the main trends that are currently reshaping and disrupting innovation? How is the toolbox being redefined? What are the keys to success in a world where data, network effects and flexible talent are the new gold?

Centre for International Governance Innovation

Data governance in the digital age

by Rohinton P. Medhora, Susan Ariel Aaronson, Sachin Aggarwal, Dan Breznitz, Dan Ciuriak [@DanCiuriak](#), Andrew Clement, Norman Doidge, Michael Geist, Blayne Haggart, Ariel Katz [@relkatz](#), André Loranger, Ian MacGregor, Kurtis McBride, Brenda McPhail, Jonathan Obar, Taylor Owen [@taylor owen](#), Teresa Scassa, Amanda Sinclair, James Tebrake and Bianca Wylie

May 2018

Link to the article in [English](#) (136 p.)

The success of the world's most valuable companies (Apple, Google, Facebook and Microsoft) is now underpinned by a sophisticated capacity to collect, organize, control and commercialize stores of data and intellectual property. Big data and its application in artificial intelligence, for example, promises to transform the way we live and work — and will generate considerable wealth in the process. But data's transformative nature also raises important questions around how the benefits are shared, privacy, public security, openness and democracy, and the institutions that will govern the data revolution, the authors say.

Automation and the future of work: scenarios and policy options

by Joël Blit, Samantha St. Amand [@samstamand](#) and Joanna Wajda

29 May 2018

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

Artificial intelligence and robotics are poised to transform the economy. The paper presents several possible scenarios for the future of work and draws on the Industrial Revolution to offer a historical perspective. It ends with a discussion of different policy options that could be deployed. Foremost, it highlights the urgent need for further international collaboration to broaden the tax base, both because tax avoidance is likely to become a bigger problem as wealth and income become increasingly concentrated and mobile and because of the likely need to expand the social safety net in the face of potentially massive and long-lasting disruptions.

GLOBSEC Policy Institute

Attribution in cyberspace: beyond the "Whodunnit"

by Anushka Kaushik [@anushkacyber](#)

16 May 2018

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

Attribution refers to the action of regarding something as being caused by a thing or person. In cyberspace, attribution goes beyond the simple action of finding out who's responsible behind aggressive behaviour online. The goal of this paper is to outline the process of attribution in cyber-attacks, especially in the current context of states indirectly sponsoring cyber-attacks against other entities by outsourcing hacking to non-state hackers. The paper also aims to highlight the challenges to the process of attribution in this context.

The case for a transatlantic AI centre of excellence

by James Townsend [@jteurope](#), Alena Kudzko [@AlenaKudzko](#) and Tomáš A. Nagy [@Tomas A Nagy](#)

May 2018

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

This policy paper constitutes the first in a series of publications developed within the framework of the GLOBSEC Artificial Intelligence for Security Initiative (G-AIS), GLOBSEC's flagship project. Examining the impact of transformative technology on the transatlantic defence and security policy. The ability of the transatlantic community to explore, control, utilise and mitigate the phenomenon of Artificial Intelligence (AI) to its comparative advantage might easily constitute the key aspect of maintaining its geopolitical pre-eminence.

Lisbon Council for Economic Competitiveness and Social Renewal

The ethics of artificial intelligence - How AI can end discrimination and make the world a smarter, better place

by Paul Hofheinz [@PaulHofheinz](#)

22 May 2018

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

This brief explores the nature of artificial intelligence and proposes a seven-point programme for a successful European policy response. The author takes a closer look into how artificial intelligence – if used properly and used well – can hold out the possibility of faster, more efficient and ultimately more ethical decision making than we have now.

TRANSPORT/TELECOMMUNICATIONS/ENERGY

RAND Europe

Speed and security: promises, perils, and paradoxes of accelerating everything

by Kathryn E. Bouskill [@kebouskill](#), Seifu Chonde and William Welser IV [@WilliamWelserIV](#)

April 2018

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

This paper reviews the concept of speed and the general interdisciplinary approach the authors took to exploring the possibilities of a faster future. A central thread is the hypothesis that this iteration of acceleration could be more intense, that it will introduce novel security threats, and that its scale and scope will vary across social, cultural, and geographic categories.

Institut français des relations internationales

Coal exit or coal expansion? A review of coal market trends and policies in 2017

by Sylvie Cornot-Gandolphe

May 2018

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

The world is still divided about the future role of coal. A major change came in 2015 with the Paris Agreement, which prompted many nations across the world to accelerate their efforts to reduce coal consumption. Since then, several governments and power utilities have decided to phase out coal from their electricity mixes and joined the "Powering Past Coal Alliance". Coal reduction or phase-out policies are being adopted or considered by more and more countries, and the reduction in the share of coal power generation goes faster than expected in several coal-consuming countries.

EMPLOYMENT/SOCIAL POLICY/HEALTH/CONSUMER AFFAIRS

European Trade Union Institute

The concept of 'worker' in EU law: status quo and potential for change

by Martin Risak [@MartinRisak](#) and Thomas Dullinger

May 2018

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

In the changing world of work and the emergence of new forms of employment, the question of the scope of protection of labour and employment law becomes again more urgent. This report analyses this jurisprudence and explores how and whether the underlying concept of worker is able to adapt to the changes in the world of work and still fit for purpose to protect those who are in need of protection. Based on this, it develops a European concept of worker which would be adapted to the new forms of employment namely to the self-employed that are in need of protection to a similar extent as traditional employees.

Bertelsmann Stiftung

Long-run patterns of labour market polarisation

by Ronald Bachmann, Merve Cim and Colin Green

24 May 2018

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

The past four decades have seen dramatic changes in the structure of employment. The increase in computational power has led to reductions in employment in jobs with a high degree of routine tasks. Using an administrative panel data set this research paper focuses on the question to what

extent jobs with higher routine task content are associated with a reduced likelihood of being employed in both the short and medium term.

Institut de relations internationales et stratégiques

A global outlook on LGBTI social exclusion through 2030

17 May 2018

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

LGBTI individuals are more likely to experience poverty, lack healthcare, attempt suicide, and be subjected to physical or sexual violence, even in societies that are considered more accepting of LGBTI individuals. There are hundreds of millions of LGBTI individuals around the world, most of whom are at a greater risk of "death, disease, or disruption of their livelihoods" than the rest of the population. As such, this situation should be characterized as a protracted crisis and receive greater attention from the humanitarian sector.

European Parliament Think Tank

European Labour Authority: workshop summary report

by Susanne Kraatz

15 May 2018

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

This report summarises presentations and discussions from the workshop "European Labour Authority" held on 24 May 2018 at request of the Employment and Social Affairs Committee. It combined an exchange on the Impact Assessment and on the Initial Appraisal by the European Parliament with a panel of experts focusing on different dimensions of the Commission proposal for a European Labour Authority.

Institute of Economic Affairs

The impact of WHO food and drink taxes on a typical household

by Christopher Snowdon [@cjsnowdon](#)

17 May 2018

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

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has called on governments to raise the price of sugar-sweetened beverages by 20% and to increase taxes on alcohol. It also supports taxes on food that is high in sugar, salt and/or fat. Michael Bloomberg, a WHO Ambassador, has set up the Task Force on Fiscal Policy to lobby for such taxes.

Nanny State Index 2018: nicotine supplement

by Christopher Snowdon [@cjsnowdon](#)

8 May 2018

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

The Index tracks over-bearing, paternalistic lifestyle regulation across the EU in four categories: alcohol, e-cigarettes, food/soft drinks and tobacco. Nanny state interventions in these areas are invariably promoted on grounds of health and yet it is difficult to see how clamping down on vaping benefits public health. In this report, the authors extend the Index to two non-EU countries (Norway and Switzerland) and extend the vaping category to include two other safer nicotine products that have demonstrated their potential for harm reduction and smoking cessation.

College of Europe

Smoke-free environments: the missing link in EU anti-tobacco policy

by Vincent Delhomme [@VincentDelhomme](#)

4 May 2018

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

In 2002, according to conservative estimates, 19,000 non-smokers died due to exposure to cigarette smoke. While it can be hoped that this death toll has decreased, protection against second-hand smoking, and smoking in general, remains a public health priority. Recent figures show that many Europeans are actually still exposed to passive smoking. According to a recent Eurobarometer survey, a fifth of the respondents encountered smoking the last time they visited a bar. This paper critically discusses the current state of EU legislation on the matter and discusses potential future developments.

ENVIRONMENT

E3G

The political economy of climate-related financial disclosure - Case studies of the United Kingdom, Germany, the United States of America and Brazil

by Shane Tomlinson, Tina Marie Marchand [@tm_marchand](#), George Triggs and James Hawkins

3 May 2018

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

The Paris Agreement marked a watershed moment for tackling climate change. Post-Paris there has been a shift in focus. While huge efforts have been invested in the technical analysis of the transition, to date very little attention has been given to political economy analysis. This report aims to address this gap with respect to implementing the recommendations from the Taskforce on Climate-Related Financial Disclosures (TCFD) by providing case studies in four key countries: UK, Germany, US and Brazil.

Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik (German Development Institute)

Enabling factors for cooperation in the climate negotiations: a comparative analysis of Copenhagen 2009 and Paris 2015

by Maximilian Högl

May 2018

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

The issue of how human beings interact in the face of common-pool resource problems and public-good dilemmas has been examined in a vast body of research of various disciplines, from behavioural economics to social psychology. Although the "homo oeconomicus" paradigm, which conceptualises human behaviour as rational utility maximisation, predicts that no cooperation would occur in these scenarios, the overall result of this research proves the opposite: humans do frequently cooperate, and the extent of cooperation depends on certain factors.

Centre for Climate Change Economics and Policy

Adopt or innovate: understanding technological responses to cap-and-trade

by Raphael Calel

18 May 2018

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

Past cap-and-trade programmes have tended to encourage polluters to adopt existing abatement technologies, but have generally had little effect on innovation. This paper presents new evidence

that the EU Emissions Trading System (EU ETS) may have bucked this trend and encouraged innovation rather than adoption.

New America Foundation

The phase zero digital toolbox: visualizing global security, state instability, climate change, and vulnerability of natural resources

by Denice W. Ross [@denicewross](#)

29 May 2018

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

The phase zero digital toolbox is a curated list of existing digital tools for understanding complex interactions. These data visualization and decision support tools look at root causes of insecurity, such as: water and food scarcity; the record of humanitarian crises, conflicts, and state instability; and impacts of global climate change. Some make integrated assessments of multiple trends and variables. Some are purpose-built for specific end-users. Many are intended to raise public awareness. Most look at a range of data, everything from satellite imagery to on-the-ground surveys, and represent them as graphs or maps.

New Climate Institute for Climate Policy and Global Sustainability

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 [@JuPestiaux](#), Pascal Vermeulen, Markus Hagemann, Takeshi Kuramochi and Niklas Höhne [@niklashoehne](#)

4 May 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". According to the paper, the key to these reductions is to apply EU-wide the best practice policies identified in various Member States including the Netherlands, Denmark, UK, Germany and Norway.

EDUCATION/YOUTH/CULTURE/SPORT

Bertelsmann Stiftung

Learning from the world - Good practices in navigating cultural diversity

May 2018

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

The study documents the results of the international search for good approaches to dealing with cultural diversity conducted for the Reinhard Mohn Prize 2018. Since living together in diversity is a matter of everyday life, the focus of the study is on the local level. It describes in detail the strategies of six cities in Europe, Canada and the USA and presents exemplary projects for dealing with diversity in politics, business, education, the media and personal encounters.

European Parliament Think Tank / Centre for Strategy and Evaluation Services

Research for CULT Committee - ESIF and culture, education, youth & sport

by Mike Coyne, Malin Carlberg, Caroline Chandler and Eugenie Lale-Demoz

29 May 2018

Link to the article in [English](#) (226 p.)

The study examines the nature and extent of ESIF funding for education and training, culture, sport and youth, including the legal base for such support. Much activity in these areas is hidden in

official data, under other headings, but all of the areas are already making a significant contribution to economic and social development. The study concludes with a recommendation that there be greater recognition in the future of the human contribution of these areas to cohesion policy.

European Parliament Think Tank

Research for CULT committee - Europe for citizens: towards the next programme generation

by Katja Mäkinen

30 May 2018

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

Citizenship is a key element of democracy, and citizens' participation is needed for democracy to function. As interests and challenges touching citizens do not follow state borders, it is important that citizens' activity also crosses borders. The funding distributed through the Europe for Citizens programme is therefore crucial. Due to its combination of participation and remembrance, the programme allows addressing the complex challenges and promises related to democracy, citizenship and diversity, the core topics of the programme.

SECTION 5 - FOREIGN AFFAIRS

FOREIGN AND SECURITY POLICY / DEFENCE

Fondation Robert Schuman

Defence: Europe's awakening

by Jean-Dominique Giuliani [@JD_Giuliani](#), Arnaud Danjean [@ArnaudDanjean](#), Françoise Grossetête [@GrosseteteF](#) and Thierry Tardy [@thierrytardy](#)
22 May 2018

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

For a long time the EU has been criticised for its apathy over defence, notably for the reluctance of its Member States to intervene militarily in times of crisis and for its low military expenditure. Yet, the need to respond to new international threats and to a worsening security situation in Europe, together with a series of factors that favour the Union's assertion in the area of defence, have enabled strong progress to be made over the last few years. This file provides a review of recent developments in "Defence Europe" from real progress to persistent challenges and suggests a direction to follow so that this dynamic does not die out.

European Parliamentary Think Tank

EU sanctions: A key foreign and security policy instrument

by Martin Russell

May 2018

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

At present, the EU has 42 sanctions programmes in place, making it the world's second-most active user of restrictive measures, after the US. Unlike the comprehensive trade embargoes used in the past, the EU has moved towards asset freezes and visa bans targeted at individual persons and companies, aiming to influence foreign governments while avoiding humanitarian costs for the general population. Other measures in the sanctions toolkit include arms embargoes, sectoral trade and investment restrictions, as well as suspensions of development aid and trade preferences.

EU as a global player one year on from the Rome declaration

by Jérôme Legrand

15 May 2018

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

The EU celebrated the 60th anniversary of the Rome Treaties a year ago by pledging to enhance the EU's role as a global player, in line with the 2016 Global Strategy. This was intended to develop the EU's role in security and defence matters, starting with increasing support for the European defence industry and the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) as a whole, as well as reinforcing existing or developing new partnerships and pushing for further global engagement in support of the UN system, NATO and rules-based multilateralism.

Instituto Español de Estudios Estratégicos

La política común de seguridad y defensa de la UE: una renovada estrategia para un nuevo escenario europeo y global

by Joel Díaz Rodríguez

31 May 2018

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

This essay, written by a former Council trainee Joel Díaz Rodríguez, analyses the EU's Common Security and Defence Policy and tackles the limitations that, according to the author, impede it from becoming an effective tool for European foreign policy.

Las iniciativas británica y alemana de cooperación en defensa

by José Luis Pontijas Calderón

15 May 2018

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

The two initiatives put on the table by Germany and Great Britain have meant a new impulse for cooperation in defence within the European continent. Although both have different objectives (capacity development on the one hand and operational military formations on the other), it seems that both are evolving towards a certain convergence and their future, at least for the time being, according to the article, seems to be promising.

La OSCE, la gran dama olvidada de la seguridad europea

by José Luis Pontijas Calderón

8 May 2018

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

According to the paper, the illegal annexation of Crimea by Russia in 2014 ended abruptly with the European order that emerged after the end of the Cold War, flagrantly violating the fundamental principles of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), defined in the Charter of Paris of 1990. The current tensions between Russia and the West have made its work increasingly difficult. A certain renaissance of the organization has been observed and continues to be hampered by the lack of political will and consensus among its participating States. Initiative and credibility are needed to rebuild a climate of trust and cooperation.

Ulkopoliittinen instituutti (Finnish Institute of International Affairs)

A stronger North? Nordic cooperation in foreign and security policy in a new security environment

by Tuomas Iso-Markku, Eeva Innola and Teija Tiilikainen

8 May 2018

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

Nordic foreign and security policy cooperation is characterized by informality, as it takes place outside of the institutional Nordic structures. This report assesses the current state of this cooperation by opening up structures and formats within which the informal cooperation takes place. The report then discusses future prospects for, as well as constraints on, deepening the cooperation from different angles, including agenda formation, institutional complexities, Nordic cooperation in multilateral contexts and bilateral Nordic relations.

Carnegie Europe

Russian election interference: Europe's counter to fake news and cyber attacks

by Erik Brattberg [@ErikBrattberg](#) and Tim Maurer [@mauertim](#)

23 May 2018

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

In reaction to Russia's disruptive campaigns in Europe and the US, European governments took steps before and during their 2017 elections to better protect against disinformation campaigns and cyber attacks. Unsurprisingly, an examination of their efforts shows the importance of identifying risks at the local, regional, and national levels and actively engaging political parties and traditional and social media outlets. These lessons and others could provide the basis for a common, analytical framework to assess the different dimensions of risk and guide countries' preparatory actions.

Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments

Countering comprehensive coercion: competitive strategies against authoritarian political warfare

by Thomas G. Mahnken, Ross Babbage and Toshi Yoshihara

30 May 2018

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

This study offers a better understanding of the threat the US and its allies face. It argues that Chinese and Russian activities should be viewed part of a unique form of authoritarian political warfare: comprehensive coercion. It also highlights how the targets of authoritarian political warfare campaigns can better position themselves to compete, not only by reducing their vulnerability but also by adopting more forward-leaning measures of their own.

International Centre for Counter-Terrorism - The Hague (ICCT)

Capacity-building challenges: identifying progress and remaining gaps in dealing with foreign (terrorist) fighters

by Walle Bos, Bibi van Ginkel [@bibivanginkel](#) and Tanya Mehra

2 May 2018

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

This brief addresses capacity-building challenges by sharing some of the insights and progress made with regard to the capacity-building efforts developed by the ICCT on the issue of FTFs in a selection of countries. Eight insights and recommendations are provided for policy makers and implementers alike, related to organisation, implementation, and monitoring of capacity-building efforts.

Rahvusvaheline Kaitseuringute Keskus (International Centre for Defence and Security)

NATO Brussels summit: prospects and opportunities

by Eirik Marmeit and Henrik Praks [@HenrikPraks](#)

21 May 2018

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

This policy paper examines the most pressing topics related to the Summit, makes recommendations on the issues relevant to its preparation, and specifically looks at security issues in the Baltic Sea region.

GEOPOLITICS AND STRATEGY

Instituto Español de Estudios Estratégicos

Geopolítica de la diplomacia: de la clásica a la digital

by Pedro Baños Bajo [@geoestratego](#)

21 May 2018

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

Over the centuries, diplomacy has been one of the key elements by which States have exercised their power. In the majority of cases, to have a good diplomatic service has been essential for even the survival of Nations. The errors of the diplomatic world have sometimes lead to armed conflicts. Currently, in the extremely complex world we live in, diplomacy renews its geopolitical importance, having to adapt to the technologies of the digital era. The country that is left behind in this field should be aware of the risk that signifies for its citizens.

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

Business and peacebuilding: seven ways to maximize positive impact

by Peer Schouten, Jason Miklian, Cindy Horst and Øystein Rolandsen [@oysteinhr](#)

10 May 2018

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

What are the conditions under which businesses can move beyond 'doing no harm' in the fragile and conflict-affected societies where they work to deliver more tangible positive peace dividends? Designed for businesses, practitioners, scholars and others who are interested and engaged in corporate impact in such areas, this report provides an overview of the main lessons from a four-year study of corporate peacebuilding initiatives across a range of contexts. Its main findings are formulated as seven key questions which can help evaluate risks and improve impact.

Overseas Development Institute

Constructive deconstruction: imagining alternative humanitarian action

by Christina Bennett [@cr_bennett](#)

May 2018

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

The international humanitarian system needed a rethink, a modernisation, an upgrade. This paper is part of a series with a view to catalyse that thinking by challenging the values, assumptions and incentives that underpin humanitarian action today to reimagine a more effective humanitarian system that truly 'puts people at the centre'.

The new humanitarian basics

by Marc DuBois [@Humanicontraria](#)

May 2018

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

This paper calls for a rescoping of the concept of humanitarian crisis and the humanitarian sector's role in it.

Network humanitarianism

by Paul Currión [@paulcurrión](#)

May 2018

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

This paper challenges the notion of a humanitarian 'system' as a structured architecture led by the UN, and instead envisions it as a system of distributed governance.

The 'humanitarian anchor': a social economy approach to assistance in protracted displacement situations

by Tahir Zaman

May 2018

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

This paper outlines a social economy approach to humanitarian action that addresses the urgent and growing need for meaningful solutions in protracted crises and caters to the aspirations of affected people.

TRADE

College of Europe

Overcoming 'frankenfoods' and 'secret courts': the resilience of EU trade policy

by Dirk De Bièvre, Sieglinde Gstöhl and Emile Van Ommeren [@EmilevanOmmeren](#)

14 May 2018

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

Despite vocal contestation and fears of domestic institutional deadlock over its trade negotiations, the European Union has proven resilient in its trade policy, notably by concluding bilateral trade and investment agreements with important partners, including two across the North Atlantic, Canada and Mexico.

Leuven Center for Global Governance Studies

The provisional application of the EU's mixed trade and investment agreements

by Andrei Suse [@AndreiSuse](#) and Jan Wouters [@JMFWouters](#)

May 2018

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

This contribution seeks to provide clarity with respect to certain legal questions that have recently emerged in connection to the provisional application of the EU's mixed trade and investment agreements. In order to discontinue the EU's provisional application of a mixed agreement, an act of the EU itself is needed. However, an argument can be made that where a Member State permanently and definitively fails to ratify a mixed agreement, the EU is under an obligation, as a matter of EU law, to terminate the provisional application of that agreement.

Observer Research Foundation

Investment and its discontents

by Tanmay Misra

May 2018

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

Mainstream debates on European investment in India do not consider the full and diverse impact of investment on economic and social life, and therefore narrow the terrain for crafting richer, alternative investment policies and strategies. This paper examines three misguided and recurring

ideas that arise in investment debates: (1) consumption growth as an inevitable effect of investment liberalization; (2) efficiency in fresh food retail as a feature distinctive to foreign investment practices; and (3) regulatory tactics as a panacea to address exploitation in the global value chain for apparel.

DEVELOPMENT

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

The future of development finance: a short introduction to TOSSD

by Ole Winckler Andersen and Adam Moe Fejerskov
4 May 2018

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

This note provides an accessible introduction to the ongoing international discussions on Total Official Support for Sustainable Development (TOSSD) and the future of development finance, exploring a series of key discussions surrounding it. These key discussions include whether TOSSD will complement or replace existing measures like ODA and eventually undermine existing international commitments, what kind of financial flows the measure should and can capture, and who should govern TOSSD. The note shows how these discussions, while being very technical in nature, have potential significant political implications for both the form and mobilization of development finance.

Overseas Development Institute

Should resilience-building projects (always) be socially acceptable?

by Virginie Le Masson [@Virginie_LeM](#)
May 2018

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

This paper draws on development literature, humanitarian guidelines, and learning from development programmes globally. It also integrates the perspectives of 19 researchers and practitioners working in sectors ranging from emergency nutrition responses to irrigation schemes, peace building and climate change adaptation, with the common objective to enhance the resilience of people affected by crises. These 'contributing thinkers' were asked the same question: should resilience-building programmes always be socially acceptable?

ENLARGEMENT PROCESS

Institute of International and European Affairs

EU enlargement to the Western Balkans: towards 2025 & beyond

by John O'Brennan [@JohnOBrennan2](#)
May 2018

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

In this paper, which is part of the Future of the EU27 Project, the author examines the European Commission's Strategy for the Western Balkans, exploring the context and challenges surrounding this new perspective for EU enlargement.

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

Western Balkans EU accession: is the 2025 target date realistic?

by Richard Grieson [@RicGri](#), Julia Grübler [@JuliaGruebler](#) and Mario Holzner [@MarioHolzner](#)
22 May 2018

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

The European Commission has set a target date of 2025 for Western Balkan EU accession, while also outlining a broader new strategy which includes Brussels taking a more active role in solving political disputes in the region and upgrading infrastructure as part of the Berlin Process. Even if the region takes a great leap forward towards the EU, there are other barriers in the way which could also hold back accession. Nevertheless, the 2025 target could also serve as a powerful incentive for countries in the region to speed up their reform agendas.

Trade policies and integration of the Western Balkans

by Oliver Reiter [@olreit](#) and Robert Stehrer [@RobertStehrer](#)
May 2018

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

Based on a newly constructed multi-country input-output table including all European countries, we estimate the economic effects of the EU accession countries entering the 'Stabilisation and Association Agreement' (SAA) with the EU and the potential effects of joining the European Single Market applying a structural gravity framework. The results point towards strong positive effects on trade for the SAA countries, but only small effects for the EU Member States. Conducting a counterfactual analysis, the paper gives an indication of the magnitude of the positive impacts on GDP for these countries. In addition, a detailed industry breakdown of these effects is provided.

European Political Strategy Centre

Engaging with the Western Balkans - An investment in Europe's security

17 May 2018

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

Security in the Western Balkans is intrinsically linked to stability and prosperity in the EU as a whole. Without swift and decisive action, security issues within the region risk spilling over into the EU. Both sides stand a far better chance of addressing challenges by working together. The European Commission's renewed strategy for the Western Balkans offers a historic window of opportunity to do this. But it requires the Union to engage persuasively in a discussion on rule of law and security.

Ośrodek Studiów Wschodnich (Centre for Eastern Studies)

A new opening in relations between the EU and the Western Balkans

by Marta Szpala

16 May 2018

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

The summit held on 17 May in Sofia – the first such event since 2003 – is one example of the EU's increasing interest in the Balkan states which aspire to membership. The new dynamic in the EU's policies towards the Western Balkans is the result of a growing awareness in Brussels of the risks resulting from the crisis in the enlargement policy, which is the EU's main instrument for ensuring lasting stability in the region.

Centar za Evropske Politike (European Policy Centre)

Civil society and policy making in the Visegrad group countries: lessons for the Western Balkans

by Andrew Cartwright, Katarzyna Hermann Pawłowska, Maciej Kolczyński [@kolczu](#), Michal Vit and Dragana Bajić

May 2018

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

This collection provides insights into challenges of civil society participation in policymaking in three countries of the Visegrad Group (Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland), in the intention to share valuable lessons for the Western Balkan countries. Articles are a result of experience exchanging events that took place in spring and summer of 2017, gathering representatives of TEN Network and partner organisations from Visegrad countries.

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

Making democracy deliver in the Western Balkans: strengthening governance and anticorruption

May 2018

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

The Western Balkan countries face two critical interrelated risks to their Euro Atlantic integration. Internally, entrenched corruption and state capture have plagued their economic development and prosperity. Externally, Russia has seen the region as a key battleground to reassert its renewed drive for global dominance. Good governance efforts in the Western Balkans, aided by the EU and other international donors, have resulted in a decline of administrative corruption over the past two decades. But at 26% on average for the region corruption pressure remains high and state capture risks persist.

Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (Friedrich Ebert Foundation)

Unequal chances and unjust outcomes - Confronting inequality in Southeast Europe

by Mirna Jusić

May 2018

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

The Western Balkans remain a space defined not only by their shared history and culture but by their comparative economic stagnation. As a whole, the region still registers high unemployment, stagnant educational frameworks, and endemic brain drain. One such structural issue at the core of many other problems – but seemingly overlooked by both local and external stakeholders – is inequality. That is the central topic taken up by this study, which is one of the first in-depth comparative examinations of inequality in Southeast Europe to date.

European Council on Foreign Relations

The way back: brain drain and prosperity in the Western Balkans

by Alida Vracic [@Alidav978](#)

9 May 2018

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

The Western Balkans will most likely remain an exporter of smart, educated people for years to come – within a migration dynamic that destination countries control. Public discourse on brain drain in the Western Balkans is often oversimplified: emigration boosts knowledge transfers, remittances, and access to advanced technology, improving stability and long-term development opportunities in the region.

Centar za društvena istraživanja Analitika (Center for Social Research Analitika)

Evropski sud za ljudska prava i zaštita od diskriminacije: jurisprudencija i evolucija standarda

by Edin Hodžić (ed.)

May 2018

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

This publication brings together papers which address the complex issues related to the right to freedom from discrimination in BiH, but also in other countries of the former Yugoslavia, focusing on the relevant jurisprudence of the European Court of Human Rights.

Nasilje nad ženama i sistemska diskriminacija: (pre)dug put do pravde

by Aleksandra Ivanković [@ivankovic_a](#)

May 2018

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

Violence against women is often not recognized, even when it comes to severe and long-lasting forms of physical violence, which leaves serious physical and psychological consequences. It is even more rare that women who are victims of such violence receive adequate protection from relevant institutions. What kind of protection, in such circumstances, victims of psychological and economic violence can expect and to what extent the institutions in BiH are in fact able to tackle violence against women?

German Marshall Fund of the United States

Explaining Turkey's snap elections

by İltter Turan [@ilterturan9](#)

31 May 2018

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

President Erdoğan persistently dismissed rumours that presidential and parliamentary elections scheduled for November 2019 would be moved ahead of schedule. Until suddenly on 18 April, he announced that he would accommodate the request of his partner for early elections in response to leader of the Nationalist Movement Party (MHP) Devlet Bahçeli who has supported efforts to transform the Turkish political system. The parliament quickly yielded to his wishes and set the date as 24 June. Holding elections on such short notice came as an unpleasant surprise to the opposition parties that needed more time to prepare. But they quickly went into action to meet the challenge.

Ulkopoliittinen instituutti (Finnish Institute of International Affairs)

The 'New Turkey' as a NATO member: domestic state transformation and competing strategic cultures

by Toni Alaranta [@ToniAlaranta](#)

2 May 2018

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

This study uses the concept of 'strategic culture' to analyse how Turkey's incumbent Justice and Development Party's hegemonic position and domestic state transformation project has affected Turkey's foreign policy and its position in world politics, especially regarding NATO membership.

Istanbul Politikalar Merkezi (Istanbul Policy Center)

Dialogue and sustainable conflict resolution in the Kurdish question and polarization in Turkey

by Pinar Akpınar [@pinarakpınar](#) and Efe Doğuş Selvi [@edoquuss](#)

8 May 2018

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

Turkish democracy has faced significant challenges in recent years. The failed coup attempt of July 2016 has resulted in the restriction of civilian space and the securitization of a number of issues. Coupled with Turkey's response to developments within its region, particularly the ongoing Syrian crisis, a process of securitization and militarization has marked Turkish politics over the last few years. Consequently, the state of emergency, which was declared shortly after the failed coup attempt in July 2016, has been extended for the seventh time in a row amid both Turkey's military intervention in Syria and preparations to head to the polls for the sixth time in the last five years.

EASTERN PARTNERSHIP

Rahvusvaheline Kaitseuringute Keskus (International Centre for Defence and Security)

A route to national resilience: building whole-of-society security in Ukraine

by Dmitri Teperik, Tomas Jermalavičius, Grigori Senkiv, Dmytro Dubov, Yevhen Onyshchuk, Oleh Onyshchuk and Mykhailo Samus

April 2018

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

Ukraine is a perfect case study of the role that civil society plays in national resilience and, thus, security. A target of Russia's multifaceted aggression since early 2014, and of Moscow's corrosive influence strategy and "active measures" well before that, it overcame the initial shock partly thanks to the rapid and effective self-mobilisation of civil society.

Ośrodek Studiów Wschodnich (Centre for Eastern Studies)

Poroshenko stands alone. Ukraine politics in a pre-election year

by Tadeusz Iwański

21 May 2018

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

The year 2019 will be an election year in Ukraine, with a presidential election in the spring and a parliamentary election in the autumn. The short timeframe and the order in which these two elections will be held increase the chances of the winner of the presidential election forming the largest faction in parliament. The first phase of election campaigning has already begun, with Petro Poroshenko and Yulia Tymoshenko as the main contenders, but opinion polls are inconclusive. The atmosphere surrounding the campaign is one of mistrust on the part of voters in the authorities and the political class. Ukraine's Euromaidan Revolution created expectations politicians could not fulfil, claims the author.

Atlantic Council

Georgia's path westward

by William Courtney [@courtneywmh](#), Daniel Fried and Kenneth Yalowitz

9 May 2018

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

In the 1990s, Georgia – beset by separatist conflicts, corruption, extreme poverty, and threats from Russia – was at risk of becoming a failed state. It has overcome many of these challenges and now stands as a striking example of a reforming and Western-oriented country transcending the

limitations of decades of Soviet rule. The report finds that Georgia should do more on its own to achieve its European and Euro-Atlantic ambitions. Georgian governments have enjoyed popular backing for reforms and should utilize this further to improve the political process, governance, and economic and social conditions.

International Crisis Group

Abkhazia and South Ossetia: time to talk trade

24 May 2018

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

Informal trade is increasing between Georgia and the breakaway territories of South Ossetia and Abkhazia, and between Abkhazia and countries outside the region. Trade alone cannot transform the parties' core political differences. But talks among them on mutually beneficial commerce could open lines of communication long cemented shut.

EUROPEAN NEIGHBORHOOD POLICY

Institute for European studies

Culture in the ENP South: broad ambitions, little strategy, insufficient means

by Riccardo Trobbiani [@RiccardoTrob](#)

May 2018

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

This brief analyses the key shortcomings of EU cultural cooperation in the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) South and proposes recommendations for reform. It looks at both the strategies and instruments in place.

MIDDLE EAST/NORTH AFRICA (MENA)

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

Financing operations of the European Investment Bank (EIB) in the Southern Mediterranean countries

by Tamás Szigetvári

May 2018

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

The European Investment Bank (EIB) is the EU's development bank, which carries out an ever-growing development lending activity in the regions outside the EU. This activity is closely related to the EU's external (neighbourhood and development aid) policies. The Southern Mediterranean covered by the EU neighbourhood policy is a priority among these outer regions. This study analyses the data and reports from the EIB and seeks to demonstrate the priorities and the means by which the EIB supports the economic development of the region.

Foundation for European Progressive Studies

Chronicle of a death foretold? Europe and the unclear fate of Iran's nuclear agreement

by Vassilis Ntousas [@VNtousas](#)

22 May 2018

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

Much has been already said about the profound sense of political myopia president Trump's decision that he is withdrawing the US from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA)

represents and the equally profound risks of greater instability and military escalation it poses for the Middle East. The Iran deal can survive an American withdrawal, but it cannot survive an Iranian one. According to the paper, shaping the unclear fate of Iran's nuclear agreement, Europe can now finally demonstrate that it does not intend to be taken as an idle bystander in this chronicle of a death foretold. For this, it needs to act. More boldly, with more unity, and greater confidence.

The Henry Jackson Society

Going ballistic: responding to Iranian missile advances

by Timothy Stafford [@StaffordTJ](#)

May 2018

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

The paper argues that Britain and other key European states should threaten to impose a new round of economic sanctions against Iranian individuals and entities associated with the ballistic missile programme – and reject Iranian claims that this would be forbidden under the 2015 deal. With intermediate range ballistic missiles, which it is suspected of testing, Tehran would be able to strike major European capitals such as London, Paris and Berlin. In the meantime, they have also been distributing weaponry to Hezbollah, as well as to the Houthi rebels in Yemen.

Instituto Español de Estudios Estratégicos

Irak y Yemen: ¿nuevos satélites de Irán?

by Ana Belén Soage [@absoage](#)

17 May 2018

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

According to the paper, Iran projects its influence in the Middle East through what has come to be known as the "Axis of Resistance", which includes the Syrian regime, Hezbollah in Lebanon, and Hamas and Islamic Jihad in the Palestinian Territories. Over the last decade, two new forces have often been added to the Iranian-led alliance: the Shiite militias in Iraq and the Yemeni Houthis. The two cases are rather different, however. While there is significant evidence that Iran has invested much in Iraq, its efforts in Yemen appear much more modest.

Istituto Affari Internazionali

Winning back the "left behind": Iran's new nationalist agenda

by Emanuele Bobbio [@manubobbio](#)

May 2018

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

The January 2018 demonstrations have shown the frustration of Iran's lower-middle-class youth with the economic situation of the country. While the street protests were relatively modest in size, the young poor represent the majority of the population. To address the challenge, the regime is promoting a narrative that emphasizes the uniqueness of Iran as a nation rather than its Islamic foundations. To spread this narrative the Iranian regime is using new instruments, including the use of Western-inspired rap music, a new movie industry imitating Hollywood blockbusters and a new use of social media by figures of the regime.

Bringing social justice and human rights back in

by Daniela Huber [@dhuber81](#) and Maria Cristina Paciello

May 2018

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

This report contrasts how European institutional and civil society stakeholders "talk and practice" the Mediterranean into being through three discursive practices: the Mediterranean as a space

crucial for EU interests, as a dangerous space and as a diverse geopolitical space. To rebuild an equal Mediterranean space and a flexible, inclusive and responsive EU role in it, European stakeholders suggest two policy alternatives: a policy of social justice and human rights, and a policy of reconciliation.

International Crisis Group

Saudi Arabia: back to Baghdad

22 May 2018

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

Saudi Arabia is re-engaging with Iraq after nearly a quarter-century of broken ties. The rapprochement began in 2016, sharply accelerated in mid-2017 and stands to move even faster after Iraq's general elections in May 2018, particularly if politicians open to reconnecting with Saudi Arabia succeed in forming a government. Riyadh's strategy is to ride a wave of Iraqi national pride, reinvest economically and build relationships across ethnic and confessional lines. If its objective is to roll back Iran's influence in Iraq, however, it will find that many Iraqis view that as a red line, a way of turning their country back into an arena of regional combat.

Chicago Council on Global Affairs

American support for US strikes against Syria split along partisan lines

by Dina Smeltz [@RoguePollster](#) and Lily Wojtowicz

9 May 2018

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

On 14 April 2018, the US, the UK and France conducted joint airstrikes against several facilities in Syria believed to be part of the Syrian government's chemical weapons program. This attack was a response to Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's use of chemical weapons in Douma the week before. Immediately after the strikes, US Defense Secretary Mattis warned that Syria would be "ill advised" to employ any future use of chemical weapons. A majority of Americans expressed support for the strikes, though Democrats tended to oppose them. And majorities among both self-described Democrats and Republicans would favour additional strikes if Syria uses chemical weapons again, though they also expect that future strikes would escalate US-Russia tensions.

Brookings Institution

Writing atrocities: Syrian civil society and transitional justice

by Noha Aboueldahab [@NohaAboueldahab](#)

7 May 2018

Link to the article in [English](#) (42 p.) and in [Arabic](#) (36 p.)

Through documentation, Syrian civil society actors are transforming the role of transitional justice in ongoing conflict by reclaiming the centrality of victims in justice processes. This paper argues that in raging conflicts such as in Syria, the documentation of violations should be considered as a mechanism of transitional justice in its own right, rather than merely as a stepping stone toward the implementation of justice measures.

Barcelona Centre for International Affairs

Rusia, Irán y Turquía ¿una estrategia común en Siria?

by Nicolás de Pedro [@nicolasdepedro](#), Irene Martínez [@irene_martinezf](#) and Melike Janine Sökmen [@MelikeJanine](#)

May 2018

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

According to the paper, Russia, Iran and Turkey make up an unexpected, complex and fragile alliance in Syria. Their positions on key issues such as the continuity of Assad, the country's territorial integrity, the role of local and regional actors and the allocation of contracts for the reconstruction either differ or are ambiguous in its alignment.

Why Kirkuk matters: a Kirkuk-centric approach to Iraqi elections and the country's most immediate challenges

by Albert Charara [@AlbertCharara](#)

May 2018

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

The third Iraqi elections since the end of the US occupation were held on 12 May, in a context of slow but progressive recovery of Iraq and its institutions.

European Institute of the Mediterranean

Politics of recognition and denial. Minorities in the MENA region

by Salam Kawakibi [@salamkawakibi](#) (ed.), Paolo Maggolini, Georges Fahmi [@GeorgesFahmi](#) and Said Bennis [@benn_said](#)

May 2018

Link to the article in [English and in French](#) (81 p.)

The manipulation of sectarian divides by state and non-state actors, sectarian violence, persecutions faced by various ethnic and religious groups and threats of partition that now constitute a real scenario, make the question of minorities a key issue for the balance in the MENA region. Diversity management remains a key criterion for assessing the political transitions underway in this region. The approach proposed by this publication is to highlight the political and global dimension of the minority, against the current culturalist and religious interpretations.

The EU-Tunisia privileged partnership. What next?

by Emmanuel Cohen-Hadria [@Cohen_hadria](#) (ed.), Silvia Colombo [@silvius_colombo](#), Kristina Kausch [@kristinakausch](#), Guillaume Van der Loo, Tasnim Abderrahim [@Tasnim_Tn](#), Federica Zardo, Youssef Cherif [@Faiyla](#), Hamza Meddeb [@meddeb_hamza](#) and Elyes Ghanmi

May 2018

Link to the article in [English](#) (134 p.)

This study makes the plea for a significant leap in the relationship that would give an ambitious mid-term horizon to the EU-Tunisia partnership. While doing so, it also follows a realistic approach, fully acknowledging the constraints on both sides.

Preventing violent extremism in Lebanon: experience from a Danish-Lebanese partnership

by Manni Crone [@mannicrone](#) and Khadije Nasser [@KhadijeN](#)

May 2018

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

Considering the vital role of local actors, this paper discusses the challenges and opportunities that were identified in the set-up of a municipality-led prevention network in Lebanon. The local

prevention in Lebanon is inspired by the Danish prevention model, which around 2014 became internationally known as the "Aarhus model".

Institut français des relations internationales

The Gulf monarchies' armed forces at the crossroads

by David B. Roberts

May 2018

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

Something is happening with the military forces of the Arab monarchies in the Gulf. Traditionally, the armed forces of the Gulf monarchies played an incidental role when it comes to securing the states. The ultimate fighting power of the monarchies was relatively unimportant. But, for some monarchies at least, this is changing. Saudi Arabia and the UAE are now deploying their own forces in hitherto unseen kinetic ways, as in Yemen, indicating that they genuinely seek their own fighting power.

EASTERN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

Institute for European studies

The new EU strategy for Central Asia: a case for cultural diplomacy

by Domenico Valenza [@DomenicoValenza](#)

8 May 2018

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

By presenting four possible strategies for future EU engagement, this brief argues that rather than increasing or reducing 'hard' commitments or keeping the same agenda, the new Strategy should enhance EU cultural diplomacy in the region. In line with the increased emphasis on the role of culture in European external action, EU cultural diplomacy should meet local citizenry's aspirations and demands, and give Brussels a comparative advantage over other regional powers.

Forum for research on eastern Europe and emerging economies (FREE Network)

Women entrepreneurs in Belarus: characteristics, barriers and drivers

by Hanna Aginskaya and Maryia Akulava

13 May 2018

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

This brief summarizes the results of the research on aspects of female entrepreneurship in Belarus.

Central Asia-Caucasus Institute and Silk Road Studies Program

Uzbekistan: a new model for reform in the Muslim world?

by S. Frederick Starr and Svante E. Cornell [@SvanteCornell](#)

12 May 2018

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

Dramatic and important changes are taking place in Central Asia. For more than a year the region's historic core and geopolitical focal point has been immersed in a whirlwind of reform without precedent in the region. Uzbekistan has instituted reforms that are ambitious in aim and extensive in scope.

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

Chechnya's status within the Russian Federation - Ramzan Kadyrov's private state and Vladimir Putin's federal "Power Vertical"

by Uwe Halbach

25 May 2018

Link to the article in [English](#) (34 p.) and in [German](#) (32 p.)

In the run-up to the Russian presidential elections on 18 March 2018, the Kremlin further tightened the federal "vertical of power" that Vladimir Putin has developed since 2000. In the North Caucasus, this above all concerns the republic of Dagestan. Moscow intervened with a powerful purge, replacing the entire political leadership. The situation in Chechnya, which has been ruled by Ramzan Kadyrov since 2007, is conspicuously different. From the early 2000s onwards, President Putin conducted a policy of "Chechenisation" there, delegating the fight against the armed revolt to local security forces.

AFRICA

Institute for European studies

Africa in sight: strategizing a renewed EU focus on the continent

by Annamarie Bindenagel Šehović

May 2018

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

This brief introduces key elements of the contemporary strategic context to offer a number of recommendations for a mutually useful re-engagement between the EU and the African Continent.

Centre for International Governance Innovation

Green shoots for the African blue economy?

by Cyrus Rustomjee

May 2018

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

There is an enormous untapped opportunity to develop Africa's maritime, or blue, economy, which in turn will help reduce poverty; create employment, growth and exports; and strengthen food and energy security. However, a number of challenges have held back progress. Recent initiatives by a growing number of African countries, the African Union and multilateral development partners, have made slow but important progress, the author argues.

Instituto Español de Estudios Estratégicos

Drones: ¿La clave para el desarrollo y la seguridad en África?

by Juan A. Mora Tebas

23 May 2018

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

Drones, which were born for military use more than three decades ago, have caused an authentic revolution and will become part of our daily life for the next few years. However, it is in Africa where an exponential development is taking place due to great deficiencies, if not absence, in sectors such as health, agro-alimentary and, of course, security.

El origen de la piratería y los tráficoos marítimos ilegales: la situación en África Occidental y la presencia del crimen organizado

by Paula Iriarte Pestaña

1 May 2018

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

The widespread presence of organized crime activities in certain countries of Western Africa makes it a key region for its study. What factors are behind the origin of organized crime in this area of the African continent? What elements are favouring its development? In order to respond to this problem, this article focuses on the exposure and analysis of the political, economic and social sectors of West Africa, with special emphasis on the main forms of organized crimes detected in the area.

La importancia geoestratégica de Yibuti

by Pablo Sánchez Martín and Blanca Palacián de Inza

9 May 2018

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

There's a lot of distance standing amid France, US, China, Japan and Italy. Nonetheless, in Djibouti this distance is reduced into scarce kilometres: all the before mentioned countries preserves a military base within the African state. Since France first founded its own settlement in the country back in 1977 up until to China's recent establishment of its military base in 2017, each one of them has been able to identify the geostrategic importance of this small country in the Horn of Africa. This paper analyses the present situation in Djibouti and highlights its roll regional and international realm in order to determine potential interests in this lighthouse of the Red Sea.

South African Institute of International Affairs

From promise to practice: South Africa's legal framework for mineral resources and the sustainable development goals

by Hanri Mostert [@HanriMostert](#) and Cheri Young

May 2018

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

In 2015, in sub-Saharan Africa, approximately 634 million people still lacked access to modern energy services. These needs are difficult to comprehend when one considers the statistics on access in developed countries. For example, according to the World Bank, the EU has achieved 100% access to energy. It is crucial that South Africa, which plays a leading role on the African continent, makes every effort to realise the targets set out by the SDGs. This paper assesses the extent to which the legal framework governing mineral resources is capable of facilitating the realisation of two targets within the broader goal of responsible consumption and production.

Overseas Development Institute

Thinking and working politically in Somalia: a case study on the Somalia Stability Fund

by Ed Laws [@EWDLaws](#)

May 2018

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

This paper discusses some of the ways in which Somalia Stability Fund has been able to think and work politically on stabilisation in Somalia. The findings aim to inform discussions around stabilisation programming, and contribute to the wider evidence base on TWP in aid programmes.

Contextualizing the SDGs to leave no one behind in health: a case study from Zimbabwe

by Fortunate Machingura and Susan Nicolai [@susan_nicolai](#)

May 2018

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

This briefing provides an overview of some of the discourse informing contextualisation, problematizes the concept and illustrates one attempt to test an approach through a case study on experience in three of Zimbabwe's rural districts engaging with SDG3 ('Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages'). It explores the extent to which collaborative rationality can contribute to contextualisation, to deliver progress on leaving no one behind, by building understanding between institutions such as the State and local government, businesses, NGOs and communities.

Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (Friedrich Ebert Foundation)

Uma história de sucesso que correu mal? O conflito moçambicano e o processo de paz numa perspetiva histórica

by Colin Darch

May 2018

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

The opinion on the devastating 16 years of armed conflict in Mozambique and the ensuing quarter century of peace has changed substantially over time. The purpose of this article is to analyse the structural roots of the current situation and to identify the key factors of the post-independence history of Mozambique that have contributed and perhaps have determined the ongoing and destabilizing ongoing political-economic crisis.

ASIA-OCEANIA

Center for American Progress

Making sense of the Trump-Kim summit

by Michael Fuchs [@mikehfuchs](#) and Abigail Bard [@prezbardlett](#)

11 May 2018

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

The June 2018 summit in Singapore between US President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un is truly unprecedented: it will be the first time ever that sitting leaders of the two countries will meet. The 70-year history of US-North Korea relations is one of conflict and mistrust: the Korean War, followed by decades of a cold peace interspersed with violent incidents; no formal diplomatic relations; and numerous attempts at talks and agreements to halt North Korean weapons programs, none of which succeeded.

Lowy Institute for International Policy

Trump, Kim and the North Korean nuclear missile melodrama

by Euan Graham [@graham_euan](#)

May 2018

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

The risk of renewed conflict on the Korean Peninsula has seemingly receded, partly owing to the engagement efforts of South Korea's President Moon Jae-in. However, the very existence of a democratic, prosperous South Korea is key to understanding the North Korean regime's insecurity. Pyongyang also sees its nuclear card as a means of decoupling the US from its Asian allies, raising questions about what the Trump–Kim summit can realistically achieve on denuclearisation.

RAND Europe

The Korean Peninsula - Three dangerous scenarios

by Michael J. Mazarr, Gian Gentile, Dan Madden, Stacie L. Pettyjohn and Yvonne K. Crane

21 May 2018

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

This perspective summarizes detailed analytical work on the implications of a large, survivable North Korean nuclear force; the challenges of North Korean artillery that can threaten Seoul from the Kaesong Heights; and the issues attendant to a potential mission to secure loose nuclear weapons after a North Korean collapse. The authors analyse the risks of each contingency on its own as well as how they might interact with one another to create exceptionally dangerous, operationally demanding scenarios.

Progressive Policy Institute

Korea's app economy

by Michael Mandel [@MichaelMandel](#)

May 2018

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

The smartphone era helped power Korea's economic growth over the past decade. Samsung announced its first Android phone in April 2009, eventually becoming the largest smartphone maker globally measured by volume. But the smartphone was about more than hardware. Apple's opening of the App Store in 2008, followed by Android Market (now Google Play) and other app stores, created a way for iOS and Android developers to write mobile applications that could run on smartphones anywhere.

Ulkopoliittinen instituutti (Finnish Institute of International Affairs)

The US-Japan-India-Australia quadrilateral security dialogue: Indo-Pacific alignment or foam in the ocean?

by Sophie Eisentraut and Bart Gaens

21 May 2018

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

This paper first looks into the background of the revamped Quad, examines cooperation among the four members as it has developed since 2008, including at bilateral and trilateral levels, and analyses what each of the players involved aims to achieve through the grouping. The paper then concludes by assessing the future prospects for the forum.

Российский совет по международным делам (Russian International Affairs Council)

Regional security in northeast Asia and the Russia–Japan–U.S. triangle

by Vladimir Nelidov

21 May 2018

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

The three nations of Russia, Japan, and the US face common security challenges in Northeast Asia. The nuclear problem of the Korean Peninsula remains the most pressing among these. Despite the recent positive developments, its long term solution remains far from guaranteed. The task of accommodating the growing China's influence is another challenge to be dealt with by the three powers. The global context of deteriorating relations between Russia, on the one hand, and the US and its Western allies, on the other, further complicates the situation in the region.

S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies

Theocracy vs constitutionalism in Japan: constitutional amendment and the return of pre-war Shinto nationalism

by Naoko Kumada

2 May 2018

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

This paper offers an understanding of the scope, nature, and context of constitutional change being proposed in Japan today, in internal terms rather than through external reconstruction. Rather than being a mere reaction to "external circumstances", as portrayed by its apologists and by "realist/rational-reconstructionist" analysis, the movement to amend and replace the Constitution is a project with a history, underpinned by a worldview and driven by an ideology that provide it with its own momentum.

Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses

India's defence and security priorities

by S. Kalyanaraman

24 May 2018

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

This brief offers an overview of India's long established as well as more recent external defence and security priorities, and delineates the three options available to the Defence Planning Committee (DPC) under the existing economic and geopolitical circumstances.

Brookings Institution

Digital Australia: an economic and trade agenda

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

22 May 2018

Link to the article in [English](#) (89 p.)

The use of digital technologies is a key driver of productivity gains and it will shape the global economy over the next decades. Australia's Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization has identified increased immersion in a digital world characterized by data-driven new business models, platforms, and e-commerce, enabled by global supply chains as one of the global megatrends for the next 20 years. This will require using the global internet and data flows as drivers of innovation and productivity to underpin further decades of economic growth, jobs, and rising living standards.

Instituto Español de Estudios Estratégicos

Tailandia, una espiral de inestabilidad

by Borja Llandres Cuesta

24 May 2018

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

The political history of the Kingdom of Thailand has been characterized in the last decade by a constant instability. If we take as a starting point the Siamese Revolution in 1932 that destroyed the absolute power of King Prajadhipok's monarchy, there has been 11 successful coup d'état counting the last one that took place in 2014 which finished Yingluck Shinawatra's government. The political instability worsened because of two events: the death of the King Rama IX, Bhumibol Adulyadej and the revival of the conflict in southern Thailand due to the activities of the insurgent groups in the provinces of Pattani, Yala and Narathiwat.

Centre for Strategic and International Studies

The current state of terrorism in Indonesia - Vulnerable groups, networks, and responses

by Fitri Bintang Timur [@fitbintim](#), Alif Satria [@alifstria](#), Pricilia Putri Nirmalasari and Rebekha Adriana

21 May 2018

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

The paper aims to provide a portrayal of the current terrorism network in Indonesia after the emergence of ISIS in 2014. It aims to explain the characteristics of demographics vulnerable to radicalization, the key ISIS actors that carry potential threats, and the current state of government counter-terrorism measures. Taking study cases and conclusions from the most recent research on Indonesian terrorism, the paper highlights the importance of what is termed the saturation point, social bonds, and economic incentives as factors that pushes individuals to interact with radical organizations.

International Crisis Group

The long haul ahead for Myanmar's Rohingya refugee crisis

22 May 2018

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

In the last eight months, nearly 700,000 Rohingya have fled indiscriminate and brutal operations by Myanmar's military in northern Rakhine State to Bangladesh, joining tens of thousands who left earlier in 2017, and many more from previous years. The two countries have agreed upon a procedural framework for voluntary repatriation, but no Rohingya have returned and small numbers continue to flee. The burden of the crisis may have shifted to Bangladesh, but the onus of responsibility remains squarely on Myanmar. The world must pursue accountability for crimes committed and press the government to create the conditions for voluntary repatriation.

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

European Union Institute for Security Studies

Dealing with diversity – The EU and Latin America today

by Lorena Ruano [@Lorena_RuanoXD](#)

April 2018

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

This paper examines the relationship between the EU and Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC). It contends that the original assumptions underpinning EU policy towards the region no longer apply, due to the erosion of the liberal consensus, as well as the ongoing obstacles to regional integration in LAC. Highlighting the various shortcomings in this bi-regional relationship, the paper argues that focusing on bilateral relations between the EU and individual countries is the way to move forward today, as it is in this sphere that deeper and more concrete cooperation has been strongest. This is because this level of interaction is best suited to accommodate an increasingly diverse region.

Atlantic Council

Latin America: on target for COP24?

by David L. Goldwyn and Andrea Clabough

10 May 2018

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

As signatories to the Paris Climate Agreement gear up for the upcoming COP24 meetings in Katowice, Poland in December 2018, Latin America has emerged as a global leader in energy modernization and climate change management. This report examines the progress Latin America has made in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and the key challenges that remain. The authors focus on three sub-regions within Latin America, the Southern Cone, Central America, and the Caribbean, and assess the varying levels of progress made by each region toward the goals outlined in countries' respective commitments to reduce emissions.

Instituto Español de Estudios Estratégicos

El ciclo electoral 2017-2019 en América Latina

by Mayumi Yasunaga Kumano

4 May 2018

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

The year 2018 is going to be the halfway point of an electoral cycle that's going to cross Latin America from north to south. The years 2017-2019 are going to witness the unfolding of an electoral cycle that is going to decide the political fate of a wide majority of Latin American nations. From Mexico to Argentina, nearly every country has held or will hold elections. Even if each election will be affected by a particular set of issues in the different countries, the region has a set of problems that are common but on a different degree depending on the country.

International Crisis Group

Mexico's southern border: security, violence and migration in the Trump era

9 May 2018

Link to the article in [English](#) (50 p.) and in [Spanish](#) (53 p.)

The relationship between Mexico and the US is most fraught in the domain where cooperation between the two countries is the closest. At its border with Central America, some 1,500km south of the line where US President Donald Trump wants to build a wall, Mexico effectively acts as an operating arm of US immigration control. It stops hundreds of thousands of Central Americans from travelling north, deporting more of them than the US since 2015, while also granting thousands refugee status.

Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (Friedrich Ebert Foundation)

Venezuela: el ocaso de la revolución

by Edgardo Lander, Fabrice Andreani, Margarita López Maya [@mlopezmaya](#), Manuel Llorens, Leonardo Vera, Anais D. López Caldera, Consuelo Iranzo, Francine Jácome, Francisco Javier Ruiz, Manuel Sutherland and John Magdaleno

May 2018

Link to the article in [Spanish](#) (188 p.)

Beginning with the Bolivarian Revolution initiated by Hugo Chávez with his triumph at the polls in December 1998, Venezuela attracted the attention of Latin America and the world: while, for some, in the "Land of Bolívar" it was a revolution that reconnected the country and the region with the emancipatory projects of the liberators and the unfinished experiences of social change of the twentieth century, for others it was a new emergence of populism, of an anomaly that should be

avoided at all costs in the rest of the Latin American countries. But today's Venezuela is far from those initial enthusiasms and the regional leftists find it increasingly difficult to defend the Bolivarian model.

Fundación Alternativas

Elecciones presidenciales en Colombia: previsiones y desafíos tras la primera vuelta

by Erika Rodríguez Pinzón

29 May 2018

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

On 27 May, presidential elections were held in Colombia. Although there were six candidates the results showed a high polarisation between Iván Duque of Centro Democrático, heir of former President Álvaro Uribe, and Gustavo Petro, former mayor of Bogotá and member of the Movimiento Progresista. Duque received 39% and Petro 25.1%, which allowed them to move on to the second round which took place on 17 June.

Real Instituto Elcano (Elcano Royal Institute)

Análisis comparativo de programas electorales en las pasadas elecciones en Honduras y Costa Rica en relación con la seguridad y la lucha contra el crimen organizado

by Pedro Trujillo Álvarez [@Perico8461](#)

3 May 2018

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

An analysis of the political programmes of the main candidates in the presidential elections in Honduras and Costa Rica shows rare proposals regarding a major concern in the region: organised crime.

Norsk Utenrikspolitisk Institutt (The Norwegian Institute of International Affairs)

Haiti: a political economy analysis

by Wenche Iren Hauge

29 May 2018

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

Since the earthquake in 2010, there has been a heavy presence of international actors in Haiti. Whereas several of these actors put pressure on Haiti to hold elections relatively short time after the disaster, most of the foreign actors, and particularly the US and the EU, showed little concern about fraud and low voter turnout. The elections brought President Michel Martelly to power in 2011 and President Jovenel Moïse to power in 2016, both of them representing the economic elite in Haiti. They invested in agribusiness and special economic zones benefiting the economic elite, but further marginalizing small-scale farmers. These two presidents also succeeded in re-establishing the Haitian Army, an institution with extremely bad reputation in Haiti, due to its past severe human rights violations.

CHINA

ESADEGeo - Center for Global Economy and Geopolitics

Chinese investment trends in Europe

by Ivana Casaburi

May 2018

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

Under the presidency of Donald Trump, the US has taken a step backwards as a leader of nations and a defender of economic and commercial globalization, leaving a large gap on the world's geopolitical chessboard. Doubtlessly, no country is better prepared than China to fill this gap, since it is the second largest economy in the world (or the first in terms of purchasing power parity).

European Institute for Asian Studies

The invisible silk road: enter the digital dragon

by Grzegorz Stec [@grzestec](#)

May 2018

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

Discussions around the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) tend to focus on its tangible aspects; primarily related to physical infrastructure including roads, rail and power plants. However, in addition to the two tangible "Silk Roads" – the Silk Road Economic Belt (land route) and the 21st-Century Maritime Silk Road (sea route), a third "Silk Road" was also proclaimed in 2015. The "Information Silk Road", since rebranded as the Digital Silk Road (DSR), aims to "improve international communications connectivity" and foster the internationalization of China's rapidly growing tech companies.

How China approaches international law: implications for Europe

by Tim Rühlig [@ruehlig](#)

May 2018

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

The author argues that China has a very different legal tradition that does not treat legality as carrying normative value in itself. Instead, China rather adopts a functionalist approach that impacts its approach to law until this day. Reviewing China's rhetorical reference to the law, its recent domestic reforms as well as three cases of Chinese treatment of international legal obligations he substantiates this claim and draw policy recommendations for the EU.

RAND Europe

China and the international order

by Michael J. Mazarr, Timothy R. Heath and Astrid Stuth Cevallos

11 May 2018

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

This report offers four major findings about the relationship of China to the international order.

S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies

Game of institutional balancing: China, the AIIB, and the future of global governance

by Kai He and Huiyun Feng

21 May 2018

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

The establishment of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) has signified a "charm offensive" by China towards multilateral institutions and existing global financial governance. Borrowing insights from institutional balancing theory and role theory in foreign policy analysis, this project introduces a "leadership transition" framework to explain policy dynamics in global governance with the AIIB as a case study. It suggests that China, the US, and other countries have employed different types of institutional balancing strategies, i.e., inclusive institutional balancing, exclusive institutional balancing, and inter-institutional balancing to compete for influence and interest in the process of establishing the AIIB.

Instituto Español de Estudios Estratégicos

Geopolítica en el Indo-Pacífico: el factor militar en la nueva China

by Laura Paíno Peña

18 May 2018

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

The remarkable increase of the Chinese defence budget in the last decade and its unstoppable trade expansion, along with the Chinese occupation of the disputed maritime territories and the creation of new aircraft carriers, illustrate Chinese intention to exercise supremacy over the Indo-Pacific.

RUSSIA

European Council on Foreign Relations

Winning the normative war with Russia an EU-Russia power audit

by Kadri Liik [@KadriLiik](#)

23 May 2018

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

The EU and Russia have become locked in an open battle over the norms of international conduct. This is a clash between liberal universalism and authoritarian statism; the liberal international order and realpolitik.

RAND Europe

The Russian challenge

by David A. Shlapak [@dashlapak](#)

30 April 2018

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

This publication takes into consideration the history of post-Cold War Russia and presents an argument about how to confront potential Russian aggression in the Baltic region, drawing on years of expertise analysing the region and on the results of numerous wargames conducted by RAND. The author articulates that argument by answering a series of questions.

Chatham House - The Royal Institute of International Affairs

Russia's new state armament programme: implications for the Russian armed forces and military capabilities to 2027

by Richard Connolly and Mathieu Boulègue [@MatBouleque](#)

10 May 2018

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

In this paper, the authors consider the main objectives of new state armament programme (GPV 2027) and examine whether Russia's financial and defence-industrial capabilities are sufficient to meet them. They then consider how the Russian armed forces are likely to be equipped by the mid-2020s, should the main objectives of GPV 2027 be achieved. Although the programme itself is classified, enough details have entered the public domain, for instance, through statements by officials, news reports, federal budgets and draft budgets for educated inferences to be made as to its broad contours, likely priorities and strategic direction. Such assessments are the basis of this paper.

Fundación Alternativas

Putin: nuevo mandato y su impacto para la política exterior de Rusia

by Javier Morales Hernández

14 May 2018

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

On 7 May 2018, Vladimir Putin has officially started his fourth term as President of the Russian Federation, after a victory with 76.69% of the votes in the elections on 18 March.

Center for Strategic and International Studies

Who's afraid of Russian gas? Bridging the transatlantic divide

by Nikos Tsafos [@ntsafos](#)

3 May 2018

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

It is time to separate Russian gas from the broader Russia agenda. Doing so will boost energy security, protect and strengthen the transatlantic alliance, and allow us to focus where the West can resist Russian power more meaningfully. This argument rests on three propositions. First, that energy does not give Russia as much power as we usually assume; second, that an antagonistic strategy is unlikely to be sustained or succeed in bringing about change, whether in energy or geopolitics; and third, that the best response to Russian gas is a set of policies that Europe should pursue anyway and that are unrelated to Russia.

Evropské hodnoty (European Values)

Legitimization of the Russian Federation regime by the members of Parliament of the Czech Republic

by Markéta Krejčí

20 May 2018

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

The author claims that Czech deputies and senators regularly travel to Eastern Ukraine and Crimea, the regions that are suffering from the conflict with Pro-Russian separatists. When an invitation comes, they don't hesitate to travel to the Russian Federation (RF) as well, especially when extraordinary events occur in the RF such as the celebration of the end of the so-called Great Patriotic War or in other occasions with the purpose to strengthen mutual relations.

Institut français des relations internationales

Russia's Afghan policy in the regional and Russia-West contexts

by Ekaterina Stepanova

May 2018

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

This report seeks to explain the main trends in Russia's evolving Afghanistan policy, with the focus on its regionalization, diversification, and new emphasis on diplomacy that culminated in Moscow regional peace consultations. It argues that none of Russia's - Afghanistan related concerns can be alleviated as long as the armed conflict there continues in full force. This makes Moscow genuinely interested in stabilization.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments

Credibility matters - Strengthening American deterrence in an age of geopolitical turmoil

by Hal Brands, Eric Edelman and Thomas G. Mahnken

8 May 2018

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

This report outlines a multi-pronged agenda for shoring up the credibility on which so much of US foreign policy and the international order depends.

Atlantic Council

Making America first in the digital economy: the case for engaging Europe

by Frances Burwell

8 May 2018

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

In an age of transatlantic tensions over the Iran deal, trade balances, and steel tariffs, digital policy is uniquely poised to offer opportunities for greater US-EU cooperation. At the same time, the digital arena also has the potential to be a policy minefield, with issues such as privacy, digital taxation, and competition policy still unresolved. This report addresses these challenges and explores how the US-EU digital agenda fits in the larger transatlantic relationship.

Secondary economic sanctions: effective policy or risky business?

by John J. Forrer

21 May 2018

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

Economic sanctions have proven to be an important foreign policy tool for the Trump Administration. In less than a year, it has expanded existing economic sanctions in response to disputes with North Korea, Russia, Cuba, Iran, and Venezuela. This type of sanction is adopted in addition to the "primary sanctions" imposed on a sanctioned individual or entity. The author adds that globalization has lessened many countries' vulnerability to traditional sanctions, and poses severe challenges to designing and implementing economic sanctions.

Centre for International Governance Innovation

Might unmakes right - The American assault on the rule of law in world trade

by James Bacchus

May 2018

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

Through the rule of law, right becomes might. Long a champion of the international rule of law, the US, under the leadership of President Donald Trump, has now embraced the belief that might makes right, and is using its might to unmake right by assaulting the rule of law in world trade. Trump, and those who serve him, are taking illegal, unilateral actions and pursuing other trade policies that circumvent and threaten to undermine the rules-based world trading system, argues the author. They are also engaged in a stealth war against the continued rule of law in the World Trade Organization (WTO) dispute settlement system through intimidation of those who serve at the apex of the system: the judges on the WTO Appellate Body.

Centre for European Reform

Has the last Trump sounded for the transatlantic partnership?

by Ian Bond [@CER_IanBond](#)

4 May 2018

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

The inauguration of Donald Trump as US president in January 2017 felt like the end of an era to many people on both sides of the Atlantic. That era had begun in 1945 with the end of World War II. America did not then retreat from the world, as it had done after World War I. Instead, it stayed to build institutions to buttress peace and prosperity (and often, though not always, democracy) in Europe and beyond. Not all post-war US presidents were convinced internationalists, but all believed in the importance of this network of institutions in protecting America's interests.

Center for American Progress / American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research

Drivers of authoritarian populism in the United States - A primer

by Dalibor Rohac [@DaliborRohac](#), Liz Kennedy [@LizKennedy](#) and Vikram Singh [@VJS_Policy](#)

May 2018

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

This report looks at the political, economic, cultural, and racial factors driving authoritarian populism in the US. It also provides recommendations to face this challenge moving forward. The report draws on conversations which were held at an October 2017 workshop convened by the Center for American Progress and the American Enterprise Institute under the auspices of our joint project "Defending Democracy and Underwriting the Transatlantic Partnership."

Center for American Progress

Blue future: mapping opportunities for US-China ocean cooperation

by Melanie Hart, Michael Conathan [@Conathan](#), Blaine Johnson and Shiva Polefka [@sjp078](#)

May 2018

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

The US and China share a deep common interest in ocean protection. The world's ocean and coastal resources are currently under threat from overfishing, pollution, and unchecked resource extraction. Global ocean health is declining rapidly and has already reached crisis levels. As the largest ocean stakeholders—with unparalleled dependence on seaborne trade, the economic vitality of coastal cities, and the production and consumption of living marine resources—the US

and China face new, increasing economic and security risks from the degradation of global ocean health.

Real Instituto Elcano (Elcano Royal Institute)

La retirada unilateral de EEUU del acuerdo nuclear con Irán: repercusiones inmediatas

by Félix Arteaga

11 May 2018

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

This paper does not intend to assess the impact of measures that will be taken in the coming months. Its objective is to identify the areas of uncertainty that are opened after the unilateral decision by the US.

Un desafío para Donald Trump: la seguridad hemisférica en crisis y el futuro de la guerra al narcotráfico

by Raúl Benítez Manaut [@benitez_manaut](#)

25 May 2018

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

This document analyses the security policy of President Donald Trump to Latin America, in particular linked to the war on drug trafficking.

Chicago Council on Global Affairs / University of Texas

Glasnost for US intelligence: will transparency lead to increased public trust?

by Stephen Slick and Joshua Busby [@busbyj2](#)

24 May 2018

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

A polling project launched last summer by the University of Texas aims to shed light on Americans' perception of intelligence agencies, and to test the claim that efforts by these agencies to be more open will enhance their democratic legitimacy. While Americans generally consider the work of the intelligence community (IC) effective, few understand the institutional framework for supervising and overseeing this part of our government – despite more than a decade of vigorous public debate over controversial intelligence programs.

Instituto Español de Estudios Estratégicos

Revisión de la postura nuclear de Estados Unidos. ¿Hacia una nueva carrera armamentística?

by José Manuel Piñero Álvarez

3 May 2018

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

The 2018 Nuclear Posture Review (NPR) has generated some controversy. Many analysts consider that it can mean the beginning of a new arms race in an international scenario that brings back the competition between superpowers and in which the US considers the possibility of using atomic weapons to respond against a non-nuclear strategic attack. This document analyses the main aspects of this review, from the introduction of a new low-yield nuclear weapon to the modernization of the offensive triad, in order to determine if the NPR put at risk the advances of these last 40 years in nuclear arms control.

Pew Research Center

Public supports U.S. talks with North Korea; many doubt whether its leaders are 'serious'

10 May 2018

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

Americans overwhelmingly support direct talks between the US and North Korea over its nuclear program. About seven-in-ten (71%) approve of these talks, while just 21% disapprove. However, the public is sceptical about whether North Korea's leaders are serious about addressing concerns over its nuclear program.

Majorities see government efforts to protect the environment as insufficient

by Cary Funk [@surveyfunk](#), Brian Kennedy [@briantkennedy](#), Meg Hefferon and Mark Strauss [@MarkDStrauss](#)

May 2018

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

Majorities of Americans say the federal government is doing too little to protect key aspects of the environment including water (69%) and air quality (64%). And two-thirds of Americans (67%) say the government is doing too little to reduce the effects of climate change. These findings come after a year of change in climate and energy regulatory policies under the Trump administration.

Trump viewed less negatively on issues, but most Americans are critical of his conduct

3 May 2018

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

A majority of Americans find little or no common ground with Donald Trump on issues, but the share who say they agree with him on many or all issues has risen since last August. The public's assessment of Trump's conduct as president is little changed over the past nine months, with 54% saying they don't like the way he conducts himself as president.

SPECIAL FOCUS - MULTIANNUAL FINANCIAL FRAMEWORK (2021 - 2027)

European Parliamentary Think Tank

Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-2027: Commission proposal - Initial comparison with the current MFF

by Alina Dobрева

May 2018

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

On 2 May, the Commission presented its [proposal for the Multiannual Financial Framework for the 2021-2027 period](#) (2021-2027 MFF). The Commission proposes that the 2021-2027 MFF (commitment appropriations) amounts to 1.11% of EU GNI in 2018 prices. The previous MFF amounted to 1.03% of EU GNI. However, this comparison does not take account of the various changes in programmes proposed or the impact of Brexit. The number of headings grows from the 2014-2020 MFF to 2021-2027 MFF, from five to seven, and some programmes change place from one heading to another. Regarding the structure of the 2021- 2027 MFF, the Commission proposals have the ambition to align the budget closer to the political priorities, to simplify the structure of the EU budget and to increase the flexibility within and between programmes.

Institut der deutschen Wirtschaft Köln (Cologne Institute for Economic Research)

On the future of the European Union - Normative derivation and restructuring potential in the new Multiannual Financial Framework

by Berthold Busch and Jürgen Matthes

30 May 2018

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

New threats to internal and external security in Europe require a stronger EU. In addition, Brexit is tearing a gap in the EU finances. This reform pressure needs to be used in the discussion on the next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) 2021-2027 to reorganize priorities in the EU budget. To this end, the European Commission has put forward various options that are normatively assessed with two evaluation standards in this paper.

Jacques Delors Institute - Berlin / Bertelsmann Stiftung

The MFF proposal: What's new, what's old, what's next?

by Eulalia Rubio [@eulaliarubio](#), Jörg Haas [@jorg_haas](#) and Pola Schneemelcher [@pola_schnee](#)

21 May 2018

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

Early May 2018, the European Commission published its proposal for the next Multiannual Financial Framework, covering the period 2021-2027. What the Commission labels a "modern budget that protects, empowers and defends" marks the start of a crucial political battle over the EU's policy priorities after Brexit. The authors take a closer look at the proposal. They analyse the Commission's efforts to rebalance the budget and outline possible dynamics in the negotiations ahead.

Österreichische Gesellschaft für Europapolitik (Austrian Society for European Politics)

Das EU-Budget 2021 bis 2027 – Optionen für eine Stärkung des europäischen Mehrwerts

by Margit Schratzenstaller

9 May 2018

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

According to the European Commission's proposal for the EU budget 2021-2027, the expenditure shares for agricultural and cohesion policy are to fall, those for research and innovation, development cooperation and a common asylum policy are to increase.

European Policy Centre

The next EU budget: firmly rooted in the past?

by Annika Hedberg [@AnnikaAhtonen](#)

7 May 2018

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

On 2 May, the European Commission presented its proposal for the next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) for the period 2021-27. This kicked off a lengthy and complex negotiation process. Throughout 2018 and 2019, probably even beyond, we can expect a discussion on the highest political level, involving the European Parliament and the Member States, about the priorities and direction for the EU. As before, this will likely turn into horse-trading whereby competing interests are translated into actual figures at the cost of the agreed grand objectives.

Centre for European Policy Studies

The Multiannual Financial Framework, where continuity is the radical response

by Jorge Núñez Ferrer [@jnunez_ferrer](#) and Daniel Gros [@DanielGrosCEPS](#)

4 May 2018

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

According to the authors, the Commission's proposal for the EU budget period 2021-2027 offers an old-fashioned budget in an old-fashioned presentation. In a long-awaited speech, Commissioner Günther Öttinger presented the EU Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-2027 (MFF) to the European Parliament on 2 May, reciting the challenges ahead and calling for a "modern budget for a Union that protects, empowers and defends".

Should the EU budget have a stabilisation function?

by Jorge Núñez Ferrer [@jnunez_ferrer](#) and Cinzia Alcidi [@AlcidiCinzia](#)

30 May 2018

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

Despite its sharper focus on long-term growth, the EU budget is still not designed to fulfil a stabilization function. More can be done, according to the authors. Developed mainly as a sectoral support for agriculture and an investment tool at EU and regional level, the EU budget combines a rigid structure with a limited capacity. This makes it unfit to respond promptly and adequately to economic shocks or implement measures to counteract business cycle fluctuations.

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

Hungarian interests in the debate on the future of the cohesion policy

by Sándor Gyula Nagy and Gábor Ferenc Kiss

17 May 2018

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

The paper aims to highlight the main points of the European Commission's proposal on the Multiannual Financial Framework for 2021–2027 focusing especially on the cohesion policy and including the national interest of Hungary in the coming debate about the proposal. The paper starts with a short summary of the economic and social effects of the European Structural and Investment Funds in Hungary. Then it points out the novelties and changes for the cohesion policy proposed by the Commission's recent communication. Finally, in the conclusions it formulates recommendations for policy makers for the upcoming EU-level debate.

MISCELLANEOUS

Demos

At home in one's past: nostalgia as a Cultural and Political Force in Britain, France and Germany

by Sophie Gaston [@sophgaston](#) and Sacha Hilhorst

30 May 2018

Link to the article in [English](#) (341 p.)

An appeal to a glorious past has been a prominent feature of European politics in recent years. While there are common elements to the nostalgic discourses seen across European politics, nostalgic narratives are clearly heavily mediated and contextualised by a nation's esoteric cultural and historical background. This report sets out the findings of this qualitative and quantitative research into nostalgia in contemporary Great Britain, France and Germany – three leading European nations in which the past feels ever-present.

Leuven Center for Global governance studies

Governing as commons or as global public goods: an analysis of normative discourses

by Christiaan Boonen, Nicolás Brando, Samuel Cogolati, Rutger Hagen, Nils Vanstappen and Jan Wouters

May 2018

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

Commons and global public goods have become essential concepts in the current debate on governance. Many scholars still refer to their use in rational-choice theory, where these concepts relate to the classification of goods based on the objective criteria of (non-)excludability and (non-)rivalry. Rational-choice theorists argue that this classification can determine the best method of governing these goods. Thus, commons would require privatisation of the common resources or public regulation of their use, while for (global) public goods public provision alone is deemed appropriate.

Pew Research Center

Teens, social media & technology 2018

by Monica Anderson [@MonicaRAnders](#) and Jingjing Jiang

31 May 2018

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

YouTube, Instagram and Snapchat are the most popular online platforms among teens. Fully 95% of teens have access to a smartphone, and 45% say they are online 'almost constantly'.

Being Christian in Western Europe

by Neha Sahgal [@SahgalN](#), Alan Cooperman, Scott Gardner, Ariana Monique Salazar, Jonathan Evans, Kelsey Jo Starr [@IAmStarrStuff](#), Patrick Moynihan, Danielle Cuddington [@dkcuddington](#), Martha McRoy and Courtney Nelson

29 May 2018

Link to the article in [English](#) (168 p.)

The majority of Europe's Christians are non-practicing, but they differ from religiously unaffiliated people in their views on God, attitudes toward Muslims and immigrants, and opinions about religion's role in society

Fraser Institute

Increasing the minimum wage in British Columbia: a flawed anti-poverty policy

by Charles Lammam and Hugh MacIntyre

29 May 2018

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

This publication evaluates increasing the minimum wage as a strategy for alleviating poverty in British Columbia. It is divided into four sections: the first discusses the evolution of British Columbia's minimum wage since 2002; the second discusses the characteristics of minimum wage earners in British Columbia; the third briefly discusses the unintended economic consequences of raising the minimum wage. The final section points to an alternative policy option that more directly targets benefits to the working poor without causing the same negative economic consequences.
