



Council of the EU  
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# THINK TANK REVIEW

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Dear Readers,

The 66th Think Tank Review\* covers articles and reports published in March relating to a variety of political and policy topics. ([click to share on Twitter](#))

Under **EU politics and institutions**, articles examine the upcoming EP elections through the lens of polarisation and discuss what is at stake in these elections for the future of Europe. Enlargement of the Union and the related challenges in terms of constitutional reforms are also analysed.

The **ECOFIN** section includes reports which make the case for a wider internationalisation of the European currency by analysing the links between the euro and geopolitics, and examine how the hidden erosion of EU government balance sheets could pose a financial threat to society.

Topics covered under **Competitiveness** include Europe's quest for a new industrial and competition policy, and how to find a new balance between openness and protection in EU industrial policy.

In the **Justice and Home Affairs** section, publications discuss the displacement dilemma facing the EU in helping Syrian refugees return home, how a more active role for municipalities could help to overcome the impasse in the EU's refugee and asylum policy, and the prospects for the use of cyber-diplomacy tools by the EU in response to cyberattacks.

This month's **Brexit** articles discuss whether the impact of Brexit will see Britain lose the most, a new proposal for amending the political declaration on Britain's future in the EU, the economic impact of Brexit on European countries and regions, and Great Britain and the EU beyond Brexit.

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The next Think Tank Review will be out in May with papers published in April 2019.

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## SECTION 1 - EU POLITICS AND INSTITUTIONS

### NOTRE EUROPE - JACQUES DELORS INSTITUTE

#### [Est-Ouest: réalité et relativité d'un clivage](#)

by Jacques Rupnik

*Thirty years after the end of the Cold war and the division of the continent, are we seeing the return of an East-West divide in Europe? Fifteen years after the enlargement of the EU to the countries of Central-Eastern Europe, are we talking about simple political differences or a split between "old" and "new" members of the EU on issues as fundamental as democracy and the rule of law, the rise of nationalism and sovereignty? In Western Europe, this is seen as a threat to the European project. In the East, they claim to be treated as second-class members of the Union and criticize the "double-standard" and interference from Brussels compared to the tutelage of Moscow in the past. (FR - 12 p.)*

### NOTRE EUROPE - JACQUES DELORS INSTITUTE

#### [Destinée européenne partagée, attitudes contrastées : l'opinion publique et l'UE en Estonie, Lettonie et Lituanie](#)

by Daniel Debomy

*Independent of Russia since the break-up of the USSR, the three Baltic states have been members of the EU for 15 years. A full membership. The three countries have adopted the euro. They participate in the Schengen area. They are also members of NATO. What is the state of their public opinion about the EU and what developments have they seen since accession? (FR - 14 p.)*

### CENTRE FOR EUROPEAN POLICY STUDIES

#### [Institutional rebalancing: the 'political' Commission](#)

by Sophia Russack

*This paper finds that the "political" Commission is not a new concept but instead a gradual development since the post-Maastricht era, which aimed to make the Commission less technocratic and more democratic; whereby "political" entailed increased accountability to the EP. The paper furthermore identifies the prioritisation of policies and the application of an internal top-down approach as the crucial "political" elements in Juncker's Commission. It finds that – in times of growing importance of intergovernmental decision-making and the (European) Council as a central decision-maker – this is not fertile ground for the concept of a "political" Commission and the federal vision of EU democracy that it carries. (11 p.)*

### SVENSKA INSTITUTET FÖR EUROPAPOLITISKA STUDIER (SWEDISH INSTITUTE FOR EUROPEAN POLICY STUDIES)

#### [The Franco-German dialogue on the future of the EU](#)

by Katarina Engberg

*The reconciliation of France and Germany has been central to European integration. Today, the two countries are seeking to strengthen the EU in a new context of external and internal pressures. This analysis accounts for the Franco-German dialogue on central EU issues: external affairs,*

*security and defence policies as well as economic matters. It provides a broad picture of both differences and possible agreements. (21 p.)*

## **CENTRE FOR EUROPEAN POLICY STUDIES**

### **Finance for sustainable growth**

by Willem Pieter De Groen

*Ahead of the 2019 institutional reconfiguration of the EU, this report takes stock of the European integration process and recommended which priorities should define the strategic agenda of the next generation of incumbents in a report addressed to the one actor that has a more direct role in fleshing out the policy agenda for Europe: the European Commission. (8 p.)*

## **EGMONT – ROYAL INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

### **Supranational democracy adrift? The 2019 elections and the future of Europe**

by Louise Hoon  [@LouiseHoon](https://twitter.com/LouiseHoon)

*In May 2019, European citizens will elect a new European Parliament. This paper discusses what is at stake in these elections, and how they are likely to affect the EU's search for a new direction in a context of crises, divisions and euroscepticism. The paper identifies three important developments: polarization on European integration, the erosion of ideational convergence at the elite level and a shared desire to 'deliver', to get citizens back on board. These factors pose constraints to supranationalism and to the EP. (26 p.)*

## **BERTELSMANN STIFTUNG**

### **The hopeful, the fearful and the furious. Polarization and the 2019 European parliamentary elections**

by Catherine E. de Vries and Isabell Hoffmann

*This report aims to analyse the possible outcomes of the 2019 EP elections – specifically using the lens of polarisation. While polarisation is often viewed in ideological terms, that is to say between the political left and right, it can more broadly be seen as an indication of major divides within society. The division highlighted in this report is one between people who are hopeful about the state of their society and their own economic position, and those who are anxious about society and their own economic standing. The dividing line between the hopeful and the anxious is important in light of the 2019 EP election, because it coincides with very different views and preferences with regard to European politics and political parties. (64 p.)*

## **NOTRE EUROPE - JACQUES DELORS INSTITUTE**

### **Appartenance assumée, adhésion réservée : évolution des opinions publiques sur l'Union européenne – de la crise à nos jours**

by Daniel Debomy

*A few months before the election of the next EP and the renewal of the Commission, this paper examines the state of public opinion in the member states vis-à-vis the EU. It traces the evolutions recorded since early 2007, before the outbreak of the financial and economic crisis. (FR - 8 p.)*

## EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT THINK TANK

### Constitutional challenges of the enlargement: is further enlargement feasible without constitutional changes?

by Bruno De Witte


*This in-depth analysis recalls the earlier debates linking the enlargement of the Union with the need to adapt its constitutional framework, and discusses whether further constitutional reforms, involving Treaty change or not, are necessary when a further enlargement of the Union will take place in the near future. It focuses on three main themes: the Union's decision-making capacity; forms of differentiated integration; and the question of how to ensure respect by all member states for the Union's fundamental values. (33 p.)*

## SECTION 2 - EU POLICIES

### AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES

## EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT THINK TANK

### Farming without plant protection products: can we grow without using herbicides, fungicides and insecticides?

by Wannes Keulemans ; Dany Bylemans ; Barbara De Coninck  [@BarbaraConinck](https://twitter.com/BarbaraConinck)

*Plant protection products (PPPs) are often perceived by citizens as very harmful for human health and for the environment. The tendency in EU policy is to stimulate reduction in use of PPPs. Can we maintain high yield while using less PPPs? This document presents the current state-of-the-art regarding the role of PPPs in securing global food production, preserving biodiversity and supporting farmers' income. The role various stakeholders play in the current perception of risk by the general public is explored, and the paper comments on promising alternatives, and more sustainable strategies to further reduce PPP use. (44 p.)*

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

## EUROPEAN POLITICAL STRATEGY CENTRE

### EU industrial policy after Siemens-Alstom: finding a new balance between openness and protection

*The ongoing technological revolution and China's rise have sparked fears that Europe's industry risks falling behind, and that its unmatched openness is being used against its strategic interests. Amid calls for a more ambitious and strategic EU industrial policy, this paper explores a possible new balance between openness and protection as part of a joined-up strategy to create a more level global playing field, while shoring up industrial innovation and productivity at home. (20 p.)*

## EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ECONOMY

### Standing up for competition: market concentration, regulation, and Europe's quest for a new industrial policy

by Oscar Guinea  [@osguinea](https://twitter.com/osguinea) and Fredrik Erixon  [@FredrikErixon](https://twitter.com/FredrikErixon)

*After the failed merger of Alstom and Siemens – the two giants of Europe's railway manufacturing sector – the French and the German governments presented a manifesto with a set of radical proposals designed to reshape EU industrial and competition policy. One of the Franco-German suggestions would empower the European Council to veto Commission's decisions on competition policy. Somehow weakening EU competition policy, the manifesto claims, will strengthen Europe's competitiveness. Measures to promote market competition in Europe should be at the front and*

centre of any future industrial policy. Unfortunately, the evidence shows that market competition in Europe is not rising but declining. (24 p.)

## **ROBERT SCHUMAN CENTRE FOR ADVANCED STUDIES - EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY INSTITUTE**

### **Effect of public procurement regulation on competition and cost-effectiveness**

by Bedri Kamil Onur Tas

*This paper empirically investigates the impact of public procurement regulation quality on competition and cost-effectiveness. The author employs the World Bank's benchmarking public procurement quality scores. Using extensive data about public procurement in the European Economic Area, Switzerland, and Macedonia, the paper exhibits positive effects of improved regulation quality. Improved regulation quality significantly increases the number of bidders and the probability that procurement price is lower than estimated cost. (28 p.)*

## **ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS**

## **CEPII - CENTRE D'ÉTUDES PROSPECTIVES ET D'INFORMATIONS INTERNATIONALES**


### **Heterogeneity within the euro area: new insights into an old story**

by Virginie Coudert  [@Virginiecoudert1](#), Cécile Couharde, Carl Grekou (et al.)

*This study assesses cross-country heterogeneity within the euro zone and its evolution over time by measuring the distances between the equilibrium exchange rates' paths of member countries. Using cluster and factor analyses, the authors identify two distinct groups of countries in the run-up to the EMU, Greece being clearly an outlier at that time. Overall, the findings illustrate the building-up of macroeconomic imbalances within the euro zone before the 2008 crisis and the fragmentation between its member countries that followed. (44 p.)*

## **CEPII - CENTRE D'ÉTUDES PROSPECTIVES ET D'INFORMATIONS INTERNATIONALES**

### **The design of a sovereign debt restructuring mechanism for the euro area: choices and trade-offs**

by Christophe Destais  [@DestaisC](#), Frederik Eidam and Friedrich Heinemann

*This paper critically assesses several dimensions of a sovereign debt restructuring mechanism (SDRM) for the euro area. This analysis abstains from recommending one ideal model for a restructuring mechanism. Instead, it applies a menu-type approach. For five key institutional SDRM dimensions, it discusses the underlying fundamental trade-offs and the pros and cons of different design choices. It concludes that there is no such thing as the single optimal SDRM. The analysis implies that there is no convincing reason to further taboo the search for a mechanism of that kind in the euro area, as there are ways to combine the opportunities of a credible SDRM with financial stability. (16 p.)*

## **INSTITUT FÜR WELTWIRTSCHAFT KIEL (KIEL INSTITUTE FOR THE WORLD ECONOMY)**

### **Revisiting the euro's trade cost and welfare effects**

by Gabriel Felbermayr and Marina Steininger

*When the euro was created, about twenty years ago, one objective was to facilitate intra-European trade by reducing transaction costs. Has the euro delivered? Using sectoral trade data from 1995*



to 2014, the authors conduct an ex post evaluation of the EMU. They find a significant average trade effect for goods of almost 8 percent, but a much smaller effect for services trade. They detect substantial heterogeneity between sectors, as well as between and within country-pairs. Singling out Germany, they find that EMU has increased real incomes in all EMU countries, albeit at different rates. Incomes have increased by 0.3, 0.6, and 2.1 percent in Italy, Germany, and Luxembourg, respectively. (30 p.)

## FONDATION ROBERT SCHUMAN

### [For a geopolitics of the euro](#)

by Cyprien Batut and Olivier Lenoir  [@LenoirOlivier](#)

*The euro is a world currency. It is the official currency of 19 European states, and according to the June 2018 report by the ECB on the international role of the euro, it is by far, ahead of the pound, the yen and the renminbi, the world's second most important currency. With this article the authors are making a case for a wider internationalisation of the European currency by analysing the existing links among the euro and geopolitics. (10 p.)*

## CASE - CENTRUM ANALIZ SPOŁECZNO-EKONOMICZNYCH (CENTER FOR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC RESEARCH)

### [The Economic and Monetary Union: past, present and future](#)

by Marek Dabrowski

*Twenty years of euro history confirms the euro's stability and position as the second global currency. It also enjoys the support of majority of the euro area population and is seen as a good thing for the EU. The European Central Bank has been successful in keeping inflation at a low level. However, the European debt and financial crisis in the 2010s created a need for deep institutional reform and this task remains unfinished. (47 p.)*

## EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT THINK TANK

### [The next SSM term: supervisory challenges ahead](#)

by Brunella Bruno and Elena Carletti

*Compared to the pre-single supervisory mechanism period, the European banking system today appears healthier and sounder. Capital ratios and asset quality have steadily improved. Capital ratios have become not only higher but also more comparable and reliable. Taking stock of these positive outcomes, the challenges for supervision in the future is to be able to foster financial integration and reconcile harmonisation with greater consideration of bank and country specificities. (24 p.)*

## EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT THINK TANK

### [Stock take of the Single Resolution Board's activities over the past years: what to improve and focus on?](#)

by Rosa María Lastra, Costanza A. Russo and Marco Bodellini

*This paper discusses from a legal perspective how, over the past years, the single resolution board has performed against the main goals it was supposed to accomplish, in light of the decisions taken so far (looking backwards) and points to some of the challenges ahead (looking forward). The ongoing work of the single supervisory mechanism and the single resolution mechanism and the development of Banking Union need to continue to address the "fault lines" in their design and provide for a better alignment of the triggers for resolution and liquidation and greater transparency on the outcome of resolution planning. (39 p.)*



## **CENTRE FOR EUROPEAN POLICY STUDIES**

### **Beyond public debt. The hidden rapid erosion of EU government balance sheets is a financial threat to society - how to stop it**

by Jorge Núñez Ferrer and Roberto Musmeci

*The absence in several EU member states of a culture promoting responsible public financial management has led to excessive public indebtedness, which negatively affects today's economy and weighs heavily on the shoulders of future generations. Against this background, this paper argues that the introduction of modern public financial management systems can contribute to coupling economic growth with responsible fiscal policy. The tools exist and can provide the essential elements for stability and growth for member states and the EU as a whole. (47 p.)*

## **JACQUES DELORS INSTITUTE - BERLIN/ BERTELSMANN STIFTUNG**

### **Users, data, networks. Taxing the digital economy**

by Pola Schneemelcher and Paul-Jasper Dittrich

*The fair taxation of digital companies has been high on the European policy agenda since last year. One of the central problems of the issue is that the current rules on the taxation of companies in the EU are not taking due account of digital value creation. This paper analyses this problem and makes a proposal on the taxation of digital value creation in the Single Market. At the heart of the proposal are clear criteria and principles for the assessment of digital value added in company taxation that should apply EU-wide. (15 p.)*

## **CENTRE FOR EUROPEAN POLICY STUDIES**

### **Price rules in consumer credit: should the EU act?**

by Sylvain Bouyon

*Price rules are enacted to prevent some sub-prime lenders from wrongly exploiting the price-insensitivity of a significant share of sub-prime borrowers. High diversity across countries can be observed in both the type of rules adopted (combining direct and indirect price caps) and their degree of tightness. EU harmonisation in price rules could be justified by the need for a better level-playing field; however, given the diversity in price rules, in the degree of tightness of these rules and in the structure of sub-prime markets, it could also trigger significant negative effects. (46 p.)*

## **EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT POLICY MANAGEMENT**

### **Migration and the next EU long-term budget: key choices for external action**

by Anna Knoll and Pauline Veron

*The rising number of asylum seekers and irregular migrants since 2015 has clearly influenced the EC proposal for the 2021-2027 budget. This paper explores the various positions and issues at stake in the ongoing negotiations and provides an overview of the options and risks linked to the different possible decisions. The current Commission proposal broadens the possibilities for external action in some of the DG Home-administered funds while increasing funds and mainstreaming migration in the external instruments. Yet, with migration being a long-term challenge, it will be essential for the EU to strike the right balance between long-term strategic focus of EU funds and a budget that is flexible in crisis situations and can pursue the EU's political priorities. (31. p)*

**BRUEGEL**

**[How to make crowdfunding work in Europe](#)**

by Dmitry Chervyakov and Jörg Rocholl

*Crowdfunding markets around the world have experienced significant growth rates in recent years, but many questions remain open on their proper design, implementation and feasibility. The authors here analyse the Commission proposal for the EU-wide development of crowdfunding markets, address its shortcomings, and provide policy recommendations. (15 p.)*

**INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR DEMOCRACY AND ELECTORAL ASSISTANCE**

**[Cryptocurrencies and political finance](#)**

by Catalina Uribe Burcher  [@catasur](#)

*This discussion paper presents some of the basic notions behind cryptocurrencies and their regulation, especially targeting their use in the financing of political parties and election campaigns. The author pays special attention to how cryptocurrencies can allow foreign contributions and anonymous donations to enter politics unnoticed, while analysing their capacity to improve political finance reporting, disclosure and oversight. (34 p.)*

**CENTER FOR TRANSATLANTIC RELATIONS**

**[Transatlantic economy 2019](#)**

by Daniel S. Hamilton and Joseph P. Quinlan

*The Transatlantic economy 2019 provides key insights about the US and Europe in the global economy. It explains: what trade spats and Brexit mean for the transatlantic economy; how US-European commercial relations compare with those each has with China and other rising powers; how the digital economy is powering economic relations, and how decision-makers and business leaders can address current opportunities and challenges. (171 p.)*

**INSTITUT FÜR WELTWIRTSCHAFT KIEL (KIEL INSTITUTE FOR THE WORLD ECONOMY)**

**[Global financial cycles since 1880](#)**

by Galina Potjagailo and Maik H. Wolters

*The authors analyse cyclical co-movement in credit, house prices, equity prices, and long-term interest rates across 17 advanced economies. They analyse the dynamics of co-movement at different levels of aggregation and compare recent developments to earlier episodes such as the early era of financial globalization from 1880 to 1913 and the Great Depression. They find that joint global dynamics across various financial quantities and prices as well as variable-specific global co-movements are important to explain fluctuations in the data. (44 p.)*

**FONDATION ROBERT SCHUMAN**

**[Gender equality in Europe: what progress in 2019?](#)**

by Pascale Joannin [@PJoannin](#) and Ramona Bloj

*The progress achieved to guarantee gender equality has moved forward positively over the last few years in the EU. Europe is the continent that provides the best living conditions for women. Although the situation is better in Europe than elsewhere in the world, true gender parity has still not been achieved. There are some recent examples of setbacks and even regression in terms of the women's cause in certain member states. The renewal of Europe's institutions in 2019 is therefore an opportunity to take the fulfilment of the principles included in the European treaties even further. (8 p.)*

**INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR DEMOCRACY AND ELECTORAL ASSISTANCE**

**[Political gender equality and the global state of democracy indices](#)**

*This paper showcases data on gender equality derived from the global state of democracy indices, which now covers a total of 158 countries for the period 1975 - 2017. According to the indices, gender equality has seen remarkable progress over the past 42 years, and every region has experienced some improvement. (12 p.)*

**NEW AMERICA FOUNDATION**

**[New ways to bring women into and up through cybersecurity careers](#)**

by Laura Bate [@Laura\\_K\\_Bate](#) and Elizabeth Weingarten [@elizabethw723](#)

*Women make up less than one-quarter of the cybersecurity workforce, which can lead to less innovation, inferior design, seriously underutilized human potential, and needlessly unfilled jobs in a growing field. In short, this lack of gender diversity means poorer security. Existing efforts to address the issue have begun to create networks among women in the field, but other solutions, particularly those intended to create systemic change in order to help women permeate cybersecurity fields at all levels, have had limited success. This paper therefore considers new ideas and strategies to bring women into and up through cybersecurity careers. (45 p.)*

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

**NEW CLIMATE INSTITUTE**

**[Carbon pricing options for international maritime emissions](#)**

by Aki Kachi [@akikachi](#), Silke Mooldijk and Carsten Warnecke [@CaWarnecke](#)

*A carbon price can play an important role in steering the international maritime sector towards decarbonisation – a task that is both feasible and necessary to reach global objectives to limit climate change to 1.5°C. This paper explores three different options for a market-based measure to address the climate impact of international shipping: an offsetting scheme, a maritime emissions trading scheme, and a climate levy. It concludes that a climate levy would be the most appropriate measure to help decarbonize the sector in keeping with the goals outlined in the Paris agreement. (47 p.)*

**REAL INSTITUTO EL CANO/ /LSE/ GRANTHAM RESEARCH INSTITUTE ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE ENVIRONMENT**

**Legislating for a low carbon and climate resilient transition: learning from international experiences**

by Alina Averchenkova  [@averchenkova](#)

*The objective of this paper is to inform policy experts, legislators and decision makers on the recent trends in climate change policy-making around the world and to draw lessons learnt from the experiences with designing and implementing climate change legislation. It aims to contribute to the current debate in Spain on a draft climate change and energy transition law, as well as aid other countries currently working on climate legislation. The case studies focus on the UK, Mexico, France, China, Chile, Germany and the US. (108 p.)*

**STIFTUNG WISSENSCHAFT UND POLITIK (GERMAN INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL AND SECURITY AFFAIRS)**

**Nach dem Klimagipfel in Kattowitz: Wichtige Elemente der EU-Klimaagenda 2019**

by Susanne Dröge  [@droege\\_s](#) and Vijeta Rattani

*The EU and its member states are among the few global players with the resources and the determination to continue to support the international climate agenda. It is also important to support the poor countries politically and financially. Developing countries, which are particularly affected by climate change, count on the EU and its member states as reliable partners and role models. In the light of the forthcoming EP elections and the change in the Commission, the EU will find it hard to live up to these expectations. Nonetheless, the EU needs to further deepen its cooperation with emerging economies and drive climate change policies across all policy areas. (DE - 8 p.)*

**GRANTHAM RESEARCH INSTITUTE ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE ENVIRONMENT**

**Sustainability and internationalism: driving development in the 21st century**

by Nicholas Stern

*In this paper, the author contends that embarking on a path of strong, sustainable and inclusive growth can deliver the zero-carbon economy and the sustainable development goals, and the pursuit of these objectives itself delivers sustainable and inclusive growth. He argues that such a strategy both requires, and can help create, a new internationalism, and shows that for each of these theses the two-way causation is fundamental. (21 p.)*

**GRANTHAM RESEARCH INSTITUTE ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE ENVIRONMENT**

**El cambio climático y la transición justa: guía para la toma de decisiones de los inversores  
Changement climatique et transition juste: guide pour orienter l'action des investisseurs**

by Nick Robins  [@NVJRobins1](#), Vanda Brunsting and David Wood

*A "just transition" for workers and communities was included in the framework of the 2015 Paris agreement on climate change, as the global economy's response to climate change. This guide indicates how investors can achieve the goal of a just transition within the framework of their core operating practices. The guide is based on an international analysis of proven existing investor approaches and in-depth dialogue with investors, to provide a framework that can be applied both by individual institutions and through collaborative initiatives. (ES - FR - 31 p.)*

EUROPEAN POLICY CENTRE

**Three years after the Brussels attacks: no quick fix to counter terrorism and radicalisation**

by Amanda Paul [@amandajanePaul](#) and Tommaso Virgili [@TommasoVirgili](#)

*Since the 2016 Brussels attacks, threat awareness has increased and important steps have been taken, including in the field of prevention. There has been a shift away from hard security measures to a more holistic approach to strengthen the resilience of vulnerable communities and work with grassroots organisations and frontline practitioners. The internal-external nexus has also been given more prominence, not least as a consequence of the security threat posed by returning foreign fighters, as some 5.000 Europeans travelled to Syria and Iraq to fight for the so-called Islamic State. The EU is strengthening counter-terrorism cooperation with many countries in its neighbourhood, including the Western Balkans, Turkey and North Africa. (4 p.)*

EUROPEAN COUNCIL ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

**The displacement dilemma: should Europe help Syrian refugees return home?**

by Jasmine El-Gamal [@jasmineelgamal](#)

*European governments face the challenge of when and how to protect those who fled the conflict in Syria and now wish to return home. Arguing that the EU should adopt a more humanitarian focused policy that seeks to improve the living conditions of voluntarily returning refugees, this policy brief focuses on how Europe could seek to deploy its leverage to help refugees in Lebanon and Jordan who wish to return home. Drawing on multiple interviews, it examines how this can be achieved in line with the “comprehensive protection and solutions strategy” devised by the UNHCR. (26 p.)*

HEINRICH-BÖLL STIFTUNG (HEINRICH BÖLL FOUNDATION)

**A local turn for European refugee politics: recommendations for strengthening municipalities and local communities in refugee and asylum policy of the EU**

by Petra Bendel [@bendel\\_petra](#), Hannes Schammann [@HSchammann](#), Christiane Heimann [@ChristianeHeim1](#) (et al.)

*The EU's migration and asylum policy is in deep crisis and initiatives by individual nation states are the order of the day. Municipalities still appear to be in too weak a position institutionally to effectively help shape EU asylum policy and there are still no coherent strategies which are both innovative and feasible. This paper demonstrates the financial and structural deficits of the municipalities in respect of asylum and refugee policy and develops specific ideas as to how municipalities can be strengthened sustainably, and their potential be used for the further development of a common European asylum system. (51 p.)*

WILFRIED MARTENS CENTRE FOR EUROPEAN STUDIES

**Reducing irregular migration flows through EU external action**

by Vít Novotný [@vitnovotny](#)

*Irregular immigration is emerging as a threat to the political stability of the EU. Despite a dramatic decrease in the number of migrants and refugees coming to Europe, the need remains to instil in the European public a sense that the EU border is properly guarded and that the number of illegal border crossings is being reduced. The EU should help to ensure the protection of the refugees who are hosted in other countries and resettle the most vulnerable refugees through legal*



channels at the expense of irregular migration movements. The EU's external border needs to be vigilantly policed. Over the long term, the EU should set itself the goal of enlarging the area of functioning migration and asylum governance. (32 p.)

## **OŚRODEK STUDIÓW WSCHODNICH (CENTRE FOR EASTERN STUDIES)**

### **Resolving refugee situations - seeking solutions worthy of the name**

by Megan Bradley

*In theory, refugee situations are resolved through the pursuit of three "durable solutions" to displacement: voluntary repatriation, local integration in host states or resettlement to third countries. The failure to enable durable solutions has left 75 percent of refugees in situations of protracted displacement. This paper reviews recent developments, ideas and opportunities associated with the search for durable solutions to the displacement of refugees and other forced migrants, in particular, internally displaced persons. (24 p.)*

## **DAHRENDORF FORUM /LSE IDEAS**

### **Beyond operation Sophia: what role for the military in migration policy?**

by Julia Himmrich  [@juliahimmrich](https://twitter.com/juliahimmrich)

*The EU's anti-trafficking and anti-smuggling naval operation in the Mediterranean, EU NAVFOR MED Sophia, is due to finish at the end of March and it is unclear whether or not it will be extended. The operation has had limited success due to its confused mandate and unrealistic expectations of what a military deployment can reasonably achieve in managing migration. The EU needs to reframe its overall approach to managing migration through the Mediterranean and strictly limit the roles assigned to the military to those it is suited to fulfil. (4 p.)*

## **HEINRICH-BÖLL-STIFTUNG (HEINRICH BÖLL FOUNDATION)**

### **A local turn for European refugee politics**

by Petra Bendel, Hannes Schammann, Christiane Heimann (et al.)

*The EU's refugee and asylum policy has reached an impasse. For this reason, new strategies in EU asylum and refugee policy, which will remove the blockades, should start right there. This paper puts forward proposals for a more active role of the municipalities in refugee and asylum policy. (51 p.)*

## **ROBERT SCHUMAN CENTRE FOR ADVANCED STUDIES - EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY INSTITUTE**

### **Labour market realism and the global compacts on migration and refugees**

by Philip Martin and Martin Ruhs  [@MartinRuhs](https://twitter.com/MartinRuhs)

*The global compacts on migration (GCM) and refugees (GCR) include policy recommendations to increase opportunities for legal labour migration, improve protections for migrant workers, and provide refugees with "complementary pathways" to enhanced protection via labour mobility. This paper explains why there are large gaps between these policy recommendations and the labour market policies and realities in the countries that host most of the world's migrant workers. These gaps between ideals and realities are likely to limit the effective implementation of the GCM/GCR recommendations on labour migration. (19 p.)*

## MIGRATION POLICY INSTITUTE

### [Money wise: improving how EU funds support migration and integration policy objectives](#)

by Hanne Beirens [@HanneBeirens](#) and Aliyyah Ahad [@Aliyyah\\_Ahad](#)

*The 2015-16 European migration crisis put unprecedented strain on EU and national migration systems, and exposed the limits of EU funding mechanisms when pressed to keep pace with rapidly changing migration conditions. Since then, finding ways to better manage migration and help newcomers integrate into European societies has shot to the top of EU, member states, and local policy agendas. (16 p.)*

## CENTRE FOR EUROPEAN POLICY STUDIES

### [Towards EU-MENA shared prosperity in the area of legal migration](#)

by Sergio Carrera, Lina Vosyliūtė, Zvezda Vankova (et al.)

*The paper identifies gaps and barriers of current sectorial and fragmented EU legal immigration acquis. It assesses their economic impacts and impacts at individual level in terms of fundamental rights protection and non-discrimination. The research highlights the need for "more EU" in upholding equal treatment standards between third country workers with EU nationals in relation to working and living conditions. It concludes that EU's internal market, national administrations as well as EU and third country citizens would benefit from more homogenous policy approach in the area of legal migration. (210 p.)*

## ЦЕНТЪР ЗА ИЗСЛЕДВАНЕ НА ДЕМОКРАЦИЯТА (CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF DEMOCRACY)

### [Best practices in anti-corruption and fraud investigation in EU funding](#)

*The present compendium addresses the threat of fraud and corruption from multiple perspectives, with the underlying purpose of providing practitioners from Romania and Bulgaria with a set of best practices and innovative approaches and methods in preventing and investigating fraud and corruption in the complex multi-layered national mechanism for EU funding. (62 p.)*

## ROBERT SCHUMAN CENTRE FOR ADVANCED STUDIES - EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY INSTITUTE

### [A Court's gotta do, what a Court's gotta do. An analysis of the ECtHR and the liability of internet intermediaries through systems theory](#)

by Marta Moroni

*This paper explores recent developments in the liability of internet intermediaries for user-generated content at the European Court of Human Rights in the cases Delfi v Estonia (2015) and MTE v Hungary (2016). Regulatory approaches towards the liability of internet intermediaries raise the complex question of the kind of Internet that law should contribute to designing. In this analysis, particular attention is then paid to the question of anonymity and how it might challenge the role of law in granting remedies. (29 p.)*

## EUROPEAN POLICY CENTRE

### [Responding to cyberattacks: prospects for the EU cyber diplomacy toolbox](#)

by Paul Ivan [@paul2ivan](#)



*The paper analyses the development of the EU's diplomatic response to malicious cyber activities, the challenges that hamper a common EU response and possible ways to address these challenges. It focuses on issues linked to the attribution of cyberattacks and on the most powerful diplomatic instrument to be adopted to respond to them: the use of cyber sanctions. (16 p.)*

## **ROBERT SCHUMAN CENTRE FOR ADVANCED STUDIES - EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY INSTITUTE**

### **New digital threats to media pluralism in the information age**

by Pier Luigi Parcu  [@PLParcu](#)

*The proliferation of news and information has reached unprecedented levels. Notwithstanding this apparent richness, increasing doubts about the quality and diversity of online news have grown for many years. This essay concentrates on economic, quality and social threats, with the goal of starting to address a few fundamental questions: is pluralistic and quality information an endangered public good in the digital age? What responses are available to preserve media pluralism and a professional process of information production as the necessary tools for a democratic society? (27 p.)*

## **TRANSPORT/TELECOMMUNICATIONS/ENERGY**

### **EUROPEAN POLICY INSTITUTE NETWORK**

### **Leveraging funding for energy efficiency in buildings in South East Europe**

by Jorge Núñez Ferrer  [@jnunez\\_ferrer](#)

*This paper addresses the possibility of creating financial instruments so that large scale energy efficiency renovation programmes can be substantially financed by the private sector. Aimed at decision-makers and those wishing to understand the issue, it avoids excessive technicalities. The paper presents some selected examples of financial instruments for energy efficiency that could represent possible blue prints for South East Europe. (29 p.)*

## **WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM**

### **Fostering effective energy transition 2019**

*This report summarizes insights from the "Energy transition index", which benchmarks 115 countries on the current level of their energy system performance, and the readiness of their macro environment for transition to a secure, sustainable, affordable and inclusive future energy system. (40 p.)*

## **SECTION 3 - FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

### **FOREIGN AND SECURITY POLICY / DEFENCE**

### **CENTRE FOR EU STUDIES - GHENT UNIVERSITY**

### **Unintended consequences of EU external action**

by Olga Burlyuk and Gergana Noutcheva  [@GNoutcheva](#)

*The studies of EU external action are mostly focused on its sui generis character and much less on the consequences of its actions. Resting on a deeply embedded and uncritical liberal assumption that EU engagement abroad is a good thing, these analyses are framed as "positive impact or no impact", reducing the study of EU impact to what is essentially a study of EU effectiveness and neglecting frequent, multiple and varied unintended effects of EU policies. This report seeks to*

*help close these analytical gaps and to offer a systematic analysis of the concept of unintended consequences in international relations using the case of EU external action. (16 p.)*

## **KÜLÜGYI ÉS KÜLGAZDASÁGI INTÉZET (INSTITUTE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE)**

### **NATO anniversary: will there be another 70 years?**

by Zoltán Martinusz, Zoltán Nagy, András Simonyi (et al.)

*In this article, four researchers give a short answer to the same questions concerning international politics and economics. The aim is to launch the scientific debates in Hungary and promote dialogue among experts. In this issue, the topic is: "NATO anniversary: will there be another 70 years?". (8 p.)*

## **JACQUES DELORS INSTITUTE - BERLIN**

### **A more strategic approach towards CSDP partnerships**

by Nicole Koenig

*One of the aims derived from the EU global strategy is to develop a more strategic approach to third-country partnerships in the realm of the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP). This reflects the necessity of updating existing arrangements with a view to the EU's broadening comprehensive approach, defence related innovations and Brexit. The Brexit negotiations provide some insight into the meaning and limitations of this strategic upgrade. The real meaning of this more strategic approach remains to be spelled out, and its merit can only be judged based on its implementation. (9 p.)*

## **WILFRIED MARTENS CENTRE FOR EUROPEAN STUDIES**

### **EU it yourself: a blueprint for a European Security Council**

by Niklas Nováky  [@NiklasNovaky](https://twitter.com/NiklasNovaky)

*There is currently an on-going debate about the possibility of creating a new European Security Council (ESC) within the EU. The basic premise behind the idea is that the EU should have a new structure for strategic reflection and deliberation on foreign, security and defence policy, a forum that would not have seats for every EU member state. This would help the EU act more quickly and more decisively when a crisis or challenge emerged that required action from the Union. This paper provides a blueprint for the creation of an ESC, a plan that political leaders could follow in the coming months. (54 p.)*

## **LATVIAN INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS**

### **Digital infantry battlefield solution. Research and innovation**

by Uģis Romanovs  [@URomanovs](https://twitter.com/URomanovs) and Māris Andžāns (eds.)

*This volume analyses initiatives of the EU aimed at the digitalisation of the battlefield through research and innovation, as well as the defence research and innovation ecosystem in the Baltic states. It also considers the state of play of development of unmanned ground vehicles in selected countries. (120 p.)*

## DEUTSCHE GESELLSCHAFT FÜR AUSWÄRTIGE POLITIK (GERMAN COUNCIL ON FOREIGN RELATIONS)

### Technology and strategy. Hypersonic weapon systems will decrease global strategic stability – and current control regimes won't do

by Torben Schütz

*Hypersonic weapon systems will alter the global strategic landscape. They will compress reaction times, increase ambiguity of military actions, and may lead to the weaponisation of space. With no effective defences against such systems in sight, all actors will face less stability – regardless of whether or not they field hypersonic weapon systems themselves. Germany and Europe should explore options to mitigate these risks through arms control, export controls, and confidence-building measures. (6 p.)*

## FRIEDRICH-EBERT-STIFTUNG (FRIEDRICH EBERT FOUNDATION)

### Allein oder im Verbund? Allianzen in Zeiten außenpolitischer Unsicherheit

by Reinhard Krumm, Alexandra Dienes and Simon Weiss

*The feeling of security policy upheaval has reached Europe with force. Stable alliances which have been created for the foreseeable eternity suddenly became unstable. To cope with this development, the EU will need to be committed to advocating internationally binding norms and cooperative security and acting against the destabilizing policies of other states. This will only be possible with a clear set of interests, in which the EU becomes aware of both its strengths and its weaknesses. Interests can also be pursued against the US without questioning transatlantic ties. Moreover, European security can hardly be thought of without China. (DE - 4 p.)*

## ISTITUTO PER GLI STUDI DI POLITICA INTERNAZIONALE



### The end of a world. The decline of the liberal order

by Alessandro Colombo and Paolo Magri  [@paolo\\_magri](#)

*Donald Trump's policies have introduced new tensions in the international order, an order that the US had been defending and promoting since the second world war. At the same time, China's growth and Russia's newfound assertiveness are increasingly challenging the Western liberal order. In short, the signs of the "end of a world" that many had taken for granted for decades are multiplying, with far-reaching consequences on the resilience of the international system, on multilateral organisations, and even on the institutional structure of individual states. This report analyses the current upheaval, in both its political and economic dimensions. (173 p.)*

## THE HAGUE CENTRE FOR STRATEGIC STUDIES

### Interregnum

by Tim Sweijts  [@TimSweijts](#) and Danny Pronk  [@DannyPronk2](#)

*The end of the post-war multilateral world order based on cooperation and rules has been loudly proclaimed in recent years. And yet there is no robust evidence for it. The multilateral world order is certainly on the wane, but as of yet there is no new, dominant type of order. In short, there is an interregnum. The authors conclude that the international system is currently undergoing a phase transition between different system states, and that such a transition is characterised by unusual dynamics and events. (49 p.)*

## TRADE

### INSTITUT DER DEUTSCHEN WIRTSCHAFT KÖLN (COLOGNE INSTITUTE FOR ECONOMIC RESEARCH)

#### Understanding protectionism: empirical analysis of protectionist attitudes in the EU

by Galina Kolev [@galina\\_kolev](#)

*EU citizens are more likely to support protectionism when the economy runs smoothly and to reject it if the national economy is not in the best shape. Based on Eurobarometer survey data, this paper investigates both the factors determining the level of support for protectionism and the striking inconsistency of responses to questions related to free trade and protectionism. Concluding that the inconsistent attitudes are a matter of lacking knowledge of political issues, the paper suggests a broad information strategy covering the topics of international economics across several media channels to tackle this problem. (29 p.)*

### BRUEGEL

#### The European Union's response to the trade crisis

by Uri Dadush and Guntram Wolf

*The global trading system, a source of prosperity, is under attack on various fronts. The causes run deep and require a strategic response from the EU and from the main trading nations. The future of the system hinges on the answer to three questions, and the scenarios associated with them: can the WTO be reformed? Is the US' scepticism about the system a new normal? Can China undertake reforms that would make its system more compatible with the WTO? (13 p.)*

### INSTITUT FRANÇAIS DES RELATIONS INTERNATIONALES

#### L'Union européenne va-t-elle se laisser acheter ? Le filtrage des investissements étrangers en Europe

by Éric-André Martin

*In 2016, Chinese foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows into the EU reached a record high, in contrast to the steady decline in FDI flows from the EU to China. Several member states, including France and Germany, have tightened their national legislation and called for stronger European rules. The regulation on FDI screening is thus part of the European response. The main conclusion of this study is that the adoption of this regulation is not the point of arrival but rather the starting point of a process of awareness and collective adaptation to major issues regarding the prosperity and competitiveness of the EU. (FR - 46 p.)*

### EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT THINK TANK

#### EU investment protection after the ECJ opinion on Singapore: questions of competence and coherence

by Jurgita Baur, Steffen Hindelang and Stephan Schill

*Investment protection continues to be a controversial issue, as shown in particular during the negotiations on the TTIP and the CETA. To address stakeholder concerns, the EU has moved from traditional investor-state dispute settlement arrangements towards introducing bilateral investment court systems in new agreements and pursuing the goal of establishing a permanent multilateral investment court. At the same time, the ECJ defined the limits of the Union's exclusive competence in its opinion of May 2017 with regard to the EU-Singapore free trade agreement*

(FTA), which has led to the splitting of new FTAs into two parts, treating investment protection separately. (62 p.)

## **ИНСТИТУТ ЗА ИКОНОМИЧЕСКА ПОЛИТИКА (ECONOMIC POLICY INSTITUTE)**

### **German-Bulgarian trade relations (2001-2018)**

by Yassen Georgiev [@yassen\\_georgiev](#), Mariana Trifonova and Dragomir Belchev

*The study traces the trajectory of development of bilateral trade relations encompassing both the period of preparation for EU accession and the following decade of adaptation to the status of a member state. The analysis aims to conceptualise the bilateral trade relations and their importance for both Bulgaria's trade policy and the country's economy as a whole. It also attempts to present a factually valid argument for the status of Germany as Bulgaria's number one trading partner by drawing a detailed comparison of publicly available statistical information from different sources. (64 p.)*

## **EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT THINK TANK**

### **Parliamentary scrutiny of trade policies across the western world**

by Bart Kerremans [@BartKerremans](#), Johan Adriaensen [@JohanAdriaensen](#), Francesca Colli [@fscolli93](#) (et al.)

*This study compares parliamentary scrutiny of trade policy in the EU with the US, Canada and Australia. It concludes that the EP has become powerful and active in trade policy, on a comparable level to the US Congress. Its powers exceed those of other Western democracies, such as Australia and Canada. From the latter the EP may conclude that it is important to codify some of its informal oversight practices, before they may get lost over time again. This may also help to encourage its trading partners to increase their parliamentary involvement during negotiations with the EU. As regards the implementation of trade agreements however, the EU has very few competences in comparison to all other three countries analysed. (60 p.)*

## **AFRICA**

## **EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT POLICY MANAGEMENT**

### **Africa-EU relations and post-Cotonou: African collective action or further fragmentation of partnerships?**

by Alfonso Medinilla and Jean Bossuyt

*The EU and the ACP countries formally kicked off negotiations for a new partnership agreement in September 2018. This note looks at some unresolved questions and in particular who should negotiate a new deal between the EU and Africa. This thorny issue arose when the African Union called for a direct negotiation of a new continent-to-continent partnership with the EU outside the ACP-EU framework. This note concludes that negotiating an African protocol under the ACP-EU banner is likely to produce a fragile and contested outcome. The push for a "hybrid solution" will lead to the fragmentation of partnerships at a time where both the AU and the EU are calling for a stronger alliance. (12 p.)*

## HEINRICH-BÖLL STIFTUNG (HEINRICH BÖLL FOUNDATION)

### Money against migration

by Inken Bartels

*Halfway through the implementation period, this study aims to take a detailed look at the allocation mechanism and distribution of funds under the EU emergency trust fund for Africa (EUTF), to examine which objectives, countries and actors have actually been supported and which ones are no longer a focus of the attention of development and migration policy. The study comes to the conclusion that the implementation of migration policy projects supported by EUTF funding primarily benefits the (wealthier) member states of the EU. (44 p.)*

## FRIEDRICH-EBERT-STIFTUNG (FRIEDRICH EBERT FOUNDATION)

### Dialogue in divergence- The impact of EU migration policy on West Africa integration: the case of Nigeria, Mali and Niger

by Rahmane Idrissa

*This study analyses some aspects of the impact of EU migration policies on ECOWAS, the West African regional economic integration project, and on the migration policies of three countries in the region, Nigeria, Mali, and Niger. The study revisits the ways in which the EU's relations with the region were, and still are shaped by the migration issue; analyses the parameters of the migration issue area in Nigeria and Mali; discusses the ways in which the EU has sought to influence the policies of these countries in this connection; examines the peculiar case of Niger, a "transit country" transformed into an immigration officer for the EU; and reviews and discusses the implications for the socio-economic progress of the region and of these three countries. (50 p.)*

## TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL

### Understanding land corruption as a basis for prevention: findings from Liberia, Sierra Leone and Zambia

by Alice Wadström and Jean Brice Tetka

*From forced eviction to loss of livelihood, social status and even life, land corruption in Africa has serious and far-reaching consequences. Such corruption comes in many forms, and it must be understood – along with the factors that enable it – before it can be tackled. These research findings are intended to inform policymaking and the design of targeted interventions to detect and prevent corruption over land in all three countries and beyond. (20 p.)*

## EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT THINK TANK

### Piracy and armed robbery off the coast of Africa: EU and global impact

by Eric Pichon and Marian Pietsch

*African maritime security is affected by a wide range of illegal activities. This paper focuses on maritime piracy and armed robbery at sea. It examines the legal aspects and societal implications of these forms of violence. Maritime piracy and armed robbery off the African coast are also a threat for the EU's security and economy. Since 2008, the EU has been implementing a maritime security strategy via distinct regional strategies in the Gulf of Aden and the Gulf of Guinea. (28 p.)*



## **SOUTH AFRICAN INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS**

### **G20-Africa engagement: finding a roadmap to shared development**

by Cobus Van Staden [!\[\]\(919a2cb85b99741a73c0c31a427236a8\_img.jpg\) @stadenesque](#) and Elizabeth Sidiropoulos [!\[\]\(c9cd5a1c35167a83f09a35036fe5dcbd\_img.jpg\) @Siderop](#)

*As a club of the world's largest economies, the G20 determines the future of global economic governance. Africa is significantly under-represented, with only South Africa as permanent member. Given that Africa has been a rule-taker since its decolonisation, its limited participation in this grouping runs the risk of perpetuating this situation. Africa and other less developed regions are full blown members of the international community with a vested interest in the future of global governance. (31 p.)*

## **ASIA-OCEANIA**

### **THE HENRY JACKSON SOCIETY**

#### **Infrastructure, ideas, and strategy in the Indo-Pacific**

by John Hemmings (ed.) [!\[\]\(003082e50e3009141f59bd5df831749f\_img.jpg\) @JohnHemmings2](#)

*The Indo-Pacific is rapidly becoming the centre of the world's economy. By 2050, it will account for over half of global GDP and become a fulcrum point between old and new powers, for deciding regional architecture. The Indo-Pacific is the place where the future of global power – and hence global order – will be decided. This economic growth has enmeshed the Indo-Pacific in emerging geopolitical and maritime rivalries, reviving “Mahanian” approaches toward sea-power: states are now modernising their naval power to secure those sea lanes crucial to their national security. Infrastructure, particularly ports, play both a security and economic role in the Indo-Pacific. (64 p.)*

## **EASTERN EUROPE**

### **FONDATION ROBERT SCHUMAN**

#### **Stakes and outlook for the Ukrainian presidential election**

by Iris Muraz

*This article aims to highlight the main issues at stake in this vote in a country undergoing fundamental political change and marked by five years of undeclared war with Russia. The author delves into the main security, political, social and economic stakes (influence of armed conflict in the Donbass, social reform and expectations, power games between oligarchs) at the heart of the candidates' electoral strategies. Particular attention is given to the role played by Ukrainian civil society in the next electoral cycle (legislative elections in October 2019 and local elections in 2020). (7 p.)*

## **CHATHAM HOUSE - THE ROYAL INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS**

### **Armenia's foreign policy balancing in an age of uncertainty**

by Anahit Shirinyan

*This paper explores the evolution of the dilemmas in Armenia's foreign policy since the 1990s. Its primary aim is to offer an informed background for further discussions, beyond the conventional and stereotypical views that dominate policy thinking on this issue in the West as well as in Armenia. (30 p.)*



## CHATHAM HOUSE - THE ROYAL INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

### [Azerbaijan's relations with Russia: closer by default?](#)

by Zaur Shiryev

*This paper reviews the evolution of Azerbaijan's foreign policy with regard to Russia and the West, looks at the diplomatic imperatives surrounding the Nagorno Karabakh conflict in more detail, and sets out recommendations for how to mitigate risks for Azerbaijan's relations with Russia. (34 p.)*

## LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

### CHICAGO COUNCIL ON GLOBAL AFFAIRS

#### [Under AMLO, Mexicans views of the US rebound from all-time low](#)

by Dina Smeltz [!\[\]\(003082e50e3009141f59bd5df831749f\_img.jpg\) \[@RoguePollster\]\(#\)](#), Craig Kafura [!\[\]\(f439ede8735757e3190eab35e168f1de\_img.jpg\) \[@ckafura\]\(#\)](#), Jorge Buendía [!\[\]\(f5c165e0bd35116675db6686a30b1fea\_img.jpg\) \[@jblaredo\]\(#\)](#) (et al.)

*Many analysts expected that Andrés Manuel López Obrador's landslide electoral victory in Mexico would precipitate a mano a mano showdown with US President Donald Trump. Yet both presidents have made conciliatory gestures toward each other, and Mexican public opinion toward the US has completely shifted course from 2017. A recent survey finds that a majority in Mexico now express a favourable view of the US and only a minority say that US-Mexico relations are worsening. (9 p.)*

## MIDDLE EAST/NORTH AFRICA (MENA)

### CENTER FOR STRATEGIC AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

#### [Access for what? Elevating civilian protection and quality access for humanitarian action in Syria](#)

by Melissa Dalton [!\[\]\(4b7a79268f6ba26c1471d4232fffa85a\_img.jpg\) \[@natsecdalton\]\(#\)](#) and Hijab Shah [!\[\]\(87d978583253c9bde1db2d6dfafe8de0\_img.jpg\) \[@HijabShah\]\(#\)](#)

*Engaging Damascus to secure humanitarian access is a hard reality in 2019 given the Syrian government's deliberate targeting of civilians, curtailing of civilian freedom of movement, and withholding of assistance since 2011. Donors, the UN, and NGOs must collectively elevate the importance of meaningful access - to conduct needs assessments, monitor distributions and services, prioritize the most vulnerable, deliver assistance, prevent the diversion of humanitarian aid to unwanted actors, and evaluate impact - thereby improving civilian protection with sustained humanitarian access and presence. (10 p.)*

### EURO-MEDITERRANEAN STUDY COMMISSION

#### [Global power shifts, rational choice and role conflict: explaining the trajectories of the central Maghreb countries' EU policies since 2011](#)

by Irene Fernández-Molina [!\[\]\(3342c215b2a8b663596a81468d5dc314\_img.jpg\) \[@irenefmolina\]\(#\)](#)

*This paper seeks to trace and explain the diverging and non-linear trajectories of the three central Maghreb countries' foreign policies towards the EU since the 2011 Arab uprisings. The analysis is situated within the big structural picture and debates about the putative decline of the Western-based liberal international order, including the EU's influence over its outer periphery or neighbourhood. (46 p.)*

## INSTITUTE FOR NATIONAL SECURITY STUDIES

### [The Netanyahu-Putin meeting: what was agreed, and what are Russia's intentions?](#)

by Amos Yadlin [@YadlinAmos](#) and Zvi Magen

*The article explores the four most important questions that concern Israel's relations with Russia regarding Syria and the Iranian presence there and offers two possibilities on why they remain unanswered. One is that there is a change underway in Russia, which is tired of its intervention in Syria. The second possibility is that Russia's interests in Syria are long term and do not take Israeli interests into account, and this poses a dangerous scenario for Israel. (4 p.)*

## CHATHAM HOUSE - THE ROYAL INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

### [Russia and Iran: economic influence in Syria](#)

by Sinan Hatahet

*Russia and Iran are the most influential external powers supporting the Assad regime. However, Russia and Iran are engaged in competition over access to the Syrian economy, with a particular focus on opportunities to obtain reconstruction contracts. Assad constantly seeks to enlarge his own margin for manoeuvre by manipulating the interests of his allies. US and EU economic sanctions on key sectors of the Syrian economy and individuals have impeded the regime's capacity to initiate and push the reconstruction phase of its recovery. However, they can only be truly effective as part of a comprehensive framework to assist Syria in a meaningful and credible political transition. (24 p.)*

## BRUEGEL / POLICY CENTER FOR THE NEW SOUTH

### [Towards EU-MENA shared prosperity](#)

by Abdelaziz Ait Ali, Uri Dadush, Yassine Msadfa (et al.)

*This paper explains how trade agreements that the EU has with North African countries are often seen as having delivered disappointing results, and how the agreements have been judged too harshly, as they helped generate large amounts of trade. It gives relevant recommendations of policies for a greater trade performance. It highlights also the role of structural economic transformation as a necessary gateway for nations wishing to move up along the development path. It focuses on the case of Morocco, shedding light on its manufacturing sector's transformation, its integration in global value chains and its economic challenges. (84 p.)*

## WESTERN BALKANS

## CENTAR ZA EVROPSKE POLITIKE (EUROPEAN POLICY CENTRE)

### [EU sentiments of Serbia's citizens: unpacking the motivations behind the ayes, the nays, and the undecided](#)

by Dušan Pjevović and Strahinja Subotić [@mr\\_Subotic](#)

*Throughout the past decade, Serbia has made progress on its path towards the EU. What remains a predicament, however, is the fact that its accomplishments were often not accompanied by increased public support for the EU accession process. In fact, public support has proven to be quite volatile and relatively independent from Serbia's EU progression rate. (8 p.)*

## **BELGRADE CENTRE FOR SECURITY POLICY**

### **How can NATO contribute to regional cooperation in the field of training and education?**

by Marija Ignjatijevic

*This paper examines the extent of NATO's contribution to regional cooperation in the field of education and training, and specifically the role of partnership training and education centres (PTECs) and defence education enhancement programme (DEEP). It also examines the extent to which NATO mechanisms contribute to regional cooperation in the field of education and training in the Western Balkans. (18 p.)*

## **INSTITUT PRO EVROPSKOU POLITIKU EUROPEUM (EUROPEUM INSTITUTE FOR EUROPEAN POLICY)**

### **The unfulfilled promise of Kosovo visa liberalisation**

by Jana Juzová [@jana\\_juzova](https://twitter.com/jana_juzova)

*Kosovo's path towards visa liberalisation started in 2012 when the Commission submitted the visa liberalisation roadmap for Kosovo. The young and once most pro-European population of the region is getting tired and discouraged by the prolonged process and the political elites are becoming more difficult for European authorities to handle. The responsibility for moving the process finally forward and not letting Kosovo drift away completely now lies in hand of leaders on both sides, the EU and Kosovo. (6 p.)*

## **GROUP FOR LEGAL AND POLITICAL STUDIES**

### **(Un) leveling the field - A competition tale!**

by Erëza Pula

*The main objective of this study is to assess the fulfillment degree of the actions and priorities falling under the competition area, stemming from the national programme for the implementation of the EU-Kosovo stabilization and association agreement (NPISAA) and the European reform agenda (ERA). The results highlight the achievements and failures of relevant institutions throughout the year 2018. All the actions/measures and priorities stemming from the NPISAA and ERA relevant to the competition area are highlighted, including also all key institutions responsible to carry out these reforms. (27 p.)*

## **GROUP FOR LEGAL AND POLITICAL STUDIES**

### **Introducing the concept of private enforcement in EU competition law**

by Dren Ajeti

*This report analyses the system of EU competition protection by focusing on private enforcement and recent developments in this area, in order to explore modalities of how this mechanism can be incorporated into the national legislation, namely how private enforcement can assist the competition authority in protecting competition and damaged parties in Kosovo. The report offers a set of recommendations which should be considered by relevant stakeholders and competition authority towards strengthening the protection of competition in Kosovo. (18 p.)*

## WIENER INSTITUT FÜR INTERNATIONALE WIRTSCHAFTSVERGLEICHE (THE VIENNA INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC STUDIES)

### Unsecured lending in Central and Southeast Europe

by Amat Adarov, Richard Grieveson [@RicGri](#), Mario Holzner [@MarioHolzner](#) (et al.)

*Addiko Bank's South Eastern Europe region (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, Serbia and Slovenia) is in the midst of a fairly pronounced cyclical upswing, helped by catch-up effects owing to a generally very poor post-crisis growth performance. The authors believe that the peak has already passed for most countries, with a weakening of external conditions presenting big headwinds to growth. (146 p.)*

## CENTER FOR EUROPEAN NEIGHBORHOOD STUDIES

### 2018 Bosnian elections and the electoral framework of the Dayton peace accords

by Alexandra Karppi

*While power-sharing ("consociationalist") structures stabilized the country in the immediate aftermath of the war, after twenty years debate lingers about whether these measures continue to stabilize ethnic relations in Bosnia or negatively reinforce ethnic divides. This paper considers the results of Bosnia's elections in October of 2018 and explores whether the Dayton Peace Agreement's "consociationalist" structures have failed to mitigate ethno-politics. It assesses whether ethno-nationalist parties and politicians remain the central actors in Bosnian politics, and whether ethnicity continues to be the greatest determinant of election to office. (21 p.)*

## CHINA

## CENTRE FOR EUROPEAN POLICY STUDIES

### Systemic rivalry and balancing interests: Chinese investment meets EU law on the Belt and Road

by Steven Blockmans [@StevenBlockmans](#) and Weinian HU

*This paper takes stock of BRI investments in Europe and of member states' concerns about economic and national security. It examines the EU-wide legal bulwarks and regulatory responses that are intended to hedge against unfair practices. It concludes that, while a more realistic and assertive European approach toward Chinese market behaviour is welcome, the EU should take China up on its pledge to embolden the BRI with "soft connectivity", i.e. a legal infrastructure, rather than risk mutual harm by adopting too protectionist a stance. This should benefit not just the EU and China but also the other "16+1" countries along the central corridor of the BRI, which passes through the Caucasus, the Balkans and Eastern Europe – all in the spirit of the EU's 2018 connectivity strategy with Asia. (38 p.)*

## MERCATOR INSTITUTE FOR CHINA STUDIES

### Chinese FDI in Europe: 2018 trends and impact of new screening politics

by Thilo Hanemann [@ThiloHanemann](#), Mikko Huotari [@m\\_huotari](#) and Agatha Kratz [@AgathaKratz](#)

*This report takes stock of the latest Chinese investment patterns and puts those trends in context with ongoing policy changes in Europe. It describes Chinese FDI trends in the EU-28 in 2018 by sector, geography, and ownership and discusses the latest policy shifts, both at the EU and member state level, reflecting on how these could affect future China-EU investment patterns. Finally, it analyses broader attitude and policy changes, which will likely have an impact on the operational environment for Chinese companies in the EU. (24 p.)*

## HEINRICH-BÖLL STIFTUNG (HEINRICH BÖLL FOUNDATION)

### The Asian infrastructure investment bank: a multilateral bank where China sets the rules

by Korinna Horta [@KorinnaHorta](#)

*With the establishment of the Asian infrastructure investment bank (AIIB), China has created a multilateral instrument where it sets the rules. This paper examines the environmental and social framework of 2016 and fundamental policies related to AIIB governance. Much hope is pinned on European participation in the AIIB as a means of ensuring that investments will be financially, environmentally and socially responsible. (44 p.)*

## INSTITUT PRO EVROPSKOU POLITIKU EUROPEUM (EUROPEUM INSTITUTE FOR EUROPEAN POLICY)

### Chinese influence in the Western Balkans: an annual review

by Alexandr Lagazzi [@LagazziA](#) and Michal Vít [@ceeidentity](#)

*This paper evaluates the analysis of the impact of Chinese influence and investments in the Western Balkans from a year-long perspective. The reflection allows to evaluate China's policy towards the Western Balkan countries whilst considering all of its possible side effects. It mainly discusses the impact of Chinese activities on Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina and how such policy is evaluated by the EU and Western European countries. (9 p.)*

## OBSERVER RESEARCH FOUNDATION

### China's military modernisation: recent trends

by Kartik Bommakanti and Ameya Kelkar

*Since the assumption of Xi Jinping to the post of General Secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) in 2013, the People's Liberation Army has undergone numerous changes, both in its modernisation and organisation. This brief examines these institutional changes in China's military, which have also resulted in the PLA firmly coming under the control of the CPC, ensuring the loyalty of the PLA is always kept under check. (14 p.)*

## ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΟ ΊΔΡΥΜΑ ΕΥΡΩΠΑΪΚΗΣ ΚΑΙ ΕΞΩΤΕΡΙΚΗΣ ΠΟΛΙΤΙΚΗΣ (HELLENIC FOUNDATION FOR EUROPEAN FOREIGN POLICY)

### The Chinese investments in Gwadar and Piraeus

by George N. Tzogopoulos

*Rolling out the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) China is largely investing in foreign countries' ports that can function as transshipment hubs. A comparison of Chinese investments in the ports of Gwadar in Pakistan and Piraeus in Greece demonstrate that similarities do exist indeed. However, differences are also evident and are principally linked to the dissimilar scope and scale of the investments in Gwadar and Piraeus, the national context of Pakistan and Greece respectively as well as the different type of their relations to China. On the whole, the BRI can arguably foster closer economic collaboration between Islamabad and Athens and subsequently between Islamabad and Brussels in trade and foreign direct investments in a period during which Brussels has already launched the EU-Asia connectivity strategy and seeks to obtain tangible results. (15 p.)*



## RUSSIA

### ЦЕНТЪР ЗА ИЗСЛЕДВАНЕ НА ДЕМОКРАЦИЯТА (CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF DEMOCRACY)

#### [The Kremlin playbook 2: the enablers](#)

by Heather A. Conley , Donatienne Ruy [@DonatienneRuy](#) and Ruslan Stefanov

*The Kremlin Playbook 2 is a continuation of the previous report, which concluded that the Kremlin has developed a pattern of malign economic influence in Europe through the cultivation of “an opaque network of patronage across the region that it uses to influence and direct decision-making. Despite the varied nature of the countries presented in the first volume, the names of specific jurisdictions, companies, and members of Vladimir Putin’s inner circle kept appearing in nearly each network of influence. Was this a coincidence? Or could there be enabling forces that unwittingly or purposely amplify Russian malign economic influence? (116 p.)*

### CHICAGO COUNCIL ON GLOBAL AFFAIRS

#### [Russians say their country is a military power. And a growing percentage of Americans view Russia as a threat](#)

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

*US-Russia relations have been at odds since Russia annexed Crimea in 2014, and this current period of tensions is arguably the longest on record since the end of the Cold War. With potential links between the Trump administration and Russian interference in the 2016 elections looming in the background, the American public is not ready to forgive and forget. At the same time, Russians say their country is once again a force to be reckoned with and view chilled relations with the US as a cost of increased international influence. (20 p.)*

### INSTITUT FRANÇAIS DES RELATIONS INTERNATIONALES

#### [Russia’s relations with Southeast Asia](#)

by Dmitry Gorenburg, Paul Schwartz

*In recent years, Russia has focused on developing its relations with Southeast Asia (SA), particularly in the areas of economic ties and arms sales. This turn to the East allows Russia to reduce its dependence of the West, while harnessing the dynamic growth of the Asia-Pacific region as a means to modernise the Russian Far East and ultimately Russia itself. Nevertheless, Russia is still not that significant a player in SA. Moreover, relationships in the region generally take a backseat to the critical partnership with China. Vietnam and Myanmar continue to be the most important partners, although Russia has made efforts to develop closer ties with Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines. (52 p.)*

### DEUTSCHE GESELLSCHAFT FÜR AUSWÄRTIGE POLITIK (GERMAN COUNCIL ON FOREIGN RELATIONS)

#### [Security first, technology second: Putin tightens his grip on Russia’s Internet – with China’s help](#)

by Andrei Soldatov

*Since his return to the Russian presidency in 2012, Vladimir Putin has sought to bring the Russian internet under his control. Digital businesses in Russia pay dearly for his expensive system of surveillance and censorship. This slows down the pace of innovation and puts the modernisation of*

*the economy at risk. Even then, technical control over the internet remains shaky. The Kremlin is seeking Chinese assistance to enforce restrictions and be able to cut Russia off from the global internet. (5 p.)*

## TURKEY

### EUROPEAN COUNCIL ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

#### [From myth to reality: how to understand Turkey's role in the Western Balkans](#)

by Asli Aydintaşbaş [@asliaydintasbas](#)

*This policy brief takes a look at Turkey and its fundamental goals in the Western Balkans. It provides an Ankara-centric view of the region, with the aim of identifying areas of cooperation and potential points of divergence between Turkey and the EU. Ultimately, Europeans should cease questioning Ankara's motives and work on shared goals – keeping Turkey close and out of Russia's embrace. To tap into that possibility, Europe needs to stop hyping Turkish influence in the region and consider working with Ankara as a partner. (30 p.)*

## UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

### INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AND EUROPEAN AFFAIRS

#### [One step forward, one step back again: assessing the consequences of three decades' climate gridlock in the US](#)

by Joseph Curtin [@jmc Curtin](#), Max Münchmeyer [@MaxMunch1](#)

*This report reviews three decades of US Federal climate "gridlock" and estimates the damage caused to the global economy from "unnecessary" greenhouse gas emissions. (21 p.)*

### CHATHAM HOUSE - THE ROYAL INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

#### [US-EU trade relations in the Trump era: which way forward?](#)

by Marianne Schneider-Petsinger

*This paper recommends a framework for strengthening US - EU trade relations and achieving successful trade talks in the current era of protectionism. It concludes with a set of policy recommendations. A multifaceted approach aimed at both the transatlantic market and the global trading system could provide the best way forward in the current political and economic environment. (30 p.)*

### INSTITUT FRANÇAIS DES RELATIONS INTERNATIONALES

#### [La politique commerciale de Trump : faire reculer la Chine](#)

by Patrick Allard

*Despite the hype, the consequences of this American-led return of protectionism could in fact remain modest for the World economy and even for international trade. In the case of the EU, where trade negotiators seem to be holding their ground in the face of Trump's demands, the reduction of US-China trade could allow an increase of exports to the US. Above all, sorting out China's fraudulent commercial practices and reforming WTO rules, as required by president Trump, would ultimately be a very positive step forward. Ultimately, two parallel trading systems – an American one and a Chinese one – could emerge. Taken by surprise, China has yet to elaborate a clear response to what is certainly a challenge to its desire to expand its economic and commercial power around the world. China's reaction will be decisive. (FR - 36 p.)*



**ASEAN und die USA. Perspektiven Südostasiens auf die Beziehungen zu den USA seit Donald Trump**

by Frederick Kliem, Norbert Eschborn, Peter Girke (et al.)

*Since the beginning of Donald Trump's presidency, US foreign relations with many countries and regions of the world have changed significantly. But how has US relations with ASEAN developed since Trump, and how are US priorities shaping up in times of weakened multilateralism, impending armaments race and escalating tensions in ASEAN and individual member states? This paper highlights the US ambivalent role in the region since the inauguration of Donald Trump. (DE - 8 p.)*

## SECTION 4 - EU MEMBER STATES

### DENMARK

JACQUES DELORS INSTITUTE - BERLIN

**Variable geometry risky for refugees: the Danish case**

by Marie Walter-Franke

*Should the common European asylum system accommodate various degrees of integration? With member states unable to agree on asylum reforms, flexible integration has become a tempting alternative. Drawing lessons from the ongoing downgrading of refugee protection in the opt-out country of Denmark, this paper warns that differentiated integration is not a good solution for the EU asylum policy. (6 p.)*

### GERMANY

INSTITUT DER DEUTSCHEN WIRTSCHAFT KÖLN (COLOGNE INSTITUTE FOR ECONOMIC RESEARCH)

**Der Beitrag weiblicher Erfinder zu deutschen Patentanmeldungen**

by Oliver Koppel, Enno Röben and Judith Wojda

*Women continue to make only a small contribution to patent activity in Germany. The main reason for the low proportion of women inventors is their choice of subjects at university and later careers away from the fields of applied research and development where most patent applications originate. In Germany, intensive efforts to change this by the staging of events such as Girls' Day have largely failed to attract women to university courses in technology and the natural sciences. (DE - 23 p.)*

FRIEDRICH-EBERT-STIFTUNG (FRIEDRICH EBERT FOUNDATION)

**Das pragmatische Einwanderungsland: Was die Deutschen über Migration denken**

by Rainer Faus and Simon Storks 

*Migration continues to dominate the public debate in Germany. The tone is usually highly emotional and the positions seemingly hardened. But what do Germans really think about migration? This survey comes to the conclusion that there exists differentiated views instead of a totally divided society. Moreover, Germans are in principle open to immigration and more than half of the population even sees it as an opportunity. Around 70 percent believe that Germany should receive as many refugees in the future as now or even more. (DE - 35 p.)*

## INSTITUT FRANÇAIS DES RELATIONS INTERNATIONALES

### Tackling the root causes of displacement: the German discourse

by Benjamin Schraven

*In Germany, an important role is ascribed to development policy when considering the question of how to deal with the causes of displacement and irregular migration. An important conclusion for German development policy would be that processes of (regular) migration must be promoted to a greater extent. Moreover, important principles of development cooperation, such as respect for human rights, must be upheld at all costs. If this is not the case, then there is a risk of exacerbating, unintentionally, future processes of displacement and irregular migration. (34 p.)*

## PETERSON INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL ECONOMICS

### The return of economic nationalism in Germany

by Jeromin Zettelmeyer  [@jzettelmeyer](https://twitter.com/jzettelmeyer)

*Germany's new national industrial strategy 2030, unveiled by Economy Minister Peter Altmaier in February 2019, advocates an aggressive industrial policy. The author concludes that three of Altmaier's five proposals - attempting to further raise the German share of manufacturing, restricting non-EU imports of intermediate goods, and promoting national champions in Germany and the EU - are bad policies. The two remaining ideas - preventing some foreign takeovers and ramping up state support for certain technologies - are somewhat easier to justify. (17 p.)*

## FRANCE

### FONDATION POUR L'INNOVATION POLITIQUE

#### Ferroviaire : ouverture à la concurrence une chance pour la SNCF

by David Valence  [@david\\_valence](https://twitter.com/david_valence) and François Bouchard

*The introduction of competition in regional passenger transport is an unavoidable development. Unlike privatisation, it must be seen as an opportunity for the French flagship SNCF, with its history stemming from the liberalism of the 19th century industrial revolution, the exceptional skills of its employees and its worldwide reputation. Through this major development, it is given the opportunity to contribute even more to the development of the public rail service, which is part of France's national heritage. (FR - 64 p.)*

## ITALY

### FONDAZIONE ISMU – INIZIATIVE E STUDI SULLA MULTIETNICITÀ (INITIATIVES AND STUDIES ON MULTI-ETHNICITY)

#### L'inclusione socio-lavorativa dei rifugiati: il dinamismo della società civile

by Annavittoria Sarli

*The socio-economic inclusion of migrants, and in particular beneficiaries of international and humanitarian protection, is a key element in maximising the economic benefits of immigration and reducing its negative impacts, as well as clearly for the quality of coexistence and democracy. In particular, the economic integration of people, such as asylum seekers and refugees, who are often severely affected by their tortuous migratory journeys, but perhaps for this very reason have skills and potential that could prove to be strategic, is a challenge that is as demanding as it is essential for the creation of a model of integration and sustainable development. (IT - 16 p.)*

## ISTITUTO PER GLI STUDI DI POLITICA INTERNAZIONALE

### Jihadist radicalization in Italian prisons: a primer

by Francesco Marone  [@f\\_marone](#) and Marco Olimpio

*Radicalisation in prison has long been a critical issue in the West (and beyond), where prisons have sometimes been turned in recruitment and proselytization hubs by different kinds of extremists, including jihadists. As is well known, one of the main concerns is that radicalised subjects may indoctrinate other common detainees. Italy has also been affected by this phenomenon and jihadist radicalisation in prison represents a concrete threat. This analysis presents an overview of the problem, based on the latest available data. (14 p.)*

## FONDATION POUR L'INNOVATION POLITIQUE

### Un an de populisme italien

by Alberto Toscano

*The beginning of 2019 was marked by a tightening of Franco-Italian relations. These events once again put the spotlight on the duo of Matteo Salvini and Luigi Di Maio, leaders of the populist parties of the League and the 5-star Movement (M5S) respectively, and the big winners of the parliamentary elections of 4 March 2018. This note reviews the first year of the ruling coalition and reviews its dynamics. (FR - 56 p.)*

## INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR COUNTER-TERRORISM THE HAGUE

### Destination Jihad: Italy's foreign fighters

by Francesco Marone  [@f\\_marone](#) and Lorenzo Vidino

*The conflicts in Syria, Iraq, and Libya have attracted tens of thousands of foreign fighters, who travelled to those countries to join the ranks of the so-called Islamic State and other armed groups. Although Italy's contingent is remarkably smaller than those seen in other Western European countries, the issue of foreign fighters and the threat they may pose is certainly on the security agenda. (41 p.)*

## LUISS SCHOOL OF EUROPEAN POLITICAL ECONOMY

### The economic consequences of Italian political isolation

by Carlo Bastasin  [@CarloBastasin](#)

*In about two months' time, European citizens will be voting on their EP representatives. For Italy, where the government has chosen to distance itself from its traditional partners, the political indications that are taking shape before the vote allude to the risk that the country will be isolated and in difficulty concerning issues of fiscal stability that mark its weakness. (6 p.)*

## CYPRUS

## PEACE RESEARCH INSTITUTE OSLO

### Gender in the Cyprus negotiations

by Olga Demetriou

*This report addresses the integration of a gender agenda in the peace negotiations in Cyprus as well as in activities outside the framework of the negotiations. (42 p.)*

## PEACE RESEARCH INSTITUTE OSLO

### [The status of the sovereign base areas in Cyprus following Brexit](#)

by Nasia Hadjigeorgiou [@NasiaHGeorgiou](#) and Nikos Skoutaris [@NikosSkoutaris](#)

*This paper offers a concise analysis of the legal status of the sovereign base areas (SBAs) under EU law. It revisits the foundational documents that led to the establishment of the SBAs; explains their status in EU law after the Republic of Cyprus acceded to the EU; and finally explains how the UK withdrawal agreement accommodates them post-Brexit. (14 p.)*

## NETHERLANDS

### THE HAGUE CENTRE FOR STRATEGIC STUDIES

#### [Energy R&D made in Germany: strategic lessons for the Netherlands](#)

by Jan Frederik Braun

*The Netherlands and Germany are close partners in the energy transition. This report aims to promote a strategic discussion between the Netherlands and Germany on long-term bilateral cooperation in energy R&D. Moreover, it provides an overview of Germany's complex energy R&D policy, detailing actors, aims and financial means. The key message is that the Netherlands can learn from Germany's long-term and strategically coherent policy approach. Research findings invite stakeholders from the Netherlands and Germany to step up their cross-border cooperation on a range of energy R&D issues of common interest in a more consistent manner. (80 p.)*

### THE HAGUE CENTRE FOR STRATEGIC STUDIES

#### [Ruimte voor vernieuwing: capaciteitenontwikkeling van de 5e generatie luchtmacht](#)

by Frank Bekkers, Tim Sweijs [@TimSweijs](#), Stephan De Spiegeleire [@sdspieg](#) (et al.)

*This report is the result of a review of the roles, tasks and developments for the Royal Netherlands Air Force over the next ten to fifteen years. Many replacement decisions for the Royal Netherlands Air Force have been taken recently and modernisation programmes are being implemented or planned. This already determines a large part of the future capabilities. These will consist of manned fighters (F-35), unmanned reconnaissance aircraft (MQ-9), air transport and tanker aircraft, various helicopters and resources in space. (NL - 82 p.)*

## POLAND

### WISEEUROPA

#### [A new chapter - Shifting Poland towards net-zero economy](#)

by Maciej Bukowski [@mbukows](#)

*The Polish approach to climate and energy policy over the last decade has largely failed. The country is likely to miss all of the EU's 2020 climate and energy targets. Poland's official plans for the next decades continue to be out of sync with the EU's decarbonisation pathways. The report assesses the draft national energy and climate plans, recently released by the Polish government and outlines the priority actions to shift the Polish economy toward net-zero development pathway. (94 p.)*

## EUROPEA STABILITY INITIATIVE

### [Under siege: why Polish courts matter for Europe](#)

by Piotr Buras, John Dalhuisen [@DalhuisenJJ](#), Gerald Knaus [@rumeliobserver](#) (et. al)

*2018 marked a turning point for the rule of law in Europe; courts in member states need to be “protected against external interventions or pressure liable to impair the independent judgment of its members and to influence their decisions.” This is no longer guaranteed in Poland today. The Commission must launch another infringement procedure before the Court of Justice, with the aim to restore the independence of courts and EU member states should voice their support for this overdue step. (14 p.)*

## UNITED KINGDOM

### CENTRE FOR POLICY STUDIES

by Nick King, Tom Clougherty, Lucky Dube (et al.)

### [Herding Unicorns. How Britain can create and support the high-growth tech companies of the future](#)

*The report reveals how Britain can unlock the potential of its growing tech sector and expand its herd of ‘unicorns’. It argues that any country that wants to play a leading role in the digital economy must foster the conditions to create and promote unicorn companies. (33 p.)*

## BREXIT

### WILFRIED MARTENS CENTRE FOR EUROPEAN STUDIES

### [The Empire strikes back: Brexit, history and the decline of global Britain](#)

by Eoin Drea [@EoinDrea](#)

*For those seeking to understand the debate in Britain about leaving the EU, it is important to understand that history - or rather a certain Eurosceptic Tory interpretation of British and Imperial history - played a key role in building and sustaining the momentum for Brexit, both during and after the 2016 referendum. In this context, the process of Britain leaving the EU can be seen as the triumph of a misrepresented and selective view of British Imperial history and an unbending view of the primacy of the nation state. This narrative was combined with a rise in economic nationalism and populism stimulated by the global economic crisis that commenced in 2007. This combination, in turn, challenged long-established political norms such as Britain’s membership of the EU. (50 p.)*

## ELINKEINOELÄMÄN TUTKIMUSLAITOS (RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF THE FINNISH ECONOMY)

### [Brexit and indirect impact routes through global value chains](#)

by Jyrki Ali-Yrkkö and Tero Kuusi [@TeroKuusi](#)

*The authors analyse the trade linkages between the UK, Finland, and the EU. They calculate the value-added content of trade through complex global value chains, which may involve numerous production stages and third countries. The results show that the importance of the UK as a trading partner for Finland has decreased during the last 15 years, and the tendency has been stronger than that between the UK and other EU countries. (20 p.)*

## PETERSON INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL ECONOMICS

### Brexit: everyone loses, but Britain loses the most

by María C. Latorre, Zoryana Olekseyuk, Hidemichi Yonezawa [@hide\\_yonezawa](#) (et al.)

*This paper examines 12 economic simulation models that estimate the impact of Brexit. Most of the studies find adverse effects for the UK and the EU-27. The UK's GDP losses from a hard Brexit (reversion to WTO rules due to a lack of UK-EU agreement) range from - 1.2 to - 4.5 percent in most of the models analysed. A soft Brexit has about half the negative impact of a hard Brexit. Only two of the models derive gains for the UK after Brexit because they are based on unrealistic assumptions. (21 p.)*

## ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE

### Ireland and Brexit: modelling the impact of deal and no-deal scenarios

by Adele Bergin, Philip Economides [@economip](#), Abian Garcia Rodriguez (et al.)

*This study examines the impact of three Brexit scenarios on the Irish economy. The study finds that GDP in Ireland ten years after Brexit will be around 2.6% lower in a deal scenario, 4.8% lower in a no-deal scenario and 5.0% lower in a disorderly no-deal scenario respectively, compared to a situation where the UK stays in the EU. (34 p.)*

## EUROPEAN POLICY CENTRE

### New proposal for amending the political declaration on Britain's future in Europe

by Andrew Duff

*The author emphasises the importance of the political declaration (PD). He argues that the first draft of November 2018 was too tentative in tone, ambiguous in meaning and negative in substance to orientate the UK and EU in the right direction. He proposes a draft of an amended PD with an upgraded legal status. In this version, the relevance of the Irish backstop and its transitional nature is fully explained. The EU's more consensual language offered to the UK in December and January are included. And room is made for upgrading the status of the declaration by way of a legal bridge between the withdrawal agreement and PD. (21 p.)*

## BERTELSMANN STIFTUNG

### Estimating the impact of Brexit on European countries and regions

by Giordano Mion and Dominic Ponattu

*This paper provides quantitative insights into the economic impact of Brexit on European countries and regions. It evaluates the impact of a soft and a hard Brexit on productivity, mark-ups, product variety, welfare and the distribution of population. According to the findings, Brexit would have a significant impact on the UK and EU economies. A hard Brexit could lead to annual welfare losses of 57 billion euros in the UK and about 40 billion euros in other EU countries. A soft Brexit would strongly mitigate these losses. Productivity losses and mark-up increases drive the simulated effects. (38 p.)*



## ISTITUTO AFFARI INTERNAZIONALI

### The international impact of Brexit

by Nicholas Westcott

*The domestic and European politics of Brexit have understandably dominated discussion in the UK parliament and media. Yet Brexit will have a profound international impact on the world at large. This needs to be better understood, as Britain will be living with the consequences for decades to come. (5 p.)*

## INSTITUTE FOR GOVERNMENT

### The Brexit effect

by Lewis Lloyd

*Implementing the result of the 2016 EU referendum has proven an unprecedented test for the UK government – one that it has yet to pass. Brexit has challenged the status quo, upending conventions and inviting us to rethink how government, and politics more broadly, work in the UK. On the day the UK was originally scheduled to leave the EU, this report assesses the impact on six areas that have been particularly subject to the “Brexit effect”: ministers, the civil service, public bodies, money, devolution, and Parliament. (48 p.)*

## CENTRE FOR EUROPEAN REFORM

### Europe without the UK: liberated or diminished?

by Sophia Besch [@SophiaBesch](#), Ian Bond [@CER\\_IanBond](#), Agata Gostyńska-Jakubowska [@AgataGostynska](#) (et al.)

*In April 2016 was published the report "Europe after Brexit: unleashed or undone", trying to predict how the EU would evolve if the UK voted to leave the Union. Since then, the EU has had to respond not only to the Brexit. Internally, the EU has seen the continued rise of populist, Eurosceptic forces. Though the next steps on Brexit and the future UK-EU relationship remain uncertain, there is enough evidence over the last three years to evaluate and update the 2016 report's predictions. (6 p.)*

## UK IN A CHANGING EUROPE

### Article 50 two years on

*It is worth recalling just what has been achieved since the UK triggered Article 50 two years ago. This report represents an attempt to provide a summary of what has happened, where the UK is now and where it is likely to go next. The report brings together some of the best minds working on Brexit, who share their expertise on a range of areas where Brexit is having or will have an impact. (61 p.)*

## UK IN A CHANGING EUROPE

### Brexit votes explained

by Jack Simson Caird [@jasimsoncaird](#), Alan Wager [@DrAlanWager](#) and Matthew Bevington [@matt\\_bevington](#)

*If an extension of Article 50 is agreed, the choice facing the House of Commons will remain the same: whether or not approve the deal in more or less its current form. The Government may want to try and fast-track the withdrawal agreement bill to complete the ratification process as quickly as possible. British MPs will have a decisive say over whether or not this happens. The report sets out*



what affects MPs' influence and shows that there could be no deal if they continue to vote against everything. (14 p.)

## ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE

### The impact of the UK's EU exit on the attractiveness of Northern Ireland to FDI and associated job creation effects

by Iulia Siedschlag and Manuel Tong Koecklina

*This study examines possible Brexit effects on the attractiveness of Northern Ireland (NI) to greenfield FDI and related job creation. The results indicate that NI would be less attractive as a location to FDI and would experience a reduction of FDI-related job creation in any of the considered Brexit outcomes in which NI would have the same model of trade agreements with the EU as the rest of the UK. NI would become more attractive to FDI and would generate more FDI-related new jobs if it would remain in the Single Market for goods and services and the rest of the UK would leave the Single Market. Lowering the corporate tax rate to 12.5% in Northern Ireland would compensate the negative effects of Brexit on its attractiveness to FDI. (47 p.)*

## INSTITUTE FOR DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

### Great Britain and the European Union beyond Brexit

by Ana Muhar Blanquart [@AnaMuhar](#)

*Britain's unique geographical characteristics have become even more pronounced during the negotiation period of parting from the EU. The island mentality, its peoples nostalgia related to the country's abundant history and the inability to find its new defined role on the geopolitical stage of the world are particularly visible now in the debate about Britain's future outside of Europe. Outside of a unified Europe, Britain will have to define its position in the Western world and fill the gap that is likely to be created with constructive relationships with it. (6 p.)*

## MISCELLANEOUS

## INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR DEMOCRACY AND ELECTORAL ASSISTANCE

### Political finance transparency

*This brief discusses the importance of increasing political finance transparency in order to: prevent an 'arms race' in election spending; level the political and electoral playing field; keep illicit and criminal money out of politics and elections; promote the political participation of women and other marginalized groups; and incentivize compliance with political finance regulations. (8 p.)*

## WOODROW WILSON INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR SCHOLARS

### The trouble with political parties and the rise of the Yellow Vests

by Patrick Liddiard

*In France and other longstanding democracies, broad socioeconomic changes since the end of World War II transformed the structure of the electorate and the operation of political parties, producing growing policy convergence between parties and a pool of unaffiliated voters who felt no party represented them. The widespread outbreak of the Yellow Vest protests was particular to France, but the preconditions are not, and other long-standing democracies are also at risk of sudden outbreaks of protest, potentially in the form of anti-establishment populist parties. (14 p.)*

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