



Council of the EU
General Secretariat

THINK TANK REVIEW

Council Library

May 2019
ISSUE 67

This Think Tank Review* covers articles and reports published in April relating to different political and policy topics. ([click to share on Twitter](#))

The **European elections** are the main focus of this TTR issue. Articles note that the elections will dictate the future direction of the EU's political system. In these elections the focus has been less on economic matters than on issues such as climate change and immigration. Publications point out that the EP will be significantly different and comment on the importance of political parties/families working together in order to drive the European project forward. The involvement of young people in the future development of the EU is essential.

On **Ecofin** affairs, publications refer to ways to reform the EMU and to the EU's economic position in the next five years, and question whether economic multilateralism can survive.

On **Environment** and [climate change](#), the EU's climate and energy policy framework for 2030 is analysed.

On **Brexit**, several articles comment on the existing split within the UK due to specificities of the political system which serve to tighten the current deadlock since neither the Tories nor Labour can secure a majority that would allow them to take action.

The TTR can be downloaded from Council's Library [blog](#). TTR articles are available via [Eureka](#), the resource discovery service of the Council Libraries.

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

Download your Think Tank Review



The Council Library is open to staff of the EU institutions and Permanent Representations of the member states. The general public may use the Library for research purposes. It is located in the Justus Lipsius building, at JL 02 GH, Rue de la Loi 175, 1048 Brussels.

* This collection of abstracts and links was compiled by the Council Library of the General Secretariat of the EU Council for information purposes only. The content links are the sole responsibility of their authors. Publications linked from this review do not represent the positions, policies or opinions of the Council of the EU or the European Council.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SECTION 1 - EU POLITICS AND INSTITUTIONS	3
SECTION 2 - EU POLICIES	6
GENERAL AFFAIRS.....	6
COMPETITIVENESS (INTERNAL MARKET, INDUSTRY, RESEARCH AND SPACE).....	6
ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS	7
EMPLOYMENT/SOCIAL POLICY/HEALTH AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS	10
ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	10
JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS.....	11
TRANSPORT/TELECOMMUNICATIONS/ENERGY.....	12
SECTION 3 - FOREIGN AFFAIRS	13
FOREIGN AND SECURITY POLICY / DEFENCE	13
TRADE	16
AFRICA.....	17
EASTERN EUROPE	17
MIDDLE EAST/NORTH AFRICA (MENA).....	18
CHINA	21
INDIA.....	22
RUSSIA.....	23
TURKEY.....	24
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.....	25
SECTION 4 - EU MEMBER STATES	26
BULGARIA	26
GERMANY	26
IRELAND.....	26
GREECE.....	27
FRANCE	28
HUNGARY	28
NETHERLANDS	28
AUSTRIA.....	29
POLAND	29
SLOVAKIA	29
UNITED KINGDOM.....	30
BREXIT	30
MISCELLANEOUS	32

SECTION 1 - EU POLITICS AND INSTITUTIONS

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

[The 2019 European Parliament elections: potential outcome and consequences](#)

by Simon Hix [@simonjhix](#) and Doru Frantescu [@dorufrantescu](#)

The 2019 EP elections take place in a new context, given Brexit and the changes in the political landscape in many countries in Europe. With growing support for parties opposed to further European integration, on both the right and the left as well as within the main political groups, the authors expect “EU-critical” MEPs to make up 35 to 40 per cent of the next EP. To illustrate the significance of the 2019 elections, they discuss the current balance of power in the EP, how coalitions have formed across different policy issues, and how voting cohesion of the political groups has varied across policy issues. (15 p.)

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

[Richtungswahl für das politische System der EU](#)

by Nicolai von Ondarza [@NvOndarza](#)

The elections to the EP will become a choice of direction for the development of the EU's political system. The study analyzes changes in the European party landscape as well as their impact on the functioning and political orientation of the EU. Despite their role as umbrella organizations of national parties, the importance of European political parties for the EU's political system should not be underestimated. (DE - 40 p.)

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

[How could the European elections reshape Central Europe's role in the EU?](#)

by Marta Makowska, Patrik Kováč, Zuzana Stuchlíková [@zstuchlikova](#) et al.

This issue gives a short answer to the same questions concerning international politics and economics on the following topic: “How could the European elections reshape Central Europe's role in the EU?”. The answers are given from the Polish, Slovakian, Czech and Austrian perspectives. The aim of the series is to launch the scientific debates and promote dialogue among experts. (8 p.)

CENTRUM FÜR ANGEWANDTE POLITIKFORSCHUNG (CENTER FOR APPLIED POLICY RESEARCH)

[Europawahl 2019](#)

by Barbara Tham

The EU is changing and faces unprecedented challenges, with the outcome of the European elections in May being more unsure than ever. Against the backdrop of recent developments, this report takes a detailed look at the younger generation's perspective on the future development of the EU. The author stresses the importance to build on existing positive attitudes towards the EU and to provide a solid basis for involving young people in the future development of the European community. This requires European-level youth and educational work that succeeds in sensitizing and motivating young people to actively participate in Europe and European politics. (DE - 11 p.)

FONDATION ROBERT SCHUMAN

[The electoral context 2019: new and increasingly European issues](#) [Le contexte électoral de 2019: des enjeux nouveaux et de plus en plus européens](#)

by Emmanuel Riviere [🐦 @emmanuelriviere](#) and Julien Zalc [🐦 @ZalcJ](#)

The 2014 European elections took place in a very different context from the present campaign. Five years ago, Europeans had their sights set on the continent's economic situation, as it floundered in sovereign debt crises, the risk of deflation and an increase in an ongoing economic recession. Today the focus is less on economic matters but rather more on issues, already nascent in the 2014 election, like climate change and immigration. (EN - FR 8 p.)

FONDATION ROBERT SCHUMAN

[Which new Europe?](#) [Quelle nouvelle Europe ?](#)

by Jean-Dominique Giuliani [🐦 @JD_Giuliani](#)

2019 is the year for the renewal of the main European institutions, starting with EP elections in May. Will this mark a new era for Europe? The international context, the Union's and its member states' internal political difficulties might lead to a new Europe, pointing to some surprising developments. (EN - FR 8 p.)

FONDATION ROBERT SCHUMAN

[Review of the 8th legislature of the European Parliament](#) [Bilan de la 8ème législature du Parlement européen](#)

by Eric Maurice [🐦 @er1cmau](#), Chloé Hellot [🐦 @chloe_hellot](#), Delphine Bougassas-Gaullier et al.

The 751 MEPs have legislated on issues that form the core of citizens' concerns, such as security, data protection and the environment, whilst using its status as the only European representatives to be directly elected, to address issues such as the rule of law and taxation. At a time when Parliament has just held the last plenary session of this mandate in Strasbourg and just weeks before the European elections, this study reviews the legislature 2014-2019. (EN - 18 p.) (FR - 19 p.)

ULKOPOLIITTINEN INSTITUUTTI (FINNISH INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS)

[The concepts of parliamentarism in the EU's political system: approaching the choice between two models](#)

by Teija Tiilikainen

EU-level parliamentarism is at a crossroads. The hybrid form of parliamentarism, combining elements of parliamentarism as control of the executive and parliamentarism as a separation of powers, has rendered the public image of the EP obscure, and decreased the democratic legitimacy of the EU's political system. Even the contradictory elements of the two main models of parliamentarism have been incorporated into the Union's political governance. (12 p.)

BUSSOLA INSTITUTE

[An overview of the 2019 European Parliament election and its potential implications for the GCC](#)

by Christian Koch [@ChristianKoch](#) and Nadine Aly

In a Europe that will continue to be preoccupied with itself as new political arrangements emerge, how are issues of importance to the Gulf region likely to feature on the post-election EU agenda and how can the Gulf Cooperation Council states maintain relations with the many different factions likely to emerge within the new Parliament? The prospects for this critical election and its implications for Europe's relations with the Gulf region are examined in this timely publication. (22 p.)

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

[Perspectives on the future of the EU](#)

by J. Christopher Bickerton, Björn Fägersten [@BFagersten](#), Ulrike Guérot [@ulrikeguerot](#) et al.

Several challenges stimulate the debate on the future of the EU: globalisation, security concerns, the rise of populism, the impact of new technologies, Brexit. An underlying question concerns the prospects for legitimacy and democracy. In this paper, five leading European scholars go beyond policy issues to focus on the future of the EU as a political system. (123 p.)

ROBERT SCHUMAN CENTRE FOR ADVANCED STUDIES - EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY INSTITUTE

[Differentiated integration as a fair scheme of cooperation](#)

by Richard Bellamy [@rpbellamy1](#) and Sandra Kröger

In the past few years, there have been few discussions about the future of the EU that did not involve the topic of differentiated integration (DI), the process whereby some member states integrate further, while others temporarily or permanently opt out of specific policies. DI has allowed European integration to proceed by both widening and deepening. However, the growing acceptance that the EU's future may lie in more institutional diversity leaves unanswered the question of the conditions under which DI could be accepted as a fair scheme of cooperation. This is the question addressed by this paper. (23 p.)

LIUSS EUROPEAN SCHOOL OF POLITICAL ECONOMY

[Secular divergence - explaining nationalism in Europe](#)

by Carlo Bastasin [@CarloBastasin](#)

The doctrine of nationalism, hinging on a primacy of the cultural, civic or ethnic unit of one nation vis-à-vis other nations or other peoples, will continue eroding Europe's integration until its hidden cause is recognized and addressed. In order to do so, it is important to acknowledge a new powerful and pervasive factor of social and political change: divergence, within countries, sectors, jobs, or local communities. (13 p.)

FRIEDRICH-EBERT-STIFTUNG (FRIEDRICH EBERT FOUNDATION)

[Macronism, Corbynism, ... huh? Electoral strategies of progressive political parties in Europe](#)

by André Krouwel [@AndreKrouwel](#), Yordan Kutiyski, Oliver Philipp et al.

Recent elections in many European countries have resulted in resounding electoral losses for social democratic parties. The study identifies strategies of social democratic parties by comparing the position of each social democratic party in its national political landscape vis-a-vis two voter groups: core voters – those who express an intention to vote for the social democratic party and potential voters – those with a high propensity to vote for the social democratic party, but who intend to vote for another party. (44 p.)

EUROPEAN POLITICAL STRATEGY CENTRE

[Global trends to 2030: challenges and choices for Europe](#)

by Florence Gaub [@FlorenceGaub](#)

The next decade will be defining for the future of Europe and Europe's role in the world. The European strategy and policy analysis system (ESPAS) 2019 report is a forward-looking contribution to support policy- and decision-makers in the upcoming 2019-2024 EU institutional cycle, which promises to hold new challenges, but also opportunities. (52 p.)

SECTION 2 - EU POLICIES

GENERAL AFFAIRS

EUROPEAN POLITICAL STRATEGY CENTRE

[Europe's sustainability puzzle: broadening the debate](#)

The 2030 sustainability agenda is an opportunity to highlight the risks ahead. It is now more urgent than ever to acknowledge the interrelated pressures that fall under 'sustainable development' and to acknowledge that a revised societal model will be indispensable to help Europeans weather the winds of change, and to deliver on the promises of prosperity, wellbeing, security and empowerment. This paper zooms in on the pressing and sometimes sensitive choices that Europe faces, posing questions and exploring solutions to some of the paradoxes that lie at the heart of its current socio-economic model and its long-term sustainability. (20p.)

COMPETITIVENESS (INTERNAL MARKET, INDUSTRY, RESEARCH AND SPACE)

JACQUES DELORS INSTITUTE - BERLIN

[EP 2014-19 key votes: copyright](#)

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

This issue reviews the EP vote on copyright in the digital single market. The vote revealed political and cultural cleavages within many European political groups despite a majority in favour of the directive. Instead of traditional cleavages along a left/right or market liberal/ protectionist axis the vote was characterized by a cultural cleavage on questions regarding the treatment of intellectual property online and the openness of the internet in more general. This cleavage was also visible in the different voting patterns of German and French MEPs. (9 p.)

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT THINK TANK

[Competition issues in the area of financial technology \(FinTech\)](#)

by David Ramos Muñoz, Juan Pablo Villar García, Luis Castejón Martín [@luiscastejonm](#) et al.

This study deals with the new competition challenges brought about by the increasing number of FinTech services, which are provided by newcomer start-ups, traditional financial institutions and big tech companies. Namely, network effects derived from the use of online-platforms, the use of customer data, algorithms, standardisation and interoperability can result in anticompetitive behaviour. The analysis takes a service-by-service approach to provide both, a descriptive breakdown and normative tools to anticipate and manage anticompetitive behaviours as they occur. (27 p.)

ISTITUTO PER GLI STUDI DI POLITICA INTERNAZIONALE

[Infrastructure for growth: how to finance, develop, and protect it](#)

by Carlo Secchi and Stefano Riela (eds.)

This study analyses the importance of economic infrastructure and how to finance and develop it. Economic infrastructure is the backbone that, in many cases, crosses the borders of political geography and defines the space supporting the movement of goods, services, people and their ideas. The report addresses: the economic impact of infrastructure, with a focus on the transportation network of the EU; the geopolitical role of infrastructure; the infrastructure gap at the global level and how to ease its financing; and the efficient development of infrastructure. (76 p.)

ROBERT SCHUMAN CENTRE FOR ADVANCED STUDIES - EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY INSTITUTE

[Do data policy restrictions impact the productivity performance of firms and industries?](#)

by Martina Francesca Ferracane [@Martina_E](#), Janez Kren and Erik van der Marel [@ErikvanderMarel](#)

This paper examines how policies regulating the cross-border movement and domestic use of electronic data on the internet impact the productivity of firms in sectors relying on electronic data. In doing so, the authors collect regulatory information on a group of developed economies and create an index that measures the regulatory restrictiveness of each country's data policies. The results show that stricter data policies have a negative and significant impact on the performance of downstream firms in sectors reliant on electronic data. (59 p.)

ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

BERTELSMANN STIFTUNG/JACQUES DELORS INSTITUTE BERLIN

[A missed opportunity – five reasons why ESM reform will fail to deliver](#)

by Lucas Guttenberg [@lucasguttenberg](#)

This policy brief looks at the planned reform of the European Stability Mechanism. It argues that while the reform is necessary to finally bring home the backstop for banking union, it clearly falls short of its initial ambition to also substantially improve the Eurozone's crisis management framework. (8 p.)

BRUEGEL

[Taking stock of the Single Resolution Board: banking union scrutiny](#)

by Nicolas Véro

The Single Resolution Board (SRB) has had a somewhat difficult start but has been able to learn and adapt, and has gained stature following its first bank resolution decisions in 2017-18. It must continue to build up its capabilities, even as the EU's banking union and its policy regime for unviable banks continue to develop. (23 p.)

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT THINK TANK

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

by Karel Lannoo [@karel_lannoo](#)

This report makes a case for the SRB to step into the limelight and for the authorities to let it live up to its task. Despite significant improvement in the health of banks over the last 10 years, stress tests results, money laundering scandals and bank failures indicate that the sector is not free of problems, and that the SRB may be called upon to act on a large systemic bank. Policy makers have so far preferred to continue to bail-out banks, rather than to use the SRB for what it was designed. This undermines the credibility of the institution and the single banking market. (23 p.)

CENTRE FOR EUROPEAN POLICY STUDIES

[Understanding the limitations of Maastricht](#)

by Daniel Gros [@DanielGrosCEPS](#)

On 1 January 1999, the EMU entered into force and the euro came into being. The euro has become the second currency used in world markets and has been seen as an anchor of economic and financial integration. And yet, the euro is far from an unwavering success. This article looks back at the last 20 years since the euro's inception and consider the obstacles it has overcome and those that still lay in waiting, the design flaws that have hindered it and how to address them as well as important lessons learned and recommendations for the future. (6 p.)

ÖSTERREICHISCHE GESELLSCHAFT FÜR EUROPAPOLITIK (AUSTRIAN SOCIETY FOR EUROPEAN POLITICS)

[European Economic and Monetary Union - who is afraid of Treaty reforms?](#)

by Stefan Griller and Elisabeth Lentsch

Consensus prevails that the EMU requires reforms. Economic and financial management crisis measures stretched the rigid and limited legal fundamentals to their utmost boundaries and provoked watering down. Instead of continuing with the same pattern when pursuing further reforms, the authors advise to not only adjust the underlying constitutional EMU framework substantively, but also address the rigidity of the EU Treaties as such by deconstitutionalising EMU law. The detailed economic governance provisions in the Treaties should be replaced by more flexible ones allowing for swift and deliberate change without cumbersome Treaty revision. (8 p.)

BRUEGEL

[Promoting sustainable and inclusive growth and convergence in the European Union](#)

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

The authors look at the EU's economic agenda, discussing the priorities for the next five years. The EU can look ahead at the next five years from a good economic position. Employment is

comparatively high, the recovery has been uninterrupted for several years and income inequality remains less pronounced than elsewhere in the world. But the EU faces nevertheless formidable economic challenges. In the short-term, there is the potential for strong macroeconomic weakening, resulting partly from uncertainty generated by the global trade conflict. The EU also has a long-term growth and productivity weakness. The EU, especially the euro area, suffers from a lack of convergence and its social cohesion is threatened. (21 p.)

THE GERMAN MARSHALL FUND OF THE UNITED STATES

[Toward inclusive economies in transatlantic cities: navigating labour market change at the local level](#)

by Anne Marie Brady, Béla Galgoczi, Matthew Baqueriza-Jackson [@mattjackson170](#) et al.

This report examines the adverse effects of labour market change in the US and Europe, specifically the rise in precarious work and stagnation of wages, and starts to connect these macro-level structural changes with transatlantic city policy response. The type and quality of work and wages is an outcome of how growth is generated and shared through economic development. This critical link between economic development and labour market policy is the focus of this report. (47 p.)

ROBERT SCHUMAN CENTRE FOR ADVANCED STUDIES - EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY INSTITUTE

[Can economic multilateralism survive?](#)

by Jean Pisani-Ferry [@pisaniferry](#)

Economic multilateralism briefly flourished in the 1990s in the aftermath of the collapse of the Soviet Union and of the opening up of the Chinese economy. Attempts were made towards completing the institutional architecture of globalisation. With the significant exception of the creation of the WTO, however, these attempts were frustrated and the vision of the 1990s failed to materialise. Three roadblocks to effective collective action are the growing disconnect between changing channels of interdependence and the prevailing global institutional architecture; increased concentration of economic weight coupled with increased heterogeneity of economic development; and the growing multipolarity of the global economy. (32 p.)

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

[The impact of labour market institutions and capital accumulation on unemployment: evidence for the OECD, 1985-2013](#)

by Philipp Heimberger [@heimbergecon](#)

This paper provides econometric evidence on the impact of labour market regulations on ('structural') unemployment rates. Based on a data set for 23 OECD countries over the time period 1985-2013, the panel regression results suggest that standard institutional labour market indicators largely underperform in explaining (medium-term) unemployment, while cyclical macroeconomic factors are essential determinants. (34 p.)

EMPLOYMENT/SOCIAL POLICY/HEALTH AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

ELINKEINOELÄMÄN TUTKIMUSLAITOS (RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF THE FINNISH ECONOMY)

[Top 3: pension systems in Denmark, Finland, and the Netherlands](#)

by Svend E. Hougaard Jensen [@shj_eco](#), Jukka Lassila, Niku Määttänen [@NikuMaattanen](#) et al.

According to the 2018 Mercer global pension index, the pension systems of Denmark, Finland and the Netherlands are the best three in the world. This paper seeks to identify the common elements of success of these three pension systems, including the institutional framework within which they operate. (14 p.)

FRIEDRICH-EBERT-STIFTUNG (FRIEDRICH EBERT FOUNDATION)

[Posted workers regulations as a cohesion test in the enlarged EU](#)

by Barbara Surdykowska and Dominik Owczarek [@Do_Owczarek](#)

Most studies on the posted workers mechanism elaborate on their impact on host countries' labour markets and the working conditions of the workers, while the perspective of sending countries is often overlooked and inadequately articulated in the European debate. Therefore, it is important to introduce balance and to juxtapose both perspectives, enabling the expression of Central and Eastern Europe stakeholders' interests. This report will serve to complement the public debate with the perspective(s) of four sending countries; namely Lithuania, Poland, Romania and Slovakia. (33 p.)

EUROPEAN POLICY INSTITUTE NETWORK

[EU mobile workers: a challenge to public finance?](#)

by Cinzia Alcidi [@AlcidiCinzia](#) and Daniel Gros [@DanielGrosCEPS](#)

This contribution analyses recent trends in labour mobility within the EU and considers the challenges it generates in sending countries. It finds that mobile workers abroad can make a significant contribution to the GDP of their host countries and that the incomes of mobile citizens abroad can be of considerable benefit to those who stayed at home. (32 p.)

LUXEMBOURG INSTITUTE OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC RESEARCH

[Education-health relationship: new evidence from a distributional perspective](#)

by Iryna Kyzyma and Maria Noel Pi Alperina

Using data from the survey of health, ageing and retirement in Europe, this paper identifies the education gradient in health, and explores its underlying factors using a distributional approach. (40 p.)

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

VRIJE UNIVERSITEIT BRUSSEL - INSTITUTE FOR EUROPEAN STUDIES

[Hard or soft governance? The EU's climate and energy policy framework for 2030](#)

by Sebastian Oberthür [@OberthuerSeb](#)

This article investigates the stringency of EU climate and energy governance along the soft-hard continuum as a key determinant of its ability to achieve its ambitions. It introduces four criteria for a

systematic and differentiated assessment of the bindingness/stringency of legislative instruments and governance frameworks. The EU's 2030 framework scores high on the four criteria. Despite implementing the comparatively soft Paris agreement, it does not fall behind the stringency of the 2020 framework. (11 p.)

GRANTHAM RESEARCH INSTITUTE ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

[Institutions, climate change and the foundations of long-term policymaking](#)

by Jared Finnegan [@jjfinnegan](#)

Many policy problems require taking costly action today to reap future benefits; climate change is a prime example. Like any investment, climate change policy investments require that societies pay a little bit today in return for much greater future benefits – in particular a stable climate. But why do some countries take strong action to address long-term problems like climate change while others do very little? This paper focuses on the role of political institutions, particularly electoral rules, which determine how politicians get elected, and state – business relationships, which determine how industry influences the policymaking process. (55 p.)

JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS

FRIEDRICH-EBERT-STIFTUNG (FRIEDRICH EBERT FOUNDATION)

[Still divided but more open: mapping European attitudes towards migration before and after the migration crisis](#)

by Vera Messing and Bence Ságvári

This analysis explores cross-national differences in perceptions of migration and discovers factors that may lie behind the immense differences in the acceptance versus rejection of migrants across European countries. The results show how attitudes have changed from before to after the 2015 migration 'crisis', and also draw a wider picture of attitude shifts in 15 European countries between 2002 and 2016/17. Overall, the perception of migration in European countries remains neutral and stable. Anti-migrant attitudes are strongest in countries where migrants are hardly present, where people don't have personal experiences with immigrants but where they lack the feeling of safety and control. (64 p.)

EUROPEAN POLICY CENTRE

[European programme for integration and migration: policy update April 2019](#)

by Katharina Bamberg [@KatBamberg](#), Marie De Somer [@MarieDeSomer](#), Alberto-Horst Neidhardt et al.

This policy update looks at Operation Sophia's scaled down mandate and its likely impact on search and rescue activities in the Mediterranean. Other key highlights of this update include an analysis of EU-African cooperation on migration, the agreement reached on the Frontex reform, developments on the coordination of social security systems, and a closer look from the European council on refugees and exiles on their campaign #YourVoteOurFuture (15 p.)

CENTRE FOR EUROPEAN POLICY STUDIES

[The EU's role in implementing the UN global compact on refugees. Contained mobility vs. international protection](#)

by Sergio Carrera and Roberto Cortinovis

This paper argues that EU policies in the field of asylum and migration have been driven by a 'contained mobility' approach, which has been recently operationalised in the scope of EU third

country arrangements like the 2016 EU-Turkey statement. The paper concludes by recommending that the EU moves from an approach focused on 'contained mobility' towards one that places refugee's rights and agency at the centre through facilitated resettlement and other complementary pathways driven by a fundamental rights and international protection rationale. (25 p.)

JACQUES DELORS INSTITUTE - BERLIN

[EP 2014-19: key votes: emergency relocation mechanism](#)

by Lucas Rasche [🐦 @LuRasche](#)

This issue reviews a vote on one of the most controversial topics in the 2014-19 legislature: the EP vote of September 2015 establishing an emergency relocation scheme for 120.000 asylum seekers from Italy and Greece. The vote illustrates a geographic rift between Eastern and Western/Southern EU countries about adequate solidarity measures in response to the 'migration crisis', which continue to hamper negotiations on the reform the Common European asylum system. It also reveals a value-based cleavage between the political left and centre on the one hand, and the right and far-right on the other. (8 p.)

THE HAGUE SECURITY DELTA

[Cybersecurity culture guidelines: behavioural aspects of cybersecurity](#)

This report has conducted four evidence-based reviews of human aspects of cybersecurity. Based on the findings of the reviews, this paper proposes a model of awareness, analysis and intervention for organisations to systematically plan and implement changes to address human aspects of cybersecurity. The report concludes with recommendations for specific groups such as policy makers, management and organizational leaders, security specialists, software developers and awareness raising managers. (34 p.)

TRANSPORT/TELECOMMUNICATIONS/ENERGY

INSTITUT FRANÇAIS DES RELATIONS INTERNATIONALES

[Strategic dimensions of the energy transition: challenges and responses for France, Germany and the European Union](#)

by Marc-Antoine Eyl-Mazzega and Carole Mathieu [🐦 @CMathieu](#)

The EU must adjust its diplomatic strategy and strengthen global leadership to fight climate change. On the eve of the next European elections, this paper gives recommendations on how a new energy transition pact could be established. The Union should also draw on global governance bodies such as the G7 and the G20 to increase efforts for controlling energy consumption and obtain an end to investment in traditional coal-fired power stations. (62 p.)

INSTITUT FRANÇAIS DES RELATIONS INTERNATIONALES

[Biogas and biomethane in Europe: lessons from Denmark, Germany and Italy](#)

by Marc-Antoine Eyl-Mazzega and Carole Mathieu [🐦 @CMathieu](#) (eds.)

At a time when the EU is discussing its long-term climate strategy and drafting new legislation to foster the decarbonisation of its gas sector, a close look at the experience of Denmark, Germany and Italy with renewable gas production can provide valuable lessons. For more than a decade, these three countries have supported biogas technologies and developed support schemes to facilitate their large-scale deployment. They have more recently focused on developing their biomethane potential. (76 p.)

NOTRE EUROPE - JACQUES DELORS INSTITUTE

[Mobilités propres: la voie européenne](#)

by Emilie Magdalinski [@e_magdalinski](#)

Millions of jobs, two hours a day, a third of our energy demand and a major source of air pollution: that is what transport represents for Europeans. How will the next European decision-makers be able to offer all EU citizens more efficient, cleaner and more socially just transport? The EU must act quickly, with a global and long-term view of the energy transition. This policy paper makes three proposals that will help Europe to offer mobility to all Europeans. (FR - 46 p.)

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT THINK TANK

[5G deployment: state of play in Europe, USA and Asia](#)

by Colin Blackman [@ColinRBlackman](#) and Simon Forge

This report compares 5G deployment in the EU with other leading economies – the USA, China, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Singapore and Taiwan. On a range of indicators, the EU compares well. However, this is not a short-term race. 5G is more complex than previous wireless technologies and should be considered as a long-term project to solve technical challenges and develop a clear business case. (34 p.)

LISBON COUNCIL FOR ECONOMIC COMPETITIVENESS AND SOCIAL RENEWAL

[A roadmap for a fair data economy](#)

by Luukas K. Ilves and David Osimo [@osimod](#)

This policy brief charts a European vision for a fair data economy. It lays out how Europe can overcome the false dichotomy between individual rights and the imperatives of economic growth with new business models that provide value for users, start-ups and established companies alike. In recent years, the EU has already laid the legal groundwork for this evolution with the general data protection regulation and other legislation. This report lays out a roadmap for how to build on that foundation and make Europe into a world-leading data economy. (58 p.)

SECTION 3 - FOREIGN AFFAIRS

FOREIGN AND SECURITY POLICY / DEFENCE

ATLANTIC COUNCIL

[NATO at Seventy: filling NATO's critical defence-capability gaps](#)

by Wayne A. Schroeder

As NATO reaches its seventieth anniversary in 2019, the Alliance is facing new challenges both externally and internally. The re-emergence of Russia as a strategic threat has led to the re-examination of NATO's warfighting capabilities and the gaps that exist to adequately defend and deter. At the same time, both renewed US focus and the emergence of new security threats have placed increased pressure on member states to reach established spending targets. (48 p.)

CENTER FOR TRANSATLANTIC RELATIONS

[Open door: NATO and Euro-Atlantic security after the cold war](#)

by Daniel S. Hamilton and Kristina Spohr (eds.)

NATO's decision to open itself to new members and new missions is one of the most contentious and least understood issues of the post-cold war world. This book takes us back to the decade when those momentous decisions were made. Former senior officials from the US, Russia, Western and Eastern Europe who were directly involved in the decisions of that time describe their considerations, concerns, and pressures. They are joined by scholars who have been able to draw on newly declassified archival sources to revisit NATO's evolving role in the 1990s. (638 p.)

NEDERLANDS INSTITUUT VOOR INTERNATIONALE BETREKKINGEN - CLINGENDAEL (NETHERLANDS INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS)

[70 years of NATO: the Alliance in troubled waters](#)

by Dick Zandee

The resurgence of an external strategic threat has not resulted in a firmly united NATO. At its 70th anniversary in April 2019, the Alliance as the cornerstone of European security is crumbling under the combined weight of American President Trump, the East-South divide and Turkey. (8 p.)

THE GERMAN MARSHALL FUND OF THE UNITED STATES

[NATO at 70: from triumph to tumult?](#)

France is a founding member of NATO and has always seen itself as a key military and security actor in Europe. Over the last 70 years it has also had a particular role and voice within the alliance, as the French vision of the transatlantic alliance has often differed from the one promoted by the US. More recently, the idea of a "global NATO" aligned with US priorities, including increasingly vis-à-vis China, has been problematic for France, while Washington still fears that French-led initiatives in European defence cooperation threaten or duplicate NATO and the US security commitment to Europe. (13 p.)

EGMONT – ROYAL INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

[Europe in a multipolar missile world – why the EU and NATO should not try to salvage the INF Treaty](#)

by Bruno Hellendorff [@BHellendorff](#)

The author argues that the EU should not try to salvage the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces treaty (INF). Its diplomatic capital might be better spent in areas where it could potentially make a difference, rather than in a treaty to which it is not even party. Existing multilateral regimes and agreements with the EU or its member states as parties are already in dire need of reinforcement in the face of technological progress, a volatile diplomatic environment and self-centred, competitive political narratives. (30 p.)

BRUEGEL

[Europe in the midst of China-US strategic competition: what are the European Union's options?](#)

by Alicia García-Herrero [@Ali GarciaHerrer](#)

With the trade conflict between the US and China bringing China-US strategic competition into the open, the EU faces an urgent question: how to position itself in the competition. This paper reviews the impact of the US-led trade war against China and its immediate consequences for China, the

US and the EU. It also reviews the EU's options in the new world of strategic confrontation between China and the US. (21 p.)

GLOBSEC POLICY INSTITUTE

[The bumpy road towards the EU's common foreign policy](#)

by Kinga Brudzińska [@KingaBrudzinska](#)

While the foreign policy makers in Brussels and in the member states agree that the EU needs to play a bigger role in the world, there is still no agreement on either what this bigger role is, or how to get there. This policy paper aims to look at the institutional evolution of the EU and the expansion of its competencies accompanying its successive treaty reforms, which equipped the EU with more tools for its role as a global actor. Finally, the goal is to propose some steps towards a credible EU Foreign Policy, including the role that Central Europe could play in shaping a joint foreign policy. (14 p.)

EVROPSKÉ HODNOTY (EUROPEAN VALUES)

[The significance and modalities of deterrence: the current military & strategic situation in the Baltics](#)

by Martin Svárovský

This report underlies the need for military deterrence and reassuring measures in the Baltics, such as the USA's European deterrence initiative (formerly the European reassurance initiative) and NATO's enhanced forward presence, and argues in favour of their further reinforcement. The aim is to suggest some specific recommendations in the security and political spheres regarding the Czech armed forces and regarding the adaptation of strategic documents at national and NATO levels. (25 p.)

ULKOPOLIITTINEN INSTITUUTTI (FINNISH INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS)

[The geostrategic Arctic: hard security in the high north](#)

by Harri Mikkola

The end of the Cold War meant that the Arctic region lost most of its geostrategic relevance. However, due to growing great power competition, the Arctic is back on the geopolitical map. Hard security dynamics in the region are defined by two key elements: the importance of conventional long-range missiles and nuclear weapons for Russia, and the importance of the North Atlantic sea line of communication for European defence. (8 p.)

WILFRIED MARTENS CENTRE FOR EUROPEAN STUDIES

[The new geopolitics of the Arctic: Russia, China and the EU](#)

by Andreas Østhagen [@AndreasOsthagen](#)

This paper examines the main geopolitical issues in the Arctic, such as the development of the region's energy resources, the underlying potential for conflict and the increasing presence of China in the region. It argues that to unpack the region's complexities, we need to recognise the diversity within the Arctic across a range of issues and to differentiate different levels of analysis: the international and the regional. Furthermore, this paper argues that the EU's approach to the north suffers as a result of a general deficiency in EU external policies, namely incoherence and a multitude of voices and opinions. (26 p.)

TRADE

LSE IDEAS

[The role of the European Union in the international trade and investment order](#)

by Steve Woolcock

At the time of major threats from both the US and China, it is important for the EU to support an open, rules-based trading system. The EU's capability to pursue a coherent policy in pursuit of these general aims requires the establishment of an effective trade policy regime that includes the Council of ministers, the Commission, and the Parliament. It also requires the (re)establishment of a broad political consensus on the scope and aims of EU trade and investment policy, something that can only be achieved with the full engagement of member state governments and stakeholders in an informed debate. (23 p.)

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

[Distance\(s\) and the volatility of international trade\(s\)](#)

by Arnaud Mehl, Martin Schmitz and Cedric Tille

Does distance matter for the volatility of international real and financial transactions? The report shows that it does, in addition to its well-established relevance for the level of trade. A simple model of trade with endogenous mark-ups shows that demand shocks have a larger impact on trade between more distant countries. It shows also that during the great trade collapse of 2007-09 international transactions fell more between countries that are more distant along the various metrics. The publication also focus on a longer panel analysis of trade in goods and show that trade is more volatile between more distant countries. (43 p.)

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT THINK TANK

[EU-Singapore trade and investment deals pass major milestone](#)

by Krisztina Binder

The EP gave its consent in February to conclude the EU-Singapore trade and investment agreements. The trade agreement will enter into force with the finalisation of Singapore's internal administrative procedures and the conclusion of the final formalities by the EU and Singapore. In contrast, the investment protection agreement, which falls under the shared competence of the EU and its member states, needs to be ratified by the EU member states also, following their national procedures. (9 p.)

EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ECONOMY

[Europe and South-East Asia: shifting from diplomacy to unilateralism](#)

by Hanna Deringer [@HannaDeringer](#), Hosuk Lee-Makiyama [@leemakiyama](#) and Danny Murty

The postponement of the planned 'strategic partnership' between the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the EU highlights deep concerns and divisions for opening up in the relationship. The EU-Singapore free trade agreement, and investment partnership agreement, stand alone as a success for EU-ASEAN trade relations, in an otherwise troubled landscape. Bilateral trade agreements with Vietnam, Malaysia, Indonesia and Thailand remain frozen or unratified for multiple non-trade reasons, often stemming from domestic politics (14 p.)

AFRICA

EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION ON DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH AND TRAINING INSTITUTES

[Climate change and developing country growth - the cases of Malawi, Mozambique and Zambia](#)

by Channing Arndt [@channingarndt](#), Paul S. Chinowsky [@Paul_Chinowsky](#), Charles Fant et al.

Focusing on Malawi, Mozambique, and Zambia, the article uses a structural approach to biophysical and economic modelling that incorporates climate uncertainty and allows for rigorous comparison of climate, biophysical, and economic outcomes across global mitigation regimes. It is found that effective global mitigation policies generate two sources of benefit. These results highlight the interests of most developing countries in effective global mitigation policies, even in the relatively near term, with much larger benefits post-2050. (15 p.)

EASTERN EUROPE

POLSKI INSTYTUT SPRAW MIĘDZYNARODOWYCH (POLISH INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS)

[The Eastern Partnership vision after 2020](#)

by Jakub Benedyczak, Anna Maria Dyner and Lidia Gibadlo [@LidiaGibadlo](#)

The Eastern Partnership was established in 2009 thanks to an initiative by Poland and Sweden. This report formulates proposals on how the EU can develop its relations with the EaP countries in the medium and long term. The possibilities of using EU integration models involving third countries, such as Turkey (customs union) or Norway in the scope of the European Economic Area, are analysed. The experience of the Western Balkans in integration with the Union was also an inspiration for the presented proposals. (46 p.)

ULKOPOLIITTINEN INSTITUUTTI (FINNISH INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS)

[Ukraine's stalled transformation: a concerning context for the 2019 presidential and parliamentary elections](#)

by Arkady Moshes and Ryhor Nizhnikau

After the presidential and parliamentary elections, Ukraine will face an increased risk of populism and radicalization of the political agenda on the one hand, and apathy and disengagement among the population on the other. In these circumstances, the West should be ready to increase its involvement in Ukraine, but also to step up conditionality in order to influence the behaviour of protectors of the old system, interacting more with the pro-reform constituency in Ukraine. (8 p.)

OŚRODEK STUDIÓW WSCHODNICH (CENTRE FOR EASTERN STUDIES)

[Zelenskiy: anatomy of a success](#)

by Tadeusz Iwanski

The political situation in Ukraine since the 'revolution of dignity' and the Russian aggression has created a specific social context in which the public's perception of the traditional politicians has started to deteriorate dramatically. The huge distrust of state institutions and politicians resulted in a search for 'new faces', people from outside the establishment, who were untainted by corruption and could meet the public's diverse expectations. In the initial stage of the campaign, the Ukrainian people had a choice between two such people: Sviatoslav Vakarchuk, the leader of the popular rock band Okean Elzy, and Volodymyr Zelenskiy, the comedian and actor. Zelenskiy became a major contender in the presidential race, and won the first round of elections. (7 p.)

FRIEDRICH-EBERT-STIFTUNG (FRIEDRICH EBERT FOUNDATION)

[Ukrainian prism: foreign policy 2018](#)

by Nadiia Bureiko, Mariia Koval and Hennadiy Maksak (eds.)

This study represents a systematic and comprehensive analysis of the Ukrainian foreign policy in 2018. It analyses activities of all actors, not just the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and its research of all regions in the world. It looks at the political interests of the key Ukrainian players in individual areas of foreign policy, available mechanisms of coordination and strategic vision, as well as at the practical work and achieved results. (250 p.)

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

[Georgia's economic performance: bright spots and remaining challenges](#)

by Tinatin Akhvlediani [@AkhvledianiTina](#) and Peter Havlik

Georgia has long been one of the most trade-open economies in the world. It joined WTO in 2000 and currently has a free trade agreement with the EU and EFTA, as well as with Turkey, the Commonwealth of Independent States and China. Georgia has been also one of the most business-friendly countries. The basic objectives of Georgia's trade policy are integration, liberalisation, diversification and transparency. (21 p.)

EXPERT-GROUP

[Five development goals for the national financial system](#)

by Dumitru Pinteia and Eugen Ghiletschi [@eghiletschi](#)

The financial monitor presents to the general public the main actions undertaken (or not undertaken) by the authorities in order to reform and develop the financial sector in Moldova, to provide analytical assessments of the undertaken measures, as well as to make recommendations on how to enhance the efforts of reforming this sector. The report outlines the financial system development goals, including their widely described motivation and the capacity to support the goals set out in the national development strategy. (11 p.)

MIDDLE EAST/NORTH AFRICA (MENA)

EUROMESCO

[Climate security in the Sahel and the Mediterranean: local and regional responses](#)

by Abdelhak Bassou [@Bassou_Abdelhaq](#), Aleksandra Chmielewska [@al_chmielewska](#) and Xira Ruiz-Campillo (eds.)

The Mediterranean basin is an area of interaction between the two continents. However, there is a perception that limits the Mediterranean basin to its strictest geographical sense, that is to say the countries of southern Europe and those of North Africa, which border the Mediterranean. The study examines the impact of climate change on the stability of the Sahel and the effects that the instability of this region could have on the Mediterranean space. (FR - 113 p.)

OXFORD INSTITUTE FOR ENERGY STUDIES

[Diversification in Gulf hydrocarbon economies and interactions with energy subsidy reform: lessons from Kuwait](#)

by Manal Shehabi [✈ @ManalShehabi](#)

After the recent oil price declines in mid-2014, MENA oil exporters including Kuwait reduced energy subsidies and passed economic diversification-enhancing policies in an attempt to improve fiscal balance and economic sustainability. This paper argues that these economies already have a diversified base but this base has not contributed to export or fiscal diversification due to structural constraints and economic distortions. (26 p.)

ÖSTERREICHISCHE INSTITUT FÜR INTERNATIONALE POLITIK (AUSTRIAN INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS)

[The new-old elites and their relations with the EU: the cases of Egypt and Tunisia](#)

by Cengiz Günay

Tunisia and Egypt are two countries that have experienced the fall of longstanding authoritarian leaders. Transitions in both countries then took entirely different directions. This paper deals with the question of whether and how political change in the two countries has affected their foreign policy-making towards the EU. Building on a liberal international relations perspective and elite theory, the paper focuses on the politically relevant elites and analyses their structure and their disputes over power resources. (47 p.)

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

[Sisi's re-election: issues of Egyptian security and terrorism](#)

by Beth Wagoner

This paper aims to analyse the relationship between Egyptian security issues and the regime of Egyptian president Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, focusing specifically on insurgent groups in the Sinai. An examination of historical conflicts in the Sinai coupled with the recent rise of insurgent groups reveals a troubling security trend that could impact the MENA region, and by extension, global security as a whole. The paper concludes with recommendations for the EU on how to mitigate this security threat. (11 p.)

ISTITUTO PER GLI STUDI DI POLITICA INTERNAZIONALE

[The role of Russia in the Middle East and North Africa region. Strategy or opportunism?](#)

by Valeria Talbot [✈ @TalbotValeria](#) and Chiara Lovotti [✈ @ChiaraLovotti](#) (eds.)

Understanding what the features and objectives of Russian presence in the MENA region are today is anything but a simple task. While many observers – from the policy-making or scientific community – have labelled the new “Russian moment” as mere opportunism, something extemporaneous and even unexpected, others have attributed its current interventionism to a proper and broader vision, a sort of “grand strategy” by the Kremlin for the MENA region. Both views, however, may be partial and incomplete, as suggested by the findings contained in this report. (112 p.)

EGMONT – ROYAL INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

[Returnees in the Maghreb: comparing policies on returning foreign terrorist fighters in Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia](#)

by Thomas Renard [🐦@tom_renard](#) (ed.)

More than 5,000 North African volunteers travelled to Syria and Iraq in the aftermath of the ‘Arab Spring’, and about 2,000 joined jihadi groups in Libya. This report looks at the unprecedented scope and dynamics of this mobilisation, focussing on three countries: Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia. It focusses more specifically on the challenge of returning foreign fighters, exploring the risk they pose and the policies that have been developed (or not) to handle them upon return. The report concludes with some recommendations for the region and for Europe. (61 p.)

ISTITUTO PER GLI STUDI DI POLITICA INTERNAZIONALE

[EU-Islam dialogue and engagement. Five challenges and opportunities](#)

by Paolo Maggiolini

This brief aims to analyse EU dialogue and engagement with Islam in the Mediterranean contexts after the Arab uprisings. The aim is to reconsider how the EU has developed its approach to the Mediterranean and Islam in terms of intercultural and interreligious dialogue and engagement, shedding light on the existing opportunities for and challenges to such efforts. (10 p.)

PETERSON INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL ECONOMICS

[Efforts of oil exporters in the Middle East and North Africa to diversify away from oil have fallen short](#)

by Adnan Mazarei

Faced with fluctuating oil prices and other uncertainties, the oil-rich countries of the MENA have made efforts to diversify their exports, in order to reduce their dependence on oil revenue and generate much-needed jobs. The results of these efforts have been disappointing overall, raising concerns about the region's stability and potential risk to the global economy. Transparent public debates and dialogue are needed, especially with the private sector, about policies that have worked and those that have not, the costs and benefits of various diversification strategies, and improving governance of public resources being used for diversification. (8 p.)

ISTITUTO PER GLI STUDI DI POLITICA INTERNAZIONALE

[Middle Eastern states in the Horn of Africa: security interactions and power projection](#)

by Brendon J. Cannon [🐦@cannon_brendon](#) and Federico Donelli [🐦@fededonelli](#)

The Middle East region has been the scene of political balancing acts amidst continuous power and influence scrambles due to its structural characteristics, and the lack of a clear regional hegemon. The actions of certain states such as Turkey, the United Arab Emirates and Qatar across the Horn of Africa have reportedly facilitated geopolitical tensions and regional rivalries that risk militarizing the region and impacting human security by reinforcing more state-centric conceptions of security concentrated on territorial and border disputes. (14 p.)

CHINA

UTRIKESPOLITISKA INSTITUTET (SWEDISH INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS)

[Facing the “new normal”: the strong and enduring Sino-Russian relationship and its implications for Europe](#)

by Christopher Weidacher Hsiung

This report examines the development and main characteristics of the Sino-Russian relationship in the post-cold war period with a certain emphasis on China. It identifies the factors that have shaped Sino-Russian relations and discusses various scenarios for such relations in the next 10 - 15 years. The report also assesses the implications of these scenarios for Europe. (46 p.)

INSTITUT FRANÇAIS DES RELATIONS INTERNATIONALES

[Seven years of the 16+1: an assessment of China’s ‘multilateral bilateralism’ in Central Europe](#)

by Justyna Szczudlik

This paper aims to assess the rationales, evolution and results of the 16+1 format, but also to imagine the future development of this formula. It concludes by assessing the future prospects of the 16+1. Bearing in mind the rising global concerns about China, including increasing US-China rivalry in Europe but also the EU’s more cautious approach to China and some 16+1 countries’ disappointment with this formula (especially Poland), the PRC is unlikely to seek an augmented role for the 16+1. (38 p.)

INSTITUT FRANÇAIS DES RELATIONS INTERNATIONALES

[China’s Belt & Road and the world: competing forms of globalization](#)

by Alice Ekman, Françoise Nicolas, Céline Pajon et al.

China increasingly sees its flagship foreign policy project as a tool for restructuring global governance and as a vector for a new form of globalization. It is essential to analyse the B&R methodology so as to inform the strategic analysis of the countries what the Chinese project may involve, and to help them identify a suitable methodology for addressing and responding to it. The non-physical infrastructure projects of B&R (institutional, digital, etc.) are still comparatively less taken into account. They are currently developing and are, from Beijing’s perspective, as important as - if not more important than - the physical projects. (136 p.)

CENTER FOR A NEW AMERICAN SECURITY

[Grading China's Belt and Road](#)

by Daniel Kliman [!\[\]\(4f6bf54ae7e4144a72d78316053e412d_img.jpg\) @dankliman](#), Rush Doshi [!\[\]\(1be454ab98bc856a53cc962da77a541d_img.jpg\) @RushDoshi](#) and Kristine Lee [!\[\]\(c0149066729715e1f65b56e37efafeee_img.jpg\) @Kristinejlee27](#)

Since its launch in 2013, the B&R has emerged as the corner-stone of Beijing’s economic statecraft. This report is re-evaluating the costs and benefits of B&R projects. It explores these challenges in the context of 10 cases that have received little high-profile attention and identifies future concerns generated by the B&R’s growing digital focus. Lastly, the report puts forward a checklist for evaluating future infrastructure projects involving China. (40 p.)

UCD GEARY INSTITUTE

[Building bridges or breaking bonds? The Belt and Road initiative and foreign aid competition](#)

by Krishna Chaitanya Vadlamannati, Yuanxin Li, Samuel Brazys [🐦@sbrazys ucd](#) et al.

China's renewed prominence is the most important development in international relations in the 21st century. China is increasingly viewed as a long-term strategic competitor, especially in the US. Foreign aid is one arena where this competition may be playing out. While Western foreign aid principles have emphasized coordination and harmonization, the rise of China as a major development partner has raised the spectre of a return to competitive foreign aid practices. Most notably, China's B&R initiative, has received a warm reception by some who view it primarily as a geostrategic effort. (49 p.)

MERCATOR INSTITUTE FOR CHINA STUDIES

[China's digital rise: challenges for Europe](#)

by Kristin Shi-Kupfer and Mareike Ohlberg

Digital China is challenging Europe on several levels. The global leadership of Chinese telecoms giants in 5G is just one example of how China is on its way to becoming a digital innovation powerhouse. Unless Europe catches up and becomes competitive in key digital technologies, it faces an imminent risk of finding itself trapped between China and the US. The EU and its member states need to join forces to prioritize strengthening the European digital market, by developing secure supply-chains among trusted partners for core digital technologies and devising strategically effective and autonomous digital policies. (58 p.)

INDIA

KONRAD-ADENAUER-STIFTUNG

[Narendra Modi again? Parlamentswahlen in Indien haben begonnen](#)

by Peter Rimmele, Romina Liesel Elbracht and Ann-Margret Bolmer

After the independence in 1947, the logistical mammoth project of a democratic election has taken place in India every five years since 1951. The focus will once again be on the two major parties, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Indian National Congress (INC). This election also increases the importance of regional small parties and their political courts, as they are able to set one or the other course for the electoral victory as a possible partner. (DE - 7 p.)

OBSERVER RESEARCH FOUNDATION

[The India-Africa partnership for sustainability](#)

by Aastha Kaul

In the near future, Africa and India will remain the fastest growing regions in the world, but will also be the most vulnerable to climate change. This vulnerability is compounded by the energy needs required by both to sustain their growth trajectories. Moreover, the natural progression of industrialisation will further continue to burden the already strained energy resources. Given these factors, it is clear that both India and Africa will have to conduct their economic transitions in an increasingly "fossil-fuel constrained world". (12 p.)

RUSSIA

CHATHAM HOUSE - THE ROYAL INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

[Russian ground forces posture towards the West](#)

by Charles Dick

The author examines the reform and modernization of Russia's military and argues that the new force structure enables high readiness for short warning, possibly complex conflicts in former Soviet and satellite countries. (18 p.)

CHICAGO COUNCIL ON GLOBAL AFFAIRS

[Russians want Crimea; prefer Luhansk and Donetsk independent](#)

by Stepan Goncharov and Denis Volkov

The conflict between Russia and Ukraine remains unresolved and - after five years - it does not appear to be reaching a resolution any time soon. The ongoing crisis in eastern Ukraine between the Ukrainian government and rebel forces supported by Moscow not only degrades the relationship between Kiev and Moscow but also contributes to the deteriorating relations between Russia and the West. This particular regional conflict has become an important destabilizing factor for international security. (9 p.)

INSTITUT FRANÇAIS DES RELATIONS INTERNATIONALES

[Russia-Ukraine gas relations: the mother of all crises or a new start to 2030?](#)

by Marc-Antoine Eyl-Mazzega

Ten years after the January 2009 gas crisis, Russian-Ukrainian gas relations are at another turning point: the then concluded contracts are terminating on 31 December 2019. While trilateral talks brokered by the EU Commission have started in July 2018, the real negotiations about the future of this relationship can be expected to start no earlier than in December, that is in the midst of the winter and a second to midnight. Crucial months lie ahead. (6 p.)

EXPERT-GROUP

[War by other means. Kremlin's energy policy as a channel of influence. A comparative assessment. Case studies from Ukraine, Moldova, Georgia, Romania and Hungary](#)

by Ana Otilia Nuțu [@otilianutu](#), Sorin Ioniță [@sionitae1](#)

Two gas crises (2006, 2009) and the military aggression in Ukraine (2014) gave the EU a strong impetus to accelerate the integration of its energy market and push for the implementation of the third energy package. Interconnections and solidarity mechanisms against energy crises were also enhanced after the EC's timely energy security stress tests in 2014, followed shortly by the adoption of the energy security strategy. The authors find strong indications of Russian abusive behaviour and strong similarity across Moldova, Hungary, Romania, Georgia and Ukraine, many of which are only partly understood in the West, as well as recommendations for EU institutions. (86 p.)

RUSSIAN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS COUNCIL

Envisioning opportunities for US-Russia cooperation in and with Central Asia

by Marlene Laruelle, Andrey Kortunov

Central Asia stands out as a comparatively “nontoxic” region where there are limited, but not insignificant, opportunities for US-Russia collaboration both bilaterally and within multilateral frameworks: in the space industry, civil security, job-creation mechanisms and rural human capital, and knowledge sharing for instance. Any proposal of US-Russia cooperation in a concrete domain will have to be made in a tri- or-multipartite way with the Central Asian state(s) concerned, under its/their supervision and leadership. (34 p.)

INSTITUT FRANÇAIS DES RELATIONS INTERNATIONALES

Russia’s “Great return” to Africa?

by Arnaud Kalika

Russia’s comeback to Africa has been widely discussed since 2017. How significant really is it and how does Russia’s Africa policy play out in practice? This paper aims to answer these questions, based on the testimony of Russian and African experts and participants whom the author met on different assignments. There is no doubt that Russia is back in Africa. Yet Moscow’s approach is based less on a grand strategic design aimed at domination than on an opportunistic and pragmatic search for influence that is dictated, in essence, by economic imperatives. (30 p.)

INSTITUT FRANÇAIS DES RELATIONS INTERNATIONALES

Russia’s militia groups and their use at home and abroad

by Marlène Laruelle

What makes the militia milieu so unique and important for understanding today’s Russia is that it finds itself at the intersection of state institutions, patronage mechanisms, criminal structures, and grassroots illiberal activism. Abroad, the Kremlin plays through it one of its major “hybrid warfare” cards, outsourcing activities traditionally conducted by intelligence entities and allowing for plausible deniability. The militia realm thus seems destined to play a growing role in Russia’s law-enforcement, military and intelligence culture both at home and abroad. (34 p.)

TURKEY

TÜRKİYE EKONOMİ POLİTİKALARI ARAŞTIRMA VAKFI (ECONOMIC POLICY RESEARCH FOUNDATION OF TURKEY)

Syrians in Istanbul and post-war Syrian ghettos

by Asmin Kavas [@asminkavas](#), Omar Kadkoy [@OmarKadkoy](#), İlderya Avşar [@İlderyaavsar](#) et al.

Beginning 2010 a number of uprisings broke out in the MENA. Encountering the uprisings triggered waves of forced displacement, the largest of which concerns the 5.6 million Syrians who are scattered in the neighbouring countries. The relocation of Syrians, however, brought along a new feature: post-war ghettos, namely in Turkey. This report looks at the post-war ghetto phenomenon in three districts of Istanbul: Fatih, Sultanbeyli and Sultangazi. (91 p.)

TÜRKİYE EKONOMİ POLİTİKALARI ARAŞTIRMA VAKFI (ECONOMIC POLICY RESEARCH FOUNDATION OF TURKEY)

[Reinsuring flow of credit to return to growth - the case for a Turkish troubled assets restructuring program](#)

by Burak Dalgın and Güven Sak

Over the past decades, Turkish economic growth was fuelled by availability of credit. A potential credit starvation poses a significant risk for the private sector, which has been the main beneficiary of the last decade. In order to avoid a long recovery, which is typical for recessions accompanied by debt overhangs, Turkey needs to have banks resume lending. This doesn't seem possible given the at-limit sources and unattractive profitability of the banking sector. Therefore, troubled assets on bank balance sheets need to be cleared with timely and competent action. (22 p.)

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

COUNCIL ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

[Trump's foreign policies are better than they seem](#)

by Robert D. Blackwill

This report examines in detail Trump's actions in a turbulent world in important policy areas, including the US' relationships with its allies, its relationships with China and Russia, and its policies on the Middle East and climate change. It acknowledges the persuasive points of Trump's critics, but at the same time seeks to perform exacting autopsies on their less convincing critiques. Finally, this report comes to a net assessment of the overall quality of the Trump administration's foreign policy halfway through his first term. (112 p.)

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

[Shooting oneself in the foot? US trade policy coping with global value chains](#)

by Cecilia Bellora and Lionel Fontagné

Since early 2018, the US administration has taken several measures to limit US imports, in particular from China. The affected countries retaliated. According to this study, the measures already implemented would cause significant value-added losses to China (USD 91 billion in the long run), but also to the US (62 billion), due to the intertwining of global value chains. If the tariff war were to escalate, German industry would pay a heavy toll. (4 p.)

PETERSON INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL ECONOMICS

[The 2018 US-China trade conflict after 40 years of special protection](#)

by Chad P. Brown [@ChadBown](#)

In 2018, the US suddenly increased tariffs on nearly 50 percent of its imports from China. China immediately retaliated with tariffs on more than 70 percent of imports from the US. This paper assesses what happened in 2018 and attempts to explain why. It uses the lens provided by the 2018 special tariffs to explain the key sources of economic and policy friction between the two countries. It also examines whether the US strategy to provoke a crisis - which may result in a severely weakened WTO - was deliberate and out of frustration with the institution itself. (34 p.)

SECTION 4 - EU MEMBER STATES

BULGARIA

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

[Standards for forced-return monitoring in Bulgaria](#)

by Mila Mancheva and Liliya Dragoeva

The issue of forced-return monitoring is a constituent part of the common European return policy, which is regarded as one of the highest priorities of the common EU migration policy. A primary objective of the EU return policy is to scale up return rates in proportion to the total number of return decisions issued through strengthening the member states' return capacity, as well as in cooperation with and by providing support to the countries of origin and transit. (6 p.)

GERMANY

E3G

[The German coal commission: a role model for transformative change?](#)

[Die deutsche Kohlekommission: Vorreiterin für transformativen Klimaschutz?](#)

by Alexander Reitzenstein [@AlexReitzenst](#) and Rebekka Popp [@RebekkaPopp](#)

A hard-fought compromise was reached between the members of the German coal commission in January 2019. Germany will phase out coal by 2038 at the latest and shut down significant capacity of hard coal and lignite plants by 2022. The coal commission was formed in June 2018 by bringing together industry, trade unions, coal regions, environmental NGOs, research institutes and affected communities to facilitate a German coal phase out and just transition process. (EN - 13 p.) (DE - 5 p.)

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

[IW economic forecast and IW economic survey spring 2019](#)

by Hubertus Bardt, Markus Demary, Michael Grömling et al.

Since the summer of 2018 the German economy has only been treading water. Reasons for this are the slowdown in world trade caused by protectionism and the adjustment burdens in the automotive sector, which have affected the production and export activity of German manufacturing. According to this forecast, German economy will continue to be stimulated by investments in construction and a number of consumer-related service industries. Despite a significant increase in government spending, public finances will be in surplus. (DE - 32 p.)

IRELAND

INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AND EUROPEAN AFFAIRS

[Ireland and the changing global foreign direct investment landscape](#)

by Frank Barry

Changes in the global foreign direct investment environment are of particular significance for Ireland. This paper discusses five major developments in the external FDI landscape with a focus on their implications for the economy and/or for policy. (13 p.)

GREECE

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

[UNCLOS 1982, the Mediterranean area and EU's southern rim](#)

by Mikhail L. Myrianthis

In 1998, the EU ratified UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), that became de jure acquis communautaire, affecting all future candidate member-states, including Turkey. Greece might actively promote an initiative as to declare a unified European exclusive economic zone in the Mediterranean area, embracing all EU member-states surrounding the basin that incidentally had all individually ratify UNCLOS. (11 p.)

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

[The refugee 'crisis' in Greece: politicisation and polarisation amidst multiple crises](#)

by Angeliki Dimitriadi and Antonia-Maria Sarantaki

The European refugee "crisis" of 2015 first and foremost unfolded in Greece at a critical period for the country and its place in the EU. Amidst the threat of Grexit and domestic political turmoil, the arrival of the refugees raised to the forefront questions of responsibility and burden sharing between Greece and its EU partners. This paper tries to explore whether the question of responsibility became an issue of politicisation in Greece as well as polarisation and whether it resulted in policy change on migration. (32 p.)

SPAIN

MIGRATION POLICY INSTITUTE

[Spain's labour migration policies in the aftermath of economic crisis](#)

by Kate Hooper [@kmchooper](#)

This report examines Spanish migration policies for low- and middle-skilled workers, and how these have changed as a result of fluctuating demand for immigrant labour. It also offers a profile of the country's immigrant population, highlighting how Spain's relationship with countries outside the EU are reflected in its labour migration pathways and citizenship policies. (39 p.)

POLICY NETWORK

[Catalan nationalism and the Spanish government](#)

by Luis Cornago Bonal, Javier Padilla and Carmen Villa-Llera

This paper sheds light on the dynamics of Catalan nationalism and the influence this has on the governance of Spain. It analyses changes in public opinion in Catalonia and Spain around the political situation and the territorial model, and explores the implications of all this for Spain's political landscape. It highlights also some patterns that can be observed in the portrayal of these issue in the media. (22 p.)

FRANCE

FONDATION POUR L'INNOVATION POLITIQUE

[Politique du handicap: pour une société inclusive](#)

by Sophie Cluzel [@s_cluzel](#)

Today, in France, disability directly or indirectly affects 12 million citizens. So how can it be explained that the presence of people with disabilities in the workplace, at school or in the media is still insignificant? It is a very French paradox: in wanting to protect people considered too weak, this results in excluding them from our lives and making them invisible by persuading ourselves that we were collectively doing our best. (FR - 44 p.)

FONDATION POUR L'INNOVATION POLITIQUE

[Décomposition du système politique et l'Europe comme enjeu: la présidence d'Emmanuel Macron fin 2018](#)

by Dominique Reynié [@DominiqueReynie](#)

Emmanuel Macron became President without ever having been elected or nominated before. There is no doubt that the French have been looking for some time now for a real breakthrough. They took a further step forward in the 2017 presidential election. By rejecting all the figures of traditional politics at once, they seem to be trying to reach a final compromise: a presidency of rupture without breaking with the EU. Given the context in which it was created, the failure of the Macron presidency would therefore significantly increase the weight of those in favour of an even more radical break, this time with Europe. (FR - 52 p.)

HUNGARY

MTA KÖZGAZDASÁG- ÉS REGIONÁLIS TUDOMÁNYI KUTATÓKÖZPONT - VILÁGGAZDASÁGI INTÉZET (CENTRE FOR ECONOMIC AND REGIONAL STUDIES HAS - INSTITUTE OF WORLD ECONOMICS)

[Effects of industry 4.0 on reshoring investments - Hungarian experiences](#)

by Andrea Élтетő

After the 2008 crisis, the topic of reshoring previously outsourced production was raised in the EU and the US, in parallel to reindustrialization and competitiveness discourses. This paper clarifies the definition of reshoring, backshoring and nearshoring, while enumerating the possible motivations for them. Automation and robotization (parts of the 'Industry 4.0' concept) can provide a push in the global production chain for various forms of 'shoring'. The paper addresses reshoring impacting Hungary (backshoring from Hungary and nearshoring to Hungary from Far-Eastern countries). (47 p.)

NETHERLANDS

CENTRAAL PLANBUREAU (CPB NETHERLANDS BUREAU FOR ECONOMIC POLICY ANALYSIS)

[Can your house keep you out of a nursing home?](#)

by Maaïke Diepstraten, Rudy Douven and Bram Woutersea

The authors examine the impact of the accessibility of an older individual's house on her use of nursing home care. They link administrative data on the accessibility of all houses in the Netherlands to data on long-term care use of all older persons from 2011-2014. They find that older people living in more accessible houses are less likely to use nursing home care. The effects

increase with age and are largest for individuals aged 90 or older. The effects are stronger for people with physical limitations than for persons with cognitive problems. (44 p.)

AUSTRIA

AUSTRIAN INSTITUTE OF ECONOMIC RESEARCH

[The economic impact of long-term care services](#)

by Gerhard Streicher, Ulrike Famira-Mühlberger and Matthias Firgo

The aim of this paper is to quantify the economic impact and multipliers of long-term care services for the first time. It estimates the direct, indirect and induced effects of public and private expenditures on value added, employment, taxes and social security contributions. According to the results, each euro spent on long-term care services is associated with domestic value added of 1.7 € as well as 0.70 € in taxes and social security contributions. Public expenditure on professional care services should therefore not be regarded merely as a cost factor in the public budget. (20 p.)

POLAND

FUNDACJA IM. STEFANA BATOREGO (STEFAN BATORY FOUNDATION)

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

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

2018 marked a turning point for the rule of law in Europe. It is no longer guaranteed in Poland today. Polish courts are under siege. No other European democracy has a system like the Polish one. Nowhere else is there such a concentration of powers in the hands of one man i.e. the Minister of Justice. By successfully bringing the law on the Supreme Court in 2018 to the ECJ, the EC showed that the EU is not helpless when its foundations are undermined. This paper argues that today the EC has to take one more crucial step. It should launch another infringement procedure before the ECJ, with the aim to restore the independence of courts. (13 p.)

SLOVAKIA

GLOBSEC POLICY INSTITUTE

[Slovak Republic: cyber readiness at a glance](#)

by Melissa Hathaway, Francesca Spidalieri and Anushka Kaushik [@anushkacyber](#)

This report provides the most in-depth analysis to date of Slovakia's current cyber security posture and its efforts to strengthen the country's security and resilience in the face of emerging information and communication technologies threats. (52 p.)

GLOBSEC POLICY INSTITUTE

[Character assassination, conspiracies and manipulation: Slovak presidential election through the lens of disinformation channels on Facebook](#)

by Miroslava Sawiris and Katarína Klingová [@kateklingova](#)

This report presents a summary of the key findings from monitoring of the Slovak presidential election conducted between 10th of January 2019, when the race for the office of president officially began, until the 3rd of April, which allowed the research to include a few days immediately following the election. The monitoring focused solely on the representations of presidential candidates on the most significant public disinformation channels on Facebook, the portrayals of

the candidates on these outlets, as well as the particular narratives spread in relation to the election. (20 p.)

UNITED KINGDOM

FABIAN SOCIETY

[Open and ethical: building a fairer immigration system](#)

by Mike Buckley and Kate Green (eds.)

The report identifies how, in the wake of the Windrush scandal, the UK's migration and asylum systems are failing migrants, asylum seekers and the wider public. The government's recent immigration white paper represented a missed opportunity to make crucial changes. (125 p.)

THE HENRY JACKSON SOCIETY

[Behind global Britain: public opinion on the UK's role in the world](#)

by Edward Elliott and Sophia Gaston

This survey finds that, firstly, despite an increase in engagement on foreign policy issues in the UK in the past 1.5 years, there is still a significant number of Britons uninterested and uninformed on what the UK does internationally. Secondly, there are consistent disparities between UK citizens, with, broadly, those who are younger, based physically proximate to the European continent, degree-educated, with higher socio-economic backgrounds, and a tendency to support left-leaning parties, considerably more likely to enthusiastically embrace the world at large than other citizens. (43 p.)

BREXIT

FRIEDRICH-EBERT-STIFTUNG (FRIEDRICH EBERT FOUNDATION)

[United Kingdom – als Königreich vereint, beim Brexit gespalten](#)

by Richard Hilmer and Tomislav Maršić

The split within the UK continues. Although the position of Theresa May, which is willing to compromise, meets with approval from the general public, the group of moderates faces camps of hard brexiteers and uncompromising remainers. This is confirmed by the results of a recent representative survey of British voters. Besides analysing the various topics of Brexit, the study also focuses on the future relationship of the UK with the EU. (DE - 29 p.)

KONRAD-ADENAUER-STIFTUNG

[The disregarded European question and the British party system](#)

by Felix Dane and Philipp Burkhardt

The vote by the British people to leave the EU is not only the manifestation of an economically weak and discontented class. Rather, it reflects a British – and in particular English – handling of the European continent. Since the EU cleavage lays across the conflict lines of the big parties, neither Tories nor Labour can organise majorities capable of acting. Specificities of the political system, political culture and historical factors all serve to tighten the current deadlock. Furthermore, the European question is not only a matter of Britain's relations with the continent; indeed, it risks threatening the unity of the UK itself. (6 p.)

OŚRODEK STUDIÓW WSCHODNICH (CENTRE FOR EASTERN STUDIES)

[The consequences of Brexit for the UK's security policy and the NATO's eastern flank](#)

by Piotr Szymanski [@PiotrSzyman](#)

Regardless of how the UK leaves the EU and what final timetable it adopts, Brexit has influenced the British debate on security policy, and may have implications for Britain's involvement in NATO's defence and deterrence strategy towards Russia. The UK plays an important role on NATO's north-eastern flank. After leaving the EU, London will still be involved in the security of Northern and Central & Eastern Europe. However in the future, Britain's strong military footprint on NATO's eastern flank may be tested by the increased activity of British armed forces beyond Europe as part of the 'Global Britain' concept, or by a change in the priorities of Britain's security policy by the Labour Party. (6 p.)

LSE IDEAS

[Ireland-UK relations and Northern Ireland after Brexit](#)

by Michael Burleigh, Michael Cox [@KemblaCoxy](#), Paul Gillespie et al.

This report explores the impact of Brexit from an Irish perspective, explaining Europe's role in improving Ireland-UK relations since 1970s and outlining the threat posed by Brexit to the political settlement in Northern Ireland. (36 p.)

EUROPEAN POLICY CENTRE

[Brexit: no stable equilibrium](#)

by Larissa Brunner

EU leaders' decision to extend the article 50 process to 31 October averted a no deal Brexit on 12 April. However, even if the UK leaves the Union in the autumn, there will still be uncertainty, as none of the three possible outcomes of the article 50 process – deal, no deal or remain – will result in a stable equilibrium. This brief predicts that, given the political dynamics in the UK and the deep split within its population and the main parties, the question of the country's relationship with the EU will continue to dominate domestic politics for many years to come. (4 p.)

UK IN A CHANGING EUROPE

[Brexit, British people of colour in the EU-27 and everyday racism in Britain and Europe](#)

by Michaela Benson [@Michaelacbenson](#) and Chantelle Lewis

This paper reports on original empirical research with British people of colour who have settled elsewhere in Europe to bring into view an original perspective to understandings of what Brexit means to Britons living in Europe. Focusing on the testimonies of British people of colour living in the EU-27 offers a unique lens into how Brexit is caught up in everyday racism, personal experiences of racialization and racial violence, and longer European histories of racialization and racism. (19 p.)

INSTITUTE FOR GOVERNMENT

[Negotiating Brexit: preparing for talks on the UK's future relationship with the EU](#)

by Tim Durrant [@timd_IFG](#), Alex Stojanovic [@awstojanovic](#), Georgina Wright [@GeorginaEWright](#) et al.

The UK has nearly completed the process of withdrawing from the EU, although it is now not expected to leave until October 2019. This report considers how the UK can prepare for the next

phase of negotiations on its future partnership with the EU. If the Withdrawal agreement is ratified, the UK will move into a transition period and begin negotiating its long-term relationship with the EU. Those negotiations will be more complicated and wide-ranging than the first phase. Even if the UK leaves with no deal, it will still need to talk to its nearest neighbour and most important trading partner. (48 p.)

MISCELLANEOUS

ROYAL UNITED SERVICES INSTITUTE

[Which rules? Why there is no single 'rules-based international system'](#)

by Malcolm Chalmers [@MChalmers](#) [RUSI](#)

The contemporary international order comprises a universal security system, a western system and a universal economic system. The rules of each of the three rules-based systems all reflect power-based bargains between their members and have been stronger as a result. Yet there have been tensions between the three systems, for example in relation to the security vulnerabilities created by globalisation. (52 p.)

JACQUES DELORS INSTITUTE - BERLIN

[Franco-German jumelage at UN Security Council](#)

by Nicole Koenig and Ronja Scheler

In March and April 2019, France and Germany twinned their presidencies of the UN Security Council (UNSC). This so-called 'jumelage' was a priority deliverable of the Franco-German Treaty of Aachen. This brief argues that the jumelage was an important symbolic gesture that facilitated bureaucratic coordination in New York. However, its symbolic value was tainted by bilateral quarrels over UNSC reform and its political reach was limited. France and Germany should jointly address the core problem limiting the EU's voice in NY and the world: the principle of unanimity in Brussels. (7 p.)

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

[Past and present developments of the Hungarian–Slovak minority joint committee](#)

by Csilla Varga

This paper examines the bilateral scope of cooperation in favour of national minorities which can be achieved through bilateral treaties, agreements and institutionally, in case of Hungary and its neighbouring countries, through the work of joint minority committees. (25 p.)

INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR DEMOCRACY AND ELECTORAL ASSISTANCE

[Courts in federal countries](#)

by Cheryl Saunders [@CherylSaunders1](#)

The brief begins by outlining the typical characteristics and key features of a federal system of government, before examining how the judicial branch of government might be organized. It identifies two sets of related questions that are relevant to consider when designing a federal judiciary: the structure of the courts and whether (and if so, how) the authority allocated to them should be divided along federal lines. (9 p.)

PETERSON INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL ECONOMICS

[Survival of the International Monetary Fund and global economic cooperation](#)

by Edwin M. Truman [@TrumanTed](#)

The IMF - a quota-based institution - faces a test of its survival as the linchpin of the global financial safety net. Its roughly \$1.4 trillion in total financial resources is scheduled to begin to shrink in 2020. Any significant redistribution of quota shares requires an increase in total quotas. Because of its share of votes in the IMF, the US must agree to any change in quotas. The Trump administration, however, has signaled that it favors no such change. If the US does not reverse its stance, IMF members will lose an opportunity to strengthen the institution at a time of global financial uncertainty. (9 p.)

INSTITUTE FOR GOVERNMENT

[How academia can work with government](#)

by Tom Sasse [@tom_sasse](#) and Catherine Haddon [@cath_haddon](#)

Academic evidence and expertise can inform and improve government policy, but many academics find it difficult to contribute to policy making. As a result, policy influence too often remains the preserve of the few – particularly in central government. This is a waste. Universities, research councils and funding councils should improve the way they support policy engagement. This report sets out how. (28 p.)

PETERSON INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL ECONOMICS

[Opening Internet monopolies to competition with data sharing mandates](#)

by Claudia Biancotti [@ungattodipiombo](#) and Paolo Ciocca

Over the past few years, it has become apparent that a small number of technology companies have assembled detailed datasets on the characteristics, preferences, and behavior of billions of individuals. This concentration of data is at the root of a worrying power imbalance between dominant internet firms and the rest of society, reflecting negatively on collective security, consumer rights, and competition. As data are a key input for artificial intelligence (AI), more widely available information would help spread the benefits of AI through the economy. On the other hand, data sharing could worsen existing risks to consumer privacy and collective security. (11 p.)
