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Dear Readers,

Welcome to issue 31 of the Think Tank Review compiled by the EU Council Library* ([click to share on Twitter](#)). It references papers published in December 2015. As usual, we provide the link to the full text and a short abstract.

In the 'EU Member States' section, and for those with a specific interest in the UK, readers will find a rich selection of content. Several papers cover the UK's plan for an 'in/out' referendum. We recall that last December, the members of the [European Council](#) agreed to work closely together to find mutually satisfactory solutions in all the four areas where the UK is seeking reform (economic governance, competitiveness, sovereignty and immigration) at the European Council meeting on 18-19 February 2016. We also include some interesting reflections by the Fabian Society in a series of papers on how the left's foreign policy may address the future.

Still in this section, a report examines Greek emigration and its economic consequences and explores policy options to minimize the cost and maximize the benefits of that mobility. We also noted an article on the French-speaking community ('la [Francophonie](#)') and the French language's impact on trade and welfare; the article argues that the promotion of 'la Francophonie' makes sense as a way of expanding the influence of the French language and culture though not as a macroeconomic policy goal.

Lastly, we include an analysis on the political situation in Spain, where following December's parliamentary election, the leftist Podemos (We Can) and the centre-right Ciudadanos (Citizens) broke the monopoly on power of the right-wing Partido Popular (PP) and the centre-left Socialists (PSOE).

In the 'EU policies' section we look at think tanks that have been focusing on employment and social issues, with papers exploring social inequalities in Europe, the EU approach to gender and the significant increase of temporary agency work in Europe since the 1990s, and its consequences, not just for the morale of the workers, but also its effect on company performance, e.g. on productivity and sales and other indicators of companies' performance.

The preparations for the upcoming [NATO summit](#) in Warsaw this July are reflected in several studies, which we have included under the 'Foreign and Security policy' section, with papers on NATO and European security, and on the challenges for NATO in the future.

The revision of the European Neighbourhood Policy has also attracted some interest from think tanks. We highlight a contribution that seeks to explain why the EU has had limited influence in Armenia and Azerbaijan in the framework of the ENP.

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Last December's three-year anniversary of the Japanese Prime Minister Abe Shinzo's return to office is marked by two articles: one on the Japanese national security strategy and the other on Abe's pro-growth economic policy.

For our 'Regards croisés' section, we have found a stimulating analysis entitled 'Germany: looking in, looking out'. It covers German policy responses to the internal and external issues facing the country and contributes to a deeper understanding of Germany today.

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

The next Review will be out in February 2016, with papers published in January 2016.

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SECTION 1 - EU POLITICS AND INSTITUTIONS

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

The European Asscher agenda: a political and economic minefield

by Adriaan Schout [@adriaanschout](#), Jan Marinus Wiersma [@jmwrs](#) and Mariana Gomes Neto [@mar2106](#)

November 2015

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

In the first half of 2016 the Netherlands will hold the EU Presidency. Labour migration is one of the main focal points of the Dutch Presidency. The aim of this paper is to identify the areas of tension with regard to this specific priority of the Dutch EU Presidency. The challenges posed by the Dutch agenda include the balance between internal market and social policy objectives, the diverging interests of the "receiving" and the "sending" countries and the role of labour migration in the EMU.

Istituto Affari Internazionali

A multi-speed EU? An institutional and legal assessment

by Giuseppe Martinico

December 2015

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

Asymmetry has frequently been experimented within federalising processes, especially in those federal or quasi-federal contexts characterised by the coexistence of different legal and cultural backgrounds. By adopting a comparative approach, this paper offers a reflection on asymmetry as an instrument of differentiated integration in the current phase of the EU integration process. It aims to show the potential of the concept and some of the risks connected to its use.

Towards European electoral and party systems

by Enrico Calossi [@erricalox](#)

December 2015

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

Although much progress has been achieved in the last sixty years, the EU still lacks a unique electoral system and a proper party system. Recently some changes have been proposed or introduced in order to homogenise the national electoral systems of the EP and to strengthen political parties at the EU level. More could be done. National democracies can become sources of inspiration for new proposals. Some suggestions may require new formal regulations. Others are more informal or political, and would give political actors new opportunities on voluntary bases.

European Union Institute for Security Studies

The IPCR arrangements: a joined-up approach in crisis response?

by Pierre Minard

4 December 2015

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

On 9 November 2015, the JHA Council elected to support the decision by the Presidency of the Council of the EU to fully trigger the EU Integrated Political Crisis Response arrangements (IPCR) in reaction to the worsening of the refugee crisis. Designed to facilitate a coordinated EU response to a major crisis at the highest political level, it is the first time that the IPCR are being used. In this case, their aim is to support the Member States overwhelmed by the flow of migrants by monitoring and analysing their movements.

European Political Strategy Centre

From mutual assistance to collective security: article 42(7) TEU: orchestrating our response to new threats

22 December 2015

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

The EU's very own collective defence clause, long deemed irrelevant, has come to life. This adds a new political dimension to security discussions in Europe, from the Baltics to Cyprus. It must now revitalise European political solidarity and make collective security the cornerstone of the EU's adaptation to an increasingly threatening international landscape.

Fondation Robert Schuman

Euroscepticism and europhobia: the threat of populism

by Thierry Chopin

14 December 2015

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

For more than 25 years the citizens of western democracies have been expressing their growing mistrust of their institutions and of the politicians managing their national democracies. The EU does not escape this rule. However the erosion of confidence in the Union, as well as the rise of various forms of euroscepticism and the europhobia resulting from this, follow specific triggers that need to be analysed if the democratic challenge against the EU is to be overcome.

The Bruges Group

Tackling the EU Empire: basic critical facts on the EU/Eurozone. A handbook for Europe's democrats, whether on the political Right, Left or Centre

by Anthony Coughlan

December 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (58 p.)

The Bruges Group spearheads the intellectual battle against the notion of "ever-closer Union" in Europe and, above all, against British involvement in a single European state.

Inštitut za ekonomska raziskovanja (Institute for Economic Research)

Measures, tools and methods for supporting cross-border co-operation - The case of REGIOLAB project

by Damjan Kavaš, Sonja Uršič and Klemen Koman

December 2015

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

The purpose of this methodological working paper is to establish the basis for better strategic planning of future cross-border or transnational co-operation activities. It presents the measures, tools and methods for strategic planning of cross-border co-operation (CBC) that were developed and applied within the CBC project "REGIOLAB" – REGIONal development LABORatory (OP Slovenia-Austria 2007-2013). These measures, tools and methods could be easily adapted for use in other cross-border and transnational co-operation projects in the period 2014-2020.

SECTION 2 - ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

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

Flexibility in the EU budget - Are there limits?

by Arnout Mijs [@ArnoutMijs](#) and Adriaan Schout [@adriaanschout](#)

December 2015

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

Flexibility is the ability of the budget to adjust to changing circumstances. These changing circumstances may take the shape of unforeseen and uncontrollable events, like those that the EU is encountering today with migration flows. This report gives input and raises questions for further discussion on the applicability of flexibility in the EU budget.

Istituto Affari Internazionali

Federalising the eurozone: towards a true European budget?

by Eulalia Rubio [@eulaliarubio](#)

December 2015

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

Through an analysis of past and current debates on EMU, this paper identifies five different rationales for deepening budgetary integration in a monetary union: ensuring fiscal discipline and stable sovereign debt markets, protecting euro area countries against the risk of asymmetric shocks, equipping the euro area with a capacity to stabilise the economy over the cycle, providing budgetary support for convergence and providing an appropriate fiscal backstop for the banking union. The paper discusses the relevance of these various rationales in today's EMU and their different implications as regards to mutualising budgetary resources and powers.

Jacques Delors Institute - Berlin / Bertelsmann Stiftung

What kind of convergence does the euro area need?

by Henrik Enderlein [@henrikenderlein](#), Anna auf dem Brinke [@Anna_adB](#) and Joachim Fritz-Vannahme

December 2015

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

The EMU has failed to generate convergence for its Member States in the area of economic performance. It is true that the Single Market Act of 1986 was followed by rapid convergence. However, since the introduction of the euro there has been slow and steady divergence. Why did this happen?

Centre for European Reform

We don't need no federation: what a devolved eurozone should look like

by Christian Odendahl [@COdendahl](#)

3 December 2015

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

At the heart of the eurozone's troubles lies a fundamental contradiction which is both intellectually and politically hard to resolve, according to the author. On the one hand, the economics of a monetary union requires considerable integration of policies at eurozone level, and a high degree of economic discipline at national level. On the other hand, most people in the eurozone do not want to be ruled by some kind of 'eurozone government'.

Hanns-Seidel-Stiftung (Hanns Seidel Foundation)

Negativzinsen und Niedrigzinsen – ein Risikofaktor für den Euroraum?

by Peter Witterauf

4 December 2015

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

At its meeting on 3 December 2015, the European Central Bank has further strengthened its expansionary policy: the bond purchase program will be extended from September 2016 to March 2017 and the negative interest rate on bank deposits at the ECB is further reduced (to now -0.3%). The phase of negative interest rates and low interest rates in the euro area is thus extended indefinitely.

Max-Planck-Institut für Gesellschaftsforschung (Max Planck Institute for the Study of Societies)

Empowered or disempowered? The role of national parliaments during the reform of European economic governance

by Aleksandra Maatsch

December 2015

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

This paper investigates how the intergovernmental reform process of European economic governance affected national parliaments' oversight of that policy area. It examines how national parliaments in all euro-zone states were involved in approving the following measures: the EFSF, the ESM and the Fiscal Compact. The findings demonstrate that whereas northern European parliaments' powers were secured, southern European parliaments were disempowered. Due to significant power asymmetries national parliaments remained de jure but not de facto equal in the exercise of their control powers at the EU level. As a consequence, both the disempowerment of particular parliaments and the asymmetry of powers among them had a negative effect on the legitimacy of European economic governance.

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

Differences in fiscal policy preferences within the EMU

by Berthold Busch

17 December 2015

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

An empirical study using a variety of fiscal and social policy indicators reveals considerable diversity in the design of Member States' fiscal policy. Behind these differences lie the significantly divergent preferences of the Euro area countries' populations, which are then translated by political choices into different conceptions of fiscal and social policy and distinct policy measures. Centralizing decisions in these policy areas would fail to reflect such preference differences. It therefore seems only logical that social, labour market and, for the most part, fiscal policy in the EU has largely remained a national competence.

Bruegel

Financial regulatory transparency: new data and implications for EU policy

by Mark Copelovitch [@mcpelov](#), Christopher Gandrud [@ChrisGandrud](#) and Mark Hallerberg [@mhallerberg](#)

10 December 2015

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

This paper introduces a new international financial regulatory data transparency index in order to address the existing gap in measuring regulatory transparency.

Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (Friedrich Ebert Foundation)

Reform der Währungsunion: Probleme, Reformvorschläge und Akteure

by Alexander Schellinger

December 2015

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

Progressive responses to the problems of the young EMU must always be to increase the governance capacity, says the author. The effect of fiscal governance has to be proportionate to the economic room for manoeuvre of the euro zone. An effective control powerful institution, such as a Euro-finance minister or Euro-Commissioner with intervention rights into national budgetary policies need to be selected and controlled by the European Parliament and national parliaments.

Strukturreformen neu denken: Das Europäische Semester und der Jahreswachstumsbericht 2016

by Dominika Biegon and Joachim Schuster

December 2015

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

The European Semester for central coordination of mechanisms of economic, fiscal, employment and social policies of the Member States of the EU exists since 2010. Born from the experience of the economic crisis, the European Semester aims to better coordinate the policies of the Member States together. The interdependence of the European economies makes it necessary a stronger socio-economic control to avoid discrepancies and to stabilize the monetary union and the single European Internal Market. By the end of November last year, the Annual Growth Survey 2016 was published, and a new semester cycle initiated.

European Social Observatory

Further socializing the European Semester: moving forward for a 'social triple A'?

by Bart Vanhercke [@BartVanhercke](#) and Jonathan Zeitlin, with Astrid Zwinkels [@AhZwinkels](#)

1 December 2015

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

This report produced for the Luxembourg Presidency of the Council of the EU reviews developments in the 2015 European Semester and provides recommendations about ways of further strengthening its social dimension, including as regards broader social stakeholder participation. It also discuss recent more ambitious proposals for restructuring the European Semester.

The European Semester and modernisation of public administration

by Ramón Peña-Casas [@ramonose](#), Sebastiano Sabato, Valentina Lisi [@Valentina Lisi](#) and Chiara Agostini
December 2015
Link to the article in [English](#) (9 p.)

This paper summarises a report produced for the European Federation of Public Service Unions and its affiliates. It focuses on the reforms concerning the 'Modernisation of Public Administration' undertaken in the framework of the European Semester – i.e. on those measures affecting the organisation and functioning of public services recommended by the EU and implemented by its Member States.

Lisbon Council for Economic Competitiveness and Social Renewal

The 2015 Euro Plus Monitor: more progress, new risks

by Holger Schmieding and Paul Hofheinz [@PaulHofheinz](#) (ed.)
December 2015
Link to the article in [English](#) (48 p.)

This study deploys a unique methodology to examine the fundamental health and measure the adjustment progress of the 18 euro members as well as Poland, Sweden and the UK. It asks, who is reforming fastest? And who needs most to reform even faster?

Fondation Robert Schuman

How can quantitative easing policies be brought to an end?

by Emmanuel Sales
8 December 2015
Link to the article in [English](#) (15 p.) and in [French](#) (17 p.)

The financial crisis led to unprecedented action of central banks. However, in spite of the extent of their intercession, growth has not been recovered. Debt has increased and at the same time, quantitative easing policies (QE) have led to the formation of further investment bubbles, growing inequalities and world imbalances. Since a virtuous end to the QE policies is unlikely, it might be difficult to avoid the general restructuring of government debts. Greater coordination on the part of the central banks is still advisable to prevent economies turning inward. The danger is greater in the euro area where the management of the crisis by politicians and regulators has made the fault-lines even greater.

Centre for the Study of Financial Innovation

Banking banana skins 2015 - The CSFI survey of bank risk: recovery under threat

by David Lascelles and Keyur Patel
December 2015
Link to the article in [English](#) (43 p.)

This survey describes the risks currently facing the global banking industry, as seen by a wide range of bankers, banking regulators and close observers of the industry. The results show that the uncertain state of the global economic recovery now dominates people's concerns about the safety of the banking system. More generally, the survey raises questions about the longer-term evolution of banks, and whether they can develop a post-crisis business model that satisfies popular demands for a safe and responsible banking system, but can also meet shareholders' expectations.

Deutsches Institut für Wirtschaftsforschung (German Institute for Economic Research)

Is globalization reducing the ability of central banks to control inflation? In-depth analysis

by Christian Dreger, Malte Rieth and David Pothier

December 2015

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

The fall in inflation over the past decades is partially attributed to the success of monetary policy. The focus on inflation control and high awareness to act pre-emptively contributed to a more credible policy. As the basic determinants of inflation did not change much, central banks should be still able to control inflation. However, according to the authors, the task for the monetary authorities has become more challenging in the short run under the conditions of interconnected and globalised markets.

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

Reassessing the empirical relationship between the oil price and the dollar

by Virginie Coudert and Valérie Mignon

December 2015

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

This paper aims at reassessing the empirical relationship between the real price of oil and the U.S. dollar real effective exchange rate over the 1974-2015 period. The authors found that changes in both variables are now linked by a negative relationship, going from the dollar exchange rate to the real oil price. However, the same relationship is found positive when ending the sample in the mid-2000s, in line with the previous literature. To understand and investigate this evolution, the authors relied on a nonlinear, smooth transition regression model in which the oil price-dollar nexus depends on the dynamics followed by the U.S. currency. Their results show that the relationship is negative most of the times but turns positive when the dollar hits very high values, as in the early eighties.

SECTION 3 - EU MEMBER STATES

DENMARK

Cato Institute

The Danish model—Don't try this at home

by Otto Brøns-Petersen [@OttoBrons](#)

31 December 2015

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

In many respects, Denmark could serve as a model for the world. But failure to learn the right lessons could be dangerous, especially the idea that you can become rich by redistributing wealth or that there is a gentler, more successful way to socialism than the one experienced by typical socialist countries. And it would certainly be ironic if the Danish case were to become an excuse for politicians in the US, Greece, or other countries to avoid fiscal consolidation and economic reform, since Danes have been reforming and consolidating for decades to deal with the problems created by the introduction of their welfare state, says the author.

Center for Politiske Studier (Center for political Studies)

Uundgåelig samfundsøkonomisk omkostning ved isolerede danske CO2-mål

by Otto Brøns-Petersen [@OttoBrons](#)

16 December 2015

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

This paper shows that the existing climate policy will lead to Denmark meets its binding EU target in 2020. The paper also shows that it will be associated with economic costs to sharpen the climate policy goals.

FRANCE

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

Langues, commerce, bien-être et francophonie

by Jacques Melitz

December 2015

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

This article deals with the language effects on trade and welfare and tries to draw lessons for the Francophonie in particular. The main argument is that Francophonie has a positive effect to some French industries such as tourism, publishing, cinema and music, but it leads to a reallocation of resources between different industries rather than an increase in the French GDP. Thus, according to the article, the promotion of Francophonie makes sense in an effort to expand the influence of the French language and culture but not in a macroeconomic goal.

GREECE

Migration Policy Institute

The changing face of emigration: harnessing the potential of the new Greek diaspora

by Jennifer Cavounidis

December 2015

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

This report examines Greek emigration, and its economic implications, before exploring policy directions to minimize the costs and maximize the benefits of this mobility. It discusses institutional reforms that can create more and better opportunities in Greece, thereby stemming outflows and rendering return an attractive option, and then turns its attention to diaspora engagement policies to harness the assets, skills, and knowledge of Greeks abroad to enhance development at home.

Hanns-Seidel-Stiftung (Hanns Seidel Foundation)

Brexit und Grexit: Voraussetzungen eines Austritts

by Kea-Sophia Stieber

December 2015

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

Why has Greece disappeared from the headlines of international media? Is it because Greece's problems are solved, or because other crises have taken the spotlight? The present paper merges the conclusions of lawyers, economists and political scientists to shed light on the current state of affairs in Greece. It describes the conditions that have to be met by Greece to remain in the EU, or to leave the EU.

SPAIN

Fondation Robert Schuman

Uncertainty remains after the Spanish parliamentary elections in which the People's Party of outgoing Prime Minister, Mariano Rajoy came out ahead

by Corinne Deloy

20 December 2015

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

The parliamentary elections on 20th December have caused great disruption to the balance of power in the Spanish political arena, which has been dominated since 1982 by a two-party system. (PP/PSOE). Looking at the results it is difficult to say who will govern Spain over the next four years and whether the next Parliament will be able to form a government.

UNITED KINGDOM

Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung

The United Kingdom: remaining at the heart of Europe?

by Hans-Hartwig Blomeier

December 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (16 p.) and in [German](#) (17 p.)

There is the question as to where the UK stands today regarding the role it plays or is willing to play within Europe. The referendum planned by Cameron's government even poses the fundamental question as to whether the UK is to remain part of the EU or leave it. Are the EU and

the UK becoming increasingly alienated from each other, or have they never even truly been a good match?

Institute for Public Policy Research

Unlocking the EU free movement debate

by Marley Morris [@MarleyAMorris](#)

December 2015

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

This briefing sets out five areas where freedom of movement can be reformed as part of the UK's renegotiated relationship with the EU.

Institute of International and European Affairs

Brexit: the leave narrative

by Tony Brown

December 2015

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

With the UK's renegotiation of its EU membership now underway, the scene is set for a further negotiation: that between David Cameron and the British electorate, who must ultimately give their approval to any deal emerging from the European Council. This paper analyses the narrative of the pro-Brexit campaign, and asks whether the so-called 'Leave' camp possess ideas and arguments which meet the specific concerns of communities, interest groups and regions within the UK.

Brexit, Northern Ireland and the Island economy: an update

by John Bradley

December 2015

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

With the emerging debate on the consequences of Brexit for Northern Ireland and the island economy, the Northern administration is now obliged to contemplate the economic and other implications for them of the possible outcome of the upcoming referendum. This short note updates the analysis contained in the IIEA book, [Britain and Europe: The Endgame - An Irish Perspective](#), published in March 2015, and reviews some of the negative economic consequences for the two economies on this island of the current UK "half-in" role in the EU.

Centre for European Reform

Cameron's EU reforms: will Europe buy them?

by Agata Gostyńska-Jakubowska [@AgataGostynska](#)

14 December 2015

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

David Cameron's letter to Donald Tusk met a mixed response across Europe. The Danish prime minister praised it as "a good basis for concrete proposals". Others, such as Poland, signalled their sympathy with most of Cameron's ideas but also indicated strong opposition to discrimination between British and other EU citizens. But no-one dismissed Cameron's reform plans entirely or refused to negotiate with him. The EU likes to find consensus and the Member States will look for compromises on all elements of the British reform package.

Chatham House - The Royal Institute of International Affairs

Britain, the European Union and the referendum: what drives euroscepticism?

by Matthew Goodwin [@GoodwinMJ](#) and Caitlin Milazzo [@CaitlinMilazzo](#)

9 December 2015

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

This paper explores the drivers of British euroscepticism by analysing data from the British Election Study on more than 30,000 members of the public, collected around the time of the 2015 general election.

CIVITAS - Institute for the Study of Civil Society

The costs and benefits of large-scale immigration: exploring the economic and demographic consequences for the UK

by Robert Rowthorn

December 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (108 p.)

In this study, the author reviews the evidence about the costs and benefits of recent large-scale immigration into the UK.

Fabian Society / Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (Friedrich Ebert Foundation)

Outward to the world: how the left's foreign policy can face the future

by Ed Wallis

21 December 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (108 p.)

It is more important than ever that the left sets out a forward-looking vision of Britain's role in the world. This paper maps out a practical but progressive foreign policy from first principles, developing the building blocks of a practical idealism: a new account of globalisation, a reinvention of the European security order, a political vision for de-escalation in the Middle East, a different account of what multilateralism means in the world. Today's left needs to reunite around a new internationalism – which develops a story about the changes in the world and a programme to respond to them, informed by its values, concludes the author.

BALTIC STATES

Bertelsmann Stiftung

All quiet in the Baltics? Estonians, Latvians and their Russian-speaking minorities: different assessments of current European issues

by Agnieszka Łada [@AgnieszkaLada](#)

December 2015

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

The Baltic states are generally very unknown EU partners. Their voice gets through only in such cases as discussing sanctions towards Russia or planning NATO training on their territory.

SECTION 4 - EU POLICIES

JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS

Centre for European Policy Studies

What is happening to the Schengen borders?

by Elspeth Guild, Evelien Brouwer, Kees Groenendijk and Sergio Carrera
December 2015

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

This paper examines the state of play in the Schengen system in light of the developments during 2015. It critically examines the assertion that Schengen is 'in crisis' and seeks to set the record straight on what has been happening to the intra-Schengen border-free and common external borders system. It also examines the legal challenges inherent to police checks within the internal border areas as having an equivalent effect to border checks as well as the newly adopted proposal for a European Border and Coast Guard system.

Centre for European Reform / Open Society Foundations

Big data, big brother? How to secure Europeans' safety and privacy

by Camino Mortera-Martinez [@CaminoMortera](#)
4 December 2015

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

The threat to Europe's security is real. The EU needs to reconcile its competing interests on privacy and security. It therefore needs to improve communication between the European Parliament and the Council, strengthen its relationship with the US and promote the development of technologies that offer 'privacy by design', such as encryption. These reforms will not be easy, but they are necessary to ensure that Europe can remain a safe place, impose fewer costs on companies and champion civil liberties, argues the author.

MIGRATION AND REFUGEE CRISIS

Centre for European Policy Studies

The EU's response to the refugee crisis - Taking stock and setting policy priorities

by Sergio Carrera, Steven Blockmans, Daniel Gros and Elspeth Guild
16 December 2015

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

This paper takes stock of the main results and policy outputs from the EU's interventions to the refugee crisis. It critically highlights the outstanding policy dilemmas confronting the adopted instruments and puts forwards a set of policy priorities to guide the next phases of the European agenda on migration.

Peterson Institute for International Economics

Toward a European migration and mobility Union

by Jacob Funk Kirkegaard [@jfkirkegaard](#)
December 2015

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

Europe is engulfed by hundreds of thousands of desperate migrants and refugees from the Middle East and Africa. It needs new and permanent migration institutions and resources not only to

accommodate the influx of refugees but also to set up a new border control system throughout the region. These demands pose a challenge for European policymaking as serious as the euro crisis of the last five years. The author proposes a migration and mobility union, to be implemented gradually, with the goal of comprehensively reforming European migration policy.

Overseas Development Institute

Why people move: understanding the drivers and trends of migration to Europe

by Clare Cummings [@cummings_clare](#), Julia Pacitto [@julia_pacitto](#), Diletta Lauro and Marta Foresti [@martaforesti](#)

December 2015

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

An effective and durable policy response to the current 'migration crisis' in Europe requires the understanding of the causes of migration. Measures to allow entry to asylum-seekers, while restricting the entry of economic migrants, overlook the reasons why a person migrates, and are likely to result in increased irregular migration as migrants seek alternative entry channels. Policies which do not recognise the complex and changing nature of irregular migration are therefore unlikely to effectively address the difficulties which both migrants and governments are experiencing in the current crisis, according to authors.

Overseas Development Institute / European Centre for Development Policy Management

Challenges to a comprehensive EU migration and asylum policy

by Raphaëlle Faure, Mikaela Gavas and Anna Knoll [@anna_katharinak](#)

18 December 2015

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

This paper attempts to unpack complex and multidimensional decision-making on EU migration and asylum policy to highlight the barriers to a comprehensive approach. It traces the evolution of EU migration and asylum policy, the complex system of competences that underpin decision-making, conflicting interests and approaches, and today's financial arrangements, to set out where the constraints lie. It finds that short-term approaches have failed to address the long-term nature of the problem and concludes with recommendations to overcome some of the key constraints.

Istituto Affari Internazionali

The Khartoum process: critical assessment and policy recommendations

by Maximilian Stern [@maximilianstern](#)

December 2015

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

The Khartoum Process is a framework between EU Member States and countries in the Horn of Africa region to pursue [concrete projects in the field of migration](#). In its design, it is inspired by the 2005 Rabat Process of the EU with West African states. This study discusses the political economy of the Khartoum Process and finds conflicting interests between African and European partner states, particularly with regard to the political attention of the initiative. While it finds this conflict of interest to be a potential game-breaker, it makes suggestions for how the Khartoum Process could be altered to become politically more legitimate and more beneficial for the migrants themselves.

Migration Policy Institute

Welcoming engagement: how private sponsorship can strengthen refugee resettlement in the European Union

by Judith Kumin

December 2015

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

This report recommends that the European Commission, the European Asylum Support Office, and nongovernmental organizations take the lead in investigating the possible benefits, and costs, of private sponsorship arrangements and launch pilot projects, with a view to making private sponsorship part of the refugee protection landscape in Europe.

Fondazione ISMU – Iniziative e Studi sulla Multietnicità (Initiatives and Studies on Multi-ethnicity)

Migration and development: old and new ambivalences of the European approach

by Laura Zanfrini

December 2015

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

This paper examines the evolution of the conceptual framework of the migration and development nexus within the European context, and outlines some of its possible future prospects, based on a reflection on the constraints and opportunities currently challenging policies and practices in this field.

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

Die Türkei als Partner der EU in der Flüchtlingskrise - Ankaras Probleme und Interessen

by Günter Seufert

December 2015

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

The decision of the Heads of State and Government on 29 November 2015 to collaborate with Turkey in order to tackle the refugee crisis has not been well received. Eastern European countries, human rights organizations, the general public which is largely Turkey-sceptic, as well as Turkish intellectuals are united in scepticism towards the Brussels policy. They argue that the EU is too generous towards Turkey both financially and politically. However, the critics do not take into account the complexity of the situation Turkey is in. They do not realise that without financial help from the EU it will be very difficult for Turkey to tackle a refugee challenge of this magnitude. They do not realise that the Turkish government is paying a price also politically by welcoming as many refugees. Critics fail to see the win-win potential of the EU-Turkey agreement.

Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (Friedrich Ebert Foundation)

Flüchtlingspolitik der Europäischen Union: Menschenrechte wahren!

by Petra Bendel

December 2015

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

The EU is in a serious crisis. A solidarity, common refugee policy which meets the international standards for the reception of asylum seekers and human rights is not in sight. The numbers of refugees fleeing into the EU have risen sharply. Countries such as Greece and Italy, but also some western and northern European countries, such as Germany and Sweden, take on a particularly large number of refugees.

COMPETITIVENESS (INTERNAL MARKET, INDUSTRY, RESEARCH AND SPACE)

Deutsches Institut für Wirtschaftsforschung (German Institute for Economic Research)

Innovation capabilities and financing constraints of family firms

by Dorothea Schäfer, Andreas Stephan and Jennifer Solórzano Mosquera

14 December 2015

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

This paper investigates whether family firms are more financially constrained than other firms and how this affects both innovation input as well as innovation outcomes such as market and firm novelties or process innovations. It shows that family businesses are more likely to be constrained and have, on average, lower innovation input. Surprisingly, however, this does not reduce their innovation outcomes as, on average, family firms have the same level of innovation outcomes as nonfamily firms.

European Centre for International Political Economy

The importance of complementary policy for ICT in the EU

by Erik van der Marel [@ErikvanderMarel](#)

December 2015

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

This paper analyses the importance of the ICT sector, and in particular the Software sector, for the European economy. It does so by looking into the question of how value-added is created through the lens of improved productivity and competitiveness using ICT in various European economies. In analysing these channels of value-added, this paper looks specifically into how complementary policies play a crucial factor in the employment of software in order to enable a significant effect on economic growth.

Bruegel

Mixing and matching research and innovation policies in EU countries

by Reinhilde Veugelers [@R_Veugelers](#)

22 December 2015

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

Europe has lofty ambitions for building a socially and environmentally sustainable future on the basis of growth and prosperity through innovation. Despite these policies and pronouncements, Europe's performance on innovation remains weak. In this context, this paper assesses whether the deployment of innovation policy instruments in EU countries matches their innovation capacity performance relative to other EU countries.

TRANSPORT/TELECOMMUNICATIONS/ENERGY

Istituto Affari Internazionali

Protezione del traffico aereo civile dalla minaccia cibernetica

by Tommaso De Zan [@tdezan21](#), Fabrizio d'Amore [@fabriziodamore](#) and Federica Di Camillo

December 2015

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

The use of ICT in civil aviation has increased exponentially in the last years. Digitalisation and the technological tools and systems often connected to the internet constitute serious risks for aviation cyber security. The Government Accountability Office has recently stated that air traffic management and control (ATM/ATC) vulnerabilities could be used to undermine national security.

The low technical skills of the non-state actors analysed in this research, the cyber security countermeasures adopted by ENAV and the preventive activities conducted by Italian authorities make the risk for Italian ATM/ATC systems low. However, it is necessary to keep a high level of attention and awareness on possible future developments of the cyber threat.

European energy security and the role of Russian gas: assessing the feasibility and the rationale of reducing dependence

by Katja Yafimava

December 2015

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

In the aftermath of the 2014 Ukraine crisis, the geopolitical argument that Russia may use the "gas weapon" towards Europe has gained ground and led to renewed calls for Europe to reduce its dependence on Russian gas. However, given the impossibility of ascertaining whether such threat is genuine or only perceived as such, European policies, developed only on the assumption that it is genuine and without due regard to commercial realities, might undermine European gas security. Commercial realities suggest that while highly dependent small European markets can significantly reduce their dependence on Russian gas by 2020, there is limited scope for significantly reducing overall European dependence on Russian gas at least until the mid-2020s. Therefore, European policies should reflect the necessity of continuing EU-Russia gas relationship and develop the means for its adequate management.

Jacques Delors Institute - Berlin

Die EU auf dem Weg zu einer Datenschutz-Union. Bleibt die Innovation auf der Strecke?

by Christopher Cosler [@CCosler](#), Paul-Jasper Dittrich [@paul2jasper](#) and Laura Maria Wolfstädter
11 December 2015

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

The EU is increasingly becoming a privacy Union, say the authors. This is partly due to the ECJ, which again proves privacy policy as the motor of integration, and to the European Data Protection Basic Regulation. With that Regulation, European privacy advocates have the hope to establish a kind of "gold standard of global data protection". Although stronger data protection is a necessary step to protect the fundamental rights of EU citizens and a necessary condition for the Digital Single Market, the protection of privacy also weakens the digital economy in the EU.

Institute of Economic Affairs

Power cut? How the EU is pulling the plug on electricity markets

by Carlo Stagnaro [@CarloStagnaro](#)

December 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (176 p.)

According to the author, the UK needs to return to, and the EU to develop, a fully liberalised and competitive energy market. Even if policymakers believe they cannot rely on free markets to correctly price negative externalities from carbon emissions, they should devise policies that supplement markets in internalising the environmental costs of energy production and consumption patterns. This should be combined with liberalisation and the promotion of competition and innovation, both at the wholesale and retail level. The UK experience between 1990 and 2005 showed how successful such policies can be.

Oxford Institute for Energy Studies

The evolution of European traded gas hubs

by Patrick Heather

December 2015

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

This paper analyses a range of market participants from regulators, TSOs, traders and government officials. National aspirations are compared with EC goals and deadlines he has noted not just the infrastructure projects required to create the connectivity for traded market development, but equally importantly the political will, cultural acceptance of traded markets and the commercial appetite. The results, both intuitively and analytically compelling, highlight the limited progress made by other hubs in 'catching up with' the Dutch and British hubs.

Central European Policy Institute / Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies

V4 - Energy security and energy markets: challenges ahead

by Tomasz Dąbrowski [@daborowski](#), Péter Kaderják and Kristián Takáč

1 December 2015

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

The EU aims to reduce dependency on particular fuels, energy suppliers, and supply routes and to develop a well-functioning internal energy market. This paper analyses the main current challenges in achieving these goals and discusses the role of the V4 countries in increasing EU's energy security. Although V4 countries face different challenges, the prospects for cooperation are considerable. The paper offers policy recommendations that would help policy-makers address the current challenges and strengthen the energy security in the Visegrad region and the EU as a whole.

College of Europe

System costs of variable renewable energy in the European Union

by Thibault Roy [@TiboRoy](#)

December 2015

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

To shift to a low-carbon economy, the EU has been encouraging the deployment of variable renewable energy sources (VRE). This paper first exposes the rationale of EU renewables goals, the EU targets and current deployment. The paper shows that the EU has greatly underestimated VRE direct and indirect costs and that policymakers have failed to take into account the burden caused by renewable energy and the return of State support policies. Indeed, induced market distortions have been shattering the whole power system and have undermined competition in the Internal Energy Market.

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

Russian energy policies revisited: assessing the impact of the crisis in Ukraine on Russian energy policies and specifying the implications for German and EU energy policies

by Alexander Gusev and Kirsten Westphal

December 2015

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

This study provides insights into current changes in the Russian gas, oil and electricity sectors, highlights potential implications for the European energy market, considers the current status of EU-Russia energy relations and presents some recommendations for further bilateral cooperation and energy dialogue.

EMPLOYMENT/SOCIAL POLICY/HEALTH/CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Deutsches Institut für Wirtschaftsforschung (German Institute for Economic Research)

TFP, labor productivity and the (un)observed labor input: temporary agency work

by Alexander Schiersch

8 December 2015

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

This study focuses on the question of whether or not productivity estimates are biased due to the emergence of a new input that is usually omitted: temporary agency worker (TAW). The study analyses labour productivity and TFP (total factor productivity) by means of a structural approach using a representative dataset of German manufacturing firms. The empirical results show, once TAW is taken into account, that: i) labour productivity in most manufacturing sectors is significantly lower; ii) average TFP differs significantly in most sectors; but iii) the coefficients for regular labour are not significantly different between estimations with and without TAW.

Notre Europe - Jacques Delors Institute

Social inequalities in Europe: the challenge of convergence and cohesion

by Frank Vandembroucke and David Rinaldi [@Rinaldi_David](#)

December 2015

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

The founding fathers of the European project assumed that, thanks to supranational economic cooperation, growing cohesion could be reached. Europe is instead becoming more unequal, both between and within countries. The EU has stopped being a 'convergence machine', but there is no one-size-fits-all explanation for this. According to the authors, the EU deserves a Social Triple A, if it actively supports both convergence towards higher aggregate levels of well-being across the Member States and convergence towards more equality of individual well-being. To this end, the EU needs to put forward 'dual-use' policy packages that create a virtuous circle whereby both pan-European cohesion and national cohesion are enhanced.

Egmont – Royal Institute for International Relations

The EU approach to gender: limitations and alternatives

by Sophie Heine

3 December 2015

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

For several decades, the EU has been at the forefront of significant progress in the struggle towards equality between women and men, among others in the fight against sex-based discriminations. However, according to the author, the contemporary EU approach to gender has become much more interested in representations and social norms. This paper analyses this stance and highlights its deficiencies – more specifically, it looks at the flaws entailed in an excessive focus on 'gender stereotypes'. Finally, it briefly sketches out the principles of an alternative.

Foundation for European Progressive Studies / Karl-Renner-Institut

Putting gender and LGTB+ in a political context: considerations for effective progressive political action

by Eszter Petronella Soós and Weronika Grzebalska

4 December 2015

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

Gender and LGBT+ rights are a cornerstone for progressive society and politics. The state of gender rights are, in fact, a litmus test one should run to explore and evaluate the human rights situation in a given country. Acquiring full equality is the latest big fight of the human rights movement. The movements' campaigns are particularly successful and able to influence the political agenda in many countries, including Slovenia, Poland, France, Italy and Spain. These movements effectively connect and squeeze together many issues related to the European political system, including the role of European and international institutions, globalization, human rights universalism and liberal capitalism.

ENVIRONMENT

Corporate Europe Observatory

The climate smokescreen - PR companies lobbying for big polluters in Europe

7 December 2015

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

The greenwashing of some of the world's biggest polluters' by European public relations and lobbying consultancies is exposed in this report which presents case studies of seven public relations firms with climate-destructive clients.

Polluters' paradise - How investor rights in EU trade deals sabotage the fight for energy transition

10 December 2015

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

The article analyses how investor rights in EU trade deals such as the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement and the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership sabotage the fight for energy transition. According to the article, thousands of trade and investment agreements signed between countries allow multinational companies to sue governments if changes in policy are deemed to reduce their profits. However, while big polluters are lobbying heavily for these deals, a growing movement is turning against the corporate power grab. Indeed, there is now more public scrutiny and debate about trade and investment agreements than there has been in the past.

Center for American Progress

The Paris climate agreement

by Gwynne Taraska

15 December 2015

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

This paper discusses how the Paris agreement spurs progress on the three pillars of climate action—the reduction of greenhouse gas pollution, the mobilization of climate finance, and adaptation to climate impacts—and how it resolves several persistent controversies within the UNFCCC.

La Vie des Idées

COP 21, ONG et état d'urgence

by Sylvie Ollitrault

8 December 2015

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

This article discusses the mobilization of NGOs ahead of the COP 21 placing them in the general context of the history of environmental protests.

SECTION 5 - FOREIGN AFFAIRS

FOREIGN AND SECURITY POLICY

Institut pro evropskou politiku EUROPEUM (EUROPEUM Institute for European Policy)

Federica Mogherini and her first year as HRVP

by Tereza Novotná

December 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (4 p.) and in [Czech](#) (5 p.)

How was the Federica Mogherini's first year as the High Representative of the EU for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice-President of the Commission (HRVP). Did she succeed compared to her predecessor Catherine Ashton? This is a revised English-language version of the policy brief: "Federica Mogherini a její první rok ve funkci", Europeum Policy Brief, published 6 November 2015.

Center for Strategic and International Studies

CSIS European trilateral nuclear dialogues - 2015 consensus statement

18 December 2015

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

The European Trilateral Dialogues, sponsored by CSIS in partnership with the Royal United Services Institute and the Fondation pour la Recherche Stratégique, convene senior nuclear policy experts from the UK, France, and the US to discuss nuclear issues and to identify areas of consensus among the three countries. In 2015, the group's discussion has addressed a range of issues in the Euro-Atlantic security environment and beyond, prompting agreement among the group's non-governmental participants to issue the following statements reflecting the consensus views of the undersigned.

Institut für Friedensforschung und Sicherheitspolitik an der Universität Hamburg (Institute for Peace Research and Security Policy at the University of Hamburg)

A role for OSCE peacekeeping? From the 1992 Helsinki guidelines to the special monitoring mission to Ukraine

by Larissa Daria Meier

December 2015

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

This study sets the framework for analysing the OSCE's role in peacekeeping. It outlines the OSCE's political and executive bodies and describes their contributions to conflict management. Eventually, it analyses the different rounds of conceptual discussions on peacekeeping and defines the main controversies dominating the debates. Then, the focus is on OSCE activities in conflict management. It concludes with the evaluation of the extent to which the OSCE has already played a role in peacekeeping and with the discussion of its potential for future development.

Istituto Affari Internazionali

What NATO for what threats? Warsaw and beyond

by Enrico Fassi, Sonia Lucarelli and Alessandro Marrone (eds.)

December 2015

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

The rapid transformation of the security environment in the past 15 years has seen NATO involved in achieving adaptability. Throughout time three have been its main avenues: a redefinition of the

concept of security, the development of core tasks that have been added to collective defence and the Alliance's enlargement. All three venues have contributed to make NATO more apt to the changed security scenario, but each of them needs to be constantly assessed for its contribution to NATO's effectiveness as a security Alliance and integrated with a reflection on dynamics internal to the Alliance itself.

NATO and European security: back to the roots?

by Claudia Major

December 2015

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

The crisis in and around Ukraine since 2014 meant a major change for NATO. At the September 2014 Wales Summit, the allies put collective defence back as the primus inter pares among NATO's three core tasks (the other two being crisis management and cooperative security). Both the internal dynamics within the Alliance and the external conditions have changed and it urge substantial rethinking. NATO needs to relearn collective defence, yet in a different setting. Moreover, a sole concentration on that task neglects the security challenges. The 2015 Paris attacks are a clear reminder of this. Thus, the Alliance needs to find a balance between collective defence and crisis management.

La politica di difesa italiana tra NATO e Libro Bianco

by Paola Tessari [@paola_tessari](#), Paola Sartori [@SartoriPa](#) and Alessandro Marrone [@Alessandro_Ma](#)

December 2015

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

This paper analyses the developments regarding the NATO agenda in view of the July 2016 Warsaw Summit. It also looks at Italy's defence policy with respect to the Atlantic Alliance and the impact of the White Paper on International Security and Defence adopted by the Italian government in April 2015.

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

Preparing for NATO's Warsaw summit - The challenges of adapting to strategic change

by Trine Flockhart [@TrineFlockhart](#)

16 December 2015

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

This report focuses on how NATO needs to respond to the on-going changes by moving forward at the upcoming Warsaw Summit in July 2016 from the decisions taken at the September 2014 summit in Wales. The report starts from the premise that the decisions taken in Wales are not sufficient to facilitate NATO's adaptation to a fundamentally changed strategic environment. The challenge for NATO in the future will be to contribute to European and global security in a strategic environment in which the Alliance and 'the West' have a diminished role and in which liberal values and Western principles for order-making can no longer be assumed to be universal.

Institute of International and European Affairs

The good, the bad and the ugly: European security - Autumn 2015

by Patrick Keatinge

December 2015

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

Over the past three months, the EU has seen several significant developments in the broad field of European security. This paper reflects on the developments in the Ukraine crisis and the Arab

winter, and examines the EU's response to both of these situations. The author goes on to look at the implications of these developments for Ireland and for the EU as a whole.

Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies

Innocence and war: searching for Europe's strategy in Syria

by Michael Benhamou [@MichaelBenha](#)

December 2015

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

After four years of war, Syria threatens the balance of its neighbours and the security of the entire Mediterranean basin. Europe's interests are at stake in a conflict where it did not have the appropriate tools to react with at first: long procedures, a lack of cohesion between EU institutions, an absence of military culture in a country that shows no sign of appeasement and the inability of EU Member States to define a joint stand in the Middle East are fair criticism of Brussels' performance.

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

'One belt, one road': an opportunity for the EU's security strategy

by Jikkie Verlare and Frans Paul van der Putten

December 2015

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

This paper explores how the EU's existing policy tools and frameworks might be used for enhanced Sino-European security cooperation in relation to OBOR. It is argued that if the EU works with China under the framework of the EU-China strategic partnership, to align with, inter alia, the planned restructuring of its ENP, as well as projects included under its European Maritime Security Strategy and Partnership Instrument to link with the so-called 'Belt' and 'Road' projects, this would entail true added value for the EU. These steps should be part of the EU's new Global Strategy for Foreign Policy and Security, which is due in June 2016.

The EU, Russia and the quest for a new European security bargain

by Peter van Ham [@petervanham](#)

November 2015

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

This report outlines a framework for a new, more realistic and practical EU-Russia relationship. The EU should acknowledge the urgent necessity to cooperate with Russia, politically and militarily, to fight jihadism and the Islamic State. This new reality should be appreciated as an opportunity to leave the existing impasse in EU-Russia relations. It also sends the clear message that in a greater, geostrategic framework, Russia is the EU's partner, rather than its rival.

Research Division of the NATO Defense College

Hybrid or not: deterring and defeating Russia's ways of warfare in the Baltics - The case of Estonia

by Henrik Praks [@HenrikPraks](#)

December 2015

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

This paper explores the nature of the Russian "hybrid warfare" challenge in the Baltic region as the author claims it is the most exposed area of the NATO alliance. It uses Estonia as a case study, but similar issues also apply in the case of Latvia and Lithuania. Other papers about the topic can be found in the Central Library collection through the following link: <http://bit.ly/1TBHesV>.

Consejo Uruguayo para las Relaciones Internacionales

Un sistema de seguridad colectiva universal obsoleto

by Heber Arbuét-Vignali

23 December 2015

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

At present, the emergence of competitor players to the States, which have a strong role in international relations, threatening the international peace and security, constitutes a challenge to the international political system. This study analyses the need to adapt the obsolete current collective security system, explains why the current global international legal system is not suitable to regulate the problem, and suggests improvements in terms of legal regulation.

TERRORISM

Istituto Affari Internazionali

Why does the Islamic State endure and expand?

by Omar Ashour [@DrOmarAshour](#)

December 2015

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

This paper seeks to understand the sources of strength of IS and why it has not been defeated so far by much stronger international and regional powers. The paper first reviews some of the comparative literature on why insurgencies win or survive stronger forces. The second and third parts are dedicated to review the strategy of the campaign against IS, as well as the military capacity of the organisation. The fourth part focuses on the IS current strategy against the West, especially in the aftermath of the Paris attacks. And the final part of the paper outlines concluding observations relevant to long-term counter-strategies against IS and like-minded organisations.

International Centre for Counter-Terrorism - The Hague

Foreign (terrorist) fighters with IS: a European perspective

by Alex P. Schmid [@APSCHMID](#)

December 2015

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

This paper opens with a brief exposition of the foreign fighter phenomenon, concentrating on Salafist jihadists. Subsequently, the author seeks to bring structure and order into the widely diverging estimates of the numbers of foreign fighters. He then identifies problems posed by foreign fighters for European democracies with Muslim diasporas, focusing on the range of motivations driving vulnerable young men and women - mainly second generation immigrants and recent converts to Islam - to join the so-called "Islamic State". Having identified push and pull as well as resilience factors that facilitate or inhibit young Muslims joining ISIS, he argues that stopping them from departing to Syria is not enough; political solutions have to be sought.

Royal United Services Institute

These two papers are the first publications in the Countering Lone-Actor Terrorism project. Lone-actor terrorism (LAT) is not a new phenomenon; however, research suggests the threat is increasing as pressure from security services forces a tactical adaptation and groups – including Daesh – call on those who share their ideology to act alone.

Lone-actor terrorism: literature review

by Raffaello Pantucci [@raffpantucci](#), Clare Ellis [@cfa_ellis](#) and Lorien Chaplais
December 2015
Link to the article in [English](#) (25 p.)

The first paper aims at giving a working definition of LAT that will be used when collecting cases for the database.

Lone-actor terrorism: definitional workshop

by Edwin Bakker and Jeanine de Roy van Zuijdewijn
December 2015
Link to the article in [English](#) (19 p.)

The second paper examines the current state of knowledge surrounding the phenomenon, assessing the limitations of the literature and identifying where further research should focus.

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

Armed non-state actors - Counter-terrorism and the protection of civilians

by Jairo Munive and Jonathan Somer
December 2015
Link to the article in [English](#) (25 p.)

This report takes a case study approach to examine the conundrum facing policymakers and, not least, state militaries, when navigating the policy regimes in Iraq and Syria. It analyses two prominent armed non-state actors; the People's Protection Units and Islamic State. The report concludes that it is time to consider strategic interoperability of international humanitarian law and counter-terror regimes in order to maximise the protection of civilians.

GEOPOLITICS AND STRATEGY

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

Global system on the brink: pathways toward a new normal

by Mathew Burrows [@matburrows](#) and Alexander Dynkin (eds.)
December 2015
Link to the article in [English](#) (22 p.)

Work on this joint assessment of global trends began before the onset of the recent crisis in US-Russian relations, but is more relevant than ever today as we seek to avoid a greater conflict and achieve a new normal of cooperation between Russia and the West. Despite the rapid globalization of the past few decades, the potential for major state conflict is on the rise due to deep fragmentation within and between societies. The old confrontation between capitalism and communism has given way to conflicts of moral values with nationalist, religious, and historical-psychological overtones. The worst outcome would be the emergence of a new bipolarity, putting a group of states centred around China and Russia against the US and some EU and Asian allies.

Center for Policy Studies

State, crisis and politicization of economic policymaking: reflections from Hungary and Turkey

by Pinar Donmez and Eva Zemandl

December 2015

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

This paper aims to explore the role and impact of government-led re-politicization in Hungary and Turkey in the context of the post-2008 crisis and restructuring. Whilst this process has introduced and consolidated depoliticized forms of governance to a certain degree in both countries, the global crisis from 2008 onwards is claimed to have led to the emergence of a reverse process of politicisation towards a visible ministerial control. Similarly in both countries the process has been going hand in hand with the entrenchment of an increasingly authoritarian discourse. The paper aims to explore these similarities and differences.

Ulkopoliittinen instituutti (Finnish Institute of International Affairs)

Crafting the EU global strategy: building blocks for a stronger Europe

by Kristi Raik [@KristiRaik](#), Niklas Helwig [@NHelwig](#) and Tuomas Iso-Markku

2 December 2015

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

The EU is preparing a new global strategy on foreign and security policy, to be presented by its foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini by June 2016. Compared to the European Security Strategy of 2003, the regional and global context is far less favourable today. The strategy should send a clear message that the EU's security and defence policy, in all its forms, is about providing security for the EU and its citizens. The EU is unlikely to be directly involved in the territorial defence of its Member States. The refugee crisis is the latest, stark reminder that it is necessary to strengthen the Union as a 'comprehensive power' able to draw on a variety of tools in a flexible, goal-oriented manner.

TRADE

Institute for Security and Development Policy

The EU, Central Asia, and the development of continental transport and trade

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

December 2015

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

Since the collapse of the USSR, a number of initiatives have embarked on the task of rebuilding trade and transportation arteries across Central Asia and the Caucasus. The paper presents an overview of existing arrangements and plans, ranging from the EU's TRACECA project to China's Silk Road Economic Belt. Following this, it seeks to look two decades into the future of Eurasia-wide transport and trade. On that basis, it identifies four major emerging issues, including the geopolitics of transport and trade as well as the necessity of developing soft infrastructure.

Cato Institute

How not to use the International Trade Commission's economic analysis of trade agreements

by Daniel Pearson

16 December 2015

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

The Trans-Pacific Partnership has been concluded and is pending approval by the 12 member nations. Negotiations on the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership between the EU and

the US are continuing. Whether the public and policymakers are supportive of these agreements will depend in part on the economic results they are expected to deliver. Estimated economic effects depend heavily on the type of model used and the assumptions that constrain it. Interested parties often tend to cherry-pick the study results that best support their own policy positions, which leads to conflicting claims and a great deal of public confusion and doubt about trade agreements.

Expert-Grup

DCFTA between Moldova and EU after one year

by Ana Popa

4 December 2015

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

September 2015 marked one year since the implementation of DCFTA (Deep & Comprehensive Free Trade Agreement) between Moldova and EU began, and its results were overshadowed by the country's economic and political problems.

Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik (German Development Institute)

Trade flows in developing countries: what is the role of trade finance?

by Clara Brandi [@ClaraBrandi](#) and Birgit Schmitz

December 2015

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

This paper analyses the effect of trade finance on the trade flows of industrialized, emerging and developing economies and focuses in particular on the role of trade openness. The article further investigates how the effect of the availability of trade finance on trade flows differs across different country groups, above all with a view to different levels of income and levels of development. Finally the authors also investigate the importance of trade finance across regions and find that trade finance is particularly important for sub-Saharan Africa.

DEVELOPMENT

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

Somali and Afghan diaspora associations in development and relief cooperation

by Matilde Skov Danstrøm, Nauja Kleist [@naukleist](#) and Ninna Nyberg Sørensen

8 December 2015

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

Refugees and migrant diasporas are increasingly recognised as agents of change in relation to development of their home countries. This report, examining Afghan and Somali diaspora groups in Denmark, find that both groups send considerable shares of their income to help family members survive during conflict and sustain communities in crisis, both in countries of origin and refugee settlements in the region and neighbouring areas. The report further shows how, under the right circumstances and supported in the right way, diasporas may be important new partners for development cooperation and humanitarian relief.

Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik (German Development Institute)

Translating an ambitious vision into global transformation - The 2030 agenda for sustainable development

by Markus Loewe and Nicole Rippin (eds.)

December 2015

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

With this review, the authors aim at providing an input for the debate on indicators and for the process of designing national strategies to implement the 2030 Agenda. The monitoring and review processes at the global, regional and national levels will be fundamental for measuring progress, and for adjusting policies.

European Centre for Development Policy Management

Stepping up? Best practice in joint programming and prospects for EU joint cooperation strategies

by Damien Helly, Greta Galeazzi, Asmita Parshotam, Cecilia Gregersen, Willy Kokolo and Andrew Sherriff

18 December 2015

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

The authors consider that Joint Programming needs to be refreshed and EU institutions will have to walk the talk for the modality to remain attractive to Member States. In return, Member States have to deliver on this process themselves. Lessons learnt from country case studies are also included in the study. The authors also narrowed down a number of key factors for the future of Joint Programming, and built-up three scenarios to sketch out the options for policy-makers who think Joint Programming (or Joint Cooperation Strategies, as they suggest it to be renamed) should still be a priority for external action and the EU's collective development cooperation in the context of the Agenda 2030.

EASTERN PARTNERSHIP

Central European Policy Institute

Towards a new EU Global Strategy: challenges and opportunities in Eastern Neighbourhood

by Elena Korosteleva, Igor Merheim-Eyre, Eske Van Gils and Irena Mnatsakanyan

December 2015

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

The EU has considerably progressed in fostering a common vision for the European Security Strategy. It moved beyond the national priorities of individual Member States to collectively consider the interests of the EU as a whole, and to separately articulate its external (2003) and internal (2010) security priorities. At the same time, more challenging tasks still lie ahead, as highlighted by the High Representative report of [June 2015](#).

College of Europe

The limited influence of the European Union in Armenia and Azerbaijan: a domestic explanation

by Annika Tartes

December 2015

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

This paper explains why the EU has had limited influence in Armenia and Azerbaijan in the framework of the ENP. The author argues that the Eastern Partnership has not properly addressed the extent to which the clan structures feed into informal political practices and enforce the sustainability of an existing regime in both countries, and that, in addition, the EU has

underestimated the multipolar environment which the two countries have to operate in, making it unlikely that the current policy can reach its objectives in Armenia and Azerbaijan.

EU NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICY

European Union Institute for Security Studies

The EU neighbours 1995-2015: shades of grey

by Florence Gaub [@FlorenceGaub](#) and Nicu Popescu [@nicupopescu](#)

17 December 2015

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

This paper charts the changes that have taken place in the countries and regions adjacent to the EU over the past two decades, and analyses how the upheavals of recent years have altered the EU's relationship with and approach to its eastern and southern neighbours. Coming at a time when the new EU leadership has launched what amounts to a complete 'reboot' of the European Neighbourhood Policy as well as a wider review of the EU's foreign and security policy priorities, it shows that the Union still has an important role to play in these regions, albeit a less exclusive and possibly less 'magnetic' one than assumed a decade ago.

Belarusian Institute for Strategic Studies

Renewed EU neighbourhood policy: old methods for stability

by Dzianis Melyantsou

13 December 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (5 p.) and in [Russian](#) (6 p.)

In November 2015, the European Commission together with High Representative of the EU for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy issued a joint [communication](#) about a renewed European Neighbourhood Policy. Some observers have already claimed that the EU moved away from its previous principles and emphasized the economic development of its periphery and tackling security issues. This brief analysis provides an overview of the changes, as compared with the earlier versions of the neighbourhood policy, and an evaluation of the potential for further cooperation between Belarus and the EU within the framework of this policy.

Polski Instytut Spraw Międzynarodowych (Polish Institute of International Affairs)

EU communication policy in its neighbourhood in light of third-party propaganda

by Elżbieta Kaca (ed.)

December 2015

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

Due to mounting Russian propaganda in the eastern neighbourhood and in the Baltic States, the EU set up a task force in September to counter stereotypes about the Union disseminated by the Moscow apparatus. This is a step in the right direction, but a drop in the ocean of needs. The Union still allocates sparse resources to support independent media operating in Russian and in local languages. EU delegations face staff shortages in communication units, especially those covering social media. This report examines the limitations of EU communication in the neighbourhood and draws on the experience of EU delegations to provide recommendations for building an image of the Union understandable to ordinary people.

International Centre for Black Sea Studies

Black Sea extroversion at European and international level

by Seven Erdoğan

December 2015

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

This paper aims to deal with the EU's involvement to in the Black Sea region. In this scope, firstly, EU policy mechanisms, namely the ENP, the Black Sea Synergy and the EaP, will be considered to be used in the relations with the Black Sea countries. Secondly, strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats of the EU in its engagement to in the Black Sea region will be identified. The paper finally, will conclude that the EU has to devote more resources and efforts for the Black Sea region to enhance its strengths, to mitigate its weaknesses, to utilize the opportunities and to protect itself from the threats of its new neighbourhood.

Centre for European Policy Studies

The 2015 ENP review: a policy in suspended animation

by Steven Blockmans

1 December 2015

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

One year after the Juncker Commission took office, the long-awaited official review of the ENP was published in November 2015. By prioritising interests over values in increasingly atomised partnerships, the policy will now aim for pragmatic realism in its dealings with a turbulent neighbourhood. But in the absence of the necessary funding to tackle the region's multiple crises, and without a strategic vision to guide relations with the neighbours of the EU's neighbours, the new ENP remains in suspended animation.

AFRICA

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

De EU als veiligheidsactor in Afrika

by Dick Zandee (ed.), Hans Hoebeke [@hoebekeh](#), Hans Merket [@hansmerket](#) and Minke Meijnders [@Minke_M](#)

December 2015

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

This study focuses on the role of the EU as a security actor in Africa. The authors focus mainly on how the integrated approach of the EU is carried on and what consequences this entails for the Common Security and Defence Policy.

Chatham House - The Royal Institute of International Affairs

Nigeria's booming borders - The drivers and consequences of unrecorded trade

by Leena Koni Hoffmann [@LeenaHoffmann](#) and Paul Melly [@PaulMelly2](#)

7 December 2015

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

Nigeria's economy, on account of its size and its location between Central and West Africa, at the core of the economic transformation of the sub-Saharan region. This report highlights some of the main drivers and consequences of Nigeria's unrecorded external trade for the country's economic management, accountability, governance and development.

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

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

Survey results: the continued trend of citizens' distrust in political parties and government institutions in BiH

24 December 2015

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

For the third year in a row, Analitika has conducted a research on public trust in government institutions, political actors and other organizations in BiH. Similar to previous years, the survey conducted in 2015 showed that citizens in Bosnia and Herzegovina at least trust political parties. The results also indicate a low level of citizens' trust towards the institutions of the executive and legislative authorities at all levels of government.

Fleksibilan rad u nefleksibilnom okruženju: reforme institucija tržišta rada u Bosni i Hercegovini u komparativnoj perspektivi [Flexible labour in inflexible environment: reforms of labour market institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina in comparative perspective]

by Mirna Jusić and Amar Numanović [@numanovicamar](#)

21 December 2015

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

In order to better understand the institutional context of the labour market in BiH, the reform needs and options as well as their possible implications for BiH economy and society, Analitika publishes a report which focuses on the analysis of the characteristics and performances of the most important institutes of BiH labor market, placed in the broader conceptual and comparative framework. The comparative experiences of other European countries are taken into account in order to discuss the possible reform paths, but also to understand the interactions between various institutional and other contextual factors on the performance of the labor market and the country's economy in general.

Vodič za otvorenu vlast – "Otvoreni javni podaci" i "Upravljanje zapisima" [Open government guide – "Open government data" and "Records management"]

10 December 2015

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

This guide consists of chapters on different topics and thematic areas among which are: budgets, assets disclosure and conflict of interest, consumers protection, right to information, open government data, whistle-blowers protection, etc. Each topic provides a list of 'illustrative commitments'; specific, practical, measurable, and action-oriented steps that governments might include in their Action Plans. The Guide provides country examples and links to more detailed standards and guidance in each area.

Centar za istraživanja i studije - GEA (Center for Research and Studies)

Growth of labor productivity – The precondition for increase of wages and stable economic development

by Marko Martić

18 December 2015

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

Labour productivity growth is the primary economic goal, which creates conditions for strengthening the competitiveness of the domestic economy and stable development.

Creating a more favorable business environment for decreasing informal (grey) economy in the Republic of Srpska

by Ognjen Đukić, Marko Martić

17 December 2015

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

This report reveals what employers in the Republic of Serbian see as the main causes of the shadow economy and where we stand on these issues in relation to Serbia, Croatia, Macedonia and Austria.

Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (Friedrich Ebert Foundation)

The legacy of peace: Bosnia and Herzegovina 20 years after the Dayton Peace Accords

by Amer Kapetanovic and Judith Illerhues

December 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (260 p.) and in [Bosnian](#) (246 p.)

The Dayton Peace Accords from 1995 brought an end to the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Twenty years later it is the right moment not only to sum up achievements, but also to reflect on the challenges Bosnia and Herzegovina faces today.

CHINA

Fondation Robert Schuman

The impact of China's economic situation on Europe

by Karine Lisbonne de Vergeron

22 December 2015

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

The collapse of the Shanghai stock market has brought back to the fore the weaknesses in China's economic development. The country's decreasing growth is indeed a source of concern with regards to its impact on global growth. But the Chinese economy still retains many assets favourable to manage the necessary transition towards greater consumption as well as promoting future growth. This is further supported by significant foreign exchange reserves despite recent capital outflows. It remains, nevertheless, that China's image has changed and that every forecast now inevitably points towards a long-term slowdown of the Chinese economy. So the question arises: with what impact and consequences for Europe?

Cato Institute

China's challenge: expanding the market, limiting the state

by James A. Dorn

3 December 2015

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

This article explores the tension between the state and the market in China, the challenges that remain in moving toward what Milton Friedman called "free private markets", and the importance of drawing on China's ancient culture to understand the importance of freedom and limited government in promoting economic and social harmony.

Ośrodek Studiów Wschodnich (Centre for Eastern Studies)

China's foreign direct investments within the '16+1' cooperation formula: strategy, institutions, results

by Jakub Jakóbowski [@J_Jakobowski](#)

December 2015

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

The '16+1' formula of cooperation between the countries CEE and China was launched in 2012 for increasing the inflow of China's foreign direct investments to the region. Due to the involvement of China for locating investments abroad stable bilateral relations with CEE partners were successfully achieved. However, creating multilateral institutions to offer support to Chinese companies was beset with difficulties. These included the lack of CEE partners' willingness to carry out coordination tasks, the inexperience of Chinese companies in pursuing cooperation, as well as failure to adjust the instruments created under this cooperation initiative to the region's economic reality.

European Council on Foreign Relations

China: hitting the middle income wall

by François Godement and Agatha Kratz

18 December 2015

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

This article presents a long list of issues currently affecting the growth of China's industrial sector and questions the management of the stock market before this year's spectacular boom-and-bust cycle. Worries over China's economic performance in 2015 will continue into the future – and are breaking through into Chinese media.

EASTERN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

Center for Strategic and International Studies

Afghanistan and failed state wars: an update

by Anthony H. Cordesman

10 December 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (276 p.)

This report presents an updated rough working draft comparison and summary overview of key maps, metrics, and data on the fighting in Afghanistan. It shows key trends, but focuses on the state of Afghanistan at the end of 2015 – nearly a year after Transition – and the role of Pakistan in the fighting.

IRAN

LSE IDEAS

The long road to Tehran: the Iran nuclear deal in perspective

by Bryan Gibson

December 2015

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

After nearly 20 months of near continuous negotiations, in 2015 Iran and the P5+1 reached a deal designed to prevent Iran from obtaining nuclear weapons capability in exchange for relief from the sanctions that have been crippling its economy over the course of the past decade. How was this momentous agreement reached? This paper traces the story of this major diplomatic breakthrough,

through the historical context of long term US-Iran relations and the tireless international effort to prevent domestic political crises from derailing the negotiations.

JAPAN

Center for Strategic and International Studies / Pacific Forum CSIS

The Abe restoration: pushing past Japan's wartime legacy and restoring a responsible use of force

by Marta McLellan Ross [@mmross2014](#)

17 December 2015

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

December 2015 marks the three-year anniversary of Prime Minister Abe Shinzo's return to office. During his tenure, Japan has redefined its national security strategy through a series of reforms, reshaping the post war system of pacifism. These changes have occurred concurrently with updating the US-Japan alliance through revisions of the US-Japan Security Cooperation Guidelines. As Japan implements these reforms, consideration should be given to systemic changes that strengthen checks and balances on decisions to utilize military force in collective self-defence and collective security operations. This article examines what has been accomplished, why, the costs and benefits, and the important reforms Japan must consider next.

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

Can the magic of Abenomics succeed?

by Evelyne Dourille-Feer

December 2015

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

The article elaborates on the Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's pro-growth economic policy, dubbed Abenomics, which combines monetary policy and fiscal policy as well as growth reforms. It has attracted much attention worldwide because it combines short and mid to long term policies, and supply and demand programmes.

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

College of Europe

The Interregional Association Agreement between the European Union and Mercosur: is the timing right?

by Pablo Gómez Leahy

December 2015

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

This paper examines the interests that both blocs have in concluding the agreement, as well as the obstacles which stood and continue to stand in the way of said agreement. The paper will then look at domestic politics in both Brazil and Argentina to show that a political window of opportunity is opening up: the chances of the Interregional Association Agreement being concluded in the near future are higher given the transformations that will occur in both Brazil and Argentina.

FYROM

Center for Research and Policy Making

Institutional accountability in Macedonia – Between commitments and results!

by Aleksandar Cekov

30 December 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (24 p.), in [Macedonian](#) (24 p.) and in [Albanian](#) (24 p.)

This paper presents the results of the Centre for Research and Policy Making research on the citizens' perception towards institutions' practices. The scores of the institutions were afterwards compared to the citizens' perception for the practices of institutions, and as for their requests, needs and expectations the results were collected through the survey on a sample of 1101 respondents. For the purpose of this policy brief, the focus shall be put on the indicators measuring institutional accountability, especially in terms of the budget transparency and accountability, monitoring of the regulations and reporting on the public policies and openness of the Parliament towards the public and the parliamentary oversight.

Index of good governance in Macedonia 2014 - Outcomes from research on good governance

by Aleksandar Cekov

December 2015

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

For the purposes of this research, the principles of good governance were explicated through 133 indicators in total, grouped in eight categories of good governance. Additionally, to define the indicators we have used relevant literature from the field of good governance; experiences from implemented researches in the region. Particular attention was paid to adapting indicators to the socio-political framework in which the relationship between government institutions and the citizens is built.

Public participation: "government of the people by the people, for the people"

by Qëndresa Sulejmani

December 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (24 p.), in [Macedonian](#) (26 p.) and in [Albanian](#) (24 p.)

This paper provides a situation analysis of the legislative framework and the practices of public engagement in decision-making in the central government institutions in Macedonia, also paying attention to public perception and opinion. It will conclude with a set of recommendations about how central level institutions can improve the engagement of the public in policy making processes.

Institutional transparency: availability of information

by Qëndresa Sulejmani

December 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (24 p.), in [Macedonian](#) (24 p.) and in [Albanian](#) (24 p.)

This paper focuses on the topic of institutional transparency, or what George Kopits and Jon Craig (1998) refer to as 'behavioural aspect of transparency', aiming to evaluate and analyse performance of central level institutions against a set of indices regarding access to information. Specifically, the author will look at the practices of targeted institutions to make information available to citizens. The results of a public opinion poll which informs this paper about the attitudes and experiences of citizens with central level institutions, also takes a crucial place in the overall research.

MIDDLE EAST/NORTH AFRICA (MENA)

European Council on Foreign Relations

Deciphering Algeria: the stirrings of reform?

by Andrew Lebovich [@tweetsintheME](#)

9 December 2015

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

Since the protests of the Arab Spring toppled governments in Tunisia, Libya, and Egypt, policymakers and analysts have devoted increasing attention to Algeria, but have tended to see it in rather one-dimensional terms. Formerly regarded as a bulwark of regional stability, Algeria is now more often described as a potential source of tension and conflict in the future, especially as the price of oil – the bedrock of Algeria's economy – remains at its lowest levels in more than a decade. Finally, according to the author, despite speculation of crisis waiting in the wings, Algeria is making tentative steps towards opening its economy and confronting political transition.

RUSSIA

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

The new East-West discord: Russian objectives, western interests

by James Sherr

December 2015

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

The author indicates some changes in Russian policies which challenge the rules of the post-Cold War security order. More specifically, the author focuses on the Ukraine crisis and the challenges posed to the wider Eastern Neighbourhood and to the Baltic States. He also analyses the challenges for the EU, as he claims Russia tries to play on divisions between western countries and within western societies. He then recommends for the EU strategic patience and containment towards Russia.

SERBIA

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

Headed for Brussels without a compass? Serbia's position between rapprochement with the EU and Russian influence

by Sarah Wohlfeld

17 December 2015

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

This article analyses Serbia's position between rapprochement with the EU and Russian influence. Large parts of the country's population and its political elite regard Russia as a natural ally and protecting power, and good relations with Moscow are part of the government's foreign policy directive. At the same time, however, all the important political parties and the population favour their country becoming a EU Member State. In the increasingly antagonistic European order, however, Serbia's pro-Russian politics will, according to the author, inevitably lead to tension with the EU. The direction Serbia decides to take is of major significance, not only for the country itself, but also for the stability of Europe.

Centar za Evropske Politike (European Policy Centre)

Politika konkurencije u Srbiji: U čemu je problem?

by Dušan Protić and Nebojša Lazarević

5 December 2015

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

The aim of the study is to explore the current state of competition policy in Serbia, identification and consideration of the key obstacles and shortcomings that hinder full and adequate application of the rules of competition and make recommendations for improving policies competition. The recommendations are primarily intended for decision makers in the process policy-making and legislation in the field of competition, as well as those who are responsible for the proper implementation of the existing legal framework. The focus of the study was to rules of competition and their application, while the area of state help, covered to the extent necessary to understand its importance in the context of the construction of a functioning system in line with EU standards.

TURKEY

Center for American Progress

Re-educating Turkey - AKP efforts to promote religious values in Turkish schools

by Alan Makovsky

14 December 2015

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

For the ruling Justice and Development Party, known by its Turkish acronym AKP, and its de facto leader, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, increasing both the reach of state-sponsored parochial schools and the religious content of curricula in traditional state secular schools is vital to achieving Erdoğan's stated vision of raising a "dindar nesil," or pious generation. This, in turn, serves Erdoğan's larger goal of achieving a new Turkey that is less in tune with the radically secular values of Atatürk's republic and more consonant with the religious values of its Ottoman predecessor state.

Österreichische Institut für Internationale Politik (Austrian Institute for International Affairs)

Nach den Wahlen - eine "Neue Türkei"?

by Cengiz Günay [@cengiz_gnay](#)

December 2015

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

In the most recent years a resurgence of authoritarianism under the government of the AKP occurred. Turkey is evolving towards a competitive authoritarian regime, in where, although held regularly elections who are beaten and embittered relatively fair, but the conditions under which they occur are authoritarian and undemocratic. The early elections of 1 November served to regain the supremacy of the ruling AKP and thus President Erdoğan after he lost the government majority. This paves the way towards the targeted "New Turkey". However, many problems should be tackled by AKP despite a landslide election victory and regaining the government majority.

UKRAINE

Istituto Affari Internazionali

Dealing with the Ukrainian crisis: Transatlantic strategy dilemmas

by E. Wayne Merry

December 2015

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

The Ukrainian crisis challenges Western governments and institutions in unprecedented ways. Europe and the US are divided by their perceptions of the challenge and, even more, by their responses and objectives. Russia perceives a threat to its vital national interests from the West, but paradoxically pursues policies of increasing self-isolation. Ukraine seeks to sustain its sovereignty and to reform its failed and corrupted institutions, but not as a proxy battlefield between the West and Russia. NATO seeks to reassure its vulnerable Eastern members, but has little influence on Moscow or practical value for Ukraine, a non-member.

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

Quo vadis, Ukraine? Is there a chance for success?

by Ivan Mikloš [@Ivan_Miklos](#)

30 December 2015

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

In the publication, the author discusses the socio-economic developments in Ukraine, as well as the ongoing economic and political reforms in the country. By virtue of comparing Ukraine with other countries and taking closer look at most burning issues such as oligarchization and energy sector and tax reform, he comes into conclusion that - although much has been done during the last 23 years - in comparison with what needs to be done and what could have been done already, what has in fact been done thus far is not sufficient.

Ośrodek Studiów Wschodnich (Centre for Eastern Studies)

The bumpy road: difficult reform process in Ukraine

by Wojciech Konończuk, Tadeusz Iwański, Tadeusz Olszański and Piotr Żochowski [@piotrzoc](#)

December 2015

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

The post-Maidan Ukrainian government found itself forced to launch a comprehensive state reform process due to both the deep crisis in all the key areas of the state's operation and the enormous demand for change among the Ukrainian public. Delays in the reform process are growing. This is due to a number of factors, the most important of which are: strong resistance from the circles whose interests are at stake; rivalry between the various political players for maintaining control over a given area of operation of the state; conflicting interests and disputes between the four parties which form the government coalition; the influence of oligarchs linked to individual groups in the government; and the Ukrainian bureaucracy's inefficiency and corruption.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Brookings Institution

American attitudes toward the Middle East and Israel

by Shibley Telhami [@ShibleyTelhami](#)

4 December 2015

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

As the US gears up for the 2016 presidential race, Americans seem increasingly polarized on issues related to the Middle East, including whether and how to resolve perceived tensions between Israel and the US. The author conducted a survey on American public attitudes toward the Middle East and Israel. Based on a national sample, the poll also includes a substantial sample of Evangelical Christians—enabling an expansive analysis of this increasingly important segment of the American electorate. Below are several key findings and a download to the survey's full results.

Center for Transatlantic Relations

Economic connections between European metropolitan regions and the United States - An analysis of country, state, and metropolitan area level relations

by Benjamin Hilgenstock

December 2015

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

This paper attempts to further analyse economic connections between EU and the US focusing on ties between specific metropolitan regions in Europe and the US, individual US states, and metropolitan statistical areas in the US. Furthermore, the role of specific industries will be analysed. It is this author's belief that such an analysis will help clarify the specific characteristics of transatlantic economic relations and will potentially allow politicians, business leaders, and local officials to better understand the benefits of further integration. This paper provides a step on the way to a more detailed analysis of economic ties by identifying the strongest transatlantic metropolitan area connections as well as the significance of specific industries.

REGARDS CROISÉS

Institute of International and European Affairs

Germany: looking in, looking out

by Katherine Meenan (ed.)

December 2015

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

This paper analyses German policy responses to the internal and external issues facing Germany. This publication is of interest to policy makers, journalists, business people and anyone looking for a deeper understanding of Germany today.

Center for Transatlantic Relations

Angela Merkel and China: trade, the U.S., the South-China sea, and the continuation of 'Ostpolitik'

by Klaus Larres [@KrasnoEventsUNC](#) and Richard M Krasno

2 December 2015

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

It is trade and exports and political stability and cooperation with Beijing that are at the heart of Chancellor Merkel's China policy. It is not geopolitics. The core tenet of Ostpolitik consists of the build-up of good and constructive relations by ever-closer trade, political and cultural relations. Engaging the other country by means of small steps in these areas is meant to lead to ever more trusting, stable and reliable relations. Predictability, consistency and the gradual converging of both countries' political philosophies are the ultimate long-term objective.

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

Az állam szerepe a szlovén gazdaságban

by Somai Miklós

December 2015

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

This study tries to analyse the economic role of the state in Slovenia, particularly with regard to whether this has changed during the 2007-09 global crisis. As the history of Slovenia's economic transformation can be divided into three periods, the paper is divided accordingly. After a brief historical introduction, the first part assesses the post-communist economic restructuring, which occurred all throughout the '90s. The second chapter gives an account of the millennium-long period of the crisis. The third section describes the incumbent crisis and its management, spanning from 2007-8 to the present.