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Dear Readers,

Welcome to issue 32 of the Think Tank Review compiled by the EU Council Library* ([click to share on Twitter](#)). It references papers published in January 2016. As usual, we provide the link to the full text and a short abstract.

In the 'Economic and Financial Affairs' section, readers will find several substantial contributions from which we select one on Germany and the stability of the European Monetary Union and another on Italy and the eurozone. We also include at the end of this section a reflection on austerity in the European periphery which elaborates on the Irish experience. Andrew Duff, former Member of the European Parliament, presents an article in which he proposes a new treaty for the eurozone - the Protocol of Frankfurt - which, according to him, is intended to address the inherent weaknesses of the EU's monetary and economic governance.

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In January we saw think tanks focusing again on the UK's future in the EU, with a remarkable analysis from Jean-Claude Piris, former Director-General of the Legal Service of the Council, in which he considers seven alternatives to EU membership, if the UK votes to leave. Still in the 'EU Member States' section, there are two contributions focusing on the Nordic countries. One elaborates on the reasons why the Nordic countries, in particular Denmark and Sweden, are doing so well and the other on the macroeconomic performance of Finland and its northern peers during the global financial crisis.

A recurrent concern is the refugee crisis ('EU policies' section). We noted, in particular, a paper on Australia's asylum and migration policy and possible lessons to apply to the European refugee crisis, taking into account its long history of immigration, including accepting refugees. In this section, but on energy issues, we found a paper on the challenges of maintaining nuclear cultures, which looks in particular at the US and UK's recent efforts to maintain their nuclear culture, and at the key challenges these two countries face while pursuing this aim.

We also look at think tanks focusing on employment and social issues, with papers focusing on wage-setting strategies for the eurozone, the importance of foreign language skills in the labour markets of Central and Eastern Europe and youth unemployment in Europe. The World Economic Forum presents an analysis on the future of jobs with an emphasis on employment, skills and workforce strategy for the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

In the 'Foreign Affairs' section, we present a wide selection of articles on Albania, focusing on its relations with some of its neighbours, Serbia and Kosovo, as well as on Albania and the European social model, the past 2015 Albanian local elections, together with an opinion poll on trust in the Albanian government. Finally, a stimulating reflection by Maxime Lefebvre, former French

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

Ambassador to the OSCE, on 'Russia and the West: ten disputes and inevitable escalation?' He is also the author of 'La construction de l'Europe et l'avenir des nations', available at the Central Library.

For our 'Regards croisés' section, we present an analysis by the Real Instituto Elcano on the recent Portuguese legislative and presidential elections. And finally, in the 'Miscellanea' section, an interesting and well-documented paper, also from the Real Instituto Elcano, on the think tank's intention to exert political influence using Twitter.

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 March 2016, with papers published in February 2016.

<p>For readers from outside the General Secretariat, the Central Library is in the Justus Lipsius building, at JL 02 GH, Rue de la Loi 175, 1048 Brussels. It is open to Council officials, staff of other EU institutions and Permanent Representations of Member States. Members of the public may use the library for research purposes.</p>

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SECTION 1 - EU POLITICS AND INSTITUTIONS

Centre for European Policy Studies

Balancing priorities and emergency measures: Luxembourg's Council presidency

by Vilde Renman and Sophia Russack

15 January 2016

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

This is a paper assessing the performance of Luxembourg's EU Council presidency between 1 July and 31 December 2015. It was its first presidency since the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty and its introduction of the trio presidency format, this time including Italy and Latvia. Luxembourg had the task of concluding certain major dossiers before the end of the trio's term, but the required response to the huge inflow of migrants to Europe, and the terrorist attacks in Paris, eclipsed its planned agenda. Nevertheless, remarkable progress was still achieved on certain dossiers.

Stiftung Genshagen (Genshagen Foundation)

"Deutschland und Frankreich. Der Neustart des europäischen Motors"

by Philippe Gustin [@philippe_gustin](#) and Stephan Martens

January 2016

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

The friendship between France and Germany has never been a foregone conclusion. Indeed, their partnership was not borne out of any sort of mutual attraction, but was instead created out of necessity. Nowadays, the "French-German pair" is a pillar of the EU, and it has often played a crucial role in European cooperation. Europe now faces ongoing crisis, and this essay argues that a strong relationship between the French and German people is needed for a prosperous and peaceful Europe.

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

Overseeing the rule of law in the European Union: legal mandate and means

by Christophe Hillion

January 2016

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

Controversial changes in the laws of Poland and Hungary have deepened concerns about disregard for the rule of law in the EU. This analysis discusses what the EU is legally entrusted to do to address the issue. It recalls that Member States have endowed the Union with a legal mandate to ensure respect for the rule of law. It also suggests that the EU has various means at its disposal to fulfil such mandate, which in many ways remain to be used.

Terra Nova

2015 : "annus horribilis" pour l'Union européenne ?

by Pénélope Debreu

7 January 2016

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

This paper looks back to the past year and to the multiple crises, internal and geopolitical, that affected the EU. Beyond the diagnosis, the goal is to contribute to outline the way forward.

Real Instituto Elcano (Elcano Royal Institute)

Europa en el mundo

by Emilio Lamo de Espinosa [@PresidenteRIE](#)

8 January 2016

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

This paper aims to analyse not the EU but the historical role of Europe in the world, the first (and so far the only) region and culture (or civilization) that has had and continues to have universal scope, according to the author.

SECTION 2 - ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

European Policy Centre

The Protocol of Frankfurt: a new treaty for the eurozone

by Andrew Duff [@AndrewDuffEU](#)

January 2016

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

At a time when the EU finds itself in a perfect storm of crises which it seems unable to overcome, a bold move is needed to reinvigorate the EU's system of government and stave off the risk of disintegration. In order to address the inherent weakness of the EU's monetary and economic governance, this pamphlet proposes a new treaty for the eurozone: the Protocol of Frankfurt. Written by Andrew Duff, former Member of the European Parliament, it is the first ever attempt to draft a treaty aimed at setting up a fiscal union.

Jacques Delors Institute - Berlin / Bertelsmann Stiftung

Germany and the stability of the EMU

by Henrik Enderlein [@henrikenderlein](#), Katharina Gnath and Jörg Haas [@jorg_haas](#)

25 January 2016

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

To what extent has German EU policy contributed to stabilizing the euro? In this paper, the authors show how Germany's concept of a 'stability community' has shaped the common currency. They argue that the idea, although narrowly defined in the beginning, has broadened over time. They also highlight areas where the monetary union is still incomplete.

LUISS School of European Political Economy

Euro-zone, Italy's responsibility

by Carlo Bastasin, Lorenzo Bini Smaghi, Marcello Messeri, Stefano Micossi, Franco Passacantando, Fabrizio Saccomanni and Gianni Toniolo

January 2016

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

Eight years after the crisis started, the stability of the euro-area is still at risk. Despite several attempts to improve the practices and institutions of common governance, European countries sharing the single currency continue to follow divergent trends. The current system does not seem capable of facilitating economic growth and spreading it around the euro-area. Monetary policy seems to be the only policy instrument in use, but it may only very gradually bring inflation to normal levels and support economic activity. However, since the use of non-conventional monetary policy also entails risk, there is a need to take into account the eventuality that the ECB's quantitative easing will end. The authors reflect on all these questions, including on the risks for Italy, national obligations and European negotiations.

Notre Europe - Jacques Delors Institute / Istituto Affari Internazionali

Federalising the eurozone: towards a true European budget?

by Eulalia Rubio [@eulaliarubio](#)

14 January 2016

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

Discussions about a future fiscal capacity for the euro area are too often limited to a comparison of the technical advantages and disadvantages of different modalities of cross-country fiscal shock

absorbers. This paper aims to broaden the debate, by connecting these discussions with debates on fiscal union and the exercise of political power in EMU.

Centre for European Policy Studies

European bank resolution: making it work!

by Thomas F. Huertas

26 January 2016

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

From the start of 2016, new rules for bank resolution are in place across the EU, and a new authority (the Single Resolution Board) is fully operational for resolving all banks in the eurozone. Banks need to develop recovery plans, and authorities need to create resolution plans as well as set the minimum required amount of own funds and eligible liabilities for each bank. But given the diversity in bank structures and instruments at EU and global level, this will be a formidable challenge, above all with respect to internationally active banks. This report contains policy recommendations from CEPS.

Did quantitative easing affect interest rates outside the US? New evidence based on interest rate differentials

by Ansgar Belke, Daniel Gros and Thomas Osowski

26 January 2016

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

This paper explores the effects of non-standard monetary policies on international yield relationships.

Balance-of-payments adjustment in the eurozone

by Stefano Micossi

22 January 2016

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

This policy contribution describes the unresolved adjustment problems confronting the eurozone, and places them in historical perspective by comparing developments in key real economic variables under EMU with those observed under the Bretton Woods system. The main finding is that the eurozone is afflicted by a strong deflationary bias and that, therefore, under current trends, deep economic and social strains will continue to project a dark cloud over its future survival.

Five things we need to know about the on-demand economy

by Ilaria Maselli [@IlariaInBxl](#), Karolien Lenaerts and Miroslav Beblavý [@beblavy](#)

8 January 2016

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

The purpose of this essay is to take a balanced perspective on what we know about the on-demand economy and what needs further investigation. More research is needed on the individual cases before one can draw conclusions on how this new sector works. The political economy of the sector is made even more interesting by the fact that the technology is developing faster than the regulation. Yet, the plea from authors to policy-makers is to refrain from legislating too early and to take the time to understand how the supply and the demand of these services behave and their equilibrium.

Centre for European Reform

Has the euro been a failure?

by Simon Tilford [@SimonTilford](#), John Springford [@JohnSpringford](#) and Christian Odendahl [@COdendahl](#)

11 January 2016

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

During the conference reported in this paper, there was broad consensus that the euro had been a disappointment: the currency union's economic performance was very poor, and rather than bringing EU Member States together and fostering a closer sense of unity and common identity, the euro had divided countries and eroded confidence in the EU. While only a few participants thought it possible or advisable to dismantle the eurozone, there was broad pessimism over the ability of the eurozone political elite to sell the needed integrationist steps to their increasingly disillusioned electorates.

Real Instituto Elcano (Elcano Royal Institute)

The Grexit summer

by Miguel Otero-Iglesias [@miotei](#) (ed.)

25 January 2016

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

Summer 2015 will be remembered as a key moment in the history of the EMU. We were very close, indeed, to see for the first time a Member State, Greece, leave the eurozone. Finally, Grexit did not happen. But the experience was intense, frustrating, and for many, traumatic. Thus, with six months of hindsight, the author has asked seven colleagues who have worked on the euro for years to reflect on these events.

SAFE - Sustainable Architecture for Finance in Europe

The intended and unintended consequences of financial-market regulations: a general equilibrium analysis

by Adrian Buss, Bernard Dumas, Raman Uppal and Grigory Vilkov

25 January 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (59 p.)

In a production economy with trade in financial markets motivated by the desire to share labour-income risk and to speculate, the authors show that speculation increases volatility of asset returns and investment growth, increases the equity risk premium, and reduces welfare. Regulatory measures have similar effects on financial and macroeconomic variables. Borrowing limits and a financial transaction tax improve welfare because they substantially reduce speculative trading without impairing excessively risk-sharing trades.

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

Is there flexibility in the European Semester process? Exploring interactions between the EU and Member States within post-crisis socio-economic governance

by Sonja Bekker

January 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (74 p.)

In this report, the author analyses the interaction between the EU and four Member States – France, Germany, Poland and Spain – within the European semester on issues dealing with socio-economic governance.

UCD Geary Institute

Austerity in the European periphery: the Irish experience

by Niamh Hardiman [@niamh_hardiman](#), Spyros Blavoukos, Sebastian Dellepiane-Avellaneda and George Pagoulatos [@gpagoulatos](#)

28 January 2016

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

Ireland has come to be seen as an exemplary case of the successful practice of austerity, both economically and politically. But these inferences would be misleading. The real story about fiscal adjustments in Ireland is more problematic, the reasons for recovery are more complex, and the political consequences are a good deal more nuanced. This paper sets the Irish experience alongside that of the other eurozone periphery countries.

Alphonse and Dorimène Desjardins International Institute for Cooperatives / International Research Centre on Cooperative Finance

Banking business models monitor 2015: Europe

by Rym Ayadi and Willem Pieter De Groen

14 January 2016

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

This paper assesses the banking sector structure in light of the changing economic, legislative and supervisory environment. In the context of evolving market structures and regulations, where fundamental changes keep applying to the European Banking Sector, especially since of the financial crisis of 2007-2009, the banks' business models analysis provides market participants, depositors, creditors, regulators and supervisors with a useful tool to better understand the nature of risk attached to each bank business model and its contribution to systemic risk throughout the economic cycle.

European Forecasting Network

Economic outlook for the euro area in 2016 and 2017

by Massimiliano Marcellino

January 2016

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

This paper provides an analysis of the current economic situation and forecasts of the main macroeconomic and financial variables for the euro area in 2016 and 2017.

SECTION 3 - EU MEMBER STATES

BULGARIA

Институт за пазарна икономика (Institute for Market Economics)

Разрези на бедността: Образованието и заетостта като фактори за кривата на доходите и щастие в България

29 January 2016

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

This paper aims to provide income distribution in Bulgarian society, focusing on problems of poverty and inequality, refracted through the prism of education, economic activity and settlement.

FINLAND

Elinkeinoelämän tutkimuslaitos (Research Institute of the Finnish Economy)

The EU's fiscal targets and their economic impact in Finland

by Henri Keränen and Tero Kuusi

27 January 2016

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

In this paper, the authors quantify time-varying fiscal multipliers using Finnish economic data and address questions about the design of the fiscal adjustment currently needed to comply with the EU's fiscal targets. They find that the necessary adjustment is likely to be larger than what is proposed in the current fiscal plans.

FRANCE

Terra nova

Où va le management public ?

by Maya Bacache-Beauvallet

20 January 2016

Link to the article in [French](#) (59 p.)

In this paper, the author gives an overview of the theoretical concepts and questions that researchers and policy makers are now facing in the areas of public policy evaluation, management of public employment and the definition of the borders of the State.

GERMANY

Hanns-Seidel-Stiftung (Hanns Seidel Foundation)

"Die Alternative für Deutschland" (AfD) rückt nach rechts

by Gerhard Hirscher

4 January 2016

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

The "Alternative für Deutschland" (AfD) party is moving further towards the right. While this helps boost AfD's popularity in light of the refugee crisis, it also puts additional strains on internal party cohesion. A stabilisation of AfD towards its permanent establishment in Germany is less than certain. The present article argues that popularity of AfD is likely to decline due to the governing

coalition's competent handling of refugee and integration matters, as well as internal and external security policies.

Bundesakademie für Sicherheitspolitik

Die "Ertüchtigungsinitiative" der Bundesregierung: Was steckt dahinter?

by Jana Puglierin

14 January 2016

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

The concept of "Ertüchtigung" (strengthening, toughening up) is increasingly used in German security policy terminology. Some fear that such strengthening initiatives are an attempt to justify German armaments industry exports to conflict areas, and to encourage combatants to settle disputes on their own. This interpretation of the term is incorrect. "Ertüchtigung" in fact is a multi layer instrument of preventive security policy.

HUNGARY

Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (Friedrich Ebert Foundation)

Hungarian politics in 2015

by András Bíró-Nagy [@bironagyandras](#) (ed.)

January 2016

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

This paper presents a comprehensive overview of recent developments, events and trends in Hungary in 2015. It focuses on four broad areas: the first section reviews the year from the perspective of the Hungarian government, with a special emphasis on what impact the refugee crisis had on the position of Fidesz and PM Viktor Orbán both in the domestic and the international arena; the second section looks at the opposition parties, their state and prospects; the third section focuses on foreign relations, in particular the Orbán government's place in Europe, and its delicate balancing act between East and West; finally, the paper takes a detailed look at how Fidesz's policies have shaped the economy and society in Hungary, and discusses the state of key public services, such as education and health. All of the sections conclude with a brief analysis of the issues which may come to the fore in 2016.

LATVIA

Latvijas Ārpolitikas institūts (Latvian Institute of International Affairs) / Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (Friedrich Ebert Foundation)

Latvian foreign and security policy yearbook 2016

by Andris Sprūds and Ilvija Bruģe (ed.)

January 2016

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

This paper aims to contribute to the understanding of Latvia's foreign and security policy decisions and considerations, along with opportunities and concerns for 2016. During the 2015 Latvia assumed a six month presidency of the Council of the EU, moving Latvia into the centre of European events. However, 2015 has been a very challenging year for the EU, Transatlantic community and the world security in general, and Latvia in particular. The ongoing crises in the world will continue to pose threats to stability in the region and the world, therefore, it is crucial that Latvia makes the best possible foreign and security policy decisions in 2016.

SPAIN

Real Instituto Elcano (Elcano Royal Institute)

Los españoles ante el Estado de las autonomías y una posible reforma federalista

by Carmen González Enríquez

27 January 2016

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

The conflict between, on the one hand, most of Spanish political forces favourable to the maintenance of the current territorial integrity of the Spanish State and, secondly, the independence forces in Catalonia, has reached an apparent deadlock. Some political circles have raised the possibility of a constitutional reform that would transform the current State of Autonomy in a Federal State, with the hope that this transformation could satisfy both parties.

UNITED KINGDOM

Centre for European Reform

If the UK votes to leave: the seven alternatives to EU membership

by Jean-Claude Piris

12 January 2016

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

The UK might vote to leave the EU in the forthcoming referendum. But the British people may be voting without any clear sense of the alternatives to EU membership. This paper considers the various options. An overarching theme is that, if the UK wants access to the single market when it has left the EU, it will have to accept three things: continued budget contributions, continued free movement of labour, and continued supremacy of EU law over British law in the single market.

Institute of International and European Affairs

Brexit: legally effective alternatives

by Paul Gallagher

29 January 2016

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

This paper presents a comprehensive examination of the feasibility in legal terms of the British demands. The author argues that legal structures already exist which can provide the necessary legal means to address the British demands - if the necessary political agreement can be obtained.

Britain and Europe: the endgame – A Postscript

28 January 2016

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

In March 2015 IIEA published [Britain and Europe: The Endgame - An Irish Perspective](#). This new collection of five essays analyses the key changes in the political landscape since March 2015. The authors conclude that changing attitudes in the European Council may facilitate an amicable solution within the European Council on the UK's reform agenda, if not at the 18-19 February Council then later in 2016. Nonetheless, Mr Cameron will still have a referendum to win – and the outcome of that latter negotiation, as well as its implications for Ireland and British-Irish relations, remains uncertain.

Norsk Utenrikspolitisk Institutt (The Norwegian Institute of International Affairs)

Reform, renegotiation and referendum

by Julie Smith [@DrJulieSmith1](#)

29 January 2016

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

The UK stands on the brink of a historic decision: whether to leave or remain in the EU. This paper briefly summarises UK's relationship with its European neighbours since the [Schuman Declaration](#) of 1950 until Prime Minister David Cameron's promise to engage in reform of the EU and to renegotiate the UK's terms of membership before holding a referendum on whether to stay in.

Friends of Europe

Scotland and Brexit: shockwaves will spread across EU

by Kirsty Hughes [@KirstyS_Hughes](#)

January 2016

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

This paper looks at the upcoming EU referendum in the UK through the lens of Scotland. The author asks what would happen in Scotland if the UK as a whole votes for Brexit while Scotland votes strongly to stay in the EU. Scotland will find itself on the horns of a dilemma – there will be major political and economic costs to leaving the EU, but also significant costs if the rest of the UK is outside the EU while an independent Scotland remains inside, with the EU's external border then running between England and Scotland.

Bruegel

One market, two monies: the European Union and the United Kingdom

by André Sapir and Guntram B. Wolff [@GuntramWolff](#)

28 January 2016

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

Access to the single market is one of the core benefits of the UK's membership of the EU. A vote to leave the EU would trigger difficult negotiations on continued access to that market. However, the single market is not static. One of the drivers of change is the necessary reforms to strengthen the euro. Such reforms would not only affect the euro's fiscal and political governance. They would also have an impact on the single market, in particular in the areas of banking, capital markets and labour markets. This is bound to affect the UK, whether it remains in the EU or not.

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

Core Europe and the United Kingdom - Risks, opportunities and side-effects of the British reform proposals

by Nicolai von Ondarza [@NvOndarza](#)

January 2016

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

The EU is in the midst of completing one of its most delicate negotiations to date – the talks on the "EU Reform" with which British Prime Minister David Cameron hopes to persuade the British to vote to stay in the Union. The heart of his vision for the EU is flexibility. Britain should be given the opportunity to cut loose from further EU integration and concentrate its membership on a deepened internal market. As such, Cameron is proposing to consolidate his nation's existing special position within an increasingly differentiating Union. Concrete political considerations aside, the EU Member States must therefore find answers to two central questions in the negotiations:

how much differentiation, how many opt-outs, can the EU withstand? And how can a single market of 28, a eurozone of 19 and more permanent differentiation be better managed?

NORDIC COUNTRIES

Foundation for European Progressive Studies

Why are the Nordic countries doing so well? The case of Denmark and Sweden

by Erik Bjørsted [@EB_AE](#) and Signe Dahl

December 2015

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

The Nordic countries are on many parameters performing rather well. This goes in particular for Denmark and Sweden who are among the most prosperous and most equal countries in the world. Despite the crisis and rather generous unemployment benefits, employment rates in the two countries continue to be among the highest in the EU. Although Denmark and Sweden seem to have done well during the crisis there are also differences in the outcome, with, for example, a far more significant fall in employment in Denmark than Sweden.

Elinkeinoelämän tutkimuslaitos (Research Institute of the Finnish Economy)

Finland and its northern peers in the great recession

by Paavo Suni and Vesa Vihriälä

15 January 2016

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

This report focuses on the relative macroeconomic performance since the global financial crisis of six Northern European countries with a special emphasis on Finland. While fiscal and monetary policies have definitely impacted on macroeconomic outcomes in the six countries examined, as a whole they do not appear to be the key driving forces of the differences observed between the countries. The initial vulnerabilities, the nature of shocks and the resilience of the economies appear more important in explaining the differences. In particular, the weakness of growth in Finland can best be explained by a series of exceptional negative shocks in combination with a too weak capacity of the economy to improve its cost competitiveness in the absence of exchange rate flexibility.

SECTION 4 - EU POLICIES

JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS

Centre for European Policy Studies

Implementing the Lisbon treaty: improving the functioning of the EU on Justice and Home Affairs

by Sergio Carrera and Elspeth Guild

29 January 2016

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

This study examines the functioning of EU Justice and Home Affairs cooperation in light of the reforms and innovations introduced by the Lisbon Treaty since the end of 2009. It identifies the main challenges and deficits characterising the practical and effective implementation of these transformations and suggests specific ways for the European Parliament to address them.

Egmont – Royal Institute for International Relations

How can we enhance our security without damaging our liberty? For a progressive and European rehabilitation of sovereignty

by Sophie Heine

January 2016

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

How can we reinforce internal security without destroying basic freedoms? This article examines this dilemma and focuses more specifically on its implications for the notion and practice of sovereignty. It also sketches a strong, but nuanced, rescue of sovereignty at the European level in order to assure individual security while, at the same time, protecting our freedoms.

MIGRATION AND REFUGEE CRISIS

Polski Instytut Spraw Międzynarodowych (Polish Institute of International Affairs)

Australia's asylum and migration policy: lessons to apply to the European refugee crisis

by Damian Wnukowski

7 January 2016

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

Australia has a long history of immigration, including accepting refugees. Over the years, it has developed mechanisms and instruments that aim not only to help people in need but also to provide for the country's stability and prosperity. However, in recent years some elements of Australia's refugee policy, especially its approach towards the so-called boat people, have come under fire. Nevertheless, the solutions implemented by Australia should be part of the EU's efforts to find ones useful for dealing with its current migration crisis.

Centre for European Policy Studies

Fit for purpose? The facilitation directive and the criminalisation of humanitarian assistance to irregular migrants

by Sergio Carrera, Elspeth Guild, Ana Aliverti, Jennifer Allsopp, Maria Giovanna Manieri and Michele LeVoy

29 January 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (132 p.)

This study assesses the implementation of the humanitarian exception provisions of the Facilitation Directive and their impact on irregular migrants, along with the organisations and individuals providing assistance to them within EU Member States. It maps the existing international and EU legal frameworks on people smuggling and their implementation in the national law of selected Member States, assessing them against international, supranational and regional human rights instruments as well as the EU Charter. It subsequently gathers and presents data on the prosecution and conviction rates of those who have provided humanitarian assistance to irregular migrants and identifies important knowledge gaps and methodological caveats.

Rethinking migration distribution in the EU: shall we start with the facts?

by Elspeth Guild

22 January 2016

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

Sound policy-making about migration –how to distribute responsibility for asylum seekers, how to deal with the issue of secondary movement and whether migrants are welcome or not – needs to be based on solid evidence. On 16 November 2015, Eurostat published comprehensive statistics on the issue of first-residence permits by Member States. This paper closely examines these data and reports some surprising findings, some of which vary considerably from the impression promoted by the European media.

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

A critical insight into Europe's criminalisation of human smuggling

by Ilse van Liempt

January 2016

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

This analysis provides an overview of how smuggling has been framed over time in the EU, and questions what the effects are of criminalising human smuggling for the protection of international migrants. The author finds that policies that effectively aim at reducing human smuggling must consider the push and pull factors for migration. Blaming the smugglers for the waves of migration is not a viable solution.

Människohandel i EU: En studie av destinationsländer

by Monika Hjeds Löfmark and Jonas Eriksson

January 2016

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

The purpose of this report is to focus on trafficking in the receiving countries in the EU. The authors suggest that the spotlight should be put on the demand for cheap labour and the role of the buyer; supporting research in this matter is crucial. Furthermore, the econometric exercise implies that the function of the judiciary has an impact on the number of reported cases of human trafficking. However, it is also concluded that the quality of data on human trafficking in the EU needs to be improved.

Irregular immigration in the European Union

by Pia M. Orrenius and Madeline Zavodny

January 2016

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

Unauthorized immigration is on the rise again in the EU. This policy analysis surveys economic aspects of irregular immigration to the EU and draws on important lessons from the US. The authors conclude that successfully addressing irregular migration requires considerable coordination and cost-sharing among EU Member States.

Zentrum für Europäische Wirtschaftsforschung (Centre for European Economic Research)

Why and how there should be more Europe in asylum policies

by Melissa Berger and Friedrich Heinemann

January 2016

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

The finding of this study suggest that a European Asylum Agency (EAA) holding responsibility for determining the acceptance of refugees and the processing of asylum applications across Europe would reduce costs and ensure a fairer allocation of refugees than the current system. An EAA would allow for greater specialisation via the appointment of EAA case managers and would provide sufficient capacity for reducing both the time and costs involved in processing asylum requests. Furthermore, this would allow allocation of refugees according to the acceptance capacities of individual EU Member States.

Real Instituto Elcano (Elcano Royal Institute)

La crisis de los refugiados: la hora de Europa

by Cristina Gortázar Rotaèche [@cristinagortaz1](#)

18 January 2016

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

The EU has a number of obligations to persons seeking protection by the circumstances of war and gross violations of human rights that they experience in their countries of origin. So far, EU Member States applied those obligations with relative normality. However, the 2015 refugee crisis is causing a relative state of collapse for some of them. This paper tries to answer the most common questions we have all done over the past months and which can be summarized as follows: what should Europe do?

Polski Instytut Spraw Międzynarodowych (Polish Institute of International Affairs)

The EU-Turkey deal on refugees: how to move forward

by Pinar Elman [@PinarElman](#)

25 January 2016

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

Since the EU-Turkey deal on refugees on 29 November, there has not been a significant reduction in the numbers of migrants crossing into the EU from Turkey. One of the main reasons is probably lack of trust between Turkey and European Commission in their readiness to keep promises. EU can break the impasse by offering Schengen visa liberalisation but at the same time should use the accession negotiations to exert greater pressure on Ankara.

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

Turkey as partner of the EU in the refugee crisis - Ankara's problems and interests

by Günter Seufert

January 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (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. This paper is a translation of a previously published [German edition](#).

Migration Policy Institute

Border metrics: how to effectively measure border security and immigration control

by Marc R. Rosenblum and Faye Hipsman

January 2016

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

This report identifies four key questions about border security and immigration control in the US. Taken together, the questions provide a full accounting of illegal immigration levels and modes of entry, and accurate answers to these questions would provide a comprehensive accounting of illegal immigration flows. The report also describes what methods and metrics already exist to answer these key questions, as well as the strengths and limitations of existing approaches, and how they could be improved.

COMPETITIVENESS (INTERNAL MARKET, INDUSTRY, RESEARCH AND SPACE)

Bruegel

Measuring competitiveness in Europe: resource allocation, granularity and trade

by Carlo Altomonte [@Altomonte_C](#) and Gábor Békés [@GaborBekes](#)

28 January 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (146 p.)

One of the most important lessons learned during the 2008-09 financial crisis was that the informational toolbox on which policymakers base their decisions about competitiveness became outdated in terms of both data sources and data analysis. The toolbox is particularly outdated when it comes to tapping the potential of micro data for the analysis of competitiveness – a serious problem given that it is firms, rather than countries that compete on global markets. This document provides some concrete examples from recent advances in the analysis of competitiveness.

Centre for European Policy Studies

Adjustment within the euro area: is it all about competitiveness?

by Daniel Gros

22 January 2016

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

The key problem afflicting the eurozone today seems clear: the periphery experienced a large loss of competitiveness during the boom years. In order for these economies to recover, they must restore their competitiveness, ideally by increasing productivity. This paper shows, however, that the story line is not that straightforward. The drivers of competitiveness might have been more macro than micro in nature. The relationship between productivity and competitiveness is sometimes the opposite of what one would expect; and the link between competitiveness and exports is also much weaker than generally believed.

What strategy for a genuine single market?

by Jacques Pelkmans

13 January 2016

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

This paper focuses on making the most of the EU single market. The EU should pursue a genuine single market, and treat it as a common asset of all its citizens, economic operators and Member States. The economic case to be made on behalf of the genuine single market is powerful and even more so due to the findings of recent empirical economic research.

CIVITAS - Institute for the Study of Civil Society

Myth and paradox of the single market: how the trade benefits of EU membership have been mis-sold

by Michael Burrage

January 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (213 p.)

For many, the economic benefits accruing from the UK's membership of the EU are self-evident and unanswerable: access to the European Single Market is of enormous benefit to British exporters and a major attraction for global investors looking to expand into the region. Or so the argument goes. But where is the evidence for this? What do the trade and investment figures actually tell us?

Istituto Bruno Leoni

EU antitrust vs. Google

by Andrea Varsori [@Andrea_Varsori](#) and Diego Zuluaga [@DiegoZuluagaL](#)

20 January 2016

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

The authors consider that intervention by antitrust authorities in a fast growing and changing market can have substantial negative consequences for innovation and consumer welfare. Any assessment of the European Commission's case against Google in the use of its search engine and of Android should take these risks into account. An analysis of such risks constitutes the focus of this paper.

World Economic Forum

The new plastics economy - Rethinking the future of plastics

19 January 2016

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

Plastics have become the ubiquitous workhorse material of the modern economy. And yet, while delivering many benefits, the current plastics economy has drawbacks that are becoming more apparent by the day. Significant economic value is lost after each use, and given the projected growth in consumption, by 2050 oceans are expected to contain more plastics than fish (by weight), and the entire plastics industry will consume 20% of total oil production and 15% of the annual carbon budget. How can we turn the challenges of our current plastics economy into a global opportunity for innovation and value capture, resulting in stronger economies and better environmental outcomes?

TRANSPORT/TELECOMMUNICATIONS/ENERGY

Fondation Robert Schuman

Transport in Europe: investment, competitiveness and ecological transition

by Franck Sylvan

19 January 2016

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

From the beginning the European project has endeavoured to create a "European area of transport" even though reticence on the part of the Member States has often impeded this ambition. At present the revival of the European economy is dependent on a revised, renewed "European transport policy". Although the European Commission has just announced the financing of over 250 projects for a total of 13.1 billion euro, as part of the European Interconnection Mechanism, we might question the choice of investments in terms of environmentally friendly, competitive modes of transport.

German Marshall Fund of the United States

Seeing the forest for the trees: why the Digital Single Market matters for transatlantic relations

by Guillaume Xavier-Bender [@GuillaumeXB](#) (ed.)

January 2016

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

The EU and the US are far from being able to create a fully integrated transatlantic digital economy. Beyond difficulties resulting from different legal traditions, regulatory paths, and market outcomes, digital policymaking on both sides of the Atlantic is increasingly affected by political developments. As the EU embarks in a series of initiatives under the flagship of the Digital Single Market strategy, policymakers should see the forest for the trees. Current discussions over data protection, data privacy, data retention, e-commerce, copyright, platforms, etc. are laying the pipes of new economies and societies across the continent. They may also redefine the narrative of transatlantic economic relations.

Bruegel

Rethinking the security of the European Union's gas supply

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

20 January 2016

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

This paper argues that instead of doing everything to reduce gas supplies from key suppliers like Russia, gas supply security could more effectively be safeguarded by ensuring that unused alternatives are maintained. They could then be tapped into for an indefinite period in the case of supply disruption from a key supplier.

Jacques Delors Institute - Berlin

The European neighbourhood and the EU's security of supply with natural gas

by Philipp Offenberg [@phil_offenberg](#)

15 January 2016

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

As domestic gas production in the EU is falling, the EU's gas import dependence will probably rise in the future. Security of supply is thus ever more important. However, the gas transit from Russia to the EU via the Eastern route is still insecure due to the conflict between Russia and Ukraine. To find a compromise between the diverging interests among EU Member States, the author proposes a bilateral agreement between the EU and Russia to find a coherent regulatory framework for all Russian export pipelines to the EU. In this agreement Russia should commit itself to a minimum transit volume through Ukraine.

Institut français des relations internationales

L'Union de la dernière chance : trois questions pour trois constats sur l'union de l'énergie

by Cécile Maisonneuve

January 2016

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

2016 promises to be a crucial year for the implementation of the Energy Union, which is one of the key projects of the Juncker Commission. The analysis of each of the three dimensions of the project - strategic, political and economic - leaves sceptical about its ability to rebuild a climate and energy policy that works.

The challenges of maintaining nuclear cultures : US and UK perspectives

by Linton Brooks and Tom McKane

January 2016

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

Nuclear cultures have helped to ensure some level of coherence in policymaking and, most importantly, to maintain safe and effective deterrents. At a national level, however, each nuclear culture is confronted with significant challenges, such as generational change, decreasing levels of understanding or attention among the political and military leadership, insufficient funding or a growing inability to meet manpower requirements in both the nuclear weapons complexes and the armed forces. This paper looks at the US and UK's recent efforts to maintain their nuclear culture, and at the key challenges these two countries face while pursuing this aim.

Hanns-Seidel-Stiftung (Hanns Seidel Foundation)

Energie und Klimapolitik - Die Rolle der Kohle und Energiemärkte

by Silke Franke (ed.)

January 2016

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

A group of experts regularly discusses current challenges in European energy and climate policy. The present paper offers insights into the group's conclusions of summer 2015. These focus on the European internal electricity market and its constraints stemming from global energy markets. The role of coal as energy source and the role of climate policies are underlined.

Oxford Institute for Energy Studies

Electricity markets are broken – Can they be fixed?

by Malcolm Keay

January 2016

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

This paper argues that electricity markets, particularly in Europe, are broken, and can no longer fulfil their key functions. The increasing penetration of subsidised, zero marginal cost, intermittent generation has distorted prices to the extent that they can no longer give effective signals for investment or operation. While there is increasing recognition of the problems, there has so far been less debate about the solutions. The main objective of this paper is to stimulate debate about the options; some possible solutions are aired but it is clear that no consensus on the way forward has emerged at this stage.

Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies - European University Institute

For a harmonisation of hydropower regimes in European Single Market

by Jean-Michel Glachant [@JMGlachant](#), Vincent Rious [@VincentRious](#), Marcelo Saguan and Sébastien Douguet

January 2016

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

This study of hydropower regimes in European countries reveals the considerably variable terms of hydropower usage rights, in both their joint obligations and the degree of openness of the competition processes through which these rights are granted. The current discrepancies among Member States create obstacles for countries engaged in a competitive renewal process, as there is not a level playing field or a coherent European reference framework. Thus, the heterogeneous state of European hydropower regimes requires significant efforts from the European Commission, and the institutional stakeholders, to stimulate harmonisation.

World Economic Forum

The future of electricity in fast-growing economies - Attracting investment to provide affordable, accessible and sustainable power

by Bosco Astarloa, Julian Critchlow and Lyubomyr Pelykh

19 January 2016

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

This report recognizes the need for policy to balance the objectives in the Forum's energy architecture triangle: security and accessibility, short- and medium-term affordability, and environmental sustainability. The fact that 1.2 billion people lacked access to electricity in 2012, combined with the scale of poverty, will inevitably focus attention on accessibility and affordability. But even as they make progress on achieving reliable universal access, fast-growing markets will

need to develop roadmaps that take advantage of new technologies to make their power affordable while increasing environmental sustainability (see the interactive [widget](#)).

EMPLOYMENT/SOCIAL POLICY/HEALTH/CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Ekonomski institut, Zagreb (Institute of Economics, Zagreb)

What drives youth unemployment in Europe

by Iva Tomić

January 2016

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

This article explores the main determinants of youth unemployment rates in Europe in the period 2002-2014, by estimating panel data models on a unique dataset for 28 EU Member States. Taking into account heterogeneity among EU countries, models are also estimated on two different subsamples: high and low youth unemployment rate. The results suggest that for better understanding of the determinants of youth unemployment in Europe it is not only relevant to focus on traditional macroeconomic variables, but it is also important to consider different structural and institutional factors. These results could be of high importance, especially when determining and evaluating different measures taken in order to mitigate youth unemployment rates in Europe.

European Trade Union Institute

Joint regulation and labour market policy in Europe during the crisis

by Aristeia Koukiadaki, Isabel Távora and Miguel Martínez Lucio (eds.)

January 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (556 p.)

This book presents the results of a research project which sought to understand how the crisis-driven labour policy measures in the EU Member States most affected by the crisis translated into changes in collective bargaining in manufacturing. Drawing on empirical evidence consisting of interviews with policy officials and industrial relations actors as well as of company case studies in seven countries (Greece, Ireland, Italy, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia and Spain) the book illustrates how the recent policy measures have resulted in a crisis of collective bargaining at different levels, including not only national but also sectorial and company levels.

Unemployment, internal devaluation and labour market deregulation in Europe

by Martin Myant, Sotiria Theodoropoulou and Agnieszka Piasna

January 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (258 p.)

Unemployment rates in the EU rose after the economic crisis of 2008, passing 10% in 2012, but with big variations between countries. The worst afflicted had been subject to so-called policies of internal devaluation, aimed at curing unemployment by reducing wage costs. This book provides a comparative study of countries that to varying degrees followed that road (Greece, Spain, Portugal, Ireland) set against others that did not (Germany, UK, Poland).

The Court of Justice of the European Union and fixed-term workers: still fixed, but at least equal

by Caroline de la Porte and Patrick Emmenegger

January 2016

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

This paper focuses on the impact of the directive on fixed-term work and the EU's Court of Justice case law concerning fixed-term work from 2007 and 2013. By doing so, this paper develops an analytical framework to analyse the Europeanisation of labour law with an eye on the literature on labour-market dualisation.

Centre for European Policy Studies

The importance of foreign language skills in the labour markets of Central and Eastern Europe: an assessment based on data from online job portals

by Miroslav Beblavý [@beblavy](#), Brian Fabo [@BrianosaurRex](#) and Karolien Lenaerts

26 January 2016

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

This study examines the demand for foreign language skills on the Visegrad labour markets, using information extracted from online job portals. It finds that English is the most requested foreign language in the region, and the demand for English language skills appears to go up as occupations become increasingly complex. Despite the cultural, historical and economic ties with their German-speaking neighbours, German is the second-most-in-demand foreign language in the region. Interestingly, in this case there is no clear link with the complexity of an occupation. Other languages, such as French, Spanish and Russian, are hardly requested. These findings have important policy implications with regards to the education and training offered in schools, universities and job centres.

World Economic Forum

The future of jobs - Employment, skills and workforce strategy for the Fourth Industrial Revolution

by Till Alexander Leopold, Vesselina Ratcheva and Saadia Zahidi

18 January 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (167 p.)

The [Fourth Industrial Revolution](#), which includes developments in previously disjointed fields such as artificial intelligence and machine-learning, robotics, nanotechnology, 3-D printing, and genetics and biotechnology, will cause widespread disruption not only to business models but also to labour markets over the next five years, with enormous change predicted in the skill sets needed to thrive in the new landscape.

Bertelsmann Stiftung

Wage-setting strategies for the eurozone

by Robert Budras, Jan Limbers, Andreas Sachs and Johann Weiss

January 2016

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

Since the global financial and economic crisis the question has arisen how the four Southern European countries could stimulate economic growth. One possible instrument is a policy of wage restraint in order to improve price competitiveness. Using simulation calculations for varying wage-setting strategies in Europe till 2030, this study discusses advantages and disadvantages of different wage-setting scenarios.

Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (Friedrich Ebert Foundation)

Die Rolle des Wettbewerbs im Gesundheitswesen : Erfahrungen aus Deutschland, den Niederlanden und der Schweiz

by Timo Blenk, Nora Knötig and Thomas Wüstrich

January 2016

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

The aim of the study is to contribute to the current debate on the reform of the German health care system and to identify policy options. In an empirical comparison, competition experiences are analysed in the Netherlands and in Switzerland, and tested on their transferability to the German

health system. The results of the study show that a further strengthening of competitive elements in Germany can contribute to greater efficiency in the health care system.

ENVIRONMENT

College of Europe

The 2015 Paris Agreement: what it means for the European Union's climate policies

by Simon Schunz

January 2016

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

The Paris climate summit in December 2015 resulted in an Agreement that pragmatically combines the science-driven demand for ambitious global emissions reduction objectives with key Parties' continued desire to protect their sovereignty. Its implementation will depend on a quasi-constant negotiation process over the coming years.

Institut français des relations internationales

COP21 : haro sur le charbon

by Sylvie Cornot-Gandolphe

January 2016

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

Despite a historic climate agreement in December 2015, reducing the role of coal in the energy mix remains very difficult. This paper reviews the choice of major consumer countries in both the coal and the clean technologies.

Fundación Alternativas

Informe de evaluación del Acuerdo de París (COP21)

by Ana Belén Sánchez

15 January 2016

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

The Paris Agreement is an important step forward in the fight against climate change, but still far from sufficient, for different reasons. It represents an international framework for climate cooperation between countries, that will allow to visualize overall progress in the fight against climate change, to analyse and evaluate the commitments of each of the countries in areas such as emissions reduction, adaptation to climate change or the contributions in the form of climate financing to help countries with less capacity.

Centre for European Policy Studies

Carbon market provisions in the Paris Agreement (Article 6)

by Andrei Marcu

26 January 2016

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

As predicted, the markets/non-markets text in Article 6 of the [Paris Agreement](#) (PA) was one of the last issues to be agreed, in the last night of COP21, shortly before the text went to the COP President, French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius, for final approval and its subsequent release to the delegates for acceptance on 12 December 2015. This paper presents the evolution of the ideas contained in Article 6 of the PA, and how these were captured in textual form in different drafts of the agreement. Understanding the origin of different provisions in the PA, and their evolution, may

prove crucial. Losing the institutional memory may lead to attempts, through re-interpretation of the PA, to renegotiate it.

Time to connect the dots: what is the link between climate change policy and the circular economy?

by Arno Behrens

22 January 2016

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

In December 2015, the European Commission published the new Circular Economy Package, containing a host of initiatives to reduce waste and to increase the longevity of products and materials, but it failed to set a headline target for reducing the EU's use of resources. Such a target could help to increase political attention and visibility of the issue, stimulate long-term ambitions and streamline the action of all actors towards reducing the consumption of natural resources.

Institute for European Environmental Policy

Study on assessing the environmental fiscal reform potential for the EU28 - Final report

by Dominic Hogg, Tim Elliott, Laurence Elliott, Sarah Ettlinger, Tanzir Chowdhury, Ayesha Bapasola, Hulda Norstein, Luke Emery, Mikael Skou Andersen, Patrick ten Brink, Sirini Withana, Jean-Pierre Schweitzer, Andreas Illes, Kamila Paquel, Ignasi Puig Ventosa and Sergio Sastre

15 January 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (1494 p.)

This study has, as its central aim, to provide argumentation and empirical data or secondary sources on the potential economic and social benefits of environmental fiscal reform, to support the input in the European Semester process on environmental protection and resource efficiency for all EU Member States.

Ecologic Institute

EU effort sharing decision after 2020: auctioning of AEAs

by Nils Meyer-Ohlendorf, Benjamin Görlach and Ennid Roberts

16 January 2016

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

In October 2014 the European Council decided to enhance the availability and use of existing flexibility instruments under the EU Effort Sharing Decision. The auctioning of Annual Emission Allocations (AEAs) is one option to enhance flexibility. This paper discusses advantages and challenges of AEA auctioning.

SECTION 5 - FOREIGN AFFAIRS

FOREIGN AND SECURITY POLICY / DEFENCE

German Marshall Fund of the United States

How economic dependence could undermine Europe's foreign policy coherence

by Hans Kundnani [@hanskundnani](#)

January 2016

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

EU Member States are becoming more dependent on trade with, and investment from, non-Western powers for growth — a development that is being strengthened by the response to the eurozone's crisis. In the future, non-Western powers, especially China, are likely to have increasing leverage over EU Member States. Unless European policymakers go further in connecting internal and external policy, this leverage could undermine whatever slow progress Europeans are making in developing foreign policy institutions and "strategies".

Institute for Development and International Relations / Hanns-Seidel-Stiftung (Hanns Seidel Foundation)

Common Foreign and Security Policy of the EU – Limits of functional Intergovernmentalism

by Sandro Knezović

January 2016

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

This paper deals with challenges of functionality of Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) of the EU in the contemporary international environment. It attempts to offer an overview of development of policy mechanisms and infrastructure in this very specific and sensitive area, detect main problems for the process of development of CFSP and offer some policy solutions for the period to come.

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

A stronger CSDP: deepening defence cooperation

by Anne Bakker, Margriet Drent, Lennart Landman [@LennartLandman](#) and Dick Zandee

January 2016

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

Europe's unprecedented security challenges call for a step change in the EU's approach to security and defence. This report reflects the main topics of discussion at the high-level Netherlands EU Presidency Seminar on Defence held on 20 and 21 January 2016. It lists key issues which need to be addressed in the Global Strategy and its translation into more specific, defence-targeted proposals.

Fondation Robert Schuman

The defence of Europe before European Defence: returning to the Schuman method

by Jean-Dominique Giuliani

January 2016

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

Europe is facing a new strategic context calling for response, in which it appears totally powerless. Without promising uncertain stability, Europe must guarantee real security otherwise the very

essence of the project to unify the continent will be brought into question. But the defence of Europe has not really moved forward; its failings have been highlighted. If we succeed, European unification, its institutions, our States, will all benefit greatly.

Istituto Affari Internazionali / Consortium of European think tanks

Defence budgets and cooperation in Europe: developments, trends and drivers

by Alessandro Marrone [@Alessandro_Ma](#), Olivier De France [@olivierdefrance](#) and Daniele Fattibene [@danifatti](#) (eds.)

27 January 2016

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

The whole landscape of defence cooperation in Europe is particularly diversified and fragmented. The study analyses six trends which mark current cooperative patterns, for example in relation to bilateralism, regionalism, as well as the role of Germany and the US. Finally, it discusses five driving factors, including Russia's aggressive posture and non-conventional threats, which are likely to shape the European defence cooperation landscape in the short-medium term.

Institut français des relations internationales

Forces terrestres et réassurance : quelles options pour l'Alliance?

by Guillaume Lasconjarias

January 2016

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

Born into the Cold War, the very notion of 'reassurance' was revived in the wake of the 2014 Ukraine crisis as NATO had to name the measures destined to reassert the relevance of collective defence of its Member States. This has led to an increased role for land forces, despite the serious political, economic and operational difficulties involved. NATO has striven to revitalize its concept of rapid response by means of the VJTF, however, some issues remain unsolved regarding the range of actions to be undertaken in order to uphold reassurance as a lasting principle. The main problem is related to the delicate balance to be maintained between a posture of firmness – based on rapid reaction capacities – and a risk of conflict escalation.

RAND Corporation

Reinforcing deterrence on NATO's Eastern flank: wargaming the defense of the Baltics

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

January 2016

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

Russia's recent aggression against Ukraine has disrupted nearly a generation of relative peace and stability between Moscow and its Western neighbours and raised concerns about its larger intentions. From the perspective of NATO, the threat to the three Baltic republics of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania may be the most problematic of these. In a series of war games conducted between summer 2014 and spring 2015, RAND Arroyo Center examined the shape and probable outcome of a near-term Russian invasion of the Baltic States.

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

NATO defence planning between Wales and Warsaw - Politico-military challenges of a credible assurance against Russia

by Rainer L. Glatz and Martin Zapfe [@martinzapfe](#)

January 2016

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

The article reports on the three central questions that need to be addressed before the next NATO Summit in Warsaw in July. Member States will have to improve capabilities and the operational readiness of their armed forces, which will come at a cost. Indefinitely avoiding the question of the role of nuclear weapons in defensive planning will not be possible. And finally, a credible assurance for the exposed Baltic States may not be feasible in the framework of the NATO-Russia Founding Act.

საქართველოს სტრატეგიისა და საერთაშორისო ურთიერთობების კვლევის ფონდი (Georgian Foundation for Strategic and International Studies)

A comparative analysis of Armenian and Georgian relations with NATO

by Eugene Kogan

January 2016

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

The Armenian defence establishment sees Georgia's relations with NATO as the country's strategic choice; however, with a fairly small chance for Georgia to become a full member of NATO. On the other hand, the Georgian defence establishment sees relations between Armenia and NATO as a minor counterweight to relations between Armenia and Russia.

The Heritage Foundation / Davis Institute for Foreign Policy

Combatting the ISIS foreign fighter pipeline: a global approach

by Lisa Curtis [@LisaCurtisHF](#) (ed.)

6 January 2016

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

ISIS's unprecedented success in recruiting fighters from around the world has been its ability to convince impressionable young Muslims of a civilizational struggle between Islam and the West, making it the duty of all Muslims to join the war. In this Heritage Foundation Special Report, a team of experts on counterterrorism, global Islamist trends, and specific regions detail a multi-pronged, and international, approach to cutting off the flow of foreign fighters to the Islamic State.

Royal United Services Institute

Countering lone-actor terrorism Series No. 3: lone-actor terrorism. Database workshop

by Sebastien Fève and Kelsey Bjornsgaard

17 January 2016

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

The aim of the Countering Lone-Actor Terrorism (CLAT) project is to understand lone-actor terrorism in a European context. The project will develop a database of lone-actor cases from across Europe. Its overall objective is to see if it is possible to discern any trends or patterns that could be translated into useful observations or recommendations for practitioners and policy-makers. The second workshop of the CLAT Consortium discussed the development of the project database and some of the underlying principles that would inform data collection and retention.

European Council on Foreign Relations

Connectivity wars: why migration, finance and trade are the geo-economic battlegrounds of the future

edited by Mark Leonard [@markhleonard](#)

January 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (225 p.)

This document is a collection of 23 essays exploring how the world's powers are weaponising the interconnectedness of the global economic system in order to hit out at each other. Sanctions, currency manipulation, boycotts and public divestment campaigns, controlling migrant flows, digital and physical infrastructure, and more are all being used by countries around the world.

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

Russland, Ukraine und Türkei im Geflecht der Sanktionen - Warum Moskaus und Kiews neue Strafmaßnahmen auch für die EU ein Problem sind

by Alexander Libman

January 2016

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

The paper discusses the network of sanction policies expanding between Russia, Ukraine and Turkey. The attention of European observers has shifted to broad sanctions executed by Russia against Ukraine and Turkey that have entered into force in January 2016. Russia itself is the goal of Ukrainian sanctions since September 2015. These policies contribute to new conflicts arising and high economic costs soaring for all states involved. With their sanction course Moscow and Kiev thwart the EU policy in the region - but the EU's ability to exert a moderating influence on the two countries is extremely low.

TRADE

College of Europe

'Trade for all' – all for trade? The EU's new strategy

by Sieglinde Gstöhl

January 2016

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

The 'Trade for All' strategy presented in late 2015 is the culmination of a decade-long re-orientation of EU trade policy towards more competitiveness, including a shift to reciprocal free trade with developing countries. While EU trade policy has become more strategic, aiming at bigger partners, it has not yet found a way to deal with China and Russia. 'Trade for All' also aims to respond to the heated debates about the TTIP negotiations by promoting transparency and high standards of protection.

Leuven Centre for Global Governance Studies

Disciplines on state-owned enterprises in the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP): have expectations been met?

by Ines Willemyns [@InesWillemyns](#)

January 2016

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

The negotiations of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) were concluded on 8 October 2015. This agreement covers a substantial part of international trade, including a specific chapter dedicated to disciplines on state-owned enterprises (SOEs). This paper evaluates the existing rules and the

new rules found in TPP regarding five elements that should be included in any chapter on state-owned enterprises: i) a clear definition and broad scope; ii) general obligations and rights; iii) specific disciplines on trade-distortive practices by SOEs and specific exceptions; iv) provisions to improve transparency; and v) rules regarding enforceability and dispute settlement.

Peterson Institute for International Economics

The economic effects of the Trans-Pacific Partnership: new estimates

by Peter A. Petri and Michael G. Plummer

January 2016

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

This paper estimates the effects of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) using a comprehensive, quantitative trade model, updating previous research with recent data and information from the agreement. The new estimates suggest that the TPP will increase annual real incomes in the US by \$131 billion, or 0.5% of GDP, and annual exports by \$357 billion, or 9.1% of exports, over baseline projections by 2030, when the agreement is nearly fully implemented. While the US will be the largest beneficiary of the TPP in absolute terms, the agreement will generate substantial gains for Japan, Malaysia, and Vietnam as well, and solid benefits for other members.

Polski Instytut Spraw Międzynarodowych (Polish Institute of International Affairs)

Przyszłość partnerstwa UE–AKP po 2020 roku. Perspektywa Polski

by Patryk Kugiel [@PKugiel](#) and Damian Wnukowski

December 2015

Link to the article in [Polish](#) (84 p.)

The Partnership Agreement between the EU and the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP) known as the Cotonou Agreement will expire in early 2020. At the onset of negotiations within the EU on future relations with 78 ACP countries we present a report summarising the targets and achievements of the current agreement along with an initial assessment of its impact and effectiveness. The report also outlines possible scenarios for future cooperation, the current debate within the EU on the post-Cotonou agreement as well as the position of major European players with a view to stimulating a debate in Poland on the most effective and beneficial relations between the EU and ACP in the future.

Real Instituto Elcano (Elcano Royal Institute)

Radiografía (y primera resonancia) de la economía mundial: ¿estancamiento secular o shock tecnológico deflacionario?

by Miguel Otero-Iglesias [@miotei](#) (ed.)

27 January 2016

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

2015 was a disappointing year in terms of economical growth and 2016 is predicted to give even worse results. The global crisis that began in the US in 2008 has brought a great recession and an era of global stagnation, despite the application of a historically expansive monetary policy. The US recovery has been very slow, eurozone has had to devalue the euro to avoid a crash, China is now suffering the side effects of the shock of adrenaline that had to inject in 2009, Russia and Brazil have caught the evil Chinese and Japan he is imprisoned in the geriatric with only consolation that Europe may soon keep you company. The paper gives a hint on a new economy that remains yet unidentified that may have a positive influence on the situation.

International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development

Regulatory cooperation: lessons from the WTO and the World Trade Regime

by Petros C. Mavroidis

January 2016

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

Trade friction today is largely due to regulatory diversity as contemporary markets are chiefly segmented through non-tariff barriers. The purpose of the paper is to enquire into regulatory cooperation and coherence in the context of the world trade regime. It examines the challenges arising from regulatory diversity and considers mechanisms and approaches that could be taken to reduce regulatory barriers and costs to trade.

Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies - European University Institute

Dispute settlement in the WTO. Mind over matter

by Petros C. Mavroidis

January 2016

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

The basic point this paper advocates is that the WTO Dispute Settlement System aims to curb unilateralism. No sanctions can be imposed, unless if the arbitration process is through, the purpose of which is to ensure that reciprocal commitments entered should not be unilaterally undone through the commission of illegalities. There are good reasons though, to doubt whether practice guarantees full reciprocity. The insistence on calculating remedies prospectively, and not as of the date when an illegality has been committed, and the ensuing losses for everybody that could or could not be symmetric, lend support to the claim that the WTO regime serves 'diffuse' as opposed to 'specific' reciprocity. Still, WTO Members continue to routinely submit their disputes to the WTO adjudicating fora, showing through their behaviour that they would rather live in a world where punishment is curbed, than in world where punishment acts as deterrent since full reciprocity would be always guaranteed.

European University Institute - Department of Political and Social Sciences

Diagonal enforcement in international trade politics

by William Phelan

January 2016

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

Scholarship on the enforcement of international legal obligations often makes a fundamental division between "horizontal" (inter-state retaliation) and "vertical" (national court) enforcement mechanisms. This paper argues that such a division of treaty enforcement mechanisms fails to capture how "horizontal" and "vertical" enforcement relationships can be combined in one important scenario, where a state's acceptance of an obligation on their domestic courts to automatically enforce trade-based treaty obligations is matched by an abandonment by the state's trading partners of more common forms of retaliation-based enforcement mechanism.

The future development of EU industry in a global context

by Robert Stehrer, Sandra Leitner, Manuel Marcias, Daniel Mirza [@economirza](#) and Roman Stöllinger

January 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (122 p.)

Emerging economies are increasing their share of exports overall and intensifying competition in nearly all sectors. Low-cost advantage initially helped emerging economies, particularly China, penetrate low technology labour intensive sectors. More recently, emerging economies have started to compete in higher value-added sectors where European industries have traditionally had comparative advantage. Greater trade integration has also led to a dispersion of value chains well beyond national borders, increasing the granularity of trade. In this rapidly changing context, it is valuable to predict the future profile of EU exports so that the results can inform current policy.

World Economic Forum

The [E15 Initiative](#): strengthening the global trade and investment system in the 21st century

by Richard Samans and Ricardo Meléndez-Ortiz

22 January 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (698 p.)

World trade has experienced a significant slowdown since the 2008 financial crisis. Over this period, the global ratio of trade expansion to income growth has halved. An effective global trade and investment system is crucial for reinvigorating economic growth and confronting 21st century global challenges. Yet the system— well performing as it is in many of its functions—is out of date and in need of greater coherence.

DEVELOPMENT

European Centre for Development Policy Management

Galvanising action for the global goals

by James Mackie [@JMackieECDPM](#) and Matthias Deneckere [@MatthiasDen](#)

January 2016

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

This paper looks at implications, challenges and opportunities ahead in 2016 for EU external action and EU-Africa relations, especially in light of the implementation of the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#).

The future of ACP-EU relations: a political economy analysis

by Jean Bossuyt, Niels Keijzer [@keijzer_niels](#), Alfonso Medinilla and Marc De Tollenaere

January 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (122 p.)

The [Cotonou Partnership Agreement](#) (CPA) links the EU to 79 countries in Africa, the Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) and mobilises a large development budget of 30,5 billion euro for the period 2014-2020. It expires in 2020 and all parties are preparing their future positions. The discussion on the future of ACP-EU cooperation picked up pace in 2015, with both the EU and the ACP engaging in a soul-searching exercise and preparing their future positions. ECDPM initiated this study to promote an open and well-informed discussion on this important partnership. This report finds that the Cotonou Partnership agreement has a limited track record in delivering on several of its core

objectives and the framework is ill-suited to deliver the aims of the recently agreed 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

Ulkopoliittinen instituutti (Finnish Institute of International Affairs)

Private sector development: strengthening the role of the private sector in the European development policy

by Tito Gronow

25 January 2016

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

Private sector development (PSD) is becoming a major development policy area. PSD has enormous potential to function as a catalyst for private sector investment in developing countries, creating inclusive and sustainable growth and alleviating poverty. PSD is still being (re)formulated. A decrease in the importance of official development aid, the economic crisis, the challenge posed by emerging powers in development cooperation, the EU's institutional development, and the partnership with the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States have affected PSD in the EU. PSD has paradoxically been seen as a retreat back to protecting national interests or as an ambitious attempt to achieve common development goals.

ENLARGEMENT PROCESS

Beogradski centar za bezbednosnu politiku (Belgrade Centre for Security Policy)

Perceptions of personal safety and perceptions of security threats at the local level: a comparative overview of Serbia, Kosovo and Albania

by Isidora Stakic

January 2016

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

This comparative analysis of the results of public opinion surveys in Serbia, Kosovo and Albania indicates a relatively strong feeling of personal safety among respondents from all three communities. However, respondents do not see that state institutions contribute to this situation, and they are mostly dissatisfied with the performance of security institutions. Human security concerns are similar in all three communities, but their different ranking shows the different priorities of the three communities.

Ulkopoliittinen instituutti (The Finnish Institute of International Affairs)

Turkey's political direction: authoritarianism, liberal democracy or dissolution?

by Toni Alaranta [@ToniAlaranta](#)

20 January 2016

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

After the re-run of the parliamentary election on 1 November 2015, it is certain that Turkey will again be ruled by the Justice and Development Party's (Adalet ve Kalkınma Partisi, AKP) one-party government. Based on this premise, this study provides a future-oriented analysis in the form of three scenarios: 1) an authoritarian Islamist state; 2) a consolidated liberal democracy; and 3) the dissolution of the Turkish state. The study also identifies three major drivers: a) the AKP and the Islamic-conservative state project; b) regional instability; and c) the Kurdish question.

ALBANIA

Albanian Institute for International Studies

Albania-Serbia relations in the eyes of the Albanian public 2015

by Alba Cela
25 January 2016
Link to the article in [English](#) (43 p.)

This survey is the first step in assessing the current state of relations as perceived by citizens of Albania. The results of the survey which you can access in this publication portray a lot of positive potential for improvement of the bilateral relations more likely starting with the 'easy parts': cultural cooperation and getting to know more about each other.

Albania and Kosovo - In quest of a common future

by Dritan Sulçebe
25 January 2016
Link to the article in [English](#) (31 p.)

This paper was prepared in the context of the joint Albanian Institute for International Studies, Friedrich Ebert Stiftung project: "Albania and Kosovo - In quest of a Common Future". The study will address the main questions on the main dynamics of the political, economic and cultural dimension of the mutual relations between the two countries.

Albanians and the European social model - Towards a redefinition of the social contract

by Sashenka Lleshaj [@SashenkaLleshaj](#) and Alba Cela
25 January 2016
Link to the article in [English](#) (100 p.)

The starting point of the contemplation was the perspective that Albania desires to be soon a full EU member, with an economic and social developed society. More than 80% of the population aims at this goal. To reach it Albania must fulfil, inter alia, the minimum social standards of the EU - the so called European Social Model. These standards can only be reached if all involved parties of the society along with politics and administration act jointly, namely that they foster a trusting and cooperating relationship between each other. In order to become an EU member the requirements are high and can just be reached through the cooperation of all participating actors.

Citizens' voices in the Albanian local elections 2015

by Sashenka Lleshaj [@SashenkaLleshaj](#)
25 January 2016
Link to the article in [English](#) (29 p.)

This survey is part of a broader project that aims at exploring citizens' views, needs and requirements during the pre-election period in order to affect candidates' agenda-setting before their term in office starts. By bringing to the candidates the issues that are considered important by citizens, the project aims at connecting the local representatives with their electorate from the early stages of the campaign in order for their political programs to better reflect and respond to local community needs. This survey has three main parts aiming at measuring perceptions, the level of information about election-related issues and the level of citizens' satisfaction with the public services provided in their municipality.

Instituti për Demokraci dhe Ndërmjetësim (Institute for Democracy and Mediation)

Opinion poll: trust in government 2015

by Erisa Lame and Aleka Papa

January 2016

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

The objective of this opinion poll was to explore the level of public trust towards governmental institutions as well as explore citizens' attitudes towards the performance of public institutions and service delivery in Albania.

EASTERN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

International Crisis Group

Tajikistan early warning: internal pressures, external threats

11 January 2016

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

Tajikistan, Central Asia's poorest state, is under dangerous pressure both internally and externally. President Emomali Rahmon's 23-year rule is marred by violence, lack of accountability, corruption and mass migration. Remittances and drug trafficking are key sources of income. Controls on religion and political opposition, including a ban on the moderate Islamic Renaissance Party of Tajikistan (IRPT), foster resentment. Security along the 1,400-km border with Afghanistan is inconsistent at best, and increasing instability in northern Afghanistan, where Central Asian militants are allied with the Taliban, poses a threat to Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan alike. Russia's support to Tajikistan is a major component in regional security, but Moscow's concerns about internal opposition to Rahmon are growing. The EU and US have only modest ability to influence the Tajik government. All these relevant issues are discussed in this paper.

Ośrodek Studiów Wschodnich (Centre for Eastern Studies)

The Eurasian Economic Union: a time of crisis

by Jan Strzelecki [@JanStrzelecki](#)

27 January 2016

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

The Eurasian Economic Union (EaEU), a project forced through by Russia which links it to Kazakhstan, Belarus, Armenia and Kyrgyzstan, is currently struggling with serious problems. The economic crisis in Russia – mainly caused by the fall in the price of oil on world markets and increased by sanctions imposed by Western countries in connection with the Ukraine conflict – is affecting these uncompetitive post-Soviet economies which are dependent on Russia. This has resulted in increased economic and political tension among the members of the EaEU.

United States Institute of Peace

The forced return of Afghan refugees and implications for stability

by Belquis Ahmadi and Sadaf Lakhani

January 2016

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

This brief looks at the security and socioeconomic impact of the growing numbers of Afghan returnees from Pakistan and Iran and provides recommendations on how humanitarian, development, and security actors can better address their needs.

EASTERN PARTNERSHIP

Barcelona Centre for International Affairs

A useful crisis for Moldova

by Leonid Litra [@LeonidL](#)

January 2016

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

For a long time coined as the success story of the Eastern Partnership (EaP), Moldova's EaP leadership is now challenged by a series of problems that occurred in the reform process mainly due to corruption scandals in the banking system and in other important areas such as control of judiciary, public procurement, etc., which is a result of "oligarchisation" of the politics. At the same time, the domestic political crisis, along with the regional instability and the geopolitical confrontation in Eastern Europe, has generated additional tensions and polarization within the Moldovan society.

Polski Instytut Spraw Międzynarodowych (Polish Institute of International Affairs)

Transnistria zig-zagging towards a DCFTA

by Stanislav Secieru [@StasSecieru](#)

28 January 2016

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

Although Transnistria, in exchange for meeting certain conditions, was allowed to benefit from the free trade agreement that Moldova signed with the EU, there are plenty of obstacles which could derail the deal. The business community in the breakaway republic is eager to enjoy the fruits of the DCFTA but is reluctant to shoulder the price of necessary reforms, the outgoing leader of the separatist enclave could undermine the agreement for electoral reasons, Russia might be tempted to test the EU's resolve to defend its trade-related norms, and Moldova could erect bureaucratic barriers for producers from the left bank of the Nistru River. In the light of these many risks, the EU should persistently encourage all sides to stick to their commitments while averting disputes that would undermine enforcement of the DCFTA in Transnistria in a timely manner.

Ukraine: a migration corridor with half-closed doors

by Piotr Kościński

20 January 2016

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

At a time when many European countries are strengthening border protection (including building walls), migrants will seek new avenues to Europe. In this context and of particular importance will be the policy of the authorities of Ukraine, which currently, and despite the still unstable situation in the country (war in the east and economic problems) could become the country of choice for migrants. Another problem for Kyiv may be internal migration. Both forms increase the risk of migration to EU countries such as Poland, Hungary, Slovakia and Romania, which are neighbours of Ukraine. In this situation, additional EU assistance to the authorities in Kyiv will be necessary.

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

Die heutige Ukraine und der Rechtsstaat - Weitgehendes Eliteversagen stellt die Reformen in Frage

by Susan Stewart

January 2016

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

In Ukraine, the protest movement of the Maidan, which led to the overthrow of President Yanukovich in 2014, initiated a comprehensive reform process. This is hampered and slowed by numerous internal and external hurdles. Especially great are the obstacles, where the aim is to create a functioning constitutional state. Influential actors from politics and industry have an interest to preserve lawless areas because they serve them to maintain power. This paper's aim is to examine progress and obstacles in this area.

MIDDLE EAST/NORTH AFRICA (MENA)

College of Europe

Back to the future: the 'new' ENP towards the Southern neighbourhood and the end of ambition

by Tobias Schumacher

January 2016

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

The 'new' ENP marks the end of a period, stretching over almost two and a half decades, during which the EU was determined to politicise relations with its Arab neighbours and put the promotion of, and support for, reforms at the centre of its policies.

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

Migration und Sicherheit in Europas südlicher Nachbarschaft: Warum die EU den Maghreb-Sahel als Großregion verstehen muss

by Katrin Sold and Tobias Koepf [@TobiasKoepf](#)

20 January 2016

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

In Maghreb the "Arab Spring" remains suspended, meanwhile in the Sahel the situation continues to deteriorate due to the rise of terrorist groups. For a long time, the two regions were considered separately, but their political and economic ties and mutual problems prevail across regions. The authors underline the need for a holistic perspective on the Greater Region Maghreb-Sahel, particularly with regard to the security and migration policies and call on the EU for a comprehensive, trans-regionally oriented strategy.

Centre for European Policy Studies

EU-Morocco cooperation on readmission, borders and protection: a model to follow?

by Sergio Carrera, Jean-Pierre Cassarino, Nora El Qadim, Mehdi Lahlou and Leonhard den Hertog [@LdenHertog](#)

22 January 2016

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

Greater cooperation with third countries is one of the EU's core responses to the refugee crisis. This cooperation is focused on the readmission of individuals irregularly staying in the EU, on border surveillance and control, and on the reception of refugees in third countries. This paper poses the question of what kind of cooperation the EU should pursue with third countries. As the

current approaches are not new, the authors present the lessons from the EU's long cooperation with Morocco to inform the current debate.

Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies - European University Institute

What is new in the 'borderlands'?: the influence of EU external policy-making on security in Tunisia and Morocco after the uprisings

by Federica Zardo and Francesco Cavatorta

January 2016

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

This study employs a borderlands approach to analysing the ways in which the EU outsources the management of key 'border functions' while attempting to connect the periphery in other issue-areas. More specifically, it examines the implications of the EU's post-2011 revision of its security 'cooperation' with Tunisia and Morocco for two aspects of the relationship. First, it looks at the way in which domestic political reconfigurations have occurred and how these reconfigurations have influenced relations with the EU. Second, it explores the asymmetries of power between the two parties and the degree of 'leverage' Tunisia and Morocco have vis-à-vis the EU.

Istituto Affari Internazionali

From activism to artivism: new forms of youth activism in the aftermath of 20 February movement

by Mohamed ElHachimi

29 January 2016

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

Like many countries of the MENA region, Morocco has witnessed one of the most vigorous and dynamic youth protest in its modern history during the so-called Arab uprisings. To face this unprecedented form of youth political action, the strategy of the State consisted in containing youth protest by a twofold policy: conducting constitutional reform and trying to de-legitimize the radicals. This policy brief analyses what impact this strategy may have had on youth activism in Morocco. It focuses on the way the Moroccan youth movement(s) is adapting to the response of the regime.

Oxford Institute for Energy Studies

Under the mountains: Kurdish oil and regional politics

by Robin Mills [@robinenergy](#)

January 2016

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

The development of major oil and gas reserves in the autonomous Kurdish Region of Iraq (KRI) is a recent phenomenon which has attracted major media and industry interest. It represents the rare case, in recent history, of the discovery of a large new onshore conventional petroleum province. The Kurdistan Region Government (KRG)'s formulation of its own oil policy presents an important case of sub-national authority over the natural resource sector, which may be relevant to other oil-producing countries or territories. This paper outlines the history and development of the KRI's hydrocarbon resources, the economic, legal, and political issues and debates, and the wider implications of Kurdish oil and gas, as well as some lessons for other comparable regions.

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

Changed priorities in the Gulf - Saudi Arabia and the Emirates rethink their relationship with Egypt

by Matthias Sailer [@Matthias_Sailer](#)

January 2016

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

Both Riyadh and Abu Dhabi are frustrated by the lack of progress Egypt has made in improving its financial, economic and security situation. In addition, low oil prices have brought about a more restrictive spending policy in the Gulf. Consequently, for the first time since the overthrow of President Mohammed Morsi, Germany and the EU have an opportunity to push for change in Egypt by offering financial support that is made conditional on implementing measures to increase political participation and improve governance.

Water as weapon: IS on the Euphrates and Tigris - The systematic instrumentalisation of water entails conflicting IS objectives

by Tobias von Lossow

January 2016

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

In the course of its territorial expansion, Islamic State (IS, ISIL or ISIS) has brought under its control strategically significant water resources and large parts of the water infrastructure in Syria and Iraq. It has seized several important dams on the Euphrates and Tigris as part of its expansion strategy and, particularly since 2014, has used water as a weapon in a number of ways. Should IS be forced into extensive withdrawals, then whole regions will be at risk of dramatic and widespread flooding.

AFRICA

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

Beneath the apparent state of affairs: stability in Ghana and Benin - The potential for radicalization and political violence in West Africa

by Peter Knoope and Grégory Chauzal [@gregorychauzal](#)

January 2016

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

This report explores the specific ways the Ghanaian and Beninese actors are dealing with politics, identity and societal stress. It also identifies the influence of external actors, from both the region and beyond, and potential spill over of nearby conflicts. The report comes to the conclusion that several issues, like border porosity, absence of a regional strategic approach to counter terrorism, youth frustration towards the elder's political and economic monopoly, rural and urban disparities and rampant illiteracy are some of the regional aggravating factors that are conducive to the spread of extremist ideology and dividing behaviours.

ASIA-OCEANIA

European Council on Foreign Relations

Danger on the high seas: the East Asian security challenge

by Volker Stanzel [@StvL](#)

January 2016

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

Europe's Member States have too much to lose from a maritime conflict in East Asia to maintain their current position as cautious observers, according to a new report from ECFR. This publication explores the territorial and diplomatic drivers underpinning maritime border disputes in the South and East China Seas, highlighting in particular the combination of USA-China competition and Beijing's assertive and unpredictable behaviour in the region.

Istituto per gli Studi di Politica Internazionale

Taiwan: the start of the new Tsai Ing-wen era

by Wen-cheng Lin

18 January 2016

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

The unprecedented victory of Tsai Ing-wen in Taiwan's 2016 presidential elections was largely expected, but it is still a surprising result for the first woman who will become President. Nonetheless, it is just the beginning: she will have to face the challenges of Taiwan's foreign policy in the evolution of relations with China, with the US and the international community, of its domestic policy in the development of economic issues and the constant matter of a missing consensus in Taiwan national identity. In this analysis, the author explains the possible scenarios regarding Taiwan's international interlocutors and how their reactions to the elections result would be interpreted by the new President Tsai.

CHINA

International Crisis Group

Stirring up the South China sea (IV): oil in troubled waters

26 January 2016

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

China's state-owned oil majors, known collectively as the 'three buckets of oil', have grown rapidly in financial strength and technical capability, especially deep-water drilling. Vietnam, for which crude oil is vital for exports, government revenue and GDP, has made development in the South China Sea a national priority. The Philippines badly need new sources of domestically produced energy, as they import nearly all their crude oil and petroleum products, and their only natural gas field will soon run dry. There are two key challenges. The first is to establish mechanisms to prevent current competition from escalating to the point of conflict, whether by accident or design; the second – the subject of this report – is to understand the motivations and limitations of the players in order to lay the foundations for greater collaboration, first in exploration, then in development.

Overseas Development Institute

China's balancing act - Why the internationalisation of the renminbi matters for the global economy

by Phyllis Papadavid [@ppapadavid](#)

January 2016

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

This paper describes how the country's contribution to world trade and investment following the internationalisation of the Chinese currency, the renminbi, could protect developing and emerging economies from the 'triple crises' of higher US interest rates, lower oil and commodity prices and China's own growth transition. It warns however that China's liberalisation brings risks as foreign capital flows introduce new competition for less profitable banks and non-financial corporations.

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

No end of history - A Chinese alternative concept of international order?

by Nadine Godehardt

January 2016

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

Among all the different Chinese foreign policy initiatives announced by President Xi Jinping, China's "One Belt, One Road" initiative clearly stands out. It is crucial to conceptualize China's OBOR initiative in a broader context. Instead of only focusing on specific mechanisms linked to OBOR, such as, for example, the Asia Infrastructure Investment Bank, it is necessary to develop a comprehensive analytical approach to OBOR. Before doing so, it makes sense to briefly discuss three major challenges to the existing international order (the weakness of democracy, the competition of ideologies, and the increasing relevance of everyday practices in inter-national politics) that increase the leverage for China (and other actors) to push forward alternative ideas of international order.

Ulkopoliittinen instituutti (Finnish Institute of International Affairs)

China's new foreign politics: Xi Jinping's universal rule by virtue?

by Jyrki Kallio [@shamoilija](#)

14 January 2016

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

Under the leadership of Xi Jinping, China's foreign politics has taken a turn towards a more proactive approach, especially with a view to facilitating China's economic development through trade. A new set of foreign policy concepts emphasize China's desire to build a "world truly shared by all" where peace, cooperation and common prosperity reign. The need to ensure economic growth and the desire to portray oneself as a challenger to the West both arise from domestic politics, namely safeguarding the legitimacy of the Communist Party.

Ústav mezinárodních vztahů (Institute of International Relations Prague)

Využijme více českou veřejnou diplomacii v Číně!

by Rudolf Fürst

26 January 2016

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

The influx of foreign investment from East Asia in Czech Republic has been spread among China, Japan and Korea. Positive references of several investors, such as Czech-Invest, Joint Czech-Chinese Chamber of mutual cooperation and the Czech lobbying groups have contributed to the awakening of interest of the PRC to invest in Czech Republic. Better positioning of Czech's in the optics of China cannot rely on economic diplomacy; good contacts in culture, science and

education, tourism and personal acquaintances together contribute to spreading the good reputation of the country and enhance the interest of foreign partners.

RUSSIA

Fondation Robert Schuman

Russia and the West: ten disputes and an inevitable escalation?

by Maxime Lefebvre

26 January 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (12 p.) and in [French](#) (13 p.)

At the end of the Cold War one might have thought that the collapse of the communist bloc and the disintegration of the USSR, concomitant to the defeat in 1991 of Saddam Hussein to the then unanimous "international community", indeed heralded the coming of a "new world order" (George Bush Sr), the triumph of western values of democracy and the liberal economy (Fukuyama's end of History), and the unification of the European continent (Gorbachev's "common home"). The wars which went with the collapse of Yugoslavia rapidly brought us back to reality and to the "return of history" (Guillaume Parmentier).

Rahvusvaheline Kaitseuringute Keskus (International Centre for Defence and Security)

Future prospects for the Russian Federation under President Vladimir Putin

by Kalev Stoicescu

27 January 2016

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

President Vladimir Putin has ruled Russia for more than 15 years. He and his inner circle of siloviki, oligarchs and nationalist ideologists have not seriously attempted to reform and modernise Russia's economy, which faces the prospect of continuous decline or even collapse in the next few years. On the contrary, President Putin has persistently struggled to divert domestic public attention from internal problems to the confrontation with the West and the external crises created or exacerbated by Russia in Ukraine and Syria.

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

Russia: turn to China?

by Margarete Klein and Kirsten Westphal

January 2016

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

After its relations with the West deteriorated massively in the course of the Ukraine crisis, Russia has been aligning itself increasingly towards China. This shift is most obvious in the strategic spheres of military and energy cooperation. Even if the immediate impacts on Germany and the EU – caused by the dynamics in the relationship between these two major neighbours in the East – are limited, the development is of great relevance for international relations and the global order.

Transatlantic Academy / Chatham House - The Royal Institute of International Affairs

Dealing with the Russia challenge

21 January 2016

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

On October 30, 2015, Chatham House held a discussion on "Dealing with the Russian Challenge" in cooperation with the Transatlantic Academy, a research institution based at the German Marshall Fund of the US' headquarters in Washington, DC. The Academy, which takes on a new

research topic every year, is currently focused on "Russia and the West." Participants included Chatham House experts, Transatlantic Academy fellows, representatives of the private sector and a UK Foreign & Commonwealth Office official. The discussion took place under the Chatham House Rule of non-attribution.

Transatlantic Academy

Russia's military on the rise?

21 January 2016

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

The topic of Russian military modernization has attracted increased attention after Moscow's aggression against Ukraine in 2014 and intervention in the Syrian civil war in 2015. The latter was the first time that the Russian Federation has conduct military operations outside of the post-Soviet space. The Syrian intervention so far has not been based on ground forces but primarily on air operations. The paper focuses on ideas, capabilities, hybrid warfare, and Western policy options.

REGARDS CROISÉS

Real Instituto Elcano (Elcano Royal Institute)

El convulso tránsito político portugués: de las elecciones generales a las presidenciales

by Patrícia Lisa

21 January 2016

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

The general elections in Portugal and Spain have opened new political cycles characterized by uncertainty about the possibility of finding stable governance solutions. In the Portuguese case, the new dynamics generated in the eclectic system of semi-presidential government can reinforce the tendency of bipartisan majorities and strong governments and prime ministers that began in 1991 with the government of Cavaco Silva; or invest in favour of strengthening the unprecedented dimension of the current minority Parliament if the socialist government of António Costa, with the parliamentary support of parties on the left fails to meet the four-year term. This perspective would open a precedent that would represent an unprecedented development in Parliament's ability to build consensus and a huge sense of institutional responsibility and democratic maturity. In either scenario, the president that emerges from the elections of January 24, 2016 must use his broad constitutional powers as a guarantee of the stability of institutions to promote solutions that can favour one or other of these dimensions.

MISCELLANEOUS

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

The new criminal powers - The spread of illicit links to politics across the world and how it can be tackled

by Ivan Briscoe [@itbriscoe](#) and Pamela Kalkman [@PamelaKalkman](#)

January 2016

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

In order to understand the risks of this criminal influence, and how they might be addressed, the paper explores how illicit activity has become progressively more embedded in societies and in states, neutering efforts to coordinate international campaigns against corruption and crime. It traces the routes through which democratic politicians have sought to take advantage of crime; and vice versa, the ways in which criminal actors have captured parts of the state or targeted lucrative public sector transactions for financial gain.

Transparency International

Corruption perceptions index 2015

27 January 2016

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

Based on expert opinion from around the world, the Corruption Perceptions Index measures the perceived levels of public sector corruption worldwide. Not one of the 168 countries assessed in the 2015 index gets a perfect score and two-thirds score below 50, on a scale from 0 (highly corrupt) to 100 (very clean). More than 6 billion people live in a country with a serious corruption problem. With multiple visual aids, Transparency International illuminates this wide-spread problem.

Real Instituto Elcano (Elcano Royal Institute)

El mapa digital de la influencia política en el mundo en 2016: análisis de las redes de influencia política en Twitter

by Juan Antonio Sánchez Giménez

26 January 2016

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

Contemporary diplomacy has lately seen new players emerge on the political scene carrying an intent of influencing political agendas and legislative and policy approaches - the think-tanks. A think-tank has in its DNA the need to generate influence. Influence is a commodity circulating easily in a network. The most visible one within a network will have the greatest impact outside the network especially if the network consists of influential politicians. The most visible and popular think-tank in the networks of influential politicians within Twitter is the Council on Foreign Relations in Washington and the most reputed and popular analyst is the President of Brookings Institution, Strobe Talbott.

World Economic Forum

Digital media and society. Implications in a hyperconnected era

20 January 2016

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

The report explores our changing relationship with media, entertainment, and information, due to digitization and the implications this has on individuals and society. It highlights (i) some key

sociological and behavioural evolutions in individuals from increased use of digital media, entertainment and information, (ii) how these evolutions are impacting our private, public, and professional lives, and (iii) suggestions for individuals, and the public and private sectors, on how to foster positive implications of increased digital media use and address potential issues.

Internet fragmentation: an overview

by William J. Drake [@wjdrake](#), Vinton G. Cerf [@vgcerf](#) and Wolfgang Kleinwächter

23 January 2016

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

A thriving and open Internet provides the foundation for the [Fourth Industrial Revolution](#). There has been growing concern that the Internet may be in danger of splintering into a series of bordered cyberspace segments endangering its very nature. World Economic Forum's Global Challenge on the Future of the Internet supported research highlights a number of fault lines that need to be addressed by bringing all stakeholders together.

The impact of digital content: opportunities and risks of creating and sharing information online

20 January 2016

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

This paper considers the impact of social media platforms on society – where it is now and where it is headed. It synthesizes overarching trends, highlighting the opportunities as well as the challenges. Mobile and digital technologies are pervading every corner of the earth, whether through investment or technology infrastructure. With ever-decreasing prices of mobile phones and data plans, these platforms will continue to grow at an incredible rate. The paper outlines the key issues and explores what these changes mean for society and where these digital technologies are headed in the future.

Resilience insights

15 January 2016

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

To inform the debate on how to strengthen resilience against a variety of global risks, the Global Agenda Council on Risk & Resilience has embarked on a series of resilience-use cases with a joint focus on identifying measures that entities of all types and sizes can take to increase resilience and distilling what each stakeholder can bring to the collaboration table.

The global risks report 2016 - 11th edition

14 January 2016

Link to the article in [English](#) (103 p.)

In this report, the risks are divided into five categories: economic, environmental, geopolitical, societal and technological. The report examines the interconnections among the risks, and through that analysis explores three areas where global risks have the greatest potential to impact society. These are the concept of the "(dis)empowered citizen", the impact of climate change on food security, and the potential of pandemics to threaten social cohesion. The report also takes an in-depth look at how the global security landscape could evolve in the future; sharing the outcomes of a year-long study to examine current trends and possible driving forces for the future of international security.