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General Secretariat

THINK TANK REVIEW

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Dear Readers,

Welcome to issue 24 of the Think Tank Review, compiled by the EU Council Library*. It references papers published in April 2015. As usual, we provide the link to the full text and a short abstract.

Readers outside the EU institutions will forgive us if we start this introduction by highlighting the products of two 'in-house' organisations: April saw the publication of the first notes by the Commission's own [European Political Strategy Centre](#) (we note in particular one on legal migration - we also note that, according to a major media outlet in Brussels, the Centre has "the President's blessing to ruffle feathers"). April also saw the publication of the [Yearbook](#) of European Security, by the EU Institute for Security Studies; the yearbook includes the kind of gems a reference librarian dreams of, such as an overview of Member States' voting records in the UN Security Council.

For our special focus this month we have found various papers revisiting the confrontations and tragedies of the 20th century. We note in particular the study by two French foundations surveying [memories of the 20th century](#) in young people, but also papers on the Armenian genocide, on reconciliation around the Sudeten issue, on the Cold War and lessons it can provide on today's sanctions against Russia.

Indeed we found more studies based on surveys, often spanning several countries, which probably is a good sign for the evidence base of think tank work. Examples include a German paper on [Poles, Germans and Russians on the Russia-Ukraine crisis](#), or expert surveys on subjects as diverse as attitudes towards EMU reform, perspectives for the WTO, the use of drones, and - inevitably - the City's attitude towards Brexit.

The diversity of national experiences in the EU is reflected in our collection, as always. We note a review by the Swedish Institute for European Policy Studies on [the Nordic EU members during the crisis](#), and the usual network of *regards croisés* (UK-Finland, Singapore-Germany and others).

By diligently referencing and disseminating their publications, this library humbly claims to contribute to the work of think tanks. That's why we were pleased to include in this issue a short note from the Barcelona Centre for International Affairs on 'thinking the global world': [Pensando el mundo global - Think tanks y políticas públicas](#). Still on meta-level, it is worth mentioning the [On think tanks](#) blog, with interesting posts on how EU think tanks use Twitter, or on women in knowledge organisations.

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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 June 2015, with papers published in May.

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.

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SECTION 1 - EU POLITICS AND INSTITUTIONS

Notre Europe - Jacques Delors Institute

The Commission's leadership and the EU governance

by David Koczij

15 April 2015

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

This summary of a conference held in March 2015, with Jean-Claude Juncker, Étienne Davignon and a contribution by Jacques Delors. It touches on many of the current issues in relations between EU institutions.

Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies - European University Institute

Upholding the rule of law in the EU: on the Commission's 'pre-article 7 procedure' as a timid step in the right direction

by Dimitry Kochenov and Laurent Pech

April 2015

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

An analysis of proposals by the Commission and the Council designed to tackle possible Member States' non-compliance with the principle of the rule of law. The authors argue that both proposals represent only a timid step in the right direction and find the Commission's proposal preferable.

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

EU vs. Orbán - Fighting for democracy within the EU

by Zuzana Stuchlíková [@ZStuchlikova](#)

April 2015

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

A review of existing or proposed tools to ensure compliance with democratic principles and the rule of law, ranging from art. 7 TEU to informal, bilateral means. The new rule of law mechanism and ex-ante conditionality are analysed as possible tools of the future. The article comes to conclusion that none of those tools can be fully effective if there is no political will to address the issue.

VolkswagenStiftung (Volkswagen Foundation)

Rechtsstaatsdämmerung in der Europäischen Union

by Armin von Bogdandy

2015

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

Originally a lecture held in September 2014 in Hanover during the annual meeting of German Law professors, where von Bogdandy examines the 'systemic deficit' in *Rechtstaatlichkeit*/rule of law in the EU.

Transparency International

Lobbying in Europe: hidden influence, privileged access

by Suzanne Mulcahy [@suzmulcahy](#)

April 2015

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

This report examines the practice of lobbying and the attempts to regulate it in 19 European countries and within the three main EU institutions. It comes at a time when public trust in government is at an all-time low and the practice of lobbying is widely associated with secrecy and unfair advantage. It also comes at a moment when an increasing number of governments in Europe are promising to tackle the problem of undue influence in politics, and the need for good government is particularly pressing given the range of economic, social and political challenges currently faced by European countries and EU institutions.

Centre Maurits Coppieters

Which federalism for Europe?

by Antonello Nasone and Attilio Pinna

March 2015

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

The authors compare recent development in EU politics with the abstract notion of federalism, from the German reunification process, to the EU response to the financial crisis, the 2014 Scottish referendum and the Catalan independence movement.

Egmont – Royal Institute for International Relations

The dangers and inanity of (euro-)nationalism. From communitarianism to cosmopolitanism

by Sophie Heine

20 April 2015

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

This paper contests the postulate according to which a shared identity is indispensable to have viable political and social institutions. The criticism it outlines is directed at the national and European versions of communitarianism. After contending that nationalism and euro-nationalism are both unnecessary and perilous for individual freedoms, the article briefly contrasts these visions with an explicitly progressive and liberal form of cosmopolitanism.

World Economic Forum

Effective leadership in international organizations

April 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (86 p.)

Good leadership in international organizations is necessary, but not sufficient, for their success. Structures supporting leadership vary enormously across global agencies. This report highlights some of the best practices across 11 organizations that facilitate good leadership. It also underscores that international institutions could learn from each other's practices across seven domains: (1) selecting and re-electing leadership on merit, (2) managing performance, (3) setting and evaluating ethical standards, (4) developing and retaining talent, (5) setting strategic priorities, (6) engaging with a wide range of stakeholders, and (7) evaluating independently and effectively.

SECTION 2 - ECONOMICS

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

Same, same but different: the Nordic EU members during the crisis

by Pernilla Bäckman, Julie Hassing Nielsen, Juha Jokela [@JuhaJokela1](#), Jakob Lewander [@Lewander](#) and Göran von Sydow [@gvonsydow](#)

April 2015

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

A study of how the Danish, Finnish and Swedish governments handled the euro crisis. The authors touch on the different financial and political outlooks of the three countries prior to the crisis and discusses how the effects of their management of the crisis have affected their relation to the EU.

Entering a world of footloose tax bases: can the EU generate its own income?

by Daniel Tarschys

April 2015

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

Expanding international exchange generates new collective needs that the nation states cannot satisfy, but also new sources of revenue from the digital economy and from the struggle against fiscal evasion. In this analysis, the author argues that to fund the provision of European collective goods, the EU must identify and pursue mobile tax bases that are not within the reach of the individual Member States.

SAFE - Sustainable Architecture for Finance in Europe

The legal framework for the European system of central banks

by Helmut Siekmann [@HelmutSiekmann](#)

22 April 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (57 p.)

This paper traces the developments from the formation of the European Economic and Monetary Union to this date. It discusses the fact that the primary mandate of the European System of Central Banks is confined to safeguarding price stability and does not include general economic policy. Finally, the paper contributes to the discussion on whether the primary law of the EU would support an exit from the euro area.

Banking Union and the governance of credit institutions - a legal perspective

by Jens-Hinrich Binder

8 April 2015

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

The ECB, in its capacity as supervisory authority for systemically important banks, as well as the Single Resolution Board, under the regulations establishing the Single Supervisory Mechanism and the Single Resolution Mechanism, have been provided with a broad mandate and corresponding powers that allow for far-reaching interference with the relevant institutions' organisational and business decisions. Will the centralisation of supervisory powers, over time, also lead to the streamlining of business models, corporate and group structures of banks?

Centrum für Europäische Politik (Centre for European Policy)

New bank liquidity rules in the EU: a blessing or a curse? - Liquidity Coverage Ratio (LCR)

by Philipp Eckhardt and Bert Van Roosebeke

April 2015

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

In July 2011, the European Commission laid down its legislative proposals to transpose the Basel III framework into European law. After years of intense negotiations, the Commission, the Council and the European Parliament (EP) reached a compromise on the new rules entering into force in July 2013. While the rules on the short-term buffer are quite concretely formulated, the framework does not yet include precise provisions on the Net Stable Funding Ratio (NSFR).

Bruegel

Capital Markets Union: a vision for the long term

by Nicolas Véron [@nicolas_veron](#) and Guntram B. Wolff [@GuntramWolff](#)

24 April 2015

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

This paper presents facts about EU capital markets, issues that should be taken into account in the development of a capital markets union, corresponding policy options over the medium to long term and suggestions for policy implementation and sequencing. It was presented by the authors at the Informal ECOFIN meeting in Riga on 25 April 2015

College of Europe

What do Eurozone academics think about EMU reform? On broad support and German exceptionalism

by Ferdi De Ville [@FerdDeVille](#) and Dieter Berckvens [@dberck](#)

April 2015

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

This is the result of a survey among euro area academic experts, gauging preferences on EMU reform. Experts were found to divide along national lines when it comes to causal beliefs on macro-economic policy. Academics within the key creditor Member State, Germany, assume an outlier position. Within the sample of German academics, economists are particularly strongly opposed to all moves in the direction of fiscal or social union. The authors contend that inadequate EMU reform and, more generally, the EU approach to the Eurozone crisis, can be partially explained by the firm grip these economic doctrines hold over the economics profession and policy-making circles in Germany.

SECTION 3 - EU MEMBER STATES

ESTONIA

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

Some empirical findings on the structural development of the Estonian economy

by Claus Friedrich Laaser, Janno Reiljan and Klaus Schrader

April 2015

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

Estonia is widely regarded as an example of successful transformation of a socialist economic system to a market economy. Yet the authors point out that the remaining problems of Estonia are often ignored. Estonia has hardly succeeded in catching-up economically with the richer countries of the euro area. The authors examine the causes of the sluggish catching-up process, and the opportunities Estonian economic policy has in order to close the wealth gap.

FINLAND

Elinkeinoelämän tutkimuslaitos (Research Institute of the Finnish Economy)

Computerization threatens one-third of Finnish and Norwegian employment

by Mika Pajarinen, Petri Rouvinen [@Petri_Rouvinen](#) and Anders Ekeland

22 April 2015

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

This study finds that one-third of both Finnish and Norwegian employment will be highly susceptible to computerization in the next decade or two. Low-wage and low-skill occupations appear to be more threatened. Service and public sector jobs are relatively more sheltered than those in manufacturing and the private sector. Nevertheless, computerization will, to some extent, affect all occupations. The digital transformation of society itself, however, creates a significant number of new needs.

Unemployment accounts – A Finnish application

by Niku Määttä and Tomi Salminen

21 April 2015

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

The authors consider a reform that would replace the current Finnish unemployment insurance scheme with individual unemployment accounts. The reform would provide additional pensions for individuals who end up with a positive account balance at retirement age without restricting unemployment benefits relative to the current system.

FRANCE

Institut Montaigne

Big data et objets connectés. Faire de la France un champion de la révolution numérique

by Gilles Babinet [@babgi](#) et Robert Vassoyan [@rvassoyan](#) (pres.)

April 2015

Link to the article in [French](#) (228 p.)

The results of a working group convened by Institut Montaigne, gathering industry experts, on how France can benefit from the digital revolution. Recommendations include: coordinating public

and private initiatives; disseminating technological best practices; strengthen the country's role in digital governance and upgrading digital skills.

Institut français des relations internationales

La France et l'Asie : l'ébauche d'un « pivot » à la française ?

by Hadrienne Terres

April 2015

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

The author analyses France's 'pivot to Asia', which is based on the search for new export outlets but also for new and more diversified strategic partnerships. This marks a shift away from the era when French engagement with Asia was seen mainly as a means to confirm the country's multipolar approach. The author notes however that the lack of resources at the disposal of this much-talked about 'pivot' may jeopardise its ambition.

GERMANY

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

Auswirkungen des Energiepreisverfalls auf den deutschen Außenhandel

by Michael Grömling, Galina Kolev and Jürgen Matthes

8 April 2015

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

The Köln institute looks at the effect of lower energy prices on German trade. German energy policy aims at reducing dependency on imported energy, to mitigate the impact of price fluctuation. However, the country also benefits indirectly from higher energy prices, as energy-exporting countries usually turn the higher revenue into higher demand for German industrial exports. See also how the Polish think tank *Ośrodek Studiów Wschodnich* [analysed](#) the impact of lower oil prices on the German economy (in Polish, included in our March review).

Hanns-Seidel-Stiftung (Hanns Seidel Foundation)

Gegen das große Unbehagen. Strategien für mehr Datensicherheit in Deutschland und der Europäischen Union

by Volker Foertsch (ed.)

2015

Link to the article in [German](#) (75 p.)

Results from two expert meetings held in November 2014 on how to react to massive collection of data by intelligence agencies in the US and elsewhere and by large commercial IT providers.

POLAND

Polski Instytut Spraw Międzynarodowych (Polish Institute of International Affairs)

Dyplomacja samorządowa. Efektywność i perspektywy rozwoju

by Adriana Skorupska [@AdaSkorupska](#)

9 April 2015

Link to the article in [Polish](#) (96 p.) and to the summary in [English](#) (6 p.)

An analysis of the methods and attitudes that enable Polish local government to use European funds effectively, and proposals on how local government can also support national foreign policy goals, such as the planned reforms in Ukraine.

SPAIN

As many regions in Spain are heading for elections at the end of this month, various think tanks have looked at the controversial issue of regional finances:

Instituto Valenciano de Investigaciones Económicas (Valencian Institute of Economic Research) / Fundación BBVA

Servicios públicos, diferencias territoriales e igualdad de oportunidades

by Francisco Pérez García (dir.), Vicent Cucarella Tormo and Laura Hernández Lahiguera
27 April 2015

Link to the article in [Spanish](#) (248 p.)

Fundación de Estudios de Economía Aplicada

Las finanzas autonómicas en 2014 y entre 2003 y 2014

by Angel de la Fuente
April 2015

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

Reforma laboral de 2012: ¿qué sabemos sobre sus efectos y qué queda por hacer?

by J. Ignacio García Pérez and Marcel Jansen
April 2015

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

An assessment of the 2012 labour reform, charting a middle way between optimistic approaches that see the reform as the reason behind the 400.000 new jobs in 2014, and more pessimistic views pointing at the net fall in employment since 2012.

Real Instituto Elcano (Elcano Royal Institute)

La proyección actual de España en la India: imagen y relaciones políticas

by Rubén Campos Palarea
24 April 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (31 p.) and in [Spanish](#) (32 p.)

This working paper examines India's role as an object of interest for Spanish foreign and economic policy, Spain's image in India and the political relations between the two countries.

UNITED KINGDOM

Adam Smith Institute

Non-sense: examining the arguments and rhetoric around non-dom tax provisions

by Rajiv Shah
9 April 2015

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

In this paper, the author lays out the case for preserving the non-dom system of tax exemption on foreign income. The paper takes issue with Labour's proposed changes to the rules, arguing that they could cut government revenue, drive away investors and hurt middle-income migrant workers.

What follows is a selection of the many think tank publications issued ahead of the general election in the UK. Many of them are still relevant as they examine the post-election scenarios in the relationship with the EU:

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

Britain and the EU: a negotiator's handbook

by Roderick Parkes [@RoderickParkes](#)

April 2015

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

Centre for the Study of Financial Innovation

The City and Brexit: a CSFI survey of the financial services sector's views on Britain and the EU

April 2015

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

Centre for European Reform

Do the UK's European ties damage its prosperity?

by Philip Whyte and edited by Simon Tilford [@SimonTilford](#)

April 2015

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

Disunited Kingdom: why 'Brexit' endangers Britain's poorer regions

by John Springford [@JohnSpringford](#)

April 2015

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

Bertelsmann Stiftung

Brexit – potential economic consequences if the UK exits the EU

by Ulrich Schoof, Thieß Petersen, Rahel Aichele and Gabriel Felbermayr

27 April 2015

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

Tænketanken EUROPA

Storbritannien har ingen plan for Brexit

by Maja Kluger Rasmussen [@MajaKluger](#)

20 April 2015

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

SECTION 4 - EU POLICIES

JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS

European Political Strategy Centre

Legal migration in the EU: from stop-gap solutions to a future-proof policy

30 April 2015

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

First in a series of weekly strategy notes by the Commission's new [in-house think tank](#), this note argues that a system stipulating that applying for asylum requires being on European soil has contributed to a humanitarian catastrophe. The current patchwork of measures offering few channels for migration of low-skilled workers, will not stand the test of time, the authors say.

Istituto Affari Internazionali

Continuity and change in youth migration patterns from the Mediterranean

by Ummuhan Bardak

April 2015

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

This paper looks at the continuity and change of youth migration patterns from the Arab Mediterranean Countries by analysing the profiles of migrants, their education levels, labour market status and reasons for migration. The traditional Arab migrant destinations of Europe and the Gulf are revisited in terms of economic and political developments and the evolution in their migration policy. A particular reference is made to the EU's policy developments and the impact of the Arab Spring on emigration flows.

Council on Foreign Relations

Europe's migration crisis

by Jeanne Park [@geniepee](#)

23 April 2015

Link to the article in [English](#)

This note gives background to the migration crisis facing the EU where European policymakers are still grappling with weak economic growth and [fractured national politics](#). Europe is currently the most dangerous destination for irregular migration in the world, and the Mediterranean Sea the world's most dangerous border crossing (cf. 2014 [report](#)). To date, the EU's collective response to its growing migrant crisis has been ad hoc and, critics charge, more focused on securing the bloc's borders than on protecting the rights of migrants and refugees. With nationalist parties ascendant in many member states and concerns about Islamic terrorism looming large across the continent, it remains unclear if political headwinds will facilitate a new climate of immigration reform.

Various shorter contributions published in April give other national perspectives on the EU migration crisis:

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

The European agenda for migration: a new narrative for an old tale?

by Angeliki Dimitriadi

April 2015

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

Polski Instytut Spraw Międzynarodowych (Polish Institute of International Affairs)

Migrants 'r' us: recommendations for a sound European migration policy

by Karolina Borońska-Hryniewiecka, Kinga Brudzińska and Patrycja Sasnal

30 April 2015

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

Fondation Robert Schuman

The challenge of illegal immigration in the Mediterranean

by Jean-Dominique Giuliani

13 April 2015

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

Centre for European Policy Studies

What priorities for the new European agenda on migration?

by Sergio Carrera, Daniel Gros and Elspeth Guild

22 April 2015

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

Istituto per gli Studi di Politica Internazionale

Emergenza Mediterraneo e migrazioni; come può rispondere l'Europa?

by Stefano M. Tornelli

20 April 2015

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

European Policy Centre

Creating a common European future: integration of young migrants in Europe

by Jorge Fernandez Gomez, Fiona Fritz, Sandra Kuna, Rina Kuusipalo, Carolina Seminario Herrera, Nitin Sood, Michelle Steenvoorden and the FutureLab Europe fourth generation, with Claire Dhéret [@cdheret](#) and Tania Marocchi [@tmarocchi](#) (eds.)

13 April 2015

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

Are EU Member States facing similar challenges when it comes to the integration of third country nationals? FutureLab Europe investigated the practice of the European Integration Fund (EIF), surveying migrants who benefited from EIF-funded programmes and interviewing NGOs financed by the EIF. The FutureLab Europe 2015 publication assesses the integration of migrants in the EU by investigating the practice of the EIF in four EU member states: Finland, Germany, Romania, and Spain.

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

Assessing the integration of vulnerable migrant groups in ten EU Member States

by Mila Mancheva, Andrey Nonchev and Slavyanka Ivanova

April 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (182 p.)

This publication presents the results of a comparative monitoring study of the integration policies and outcomes for third-country-national women, children and victims of trafficking in ten EU Member States: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Spain. The study produced findings at two levels of analysis: an in-depth assessment of how migrant integration policies and programmes meet the needs of vulnerable migrant groups, and an assessment of their integration outcomes. Drawing on the analysis of these findings, the publication provides recommendations for improving monitoring mechanisms for migrant integration at the national and EU levels and for elaborating policy approaches for better integration of vulnerable migrants.

International Centre for Counter-Terrorism - The Hague

European female Jihadists in Syria: exploring an under-researched topic

by Edwin Bakker and Seran de Leede [@SeranDL](#)

22 April 2015

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

A paper looking at the backgrounds and motivations of the increasing number of Western young women joining IS, the so-called Jihadi brides.

Pathways of foreign fighters: policy options and their (un)intended consequences

by Alastair Reed, Jeanine de Roy van Zuijdewijn [@JeanineRvz](#) and Edwin Bakker

30 April 2015

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

The phenomenon of foreign fighters is high on international agendas and European governments have tried to face it designing various policies. This paper looks at the (un)intended consequences of these policies on the pathways foreign fighters could take once they have arrived in Syria or Iraq. The authors specifically focus on four policies: reintegration programmes, prosecution of returning foreign fighters, revoking nationality of foreign fighters and finally, military interventions against foreign fighters.

COMPETITIVENESS (INTERNAL MARKET, INDUSTRY, RESEARCH AND SPACE)

Corporate Europe Observatory

Towards legalised corporate secrecy in the EU?

28 April 2015

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

A critique of EU trade secrets legislation – in the eyes of Corporate Europe Observatory a threat to consumers, journalists, whistle-blowers, researchers and workers.

College of Europe

The European pharmaceutical industry in a global economy: what drives EU exports of pharmaceuticals?

by Ludivine Blanc

April 2015

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

The pharmaceutical industry is one of the most competitive sectors in the EU. With its substantial investments in research and development, this industry represents a key asset for the European economy and a major source of growth and employment. This paper seeks to assess the determinants of the EU exports of pharmaceuticals.

Institut français des relations internationales

Space in a changing environment: a European point of view

by Guilhem Penent [@GuilhemPenent](#)

April 2015

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

The development of European space activities has long been pursued in the framework of the European Space Agency and other national space agencies. More recently, the emergence of the EU as a new actor for space has paved the way for a series of initiatives and opportunities. This paper looks first at the motivation of various European actors: from the French model of autonomy to the British market-based model and the German cooperative model. It then considers different cooperation mechanisms: the ESA type, the EU type and the international program type.

TRANSPORT/TELECOMMUNICATIONS/ENERGY

Egmont – Royal Institute for International Relations

The EU's fourth railway package: a new stop in a long regulatory journey

by Benedetta Marsicola and Franklin Dehousse

13 April 2015

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

Railway policy has been one of the slowest areas of European integration. The first substantial railway directive was only issued in 1991, and the First Railway Package in 2001. There have already been three legislative packages in this domain. However, the rail share for passenger transport remained fairly constant in the EU between 1995 and 2010. For freight transport, it has substantially diminished between 2000 and 2009. The opening of the markets remains fraught with various difficulties, so in 2013 the European Commission proposed a fourth legislative package, which has already provoked a lot of resistance. This study analyses its various proposals.

Progressive Policy Institute

Copyright in the digital age: key economic issues

by Michael Mandel [@MichaelMandel](#)

13 April 2015

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

The European Commission has put a high priority on creating a Digital Single Market. Meanwhile, over the next several months, the European Parliament will be considering a draft report that offers up its own version of an EU-wide copyright system. Simultaneously, American and European TTIP negotiators are talking about how to harmonize intellectual property protection across the Atlantic, which could affect copyright as well.

Centrum für Europäische Politik (Centre for European Policy)

Net neutrality - How European rules can foster innovation: 6 recommendations

by Bert Van Roosebeke

April 2015

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

Six recommendations from CEP to the EU legislator on how to regulate net neutrality – the first recommendation being, in fact, to abstain from adopting specific legislation and let competition rules operate instead (then there are of course 5 other „second best“ recommendations...).

Centre for European Policy Studies

Antitrust, regulation and the neutrality trap: a plea for a smart, evidence-based internet policy

by Andrea Renda [@arendat111](#)

April 2015

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

Policies for search neutrality and platform neutrality are invoked to pursue a variety of objectives: competition, consumer protection, privacy and media pluralism. This paper analyses this emerging debate and puts forward a number of conclusions, ranging from the merits of mandating neutrality at the infrastructure level, to the effect of net neutrality on media pluralism.

Centre for European Reform

Cleaning the neighbourhood: how the EU can scrub out bad energy policy

by Stephen Tindale [@STindale](#) and Suzanna Hinson [@suzanna_hinson](#)

April 2015

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

Energy policy can help or hinder economic, foreign, health and climate objectives. The paper argues for a reduction in dependence on energy imports, which would have benefits for the European economy and for the foreign policy of the EU. Public health would be greatly improved by reducing toxic pollution from power stations. And nearly 80% of Europe's greenhouse gas emissions come from the energy sector.

Corporate Europe Observatory

Carte blanche for fracking - How the European Commission's new advisory group is letting the shale gas industry set the agenda

14 April 2015

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

Corporate Europe Observatory criticizes the newly created European Science and Technology Network on Unconventional Hydrocarbon Extraction, suggesting that the majority of its members have a financial stake in the expansion of fracking.

European Policy Centre

Gazprom's evolving strategy in a new commercial and political context: how should the EU react?

by Marco Giuli [@MarcoGiuli](#)

27 April 2015

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

The author attempts to frame the erosion of Gazprom's power in a wider perspective, analysing its peculiar position at a time of transition, with the global gas business going from a sellers' to a

buyers' market, and providing recommendations on how Europe should deal with it. He argues that Gazprom – despite still being affected by the Kremlin's political priorities – is moving towards more commercially sound behaviour, and that the EU should take advantage from this evolution by using the political momentum provided by the energy union to remove barriers to solidarity and increase competition.

EMPLOYMENT/SOCIAL POLICY/HEALTH/CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Baltic Development Forum

Coding the future – The challenge of meeting future e-skill demands in the Nordic-Baltic ICT hub

17 April 2015

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

This paper deals with the emerging gap between demand and supply of ICT specialists. In Europe, this gap could reach 900.000 by 2020 if not addressed, according to the European Commission. It summarizes some of the challenges educators, employers, and policy-makers face and presents results from an e-skills survey among start-ups, leading ICT companies, venture capitalists, and universities in selected Nordic and Baltic countries.

Centrum für Europäische Politik (Centre for European Policy)

Europäische Arbeitslosenversicherung - Ein wirkungsvoller Stabilisator für den Euroraum?

by Matthias Kullas and Klaus-Dieter Sohn

April 2015

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

CEP looks at the possible functioning of an EU-wide unemployment insurance regime, arguing that such a regime should only be activated in case of economic shocks, and that contributions and benefits paid by Member States into the fund and received from it should balance each other out over a conjunctural cycle. Related to this topic, see the [paper](#) dealing with Finnish unemployment accounts included in this month's review.

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

Homophobia and gender phobia in the European Union. Policy contexts and empirical evidence

by Judit Takács

April 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (86 p.)

Sexual orientation and gender identity have been more and more identified as grounds of discrimination in European as well as in national legislation. Today, the situation for lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and queer persons in the EU is considered a human rights concern. But what can the EU really do in order to counter homophobia and gender phobia? This report examines several types of homophobia indicators and with the help of comparative quantitative data it also illustrates the markedly different levels of social acceptance of LGBTQ persons in Europe.

Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (Friedrich Ebert Foundation)

Wie sozial ist die EU? - Eine Perspektive für die soziale Dimension

by Alexander Schellinger

April 2015

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

The Ebert Foundation argues that the EU social dimension declined at the end of the 1990s, when the open method of coordination replaced compulsory regulation, and more recently during the crisis, when coordination was driven by economy and finance ministers. To counter this, it proposes putting social policy actors on an equal footing in the European Semester, using enhanced cooperation in the social policy area, and extending workers' *Mitbestimmung*. The Foundation sees an opportunity in the new, more politically oriented Commission.

ENVIRONMENT

Ulkopoliittinen instituutti (Finnish Institute of International Affairs)

A turning point in the EU's climate policy? Carbon capture and the third period of the emissions trading scheme

by Jarkko Levänen [@JarkkoLevanen](#)

April 2015

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

Carbon capture and storage (CCS) is one of the solutions associated with the success of the EU Emissions Trading Scheme, and numerous technologies are already viable, but the EU ETS is still not capable of encouraging investments in carbon capture. This paper argues that the biggest short-term challenges in the promotion of CCS are increasing financial interest in supporting the further development of different forms of CCS, and achieving a wide consensus on the significant decrease of emission allowances.

Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies - European University Institute

An analysis of allowance banking in the EU ETS

by Denny Ellerman, Vanessa Valero and Aleksandar Zaklan

April 2015

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

The existence of some 2 billion unused EU Allowances (EUAs) in the Emissions Trading System (ETS) has sparked considerable debate about its structural shortcomings. The authors examine one possible explanation of this accumulation of EUAs: the theory of inter-temporal permit trading, taken from basic banking theory.

Real Instituto Elcano (Elcano Royal Institute)

La cumbre del clima en París

by Teresa Ribera and Antxon Olabe Egaña

16 April 2015

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

A review of the most important aspects in international climate policy in the context of preparations for the summit in Paris in December 2015.

Fabian Society / Foundation for European Progressive Studies

Bringing it home: making a global deal on climate change a reality

by Ed Wallis (ed.)

April 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (82 p.)

The Fabian Society notes that there is currently no sense that climate change is high on the political or public 'to-do' list. If 2015 is going to be remembered as the year the world finally got serious about the climate threat, bold and imaginative political leadership is needed.

SECTION 5 - EXTERNAL RELATIONS

SECURITY AND DEFENCE

European Union Institute for Security Studies

EUISS yearbook of European security 2015

15 April 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (242 p.)

The third edition of the yearbook by the Union's agency in charge of the analysis of foreign, security and defence policy issues, looking back to 2014. It includes a mapping exercise on climate change, a timeline of events and relevant documents, plus an overview of Member States' voting record in the UN Security Council.

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

Defence matters: more urgent than ever

by Margriet Drent, Dick Zandee and Eva Maas

April 2015

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

In June 2015 the Heads of State and Government are again discussing the role of the EU in security and defence issues. This report reviews the progress made on the on the three clusters indicated by the European Council at the end of 2013: (1) the effectiveness of the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP); (2) capabilities and (3) defence industry.

The EU maritime security strategy: promoting or absorbing European defence cooperation?

by Lennart Landman

April 2015

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

For centuries, the maritime domain has been a pillar of European livelihoods and prosperity through fishing and global trade. In modern times, we have come to depend on maritime transport to keep our economy going. Recently, however, old and new threats have challenged the security of the EU: increased tensions between great powers; piracy in Somalia and West Africa; illegal immigration issues in the Mediterranean area; and increased concerns about terrorism and the illegal trafficking of drugs, arms and humans into Europe. These direct risks and threats are aggravated by pollution, illegal fishing and the destruction of livelihoods overseas.

German Marshall Fund of the United States

The United States and the future of Mediterranean security: reflections from GMF's Mediterranean Strategy Group

by Ian Lesser

April 2015

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

The US has been an economic, diplomatic, and security actor in the Mediterranean for over 200 years. Mediterranean security is set to pose key tests for both NATO and EU strategy in the years ahead. U.S. political and military engagement will be important elements in regional stability. But the relatively diffuse nature of Mediterranean security risks, a substantially reduced permanent military presence, and some marked differences in the European and U.S. approach to the region will complicate policy looking "south."

Forced convergence? Transatlantic strategy in the global Mediterranean

by Emiliano Alessandri

April 2015

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

Two interconnected developments are reshaping the Mediterranean security equation: the "globalization" of the Mediterranean space and the weakening of the Arab state system from the Middle East to North Africa. Transatlantic actors will have to shift their aims from building a Mediterranean security community of sorts to the more basic goal of preserving some kind of international order in an increasingly chaotic region. The EU and the US may be finally pushed toward greater convergence by a fast-deteriorating security environment calling for a focus on common strategic interests and prudently defined normative ambitions.

Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies

Dawn of the drones: Europe's security response to the cyber age

by Henna Hopia

April 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (79 p.)

This paper examines two modern disruptive military technologies: remotely piloted aircraft and cyber-attacks. These technologies are called disruptive because they are profoundly changing our societies and warfare. These changes also apply to Europe, so it needs to take them into account and adapt to the changes. More conventional threats have not disappeared, however, but are sometimes used alongside the new methods, as Russian aggression in Ukraine has shown. Europe is facing a hybrid threat with multiple elements that blend together and can change rapidly.

International Centre for Counter-Terrorism - The Hague

Towards a European position on armed drones and targeted killing: surveying EU counterterrorism perspectives

by Jessica Dorsey [@jessicadorsey](#) and Christophe Paulussen

24 April 2015

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

This paper gauges the extent to which EU governments share the US position on armed drones and targeted killing. In doing so, it aims to assist in distilling a common EU position on the use of armed drones and a legal framework for counterterrorism-related uses of force. The paper includes the results of a questionnaire sent to the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Defence, Justice and intelligence services of all 28 EU Member States.

Istituto Affari Internazionali

La formazione degli ufficiali delle Forze Armate italiane nella prospettiva europea [Training of officials of Italy's Armed Forces in a European perspective]

by Alessandro Marrone [@Alessandro_Ma](#) and Michele Nones

14 April 2015

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

This paper analyses the role of the European dimension in today's training programmes both at the level of each armed force and inter-forces, underlining five weaknesses: the absence of a didactic focus on the European dimension, the insufficient Europeanisation of classes of cadets, the difference between the Italian and European learning processes, the level of internal specialisation of the armed force and the insufficiency of the economic resources available. On the basis of this analysis three options are formulated for dealing with the shortcomings and in order to strengthen the European dimension of the training of Italy's Armed Forces.

GEOPOLITICS AND STRATEGY

Ulkopoliittinen instituutti (Finnish Institute of International Affairs)

The role of the Baltic region for the United States: an analysis of U.S. presidential rhetoric from the Reagan years to today

by Jan Hanska

April 2015

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

This paper illustrates the role that the Baltic region has played in the foreign policy and strategy rhetoric of the US in the past thirty years. To accomplish this, material from the Reagan era to the first years of the Obama administration were searched for references to the region. Within this timeline, significant policy changes have occurred in US strategy, the paper says, which then questions if these changes are reflected in the role the Baltic region has been allocated in US foreign policy and, if so, then how?

Ośrodek Studiów Wschodnych

Sojusznicza obecność w państwach bałtyckich– reasekuracja czy odstraszanie? [Allied presence in the Baltic countries- reassurance or deterrence?]

by Justyna Gotkowska [@jgotkowska](#) and Piotr Szymański (col.)

29 April 2015

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

In March and April the US Air Force conducted military exercises in Estonia in collaboration with Sweden and Finland. While the US remain the main security provider of the Baltic region, the role of the UK, Denmark and Germany increased in the last years. The authors however deem this engagement relatively limited compared to the potential of Russia in the region.

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

Global strategy and the European Union: advancing the debate and updating the European Security Strategy

by Lawrence Kettle

30 April 2015

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

The European Security Strategy (ESS) is the foundational strategic document for which the EU's security policies and strategies are based on. This paper argues that the ESS needs to be updated, strengthened and integrated with other existing policies to make the ESS an effective and truly global strategy.

Bertelsmann Stiftung

The EU neighbourhood in shambles - Some recommendations for a new European neighbourhood strategy

by Gabriele Schöler

April 2015

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

An "arc of instability" stretching from the EU's eastern borders down to the Mediterranean basin has undermined the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP). According to this paper, the EU should abandon the very concept of a homogeneous neighbourhood in the face of glaring differences among the 16 countries affected, not least because some are uninterested in reform; others may even be failed states. EU member states are themselves pursuing divergent interests

and goals. A fundamental review of the ENP should lead to more differentiated, targeted measures to promote "transformational change" within neighbouring states ready to accept it.

Transatlantic Academy

Faith, freedom, and foreign policy: challenges for the Transatlantic community

by Clifford Bob [@cliffordbob](#), Michael Barnett, Sir Michael Leigh, Anne Jenichen, Nora Fisher Onar [@FisherOnar](#), Lucian Leustean, Janice Stein, Mustafa Akyol [@AkyolinEnglish](#) and Alicja Curanović

April 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (227 p.)

This lengthy report looks at the growing impact of religion as a factor on both sides of the Atlantic. The authors take into consideration religion and the liberal international order, Islam and liberal order, Islam in Turkey, the self-proclaimed Islamic State, religious activists and foreign policy in the West, how EU and U.S. foreign policy deal with threats to religious minorities, religious freedom in the EU and its southern neighbourhood, Eastern Christianity and the liberal international order, and religion's role in Russian foreign policy.

Barcelona Centre for International Affairs

Pensando el mundo global - Think tanks y políticas públicas

by Francesc Ponsa Herrera [@FPonsa](#)

April 2015

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

A short contribution from the Barcelona Centre on how to harness the collective knowledge, information, and energy that exists in research organizations for the benefit of public policies. However, a definitional issue remains: what exactly are think tanks?

INTERNATIONAL TRADE

College of Europe

The Atlantic – A bridge too far? TTIP's provenance, prospects and pitfalls

by Jonatan Thompson, Richard Cuntz, Frances Ainley Andrea Chiarello and Ueli Staeger [@UeliStaeger](#)

April 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (61 p.)

Not exactly a think tank publication, this EU Diplomacy Paper on the TTIP is based on essays written by students of the EU International Relations and Diplomacy Studies programme at the College of Europe. The contributions reflect the state of play in April 2015.

Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies

TTIP in focus: 11 myths exposed

by Eoin Drea [@EoinDrea](#)

2 April 2015

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

The Martens Centre takes issue with opposition to the TTIP, arguing that it reflects a broader discontent at existing political structures, the continuing fall-out of the economic crises evident in Europe since 2008 and the concerns many Europeans feel about the revelations concerning the National Security Agency. Empirical data, however positive, will not be sufficient to successfully counter anti-TTIP arguments. For many, the benefits are intangible and too long-term. As noted

by the British Parliament, "the traditional political hurdle for trade agreements is that potential benefits are diffuse while potential costs are concentrated".

Centre for European Policy Studies

The geostrategic implications of TTIP

by Daniel Hamilton and Steven Blockmans

April 2015

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

This paper examines the geo-economic impact of the TTIP on both emerging powers and poorer countries. It argues that TTIP has the potential to be a catalyst for trade liberalisation at the global level, as long as the US and the EU are proactive about making the 'open architecture' of TTIP a reality.

European Centre for International Political Economy

"Splendid isolation" as trade policy: mercantilism and crude Keynesianism in "the Capaldo study" of TTIP

by Fredrik Erixon [@FredrikErixon](#) and Matthias Bauer [@MatBauerEcon](#)

April 2015

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

A [recent study](#) by Capaldo [included in TTR19] suggests that TTIP would have seriously negative consequences for trade, growth, income and employment in Europe. It has been given a surprising amount of attention, despite the fact that it errs on the extreme side of trade estimates, according to the authors of this paper.

Barcelona Centre for International Affairs

El TTIP más que un acuerdo de libre comercio - Un atajo bilateral para la eliminación de las barreras al comercio frente los obstáculos del multilateralismo

by Jordi Bacaria [@bacaria_jordi](#)

April 2015

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

A bilateral shortcut for removing trade barriers against obstacles of multilateralism: the TTIP between the US and the EU is not intended as a classic trade agreement which merely eliminates tariffs and opens markets to investments, services and government procurement. Its importance, and its difficulty is that it intends to go further with the adaptation of rules and technical standards that currently represent the most significant barriers to transatlantic trade.

European Centre for International Political Economy

Whither the World Trade Organisation? Perspective of key WTO ambassadors on current challenges in global trade talks

by Sherman Katz

April 2015

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

What are the challenges facing negotiators at the WTO? By the end of this year, Trade Ministers will meet in Nairobi for a WTO Ministerial Meeting. This Policy Brief offers a survey of views from key stakeholders with a focus on the structural challenges and ways to address them.

European Institute for Asian Studies

Bridging Asia and Europe through maritime connectivity

by Robert Zielonka [@zielonkarobert](#) and Antoine Duquennoy [@A_Duquennoy](#)

April 2015

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

In 2013, in front of the Indonesian Parliament, China's President Xi Jinping announced the launch of a Maritime Silk Road. This massive project linking Asia and Europe encompasses the building and upgrading of maritime infrastructures. One year later, the newly-elected Indonesian President, Joko Widodo announced the project to make Indonesia a "maritime axis". This paper analyses these two dawning strategies. The authors address the challenges that lie ahead, and argue that a more proactive engagement from the EU would benefit all three actors.

Leuven Centre for Global Governance Studies

"Essential elements" clauses in EU trade agreements making trade work in a way that helps human rights?

by Nicholas Hachez

April 2015

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

This article critically examines the EU policy of including 'essential elements' clauses in trade agreements as the main tool to link trade and human rights, as required by the EU treaty obligation to use its external relations for the promotion of its core values.

ENLARGEMENT

Institute for Public Policies and Good Governance / Policy and Management Consulting Group

Sharing experience of Visegrad countries EU economic integration and Georgia's successful institutional reforms for Albania and Kosovo

by Arben Malaj, Ada Shameti, Jeton Karaqica, Davit Giorgadze, Nata Goderdzishvili, Shushanik Safaryan, Jan Marusinec, Attila Bartha, and Vladimir Bartovic [@vbartovic](#)

March 2015

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

The final report of a project funded by the International Visegrad Fund. The project aims at enabling Visegrad countries to feed their experience into the process of Albania's and Kosovo's economic integration with the EU; it also aimed at transferring Georgian know-how in structural reforms to Albania and Kosovo.

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

The future of civil protection in North Kosovo

by Isidora Stakić and Maja Bjeloš

April 2015

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

This paper presents an analysis of the current state of the Civil Protection units in the four municipalities which constitute North Kosovo, and suggests possible solutions for their future.

Security Council resolution 1325: civil society monitoring report 2014

by Diana Miladinović Zeba, Gordana Subotić, Jelena Jovanović and Maja Bjelos

April 2015

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

This report examines the implementation of UNSC resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security in Serbia, as well as achievements in protection from violence and the promotion of a gender perspective. The authors find that there has been some progress in terms of democratic governance reform, but the changes that took place in the government since 2012 affected women's rights in general.

Centre for European Policy Studies

The worsening crisis in Macedonia - Waiting for EU leadership

by Erwan Fouéré

13 April 2015

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

The author reconstructs the recent scandal in Macedonia involving a vast wiretapping operation. He warns that a failure by the EU to react would be a terrible blow to government accountability and respect for the rule of law in the Balkan region.

On the same subject, see also this [paper](#) by the *Center for Research and Policy Making* included in our previous review.

Polski Instytut Spraw Międzynarodowych (Polish Institute of International Affairs)

Civil society networks in the EU integration of Serbia

by Bojan Elek, Ljiljana Ubović and Tomasz Żornaczuk

22 April 2015

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

The paper reviews civil society networks in Serbia and their role in EU integration. Although in general terms the legal basis and good practices for such collaboration are established, more understanding of the government's approach to civil society needed in order to achieve visible benefits.

Center for Policy Studies

"Vulnerability of Roma" in policy discourse on combatting trafficking in human beings in Serbia: perspectives of the national policy actors

by Jelena Jovanovic

April 2015

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

This paper presents the results of research on national anti-trafficking policy actors' discourses on 'vulnerability of Roma' to trafficking in human beings in Serbia. According to most of the interviewed policy actors, Roma are one of the "vulnerable groups", constituting at least half of all human trafficking victims. However, many of the interviewees argue there are no specific vulnerability factors that can be associated with Roma. Yet the analysis of their discourses suggests that institutional discrimination based on 'ethnicity' and racism can be considered the specific factors.

Ośrodek Studiów Wschodnych

Alone in virtue. The "new Turkish" ideology in Turkey's foreign policy

by Szymon Ananicz

27 April 2015

Link to the article [English](#) (44 p.) and in [Polish](#) (42 p.)

In the last years Turkey moved quickly from an ally to a problematic partner of the West. EU accession and cooperation within NATO are no longer priorities for Ankara's government. Turkey became more isolated also in the Middle Eastern region. This growing isolation demonstrated the subordination of foreign policy to the ideology of the ruling party AKP. In this way Turkey's foreign policy loses elasticity and becomes unable to adapt to the environment.

Stiftung Mercator / Istituto Affari Internazionali / Istanbul Policy Centre

Turkey's trade in search of an external anchor: The neighbourhood, the customs union or TTIP?

by Kemal Kirişçi [@kemalkirisci](#) and Sinan Ekim

27 April 2015

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

The Turkish economy has achieved important progress over the last decade thanks to respectable growth rates. However, high current account deficit has also become one of the pronounced structural weaknesses in the post-2002 period. This paper argues that Turkey's current account deficit is mainly a structural phenomenon. Accordingly, chronic trade deficit lies at the root of the problem. In order to address the current account deficit challenge and overcome the middle income trap, high-technology content of the export sector must be increased.

Migration Policy Institute

Syrian refugees in Turkey: the long road ahead

by Ahmet İçduygu

April 2015

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

Turkey hosts the largest community of Syrians displaced by the conflict. Turkish reception policies at the outset were predicated on the assumption that the conflict would come to a swift conclusion, but as conditions continue to deteriorate in Syria and the conflict stretches into its fifth year, it has become clear that a shift in policy to encompass longer-term solutions is needed. This report provides an overview of Turkey's migration landscape and the position of Syrian refugees in Turkey today. It discusses policy recommendations—both for Turkey and for other states—given the likelihood of long-term or permanent displacement for Syrians.

EASTERN PARTNERSHIP

Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (Friedrich Ebert Foundation)

The Russian crisis and its fallout: the impact on the Eastern Partnership states and Central Asia

by Katharina Gröne and Felix Hett [@felixhett](#)

April 2015

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

An analysis of Russia's economic crisis. Through a combination of internal factors and external shocks, the Russian economy is heading for a deep recession. The Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung has invited authors from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan to analyse the consequences of the crisis in Russia for their respective countries. Two counter-strategies are emerging at the national level. Diversification of foreign

economic relations could reduce economic dependence on Russia, although only in the long term. Quite on the contrary, an approximation to the Eurasian Union could improve working conditions for migrant workers in Russia, while at the same time granting duty-free market access to Russia.

Belarusian Institute for Strategic Studies

Visa statistics 2014: more visas, less refusals

by Andrei Yeliseyeu

17 April 2015

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

According to the 2014 visa statistics published by the European Commission, Belarus retains the fourth place in the world for absolute numbers of visas received and the first place for relative numbers of visas (issued per capita). The raw data are in this [file](#) published by the European Commission, see tab 'total - third country'.

Decree on social parasitism: shot in the dark

by Andrei Yeliseyeu

9 April 2015

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

This short note examines the recent presidential decree "on prevention of social parasitism", designed "to encourage able-bodied citizens to be involved in labour activity."

Expert-Grup

Moldova poate avea comerț liber atât cu CSI, cât și cu UE

by Fala Alexandru

April 2015

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

The author makes the point that participation in multiple free-trade agreements is a normal practice and Moldova, too, is a member of several regional trade agreements, including the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreement with the EU and the Free Trade Agreement with the CIS countries. In Moldova's case, the free trade with EU does not contravene with the commitments assumed towards the countries in the CIS free trade zone.

Moldova and Russia: between trade relations and economic dependence

by Ana Popa

April 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (24 p.), in [Romanian](#) (24 p.) and in [Russian](#) (27 p.)

Trade relations between the Republic of Moldova and the Russian Federation entered an uncertain path in the last decade. Moldova should mitigate the potential shocks from Russia by increasing its total exports in parallel with diversification of products and markets, argues the author.

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

Tauwetter im "Frozen Conflict"? Moldau und Transnistrien im Schatten der Ukraine-Krise

by Jan Pospisil and Johanna Rodehau-Noack

28 April 2015

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

The long-term 'frozen conflict' in Transnistria has currently been brought back on the international political agenda by the Ukrainian crisis. This paper points out that the tensions between pro-Russian and pro-European interests that resulted in armed hostilities in Ukraine have also been

constitutive for Transnistria within the last 20 years – although without any serious violent outbreaks since the secession. Various domestic issues and geopolitical factors constrain the transformation of the conflict.

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

How to stabilise the economy of Ukraine

by Amat Adarov, Vasily Astrov, Peter Havlik, Gabor Hunya, Michael Landesmann and Leon Podkaminer

April 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (100 p.)

Ukraine is a country split between East and West in political as well as economic terms. Unless these divisions are overcome – including some normalisation of relations with Russia - it will be difficult to achieve any lasting improvement of an economy burdened by structural weaknesses, corruption and war. This study outlines the ways how to reform the Ukraine's economy and put it on the sustainable growth path. Under the crucial assumption that peace is restored, it elaborates policy recommendations in areas of institutional reforms, macroeconomic stabilisation, foreign trade, integration and FDI policies, as well as industrial and regional developments.

International Crisis Group

The Ukraine crisis: risks of renewed military conflict after Minsk II

1 April 2015

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

ICG notes that the quality of top commanders on both sides is crucial. Ukraine's army is enmeshed in a command crisis the country's leaders seem unwilling to admit or address. For the separatist rebels, the command and control Moscow provides could give them the advantage in any new fighting. This briefing focuses on the negotiations which led to the agreement, the military balance and appetites for further confrontation on all sides, as well as likely scenarios for the immediate future.

ARTIC REGION

Ulkopoliittinen instituutti (Finnish Institute of International Affairs)

On Arctic exceptionalism: critical reflections in the light of the Arctic Sunrise case and the crisis in Ukraine

by Juha Käpylä and Harri Mikkola [@MikaAaltola](#)

April 2015

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

During the last decade, the Arctic has generally come to be understood as an exceptional 'zone of peace' and a 'territory of dialogue'. This paper discusses and critically analyses this notion of 'Arctic exceptionalism'. In particular, the paper argues that the contemporary Arctic is not only global but – precisely because it is global – no different from any other region in terms of being increasingly subject to politico-strategic dynamics.

ASIA

European Union Institute for Security Studies

Pride and prejudice: maritime disputes in Northeast Asia

by Elena Atanassova-Cornelis, Ramon Pacheco and Eva Pejsova

9 April 2015

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

Sovereignty claims at sea constitute one of the major sources of diplomatic tensions in East Asia, with repercussions for the security environment in the broader Asia Pacific. The three concrete cases addressed in this report include the dispute over the Senkaku/Diaoyu Islands in the East China Sea – administered by Japan and laid claim to separately by the People's Republic of China and the Republic of China (Taiwan); the Dokdo/Takeshima Islands in the Japan Sea/East Sea – administered by South Korea and claimed by Japan; and the Southern Kurils/Northern Territories in the Sea of Okhotsk – administered by the Russian Federation and claimed by Japan.

CHINA

Ośrodek Sudiów Wschodnych

China on Central-Eastern Europe: '16+1' as seen from Beijing

by Marcin Kaczmarski [@M_Kaczmarski](#) and Jakub Jakóbowski

15 April 2015

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

In 2012, China launched the format 16+1 for the cooperation with Central and East European countries. Back then it was seen as a window of opportunities for the EU-China cooperation, but this paper points out that this was only partly the case.

MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

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

Adversity and opportunity: facing the security and policy challenges in the Middle East

by Shadi Hamid [@shadihamid](#) and Daniel Byman

April 2015

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

In this report, Shadi Hamid and Daniel Byman examine key dynamics and drivers of Middle East conflict in a post-Arab Spring era. The report is divided into six sections, each of which identifies a regional challenge, critically examines past and ongoing efforts to address the problems, and outlines policy implications and recommendations for the EU, the US, and other involved actors.

The crisis in North Africa: implications for Europe and options for EU policymakers

by Daveed Gartenstein-Ross [@DaveedGR](#), Nathaniel Barr [@Nbarr5](#), George Willcoxon [@georgewillcoxon](#) and Norhan Basuni

April 2015

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

This report has three goals. First, it describes the most important current trends related to security, economy, and migration in the five North African states. Second, the study identifies the biggest impacts that regional developments will have on Europe, and anticipates contingencies that could arise in the near to medium-term that might demand a European response. Finally, the report

proposes a menu of policy options that European decision-makers can consider to counter the prevailing regional threats and prepare for contingencies.

RUSSIA

Instytut Spraw Publicznych (Institute of Public Affairs) / Bertelsmann Stiftung

Close together or far apart? Poles, Germans and Russians on the Russia-Ukraine crisis

by Jacek Kucharczyk, Agnieszka Łada [@AgnieszkaLada](#), Gabriele Schöler and Łukasz Wenerski [@LWenerski](#)

April 2015

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

Eastern policy has for many years been a complicated and emotionally charged issue in Polish-German relations. A frequent claim made in public debates on this issue is that the two countries are once more divided in their views. However, the results of a survey conducted simultaneously by the Institute of Public Affairs and the Bertelsmann Stiftung in Poland and Germany reveal that Poles and Germans hold basically similar views on issues connected with the Russia-Ukraine conflict. Although differences between them are visible, the two countries are closer to each other in their opinions on Russia than many Polish and German commentators assume. Poles and Germans share the same negative assessment of the state of their countries' relations with Russia.

SWITZERLAND

Centre for European Policy Studies

No move without free movement: the EU-Swiss controversy over quotas for free movement of persons

by Sergio Carrera, Elspeth Guild and Katharina Eisele

23 April 2015

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

The focus of this paper is the Swiss referendum of 2014 against 'mass immigration' in Switzerland. It identifies the challenges that a quota on EU citizens' free movement rights to Switzerland would pose to EU-Swiss relations, considering among other things the value of freedom of movement in the EU and its indivisibility from the internal market and other economic freedoms, the specificity of the EU legal system following the Lisbon Treaty that established democratic and judicial accountability mechanisms; and the lack of supranational judicial oversight of the EU-Switzerland agreements framework.

SPECIAL FOCUS - MEMORIES OF THE 20th CENTURY

Fondation pour l'innovation politique / Fondation pour la Mémoire de la Shoah

Future memories: a survey on memories of the 20th century

April 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (156 p.) and in [French](#) (156 p.)

The Fondation pour l'innovation politique and the Fondation pour la Mémoire de la Shoah worked together to identify the memories of the last century which will shape the 21st. What do the new generations remember of the events of the 20th century? The study presents the results of a survey on memories of the 20th century among 31.172 young people aged between 16 and 29, carried out in 24 languages across 31 countries.

Hanns-Seidel-Stiftung (Hanns Seidel Foundation)

Bayern, Tschechien und Sudetendeutsche: Vom Gegeneinander zum Miteinander

by Peter L. Münch-Heubner

April 2015

Link to the article in [German](#) (143 p.)

A comprehensive review of recent initiatives and achievements in the reconciliation between Bavaria and the Czech Republic on the issue of the *Sudetendeutschen*, a case study in *Vergangenheitsbewältigung*, although not all obstacles to a sound relationship are removed.

Institut français des relations internationales

Turkey: the Sèvres syndrome, or the endless war

by Dorothee Schmid

April 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (19 p.) and to a map in [French](#) (1 p.)

For Turks, the Treaty of Sèvres symbolises the dissolution of the empire and the carving up of Turkey by foreign powers. The historic effect of the treaty survives as a syndrome, which explains the vision of a nation under siege struggling for survival. Apart from the current neo-Ottomanism, a reconsidered dialogue with Europe could perhaps provide the country with a new relationship with its history and help it move beyond a syndrome used by all sections of its political class.

Ośrodek Studiów Wschodnych

Turcja i Armenia w cieniu Wielkiej Tragedii [Turkey and Armenia in the shade of the Great Tragedy]

by Szymon Ananicz

21 April 2015

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

After a hundred years, the Armenian genocide continues to be the main obstacle in the reconciliation between Turkey and Armenia. A radical change of approach of both sides would be essential for a reconciliation, as well as a breakthrough in the Nagorno Karabakh conflict. Yet in the foreseeable future these conditions won't be met, argues the author.

European Union Institute for Security Studies

Sanctions and Russia: lessons from the Cold War

by Nicu Popescu [@nicupopescu](#)

24 April 2015

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

The public debate around the effectiveness of sanctions is divided between those who believe that sanctions do not work; a more diffuse camp of lukewarm supporters arguing that sanctions are either a necessary evil or a way to preserve the credibility of the EU and US; and a smaller group of true believers who are convinced of their political and symbolic worth. The author thinks that it is still too early to offer definitive answers. But given that much of the current crisis is shrouded by Cold War memories, symbols and fears, a look at some related episodes from that part of history might prove useful when attempting to assess the impact of current Western sanctions against Russia.

REGARDS CROISÉS

A CRITICAL LOOK FROM THE UK AT THE EDUCATION SYSTEM IN FINLAND

Centre for Policy Studies

Real Finnish lessons: the true story of an education superpower

by Gabriel Heller Sahlgren [@gabrielsahlgren](#)

April 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (106 p.)

This report challenges conventional wisdom regarding the reasons for Finland's remarkable education success. Finnish education scores were at the top of the international PISA league tables in the early and mid-2000s. Yet they have now begun to slip. The author argues that Finnish education has faltered just as new reforms have begun to take effect – the same reforms that have previously been attributed with propelling the country to the top of PISA.

GERMANY - SEEN FROM SINGAPORE

European Union Centre in Singapore

The drivers of current account surplus in Germany and the politics of rebalancing in the Eurozone

by Ji Xianbai Jason

April 2015

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

This paper looks at what accounts for Germany's surplus, identifying its major factors in a strong global demand for quality German exports, domestic wage restraint, an undervalued single currency, high domestic savings rate and interest rate convergence in the euro area. This paper echoes the US Treasury's view that a persistent German surplus makes it harder for the Eurozone as a whole and the southern peripheral economies in particular to recover from the current financial crisis by imposing a Europe-wide deflationary bias, pushing up the exchange rate of the euro, exporting feeble German inflation and projecting its ultra-tight macroeconomic policies onto crisis economies.

MOLDOVA SEEN FROM POLAND

Ośrodek Studiów Wschodnych

An appropriated state? Moldova's uncertain prospects for modernisation

by Kamil Całus [@KamilCaus](#)

22 April 2015

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

The author argues that the coalition government created after the elections of November is preserving the political model present in Moldova since 2009, where the institutions are subordinated to the power of the two main oligarchs: Vlad Filaret of the Liberal Democratic Party, and Vlad Plahtoniuc of the Democratic Party. This situation represents an obstacle for the implementation of the Association Agreement, because the reforms it foresees would reduce the influence of the two strongmen in politics and in the economy.

LESSONS FROM A COMMISSION'S DECISION

Polski Instytut Spraw Międzynarodowych (Polish Institute of International Affairs)

Straw in the wind: state aid for nuclear energy in the UK and lessons for Visegrad countries

by Aleksandra Gawlikowska-Fyk and Miłosz Wiatrowski [@wmilosz](#)

15 April 2015

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

With as many as 12 EU Member States currently considering investment in nuclear builds, the European Commission's decision finding the UK's support for the Hinkley nuclear plant compatible with state aid law was met with relief by governments across the EU. Yet this EU-British settlement is not a silver bullet. EU countries interested in new nuclear power plants, including those in the Visegrad Group, should draw lessons from the Commission's decision, and at the same time explore other possibilities of state support.