



THINK TANK REVIEW

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Dear Readers,

Welcome to issue 28 of the Think Tank Review compiled by the EU Council Library* ([click to share on Twitter](#)). It references papers published in September 2015. As usual, we provide the link to the full text and a short abstract.

Migrants and refugees streaming into Europe have presented European leaders and policymakers with their greatest challenge since the debt crisis. [Last EU Council conclusion](#) clearly mentions that EU member states must tackle the crisis jointly and collaborate with third countries (Turkey especially) for coping with the flow. Therefore, the [Special Focus](#) of this issue covers Europe's migrant crisis, which is not just a EU issue.

Under the [Politics and Institutions section](#), there are questions and proposals, be it in the context of [EU reform](#)? or regarding the ordinary legislative [procedure](#) and trilogues.

The circular economy is gaining momentum as a concept in both academic and policy circles. The Centre for European Studies has identified key barriers and enablers to adopting circular economy business practices.

30 years ago, Spain and Portugal signed the Accession Treaty to become members of the EU. In this context, we note a study on the EU funding allocated to Spain from its accession until 2007. On another topical issue, we found some analysis focusing on Catalonia's regional election held on 27 September.

European policymakers are also concerned about the UK referendum about Brexit. Working papers focus on contrastive feelings among UK public opinion. Some think that the referendum results will depend on Cameron's ability to negotiate on the Schengen treaty and to increase UK governance into the EU, others wonder about the relevance of the "subsidiarity principle" among UK.

Regarding EU external relations, issues about BRICS and its growth potential continue to be on the table. Find out a selection of two complementary views with one paper on the impact of public education expenditure on the economic growth of the European Union and BRICS and another on BRICS as an EU security challenge.

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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 November 2015, with papers published in October.

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SECTION 1 - EU POLITICS AND INSTITUTIONS

Centrum für Europäische Politik (Centre for European Policy)

Legislation by way of triologue: the end of transparent representative democracy?

by Matthias Dauner and Klaus-Dieter Sohn
2015

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

In order to shorten the legislative process in the EU, the European Parliament, Council and EU Commission have agreed to reach agreements in negotiations behind closed doors - the informal trialogues - prior to the respective first reading of the legislative proposal. According to this paper, this procedure is in urgent need of an overhaul.

Notre Europe - Jacques Delors Institute

The EU and referenda: structural incompatibility?

by Yves Bertoncini [@ybertoncini](#) and Nicole Koenig [@Nic_Koenig](#)
September 2015

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

This paper underlines that there is no inconsistency between national referenda and decisions made by the European authorities, including as regards the Greek case, particularly atypical when compared with all the 48 referenda on European issues. It also leads to recall that several different national political wills have of necessity to coexist side by side in the Federation of Nation States that is the EU, and which no referendum will ever be able to change.

Istituto Affari Internazionali

What government for the European Union? Five themes for reflection and action

by Pier Domenico Tortola and Lorenzo Vai [@lorenzovai](#)
21 September 2015

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

The contributions explore the question of what government the EU should equip itself with in order to tackle its many domestic and external challenges. It spot five issues to be dealt with in the context of a EU reform: the clash between intergovernmentalism and supranationalism; the empowerment of democracy and representation; the challenge of differentiated integration; the government of the economy; and the necessity to homologate EU Member States' foreign policy.

Zentrum für Europäische Integrationsforschung (Center for European Integration Studies)

Europarties – a research note

by Karl Magnus Johansson
9 September 2015

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

This paper outlines and elaborates the role of Europarties – political parties at European level – in the political system of the EU. It explores the key role and features of these organisations and claims that they are significant actors, particularly through their mobilisation of political parties and leaders.

Barcelona Centre for International Affairs

Europe behind (mis)understandings

by Yolanda Onghena and Isabel Verdet Peris (coord.)

September 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (110 p.)

Europe is indeed diversity, a multiplicity of identities with their own memories and desires for belonging. However, this way of understanding Europe as an agora of multiple belongings is challenged by the persistence and (re)apparition of old and new stereotypes and prejudices that reinforce the North-South, East-West and other divides. In this context, new views are needed which are capable of incorporating all kinds of irregularities, exceptions and disagreements without dividing or categorising. How can the media contribute to building a critical view of Europeanness as an open and fluid form? In order to reflect on these issues, a participatory two-day seminar with media and communication students from different EU Member States was held in Barcelona in December 2014, organised by CIDOB. Participants discussed on how the media promote Europeanness recognize its diversity or, on the contrary, hinder a common European sense of belonging.

Centre Maurits Coppieters

Democracy and European emerging values: the right to decide

by Gerard Bona (coord.)

September 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (99 p.)

Defining the concept of self-determination is not the easiest thing to do. The first article of the United Nations Charter which defines self-determination has been applied with to various extents in the recent history. A universal right – that is what the self determination principle is, according to this paper. And just as with democracy, Human Rights, gender equality and sexual equality, there should be no limit to any universal right. Even if it were illegal, it would still remain a universal right.

Corporate Europe Observatory

Policy prescriptions: the firepower of the EU pharmaceutical lobby and implications for public health

September 2015

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

The article maintains pharmaceutical sector enjoys a privileged access to decision-making in Brussels thanks a lobby spend of around €40 million, extensive meetings with policy-makers, and presence in advisory groups. Under-reporting and the continued avoidance by some of the EU's voluntary lobby transparency system mean that overall industry spending may be much higher than the transparency register reveals. The study examines some of Big Pharma's channels of influence in the EU and exposes concrete examples of EU law and policies shaped by the industry.

Institute for European Environmental Policy

Establishing an EU 'guardian for future generations'. Report and recommendations for the World Future Council

by Martin Nesbit [@arrhenius](#) and Andrea Illés [@andreaailles](#)

September 2015

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

IEEP's report for the World Future Council looks at experience gained with the creation of roles and institutions in different countries aimed at improving the generational equity of decision-

making. The report identifies some key gaps in decision-making processes at EU level and offers suggestions for how those gaps could be filled by creating a new role identifying and advising on risks to the interests of future generations. According to the assessment, creating long-term security for such a function, ideally through incorporating it in the EU Treaty, or if not, then through legislation, has clear benefits in terms of enabling a Guardian to provide clear, fearless advice. Wide institutional and political buy-in is an important pre-condition for success, and would also need to be developed.

SECTION 2 - ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (Friedrich Ebert Foundation)

More of this could do the job: make the Juncker plan effective and sustainable

by Luca Visentini, Josef Stredula, Candido Mendez, Ignacio Fernandez Toxo, Karl-Petter Thorwaldsson, Yiannis Panagopoulos, Plamen Dimitrov, Patricia King and Reiner Hoffmann
September 2015
Link to the article in [English](#) (52 p.)

With this paper, the DGB and the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung want to contribute to the debate on productive investment in Europe, giving it a more practical turn. Designate general secretary of the European Trade Union Confederation Luca Visentini starts the ball rolling by explaining Europe's investment needs from the ETUC's standpoint and presents a trade union-oriented evaluation of the Juncker Plan. The resolution adopted by all member federations of the ETUC for a European investment programme is attached as an appendix.

Stiftung Genshagen (Genshagen Foundation)

Für eine ergebnisorientierte Politik: Handlungsoptionen der Europäischen Union in der Krise / Pour une politique axée sur les résultats : les champs d'action possibles de l'Union européenne dans la crise

by Eric Bonse
September 2015
Link to the article in [German/French](#) (44 p.)

Whereas the EU is living its worst crisis since its establishment, the incumbent EC President Jean Claude Juncker claimed the newly appointed EC commission will be the last chance for reforming the EU. However the author claims Juncker's government is not marking any discontinuity with the previous ones. For strengthening the EU he proposes to elaborate a new results-oriented policy for tackling relevant issues as the Greek and the British ones. The rejuvenation of a French-German collaboration would play a relevant role, in this regard.

Chatham House - The Royal Institute of International Affairs

The impact of the ECB's asset purchase programmes on sovereign bond spreads in the euro area

by Gibran Watfe [@GibranWatfe](#)
September 2015
Link to the article in [English](#) (35 p.)

This paper estimates the immediate impact of the ECB's asset purchase program on sovereign bond spreads in the euro area between 2008 and 2015 using a country-by-country GARCH model. Generally, it is found that the asset purchase program triggered a reduction of sovereign bond spreads.

Egmont – Royal Institute for International Relations

Capital Markets Union: a work in progress. Quick and high impact measures for the Capital Markets Union

by Gergely Polner [@eurocrat](#) and John Ryan
September 2015
Link to the article in [English](#) (15 p.)

Capital Markets Union has three objectives. The first one is to improve access to finance for all businesses but especially SMEs; the second is to increase the share of capital markets in the

funding mix of the real economy; and the third is to make capital markets more effective and integrate them across borders. This paper supposes the CMU will aim at boosting securitization and allowing for easier listing are expected to be the first major initiatives. The paper claims them as a welcome, though not revolutionary change. The major impact to investment may come from measures on medium-sized and high-growth firms.

European Policy Centre

Can the eurozone's economic governance combine political accountability, legitimacy and effectiveness?

by Fabian Zuleeg [@FabianZuleeg](#)

1 September 2015

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

The paper analyses the longer term political and economic implications of the crisis for the economic integration process. While, economically, the exit of one eurozone member state might conceivably be manageable (but costly, especially for that country), the long term political costs might end up unravelling the whole European integration process, with the potential for a bankrupt and politically unstable state outside the euro but still within the EU. However, the status quo situation is still unstable, politically and economically, and needs further policy reforms.

European Political Strategy Centre

Europe 2020. From indicators and targets to performance and delivery

30 September 2015

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

The Europe 2020 strategy was originally conceived to be the "EU's growth strategy for the coming decade". Adopted in June 2010, the initiative came into being under ill-fated circumstances, namely when the Eurozone debt crisis erupted in earnest. Overshadowed since its inception, the Europe 2020 strategy has never delivered the expected degree of political influence. The paper claims European leaders should assess in whether a medium- and long-term growth strategy developed in the pre-crisis world is still relevant in the post-crisis era.

European Credit Research Institute / Centre for European Policy Studies

Sixth year of contraction in European private credit markets, despite a stabilisation on the housing market - Key findings from the ECRI statistical package

by Robin Sainsot

September 2015

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

The ECRI Statistical Package 2015 reveals that at the end-of 2014, the outstanding amount of the European non-financial private debt decreased in real terms for the sixth consecutive year, both in the EU as a whole and in the euro area. However, this does not mean that all EU countries recorded a contraction in non-financial private debt over the same period. While the EU15 countries registered a decrease for the sixth consecutive year in 2014, non-financial private debt in the so-called new Member States (NMS countries) contracted only twice over the same period. The Key Findings relate to the more detailed [ECRI 2015 Statistical Package](#) covering 40 countries: the 28 EU Member States, three EU candidate countries (Croatia, Turkey and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia), the EFTA countries (Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland), four key global economies (the US, Australia, Canada and Japan) and, for the very first time, several 'emerging' economies (India and Russia). The purpose of the package is to provide reliable statistical information that allows users to make meaningful comparisons in time and between these countries.

Centre for European Policy Studies

The circular economy: barriers and opportunities for SMEs

by Vasileios Rizos [@vasileios_rizos](#), Arno Behrens, Terri Kafyeke [@TerriKafyeke](#), Martin Hirschnitz-Garbers and Anastasia Ioannou

September 2015

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

The 'circular economy' is gaining momentum as a concept in both academic and policy circles, and circular business models have been linked to significant economic benefits. This paper identifies barriers and enablers to adopting circular economy business practices, and presents key messages for policy-makers.

SECTION 3 - EU MEMBER STATES

CYPRUS

Ulkopoliittinen instituutti (Finnish Institute of International Affairs)

Emancipated from the motherland? Leadership change in Northern Cyprus offers a chance for reunification of the island

by Toni Alaranta

29 September 2015

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

The election of Mustafa Akıncı, esteemed and trusted also by the Greeks, as the leader of the Turkish Cypriot community is a golden opportunity for the reunification of Cyprus. At a time of reunification talks, the Turkish Cypriot community must re-evaluate its relationship not only with the Greek Cypriots but also with "motherland" Turkey. Turkey is currently witnessing a significant internal power struggle and unpredictability regarding the future, making it very difficult to evaluate how it would react in the event of a permanent agreement between the two Cypriot communities.

FINLAND

Eläketurvakeskus (Finnish Centre for Pensions)

Projections on the effects of the 2017 earnings-related pension reform: assessment based on the government bills

by Kaarlo Reipas and Mikko Sankala

10 September 2015

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

The study presents projections of the effects of the government bill on the 2017 pension reform based on the long-term projection model of the Finnish Centre for Pensions. The government bill is estimated to postpone retirement by 1.3 years by the year 2040 and by nearly two years by 2080. According to authors' estimates, the annual earnings-related pension expenditure relative to the insured earnings will decrease as a result of the bill and its impact will be at its highest in the 2030s and the 2040s. In the long-run, the government bill will increase both earnings and the pension expenditure.

GERMANY

Deutsches Institut für Wirtschaftsforschung (German Institute for Economic Research)

Political culture still divided 25 years after reunification?

by Felix Arnold, Ronny Freier and Martin Kroh

9 September 2015

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

The study shows that 25 years after the Reunification, the people of eastern and western Germany still differ in their political engagement and attitudes. They differ in terms of party attachments and actual turnout in national and state elections. There are also still distinct differences in the political party systems. In particular, Die Linke plays a major role in eastern Germany but this party has not been able to establish itself in the former West German states. However, according to authors' data, individuals' attitudes to the welfare state, which differed significantly at the beginning of the 1990s, have converged since.

Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (Friedrich Ebert Foundation)

Ostdeutschland als Avantgarde? : Transformationsprozesse in Politik, Wirtschaft und Gesellschaft

by Angela Borgwardt

September 2015

Link to the article in [German](#) (63 p.)

In autumn 2015, we celebrate the 25th anniversary German reunification: 25 years a profound transformation are behind us, but also the "coalescence" of East and West, which also described as a "coalescence" can be. What have we achieved, where we stand today and what remains to be done?

GREECE

Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies

Between farce and tragedy: four realities of Syriza in power

by Eoin Drea [@EoinDrea](#) and Panos Tasiopoulos

September 2015

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

The election of Syriza to power did not result in a fundamental restructuring of the Greek or European economies, rather their lack of a coherent strategy (beyond reneging on previously agreed support programmes) has set the reform process in Greece back by several years.

Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (Friedrich Ebert Foundation)

Opportunities for a Restoration? The future of Greek collective bargaining after the third memorandum

by Thorsten Schulten

September 2015

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

Under the first two Memorandums, Greece had to commit itself to a radical restructuring of its collective bargaining system. Within the framework of the third Memorandum, it was agreed to evaluate recent changes in Greek collective bargaining with the participation of independent experts and international organisations, including the International Labour Organisation (ILO). On this basis, decisions should be made concerning further reforms of the Greek collective bargaining system, taking into account "best practices" in Europe.

POLAND

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

Corporate debt securities market in Poland: state of art, problems, and prospects for development

by Agnieszka Gontarek, Tomasz Gałka and Piotr Kowalski

September 2015

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

This publication is an extended and authorized version of presentations delivered during the mBank - CASE Seminar no. 136. The authors discuss various aspects of the corporate debt securities market in Poland. Piotr Kowalski gives a synthetic presentation of the subject of the analysis, Agnieszka Gontarek presents selected domestic regulations and factors, and Tomasz Gałka writes about selected consequences of excessive burdens.

ROMANIA

Centrul Român de Politici Europene (Romanian Center for European Policies)

La spartul târgului? Opțiunile României vizavi de Spațiul Schengen

by Ciprian Ciucu and Roxana Albisteanu

September 2015

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

The pretexts for which Romania was denied joining the Schengen Area have been diverse but at the moment the real reason – the migratory pressure on Greece – has surfaced. This report explores the options that Romania has concerning the Schengen goal as well as the ways in which it can follow or postpone this objective.

SPAIN

Fundación para el análisis y los estudios sociales (Foundation for Social Studies and Analysis)

Treinta años de España en la Unión europea. Balance de la aplicación de los fondos europeos en España

by Santiago Álvarez García and Juan José Rubio Guerrero

September 2015

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

The article analyzes EU funding was allocated in Spain between its inclusion in the EU and 2007. From 1986 to 2007 mean EU funding increased; the paper argues that the inclusion of the poorer Eastern Europe countries made EU funding decrease.

Fundación Alternativas

Cataluña ante la Unión europea: las consecuencias jurídicas de la independencia

by Diego López Garrido, Francisco Aldecoa and Gregorio Cámara

September 2015

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

The regional election held in Catalonia last September was planned as a sort of independence poll. Even though the Catalan independence leader Arturo Mas has stated the a future Catalan State will remain in the Euro area, a lot of questions are arisen by the topic. The paper analyses the issue on a juridical point of view and it aims at assessing the international consequences of independences for a prospective Catalan state.

Consejo Argentino para las Relaciones Internacionales

Catalunya: ¿elecciones autonómicas, referéndum o plebiscito?

by Joaquín Roy

September 2015

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

This paper claims the peculiarity of Catalonia's election held last 27th September. Organized by the incumbent Catalan president Mas, it became also a projection of the next referendum. Even though the president gains a great consensus among Catalan electorate, the blurred perspectives an independent Catalonia would cope with could influence on vote.

UNITED KINGDOM

Centre for European Policy Studies

Cameron's 'renegotiations' (or Russian roulette) with the EU

by Michael Emerson [@Michael12540](#)

September 2015

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

Since May 2015, Prime Minister Cameron has put his campaign into high gear to get a 'new settlement' with the EU and invested much personal diplomacy to try to advance his objective. His agenda is taking shape under four headings: "competitiveness, sovereignty, social security and economic governance". Whilst the Brussels side seems manageable, the wild cards in the UK are becoming wilder. The standard hazards of the referendum instrument are exacerbated by the unknown quantity of the new Labour leadership alongside the aggressively Eurosceptic majority of Tory MPs and the great migration crisis, now a negative factor for the EU in UK opinion polls.

Barcelona Centre for International Affairs

The Brexit negotiations: stretching Europe to fit UK public opinion?

by Pol Morillas [@polmorillas](#) and Berta Barbet [@bpberta](#)

September 2015

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

The Brexit referendum will be about Cameron's capacity to secure a convincing deal with the EU. Up to 32% of British citizens would consider changing their vote depending on the outcome of the renegotiation of the UK's relationship with the EU. His main demands for renegotiating are: increasing the sovereignty of the UK vis-à-vis EU powers, curbing mobility freedoms within the EU and new economic and financial policies in the interests of London. Sceptical messages on the economic impact of EU membership find wide support but it is unclear whether economic and financial reasons will be the ultimate game changer of the renegotiation and the referendum campaign.

Centre for Policy Studies

Ending the ratchet: from ever closer union to a two way street

by Andrew Tyrie

September 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (110 p.)

The author maintains that a more central role for national governments in EU law-making is essential. With this will come greater and much-needed democratic accountability to Member States' national parliaments. According to him, the subsidiarity principle should be put at the heart of EU decision-making, and the 'ratchet effect' embodied in ever closer union must be ended.

Policy Network

Mixed feelings: Briton's conflicted attitudes to the EU before the referendum

by Sofia Vasilopoulou [@Vasilopoulou_S](#)

September 2015

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

Euroscepticism will weigh heavily in the UK's referendum debate on EU membership, but do we know exactly what we are talking about? Beyond general assertions, it is necessary to understand the sources, patterns and effects of Euroscepticism among the British people. This paper aims to provide a detailed picture of how Britons think about the EU based on an online survey conducted

two weeks before the 2015 general election. It shows that there is significant variation in UK support for different EU policies. Beyond economic calculations, emotions also form a key component of people's attitudes towards the EU.

Fabian Society

The generation game: spending priorities for an ageing society

by Ed Wallis (ed.)

September 2015

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

The book calls for radical new measures to tackle the challenges of an ageing population. It claims UK politics - alongside with the other EU countries - is entering in a new era, the outcome of which will shape the health and welfare landscape for older people for the next five years at least – and possibly for a lot longer. Chancellor George Osborne must strike the right balance in his spending review, the authors argue, and show how the new government plans to fairly balance the needs of older people against other sectors of society.

VISEGRAD GROUP

Slovenská spoločnosť pre zahraničnú politiku (Slovak Foreign Policy Association)

Exploring possibilities of deepening the internal cohesion of the V4: Polish and Slovak perspectives

by Tomáš Strážay

30 September 2015

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

The Visegrad Group will celebrate its 25th anniversary in 2016. This paper examines three basic dimensions of this successful and viable model of regional cooperation – political, sectoral and external – while pointing out its deficiencies and future opportunities. It stresses three leading principles that should enable the V4 to sustain itself successfully in the years to come. While the first of these is continuity, the second is innovation and the third "returning to origins", stresses the need to return to those basic principles on which the Visegrad cooperation was built.

SECTION 4 - EU POLICIES

JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS

Chatham House - The Royal Institute of International Affairs

Foreign affairs in national courts: the role of the executive certificate

by Joanne Foakes

September 2015

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

Through the analysis of national courts in the UK, Germany and Italy, the paper shows that when national courts in common law countries are dealing with foreign relations they accept statements by the executive branch. In the author's view, the function of the executive must be kept within clear limits as an overly controlling approach risks destroying the trust between judiciary and government. Even though litigants have a right to have their claims decided, states have a legitimate interest in securing court decisions that do not prejudice the effective and peaceful conduct of international relations. It is for courts, not governments, to determine the law.

Centre for European Policy Studies

A quest for accountability? EU and Member State inquiries into the CIA Rendition and Secret Detention Programme

by Didier Bigo, Sergio Carrera, Elspeth Guild and Raluca Radescu

September 2015

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

This report was commissioned by the Civil Liberties and Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE) Committee of the European Parliament. It assesses the extent to which EU Member States have delivered accountability for their complicity in the US CIA-led extraordinary rendition and secret detention programme and its serious human rights violations. It offers a scoreboard of political inquiries and judicial investigations in supranational and national arenas in relation to Italy, Lithuania, Poland, Romania and the UK.

Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (Friedrich Ebert Foundation)

Von Repression zu Regulierung - Eckpunkte einer sozialdemokratischen Drogenpolitik; Positionspapier des Arbeitskreises Drogenpolitik

by Burkhard Blienert (coordinator)

September 2015

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

This position paper is the result of the working group drug policy, organized and coordinated by Burkhard Blienert, MP and the Friedrich Ebert Foundation. The working group has been working since March 2015 divisions and across levels. The aim of the initiative is widely supported position, the input takes place in party, electoral and government programs and thus forms the basis for policy reforms.

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

Child trafficking among vulnerable Roma communities

by Kamelia Dimitrova, Slavyanka Ivanova and Yva Alexandrova

10 September 2015

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

The current publication presents a study on child trafficking conducted in seven EU Member States: Austria, Bulgaria, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Romania and Slovakia. It looks at three specific forms of trafficking: child trafficking for begging, for pickpocketing and for sexual exploitation of boys and the way they manifest themselves among Roma communities. The report examines the profiles of victims and discusses the vulnerability factors that make the Roma minority a particular group at risk. The study provides empirical knowledge on the mechanisms of recruitment and exploitation of victims in order to inform identification efforts and counter-trafficking responses.

COMPETITIVENESS (INTERNAL MARKET, INDUSTRY, RESEARCH AND SPACE)

Centre for European Policy Studies

Searching for harm or harming search? A look at the European Commission's antitrust investigation against Google

by Andrea Renda [@arendal11](#)

September 2015

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

Taking as basis the antitrust investigation against Google, this paper discusses search neutrality as an antitrust principle, then comments on the current investigation based on publicly available information. It provides a critical assessment of the likely tests that will be used for the definition of the relevant product market, the criteria for the finding of dominance, the anticompetitive foreclosure test and the possible remedies that the European Commission might choose. Overall, and regardless of the outcome of the Google case, the paper argues that the current treatment of exclusionary abuses in internet markets is in urgent need of a number of important clarifications.

Europainstitut - Wirtschaftsuniversität Wien

R&D networks and regional knowledge production in Europe. Evidence from a space-time model

by Iris Wanzenböck and Philipp Piribauer

September 2015

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

In this paper, space-time impacts of embeddedness R&D networks on regional knowledge production are estimated for a set of 229 European NUTS-2 regions in the period 1999-2009. Embeddedness refers to the positioning in networks where nodes represent regions that are linked by joint R&D endeavours in European Framework Programmes. The study observes positive immediate impacts on regional knowledge production arising from increased embeddedness in EU funded R&D networks, in particular for regions with lower own knowledge endowments. However, long-term impacts of R&D network embeddedness are comparatively small.

European Political Strategy Centre

Integration of products and services. Taking the Single Market into the 21st century

30 September 2015

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

Ongoing digital revolution and international competition prompt Europe in developing a new, hyperconnected, interoperable economy: the report argues traditional strength in manufacturing

must now urgently be complemented by world-class services. Even though service has perceived as inferior in comparison with manufacturing, its potential is enormous. Precisely because productivity in services is comparatively low, quick wins could be reaped in terms of growth and innovation. And far from being the domain of the low-skilled, the service sector actually employs more highly skilled workers than manufacturing.

Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (Friedrich Ebert Foundation)

Industriepolitik für Europa - die EU als Standort industrieller Wertschöpfung zukunftsfähig machen

by Daniel Sahl

September 2015

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

Six years ago, the global financial crisis in Europe led to a banking, economic and sovereign debt crisis. This was followed by an economic slump, which hit European industry to the core. Since then, conditions in Europe have changed significantly to the detriment of industry. But if Europe is to fulfill the potential of digitization and also remain an important site of industrial value in the future, we must act resolutely at national and particularly at European level.

Friends of Europe

Dual use technologies in the EU: prospects for the future

1 September 2015

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

The paper maintains dual-use technologies are fundamental for EU economic growth. Found in an increasing number of sectors ranging from special chemicals and materials, electronics and computer software, dual-use technologies must receive increased attention from EU policymakers. The article aims to pinpoint concrete ways of making dual-use technologies a major asset to Europe's economy, fostering growth, employment, innovation and competitiveness. Smarter thinking about dual-use technologies can also provide an answer for the challenges the European research sector is now facing.

TRANSPORT/TELECOMMUNICATIONS/ENERGY

College of Europe

Vodafone facing the EU roaming regulations

by Elise Cachin, Aimé Heene [@profahaene](#) and Jacques Pelkmans

September 2015

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

EU institutions have made telecoms integration in the EU a priority through program such as the "Digital Agenda". Three Roaming Regulations were adopted in 2007, 2009 and 2012 introducing caps on roaming fees until 2022 to foster competition and market integration while ensuring affordable roaming prices for consumers. The Roaming Regulation packages faced strong industry resistance. This case will analyze how Vodafone reacted to the capping of roaming fees, with particular reference to its lobbying strategy.

Ecologic Institute

Streamlining planning and reporting requirements in the EU Energy Union framework

by Katharina Umpfenbach

8 September 2015

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

The study analyses gaps, overlaps and inconsistencies in the EU planning and reporting regime for energy issue. This analysis revealed that mid-term planning requirements are restricted to the renewable energy and energy efficiency policy field. Strategic forward-looking planning for the greenhouse gas reduction and interconnection targets while a regional approach is dominant in the efforts for completing the internal energy market. The authors claimed necessary to increase Energy Union strategies and to define low-carbon and sustainable energy strategies.

EMPLOYMENT/SOCIAL POLICY/HEALTH/CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Centre for European Policy Studies

A European Unemployment Benefits Scheme: the rationale and the challenges ahead

by Miroslav Beblavý [@beblavy](#), Gabriele Marconi and Ilaria Maselli [@IlariaInBxl](#)

September 2015

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

This working paper constitutes the first deliverable of the study "Feasibility and Added Value of a European Unemployment Benefit Scheme", commissioned by DG EMPL and carried out by a consortium led by CEPS. The objective of the paper is to frame the debate on a European shock absorber around its origins on the one hand, and its most controversial aspects, on the other.

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

Die europäische Arbeitslosenversicherung. Ein erster Schritt zur sozialen Integration der Eurozone

by Thierry Chopin

30 September 2015

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

The paper claims that developing a European Welfare State is compulsory after the consequences the economic crisis brought to the most vulnerable part of the society. In the author's view, setting up financial solidarity of EU Member States is essential for guaranteeing the monetary union. At the same time, the EMU is not only a prerequisite for a "social Europe", but also the lever for its implementation. However the theme of "Social Europe" proves to be difficult because of the failure reached by the national welfare state. Hence a pragmatic and gradual approach is proposed for achieving the goal.

Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (Friedrich Ebert Foundation)

"Atypical employment" is becoming a norm, but have pension systems responded yet? - A comparison of six European countries

by Karin Schulze Buschoff

September 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (9 p.) and in [German](#) (10 p.)

More than one-third of European workers are now employed in "atypical" forms of work. Atypical employment tends to be very "dynamic" in the sense of a multitude of transitions from one form of employment to another and goes hand in hand with increased risk of unemployment and thus discontinuous earnings. This has particular implications for social security, especially pensions. Against this background, the best pensions are those that guarantee basic social security

regardless of a person's employment history. Increasingly problematic are state pension systems that are strongly oriented to the equivalence principle and are contribution- and insurance- based.

Chatham House - The Royal Institute of International Affairs

The welfare state in Europe: visions for reform

by Iain Begg, Fabian Mushövel and Robin Niblett [@RobinNiblett](#)

September 2015

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

For many in Europe, the welfare state model is at the heart of what it means to be European. However pressures on public finances raises questions about whether European countries can still afford their welfare states. This paper argue welfare systems first designed 50 or more years ago need to be recast to confront today's challenges. They must accommodate the extensive societal transformations associated with population ageing and it will also have to adapt to new social risks resulting from the changing nature of European economies.

ENVIRONMENT

Bruegel

European climate finance: securing the best return

by Guntram B. Wolff [@GuntramWolff](#) and Georg Zachmann [@GeorgZachmann](#)

11 September 2015

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

Combating climate change is perhaps the most formidable public policy challenge of our times. Unmitigated climate change will be irreversible. It will place significant costs on future generations, and expose them to unexplored risks. To mitigate climate change, global coordination is indispensable. European Union citizens consider climate change a central problem. The EU and its member states have therefore put in place significant and costly climate mitigation policies.

Centrum für Europäische Politik (Centre for European Policy)

Extend the EU ETS! Effective and efficient GHG emissions reduction in the road transport sector

by Nima Nader and Götz Reichert

September 2015

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

The European Council calls for the EU Emissions Trading System (EU ETS) to be developed to the main European instrument to prevent climate change. This paper examines how an extension of the EU ETS, for example on the road transport sector, can induce effective and efficient climate protection. It is straightforward that an extension of the EU ETS using the upstream approach can be implemented and is preferable to regulatory climate change measures.

Notre Europe - Jacques Delors Institute

2015 Climate negotiations: speeding up or slowing down the energy transition?

by Thomas Pellerin-Carlin [@Thomas_Pellerin](#) and Jean-Arnold Vinois

September 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (10 p.) and in [French](#) (12 p.)

This policy paper aims at giving some concrete proposals to EU decision-makers in order to make COP21 a useful step forward for climate change mitigation and adaptation. Climate change is here. 2014 was the warmest year ever recorded in human history, and so far 2015 has been even warmer. It already impacts key sectors of the world economy, as well as international security. The

energy transition has already started with both states and non-state actors committing to reduce their carbon footprint. The question for world leaders at COP21 is thus simple: to speed up or to slow down the energy transition?

Polski Instytut Spraw Międzynarodowych (Polish Institute of International Affairs)

The EU's new climate target: contribution to a successful deal in Paris

by Susanne Dröge, Thomas Spencer [@ThomasASpencer](#), Alexandra Deprez, Liz Gallagher [@LizGallagher](#), Artur Gradziuk, Andrei Marcu and Sebastian Oberthür

September 2015

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

In the run up to the Paris climate negotiations, the multilateral community has decided that all countries should submit Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs). The INDCs represent each country's contribution to the collective effort against climate change and are part of a new vision for a global climate agreement. This paper is an analysis of the EU's INDC in light of its important role in helping to ensure that an ambitious and successful agreement is reached in December in Paris.

Ecologic Institute

European freshwater ecosystem assessment

by Anne Lyche Solheim, Jonas Persson, Kari Austnes, Jannicke Moe, Eleftheria Kampa, Ulf Stein, Janos Feher, Sandra Poikane and Peter Kristensen

4 September 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (177 p.)

The EU policies on the freshwater environment and nature and biodiversity are closely linked. The aims of the Water Framework Directive (WFD) and the Habitat Directive (HD) are to achieve good status for water bodies and for habitats and species respectively. The objective of this study has been to explore the possibilities of linking this information, using EU information on types, ecological status, pressures and measures and HD information on habitat types, conservation status and threats. The results may be used as input to the EEA Freshwater Ecosystem Assessment in 2015, and also for future European assessments of specific objectives.

Istituto Affari Internazionali

On the road to Paris: how can the EU avoid failure at the UN climate change conference (COP21)?

by Lisanne Green

September 2015

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

At the Conference of the Parties (COP) meeting in Copenhagen in 2009, the EU failed to achieve most of its objectives. This paper examines the lessons the EU has learned and can learn from this experience. It considers, first, the EU's relative bargaining power; second, the relative position of its objectives/interests mapped against those of other negotiating parties; and third, how the EU can leverage its relative power through strategic action. The paper recommends that the EU focus on building a broad alliance with other progressive negotiating parties on mitigation in order to avoid a lowest common denominator outcome.

EDUCATION/YOUTH/CULTURE/SPORT

European Association on Development Research and Training Institutes

Analysis of the impact of public education expenditure on economic growth of European Union and BRICS

by Tomić Zoran

September 2015

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

This paper presents a comparative analysis of investment funds in the education systems of the EU and BRICS, and it is shown that there is a positive correlation between public expenditure on education and the value of GDP of the country.

SECTION 5 - FOREIGN AFFAIRS

FOREIGN AND SECURITY POLICY

Barcelona Centre for International Affairs

From the CSCE to the OSCE: is the world safer now?

by Pere Vilanova

September 2015

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

The OSCE has played a key role in the post-Soviet space since 1994 through mediation, election observation, the promotion of democracy and other issues. The persistence of armed conflicts and the difficulty of ending them will continue to be structural components of the global system. European security is an essential condition of greater global security.

Carnegie Europe

Reviving the OSCE: European security and the Ukraine crisis

by Stefan Lehne [@StefanLehne](#)

September 2015

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

After years at the margins of international diplomacy, the OSCE has suddenly regained political relevance because of the Ukraine crisis that began in 2014. The organization turned out to be the most appropriate framework to manage the crisis and prevent further escalation. To continue to play a useful role in resolving this issue and in easing tensions between Russia and the West, the OSCE needs to adjust its way of working and strengthen its toolbox.

The politics of 2 percent: NATO and the security vacuum in Europe

by Jan Techau [@jan_techau](#)

September 2015

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

The members of the NATO pledged in 2014 to increase their defence spending to 2% of their gross domestic products by 2024. It is unrealistic to assume that this goal will ever be reached by all 28 allies, and yet the 2% metric persists—and it has assumed a significance beyond its face value. It is about addressing Europe's growing security vacuum and defining who will be in charge of European security.

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

A force for good: mapping the private security landscape in Southeast Europe

by Arjan Dyrmishi, Rositsa Dzhékova, Donika Emini, Gentiola Madhi, Marko Milošević, Predrag Petrović, Atanas Rusev and Mentor Vrajolli

September 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (129 p.)

The first publication of the project explores and assesses the origins and current state of the private security sector in each of the target countries, with specific reference to principles of good governance and the protection of human rights. In particular, the authors examine when and how the first private security companies developed and whether and how PSCs, their clients, and other factors such as relevant legislation determined the services private security offer today, and which companies were established/have survived in the market. The studies look into the economic importance of private security especially as a source of employment.

Polski Instytut Spraw Międzynarodowych (Polish Institute of International Affairs) / Instytut Studiów Politycznych (Institute of Political Studies) / Norsk Utenrikspolitisk Institutt (Norwegian Institute of International Affairs)

The security policy of Poland and Norway in the national, regional and European dimensions

by Marcin Terlikowski [@MTERlikowski](#), Jakub Godzimirski [@jmggnupi](#), Krzysztof Kasianiuk, Wojciech Lorenz [@LorenzWojciech](#), Tomasz Paszewski, Marcin Piotrowski [@Ajatollah_MAP](#), Pernille Rieker and Ulf Sverdrup [@USsverdrup](#)

September 2015

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

Cooperation between Poland and Norway in security matters is developing dynamically. At the political level both countries have been pursuing a common goal to strengthen the capacity of the North Atlantic Alliance to defend Member States' territories. At the same time, the potential for closer Polish-Norwegian cooperation remains largely unexploited, as both countries could benefit from exchanging experiences from their engagement in regional defence cooperation vehicles, the NORDEFECO and Visegrad Group, as well as from their participation in security sector reform within the ISAF operation in Afghanistan. Also recommended is a closer look at their security policies in search of the most effective political and military responses to threats posed by Russia.

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

Multi-year defence agreements: a model for modern defence?

by Margriet Drent and Minke Meijnders [@Minke_M](#)

September 2015

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

This study looks into two examples of countries that have applied the method of a so-called 'Defence Agreement'. Denmark and Sweden have set the example (although both in a somewhat different manner) to establish a multi-year consensus on defence, encompassing coalition and opposition parties and governments, based on all stakeholders, including experts. The goal of the resulting 'Defence Agreements' is to create stability and clarity for a number of years on the purpose of the armed forces and on defence planning.

The BRICS as an EU security challenge: the case for conservatism

by Peter van Ham

September 2015

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

This report argues that the EU should adopt a cautious approach to the BRICS challenge, accommodating to its rise. China's conservative streak is something the EU should cherish. Within the BRICS framework, China can manage and even put a lid on Russia's rising pugnaciousness. This is clearly in the Western strategic interest and should be the basis for a more mature EU strategy towards the BRICS and its individual members.

European Union Institute for Security Studies

On target? EU sanctions as security policy tools

by Iana Dreyer [@IanaDreyer](#) and José Luengo-Cabrera [@J_LuengoCabrera](#) (eds.)

September 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (99 p.)

Amid questions over their utility in restraining the proscribed actions of the Assad's regime, curbing Iran's nuclear program or softening Russia's aggressive stance on Ukraine, the EU stands to benefit from a balanced, empirically-informed assessment on how sanctions have been

implemented, monitored and enforced. This report offers an insight into a practice that is now part and parcel of the Union's 'security' policy toolbox. It aims to shed more light on an EU policy area that is still under-researched at a time when sanctions are becoming more important in terms of their number, scale and political salience.

Istituto Affari Internazionali

From 9/11 to Da'esh: what role for the High Representative and the external dimension of EU counter-terrorism policies?

by Maria Giulia Amadio Viceré

29 September 2015

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

This paper analyses the role of the High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy with the objective of assessing the influence that such figure can have on the governance of EU counter-terrorism policies. It does so by assessing the EU's response to three security crises, namely: the 9/11 attacks and the subsequent bombings in Madrid (2004) and London (2005); the Arab Spring and the following destabilization of the MENA; and the emergence and spread of Da'esh.

GEOPOLITICS AND STRATEGY

Istituto Affari Internazionali

Proposte di riforma della Politica europea di vicinato [ENP: a reform proposal]

by Nicoletta Pirozzi [@NicolePirozzi](#) and Lorenzo Viai

September 2015

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

This paper suggests to reform the ENP increasing collaboration with external partners and funding civil society and private sectors in EU neighbouring countries. Boosting flexibility in ENP decisions and focusing on security issues are also recommended.

European Union Institute for Security Studies

Towards an EU global strategy – Background, process, references

by Antonio Missiroli (ed.)

25 September 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (160 p.)

This book presents and contextualises the landmark documents that have codified the Union's external action objectives. It explores the evolution of the European Security Strategy. It then dwells upon the 2008 report on the implementation of the strategy and, finally, briefly illustrates the basis on which the current HR/VP released her report on the 'The EU in a changing global environment' in June 2015 and is now preparing for the new strategy, due out next year.

TRADE

Centre for European Policy Studies / Center for Transatlantic Relations

Rule-makers or rule-takers? Exploring the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership

by Daniel S. Hamilton [@DanSHamilton](#) and Jacques Pelkmans (eds.)

September 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (560 p.)

In this book, European and American experts explain the economic context of TTIP and its geopolitical implications, and then explore the challenges and consequences of US-EU negotiations across numerous sensitive areas, ranging from food safety and public procurement to economic and regulatory assessments of technical barriers to trade, automotive, chemicals, energy, services, investor-state dispute settlement mechanisms and regulatory cooperation. Their insights cut through the confusion and tremendous public controversies now swirling around TTIP, and help decision-makers understand how the US and the EU can remain rule-makers rather than rule-takers in a globalising world in which their relative influence is waning.

Istituto Affari Internazionali

The US-EU energy trade dilemma

by Claudia Squeglia and Raffaello Matarazzo [@RaffaelloMatara](#)

28 September 2015

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

The diverging paths in terms of energy self-sufficiency between the US and Europe appear to create opportunities for exchanges of oil and gas between them. Nevertheless, political hurdles undermine the likelihood of the US lifting the outdated oil ban within this presidential term, while the uncertain competitiveness of US gas delivered to European markets could limit US-EU gas exchange. These political and market conditions risk quashing EU efforts for the inclusion of an energy chapter, aimed at boosting EU-US energy trade, in the negotiations on the TTIP.

European Trade Union Institute

What social face of the new EU trade agreements? Beyond the 'soft' approach

by Lore Van den Putte [@LoreVdPutte](#), Jan Orbie [@janorbie](#), Fabienne Bossuyt, Deborah Martens and Ferdi De Ville [@FerdideVille](#)

September 2015

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

The EU has often been accused of soft approach to trade-labour linkages in trade agreement by the inclusion of labour provisions in the trade and sustainable development chapter and by a focus on cooperation and dialogue. Rather than focusing on hard enforcement proceeding, the EU is not yet exploring all the opportunities created under these chapters. This paper outlines a different approach that the EU can use in demanding respect for labour rights in its trade agreement with third countries. It shows the need to develop a thorough, systematic and inclusive monitoring process involving civil society while developing an holistic approach for the promotion of labour rights going beyond EU's trade relations.

DEVELOPMENT

European Centre for Development Policy Management

Implementing the agenda for change: an independent analysis of the 11th EDF national programming

by Alisa Herrero [@alisaherrero1](#), Anna Knoll [@anna_katharinak](#), Cecilia Gregersen [@CgGregersen](#) and Willy Kokolo

September 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (135 p.) and to the briefing note in [English](#) (13 p.) and in [French](#) (15 p.)

This study claims the 11th EDF programming exercise is a test of the structure and current development policy to achieve high impact aid. Moreover, the 11th EDF will unfold in a changed post-2015 context and its assessment will provide important lessons for future ACP-EU relationship beyond 2020. Although the 11th EDF is aligned with national development plans, a top-down approach to programming has led to a significant erosion of key aid and development effectiveness principles, in particular country ownership.

Overseas Development Institute

Doing cash differently: how cash transfers can transform humanitarian aid

September 2015

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

The nature of humanitarian crises is changing. More people are in need and for longer. Humanitarian assistance could be more effective, more efficient and more transparent if aid was given in the form of cash directly to people struggling to survive in crises. But while aid organisations are starting to give more cash and vouchers, they account for only about 6% of humanitarian aid, given out by a variety of competing agencies.

ENLARGEMENT PROCESS

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

Die zwei Gesichter der deutschen Erweiterungspolitik gegenüber dem Westlichen Balkan

by Cornelius Adebahr and Theresia Töglhofer

September 2015

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

This paper explores the backgrounds of the so-called German politics of "yes, but" towards EU enlargement in Western Balkans. Even though Germany shows a key impetus for the integration of Western Balkans countries of, at the same time it acts as a strong critic of the candidate countries and insists on a strict interpretation of entry requirements.

Ohne Kompass Richtung Brüssel? Serbien zwischen EU-Annäherung und russischer Vereinnahmung

by Sarah Wohlfeld

September 2015

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

Failure in obtaining a early accession to EU has frustrated Serbian governments and civil society soundly. Meanwhile, Russian achievements in Ukraine increased its influence in Serbia even though Putin has to offer it no real interesting prospects. This paper claims that if Brussels continues to not to display credible accession perspective, Serbia risks to become another Putin pawn in its "hybrid warfare" against Western countries.

EASTERN PARTNERSHIP

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

Transfer of know-how to small and mid-size businesses in Georgia – White paper

by Lasha Labadze, Maya Grigolia, Alena Zemplerova, Marek Vokoun and Pavol Minarik
September 2015

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

This report has been prepared in the framework of the project "Transfer of know-how to small and mid-size businesses" of the International Visegrad Fund and USAID. It summarizes the conditions of the SME sector in Georgia, identifies the main problems in their development and provides recommendations for further interventions based on the Czech experience, existing literature and a survey implemented among SME stakeholders.

Expert-Grup

Association agreement in the Transnistrian region: mission possible?

by Adrian Lupușor
September 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (17 p.), in [Romanian](#) (23 p.) and in [Moldovan](#) (24 p.)

Even though the implementation of the AA/DCFTA in the Transnistria is crucial for economic and politic reasons, the region could lose this opportunity at the beginning of 2016. The paper suggests the implementation is conditional on the mutual compromise between Chisinau/Brussels and the region's authorities: EU and Moldova must accept the Russian influence in the region is too strong for the "all-or-nothing" rhetoric. Failure to accommodate to this reality could turn into further economic and political isolation of the region, with relevant economic and social repercussions for the Transnistrian population and its reintegration within Moldavian institutional framework.

Euromonitor - first results and difficulties in implementing Moldova-EU Association Agreement

by Igor Boțan Denis Cenușă Mariana Kalughin Adrian Lupușor Iurie Morcotilo Polina Panainte and Elena Prohnițchi

September 2015

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

The report covers the outcomes achieved by the Moldovan authorities under the National Action Plan for the implementation of the Moldova - EU Association Agreement for the period 2014-2016. Main achievements include: the implementation of a law against corruption, decrease in complaints of torture and a greater willingness by the Moldavian government to work together with civil society and EU. However, National Council for Child Protection's idleness and lacking action for tackling the ongoing banking crisis are highlighted.

ARCTIC

Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (Friedrich Ebert Foundation)

The Arctic – A diverse and evolving region

by Petra Dolata
September 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (8 p.) and in [German](#) (9 p.)

Reports about the increasing accessibility of the Arctic Ocean due to the melting of ice became even more important when the U.S. Geological Survey published its Circum-Arctic Resource Appraisal in 2008 estimating that 13 per cent of the world's undiscovered oil and up to 30 per cent

of the world's undiscovered natural gas may be found in the Arctic. While the shale revolution in the United States and low oil prices may have dampened the thirst for Arctic oil for now, oil companies view the Arctic as a promising future oil and gas play. And as the effects of climate change manifest themselves even more visibly in the Arctic the region is destined to remain in the news. Its geopolitical saliency will not go away any time soon. But just like changes have led the world to look towards the Arctic the politics and economics in the region have equally undergone change since the early 2000s and thus have redefined potential challenges in the Arctic.

ASIA

College of Europe

Paper tiger or game-changer? Challenges of and opportunities for EU engagement with the Eurasian Economic Union

by Andrea Chiarello [@chiarello90](#)

September 2015

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

The Eurasian Economic Union (EEU) started its work on 1 January 2015. Considered as Russia's response to the EaP, it has been almost ignored in Brussels. However, with the Ukraine crisis and the deteriorating relations with Moscow, some European leaders have begun to reconsider it. This paper argues that EU engagement with the EEU in Ukraine would mean, in the short term, legitimizing Russia's vision of a Europe divided in spheres of influence. In the long run, prospects for inter-regional cooperation remain open, but the way to go is full of obstacles.

European Union Centre in Singapore

Can ASEM remain relevant in the 21st century world?

by Yeo Lay Hwee

September 2015

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

The 12th ASEM Foreign Ministers meeting will take place in Luxembourg on 5- 6 November 2015. This policy brief tries to address the question on how ASEM can move forward and remain relevant in an volatile world. It begins by sketching some of the broad trends shaping the emerging world order, and the implications for international cooperation. It argues that there is a need for ASEM to transform itself into a dynamic marketplace.

Friends of Europe

ASEM at twenty: the challenge of connectivity

by Shada Islam

September 2015

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

Asian and European leaders will celebrate the twentieth anniversary of ASEM at their summit in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, next July. The paper claims ASEM has come a long way since its launch in Bangkok in March 1996; however, the ASEM summit in 2016 must upgrade the Asia-Europe partnership by setting it on a renewed and reinvigorated track for its third decade. The economies, societies and people of Asia and Europe are ever-more closely linked indeed and they need a stronger ASEM.

CHINA

Centrum für angewandte Politikforschung (Center for Applied Policy Research)

Germany and China: embracing a different kind of partnership?

by Christoph Schnellbach and Joyce Man [@joyciemannie](#)

September 2015

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

This article explores the multifaceted relationship between Germany and China since the beginning of Gerhard Schröder's "Change through trade" policy in 1998. The authors argue that German policy towards China has been dominated by economic interests throughout all governments despite a short backlash in bilateral relations at the beginning of Angela Merkel's term in office. In recent years, there have been efforts to extend cooperation to other fields like security and environmental issues. Both Germany and China increasingly consider a strategic partnership within mutual interest. However, the conflict in Ukraine serves as a litmus test which could reveal major differences to key aspects of international relations, such as sovereignty, democratic self-determination and multilateralism.

EASTERN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

Ulkopoliittinen instituutti (Finnish Institute of International Affairs)

No change on the horizon: Belarus after the 2015 presidential election

by Arkady Moshes and András Rácz

22 September 2015

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

This paper examines the likely domestic and foreign policy evolution of Belarus beyond the presidential election. It will argue that little new can be expected in the behaviour of the regime and that Western actors, the EU in particular, should be very cautious when contemplating a change in the earlier, norm-based approach towards the country.

International Crisis Group

Kyrgyzstan: an uncertain trajectory

30 September 2015

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

Kyrgyzstan, Central Asia's only even nominal parliamentary democracy, faces growing internal and external security challenges. Deep ethnic tensions, increased radicalisation in the region, uncertainty in Afghanistan and the possibility of a chaotic political succession in Uzbekistan are all likely to have serious repercussions for its stability.

Fundación para las relaciones internacionales y el diálogo exterior (Foundation for International Relations and Foreign Dialogue)

The South Caucasus concert: each playing its own tune

by Jos Boonstra

September 2015

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

The countries of the South Caucasus have very different interdependent relations with the EU, Russia, Turkey, the US and Iran. Tensions between the EU-US and Russia over Ukraine are further entrenching these interdependent relations and hampering development in the South

Caucasus. This paper aims at answering on how can Brussels increase its engagement in this important region in order to reduce Russian dominance and bolster security and democracy?

IRAN

Ústav mezinárodních vztahů (Institute of International Relations Prague)

Why should the Visegrad Group support the Iranian nuclear deal?

by Erzsébet N. Rózsa

25 September 2015

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

The Islamic Republic of Iran as a state format is a modernization experiment which bears all the formative identity elements of Iranianness, Shiite Islam and modernity in the European sense. Meanwhile, in its foreign policy and its relations to the world at large and to its region, Iran tends to behave as an empire. The Iranian nuclear program is a derivative of both of these tendencies. The nuclear deal acknowledges Iran's status and gradually terminates the sanctions against it, but cuts off the ways to an eventual nuclear weapon capability for Iran. The Visegrad countries should support the Iranian nuclear deal, as they have economic and security interests related to the reintegration of Iran into the international system.

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Barcelona Centre for International Affairs

Las reformas estructurales en México. Una perspectiva para las relaciones España-México

by Jordi Bacaria [@bacaria_jordi](#) (coord.)

September 2015

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

This paper seeks to highlight present and future moment within the perspective of the changes that the current structural reforms, particularly in strategic sectors, are being launched in Mexico and are of interest to the Spain-Mexico bilateral relationship.

MIDDLE EAST/NORTH AFRICA (MENA)

Fondation pour l'innovation politique

Crise de la conscience arabo-musulmane

by Malik Bezouh [@BezouhMalik](#)

September 2015

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

The author traces back the cultural history of Islam throughout the 20th century and he argues Islamism and its political consequences -namely IS - are the most remarkable symptoms of a huge Muslim consciousness crisis which Western institutions have to tackle.

RUSSIA

Oxford Institute for Energy Studies

The political and commercial dynamics of Russia's gas export strategy

by James Henderson and Tatiana Mitrova

September 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (89 p.)

Gas exports have historically provided a foundation of economic and political strength for Russia and a source of significant revenues for its leading gas company, Gazprom. However, lower commodity prices, the imposition of sanctions on Russia in light of the Ukraine crisis, lower gas demand in Europe, the EU's desire to diversify away from Russian gas and increasing competition from new global LNG supply are presenting multiple challenges. A search for new markets in Asia, and especially China, has begun, but is currently not progressing as fast as Russia would have hoped, while domestically Gazprom's position is being challenged by third parties who are keen to break the company's export monopoly.

Barcelona Centre for International Affairs

"Russia for Russians!" Ultrationalism and xenophobia in Russia: from marginality to state promoted philosophy

by Sergey Sukhankin

September 2015

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

Radical forces in Europe admire Vladimir Putin for being able to openly challenge the unipolar post-Cold War world dominated by the US. In order "to prevent 'colour revolutions' in Russia", the Kremlin has inspired a new project called "Antimaidan", which assembles a broad array of forces under the banners of "conservatism", "patriotism" and "inadmissibility of Maidan in Russia".

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

Perzeption und Instrumentalisierung. Russlands nicht-militärische Einflussnahme in Europa

by Stefan Meister and Jana Puglierin

September 2015

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

This paper claims that civil war in Ukraine makes Russian leadership exert its influence in EU in a completely unexpected way. This sort of "peripheral instruments hybrid warfare" was led not only sending Russian supporters in Ukraine, maintains the paper, but also insisting on media propaganda and supporting EU-critical parties within the EU countries. For tackling this strategy EU must demonstrate an absolute thrust in its values and reform policies, claim the authors.

SERBIA

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

Communications interception measures and data retention from the perspectives of Strasbourg, the regulative framework and Serbian judicial practice

by Dusan Ignjatovic

September 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (25 p.) and in [Serbian](#) (24 p.)

The author is using international judicial framework, Serbian judicial framework, role of European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg, and Serbian judicial practice to analyse influence of

communications interception measures and data retention on privacy. He concludes that solving security challenges cannot be danger to civil rights. In spite of rise of security challenges, democratic state is obliged to provide rules under which those actions will be conducted in a way that is not harmful to citizens.

TURKEY

European Council on Foreign Relations

Turkey, the Kurds and the fight against Islamic State

by Cale Salih [@callysally](#)

September 2015

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

This paper claims EU must prioritise diplomatic support for peace between Turkey and the Kurds as a pre-requisite for a successful strategy against Islamic State. The resumption of fighting between Turkey and the PKK risks spilling over into northern Syria, where the PKK-affiliated PYD/YPG has become a valuable military partner against Islamic State. This could result in greater regional instability and undermine action against IS. The EU should recognize that both Turkey and the Kurds are essential to progress against IS and the eventual stabilization of northern Syria and beyond, and that an effective anti-IS strategy requires reconciling their interests.

UKRAINE

Council on Foreign Relations

Rebuilding economic and political stability in Ukraine

by Maurice R. Greenberg

21 September 2015

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

Ukraine faces two severe and immediate challenges: armed pro-Russian separatists in the eastern part of the country and a sharp economic deterioration. This paper maintains international actors such as US and EU have a stake in helping Ukraine. However, over the past year, poorly coordinated international support has created an extensive set of overlapping initiatives and technical assistance.

SPECIAL FOCUS - EU MIGRATION CRISIS

Egmont – Royal Institute for International Relations

The migration crisis: a stress test for European values

by Clémentine d'Oultremont

September 2015

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

Given that migration is an unstoppable trend, this paper claims the EU has to turn this crisis into an opportunity for its own citizens and economy, for the refugees and migrants it hosts and for their countries of origin. This policy brief summarises European measures taken in the last few months and proposes four key actions to create a well-framed European migration policy: implementing the principle of solidarity and fair-sharing of responsibility between Member States; creating more legal entry and integration channels; addressing the root causes of migration; and broadcasting a constructive and positive narrative on migration.

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

Europe's dubious response to the refugee crisis

by Angeliki Dimitriadi

September 2015

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

This paper discusses the current refugee crisis from its outbreak to its evolution, attempts to set current EU responses in a contextual setting, from the early response to the Lampedusa tragedy of 2013 with Task Force Mediterranean to today's proposal for the redistribution of 160,000 refugees, critically discusses European Member States' responses and the resurface of 'Fortress Europe' and proposes priorities and measures, stressing the need for a global response to the current refugee crisis.

Friedrich-Naumann-Stiftung für die Freiheit (Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom)

Zerreißprobe Flüchtlingskrise - Zwei Momentaufnahmen und das Ringen der Politik um eine Lösung

by Hans H. Stein, Håvard Sandvik, Borek Severa, Charles du Vinage and Markus Kaiser

11 September 2015

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

Europe is in the midst of the biggest refugee crisis since the Second World War. In just the first three months of 2015 a total of 185 000 asylum seekers have arrived in the EU. Compared with the first quarter of 2014 it represents an increase of 8%. Mainly caused by the civil war in Syria, Europe is facing one of its biggest challenges since the outbreak of the European sovereign debt crisis. What needs to happen in order to cope with the crisis?

Centar za Evropske Politike (European Policy Centre)

Handling the refugee influx: between the laws, borders, and political discourses

by Lana Radovanović and Katarina Kosmina

October 2015

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

This article attempts to deconstruct the EU's response to the current refugee 'crisis' and outline its relevance for Serbia's asylum strategy. The focus will be on relevant EU legislation, such as the

Dublin III Regulation, and ensuing issues, as well as the response taken regarding border policies and political discourse.

Centre for European Policy Studies

The 2015 refugee crisis in the European Union

by Elspeth Guild, Cathryn Costello [@ProfCCostello](#), Madeline Garlick and Violeta Moreno-Lax
September 2015

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

According to the latest figures from UNHCR, more than 310,000 people have arrived in Italy and Greece this year alone to seek refuge in the EU. Italy's reception services are stretched beyond capacity and the situation is even more serious in Greece, where 200,000 refugees have arrived from Turkey so far this year. This paper examines the real issues regarding these arrivals, particularly those arriving from across the Mediterranean, and make concrete recommendations to alleviate the problems that both state authorities and refugees are encountering as a result.

Enhancing the Common European Asylum System and alternatives to Dublin

by Elspeth Guild, Cathryn Costello [@ProfCCostello](#), Madeline Garlick and Violeta Moreno-Lax
September 2015

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

Upon request by the LIBE committee in the EP, this study examines the reasons why the Dublin system of allocation of responsibility for asylum seekers does not work effectively from the viewpoint of Member States or asylum-seekers. It argues that as long as it is based on the use of coercion against asylum seekers, it cannot serve as an effective tool to address existing imbalances in the allocation of responsibilities among Member States. This study addresses these issues with recommendations aimed at resolving current practical, legal and policy problems.

Leuven Centre for Global Governance Studies

Seeking refuge in EU delegations abroad: a legal imbroglio explored

by Sanderijn Duquet [@SanderijnDuquet](#) and Jan Wouters
September 2015

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

This working paper investigates which legal framework would apply if one of the Delegations of the EU's worldwide diplomatic network were to offer shelter. It explores whether the EU may be legally obliged to uphold an extraterritorial "nonrefoulement principle" in a diplomatic context.

Istituto Affari Internazionali

Who's afraid of ... migration? A new European narrative of migration

by Stefano Volpicelli
September 2015

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

Human mobility has changed profoundly since the onset of globalisation, with old patterns of south-north movement of male economic migrants being replaced by mixed flows of people. In Europe these changes have gone largely unnoticed and the discourse on migration has been conducted in a contradictory way. Policies have swung between two poles: on one end the view of migrants as a problem rather than as an opportunity; on the other, the view of migrants as vulnerable people escaping poverty or persecution. This paper proposes a different narrative of migration to curb the political manipulation that, labelling migrants as a threat, is fuelling racism.

Overhauling EU policy in the Mediterranean. Towards more inclusive, responsive and flexible policies

by Daniela Huber and Maria Cristina Paciello

September 2015

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

As the EU is reviewing its ENP, this paper calls for an entirely new approach that would give the EU a stake in the region by responding more effectively to the asylum crisis. It first outlines three strategic policy options for the EU – defensive, power-projecting and reflexive approaches – and analyses EU policies accordingly. After observing that EU policies in the Mediterranean since the Arab uprisings have oscillated between a defensive and a power-projecting approach, this paper discusses how EU policies could become more inclusive of key actors, more responsive to key challenges and more flexible on both the multilateral and the bilateral level.

European Union Institute for Security Studies

Operation Sophia: tackling the refugee crisis with military means

by Thierry Tardy

30 September 2015

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

The paper claims the EU anti-migrant smuggling operation in the Mediterranean sea (known as 'EUNAVFOR Med' or 'Operation Sophia') innovates EU role and functions soundly. Following the anti-piracy operation in the Gulf of Aden (Atalanta), EUNAVFOR Med confirms the maritime dimension of CSDP in the management of new types of security threats. The operation also brings CSDP closer to the EU internal security portfolio and its Freedom, Security and Justice agenda. Finally, EUNAVFOR Med is the first CSDP operation with a potential openly coercive mandate which, if implemented, would lead the EU to engage in 'peace enforcement'-type activities.

European Stability Initiative

Why people don't need to drown in the Aegean

17 September 2015

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

In the face of the massive movement of refugees there have been two opposed responses, the German, which advocate for a liberal asylum policy, and the Hungarian one. Neither of them offer a solution and are sustainable. This paper claims this is because it is not the EU but Turkey that determines what happens at Europe's south-eastern borders. Without the active support of the Turkish authorities, the EU has only two options: to welcome the refugees or try – futilely – to stop them. The report proposes an agreement between the EU and Turkey to restore control of the EU's external border while simultaneously addressing the vast humanitarian crisis.

Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (Friedrich Ebert Foundation)

Flucht und Migration : Debattenbeiträge aus den Ländern des Westbalkans

by Felix Henkel and Bert Hoppe

September 2015

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

In order to better estimate the potential impact of European policies, it is important to gain more in depth knowledge on the causes of migration from the Western Balkans. This paper aims at describing the background to the migration movement from the Western Balkans and make suggestions for innovative solutions.

Auswirkungen des demografischen Wandels im Einwanderungsland Deutschland

by Marcel Thum, Elma Delkic, Alexander Kemnitz, Jan Kluge, Gesine Marquardt, Tom Motzek, Wolfgang Nagl and Patrick Zwerschke

15 September 2015

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

This report analyzes the impact of demographic changes in Germany. Scenarios for future development are important and helpful for a formative immigration policy.

Ośrodek Studiów Wschodnich (Centre for Eastern Studies)

Germany's 'refugee' problem. The most important test for Chancellor Merkel and the grand coalition

by Artur Ciechanowicz and Lidia Gibadło

11 September 2015

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

The rapid increase in the number of immigrants from outside of the EU coming to Germany has become the paramount political issue. According to new estimates, the number of individuals expected arrive in Germany in 2015 and apply for asylum there is 800,000, which is nearly twice as many as estimated in earlier forecasts. Various administrative, financial and social problems related to the influx of migrants are becoming increasingly apparent. The problem of 'refugees' has been culminating for over a year. Despite this, it was being disregarded by Angela Merkel's government which was preoccupied with debates on how to rescue Greece. It was only daily reports of cases of refugee centres being set on fire that convinced Chancellor Merkel to speak and to make immigration problem a priority issue.

Polski Instytut Spraw Międzynarodowych (Polish Institute of International Affairs)

Border and migration management in the East: the cases of Norway and Poland

by Kinga Dudzińska [@KingaDudzinska2](#), Jakub Godzimirski [@jmgdupi](#) and Roderick Parkes [@RoderickParkes](#)

September 2015

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

The migration and refugee situation in Eastern Europe receives comparatively little attention in the EU for a simple reason: the people displaced by the fighting in eastern Ukraine have tended to stay close to home or travel to Russia rather than head to the EU. This paper takes as its case studies the receiving countries Norway and Poland, both located at the external border of the EU, EEA and Schengen zone and next to Russia, and pays special attention to the question of border management, including small border traffic and migration control, looking particularly at the gender dimension of migration.

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

Changes in migration patterns and remittances: do females and skilled migrants remit more?

by Maëlan Le Goff and Sara Salomone

September 2015

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

Using a new comprehensive dataset of bilateral remittances, this paper investigates whether changes in the composition by gender and education of migration flows may shape remittance patterns. The estimations of a simple gravity model of remittances reveal that the share of females and skilled persons in the migration diaspora significantly increases annual remittances received in the country of origin. The positive role played by females on remittances is mainly driven by skilled women compared with unskilled women.

Österreichische Gesellschaft für Europapolitik (Austrian Society for European Politics)

Minderjährige Asylsuchende und Flüchtlinge: das Recht auf Bildung in Österreich. Hürden, Versäumnisse und Barrieren bei der Umsetzung von internationalen Menschenrechtsstandards und EU-Rechtsnormen

by Monika Mayrhofer

11 September 2015

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

The right for universal education is fundamental and is enshrined in several treaties ratified by Austria and EU. Despite these legal obligations, access to education for refugee children and adolescents in Austria is made difficult by several barriers. Not only a lack of data about asylum seekers and refugees' participation in education in Austria is recorded; educational services in federal care centers and scholastic support educational programs are not sufficient for tackling the challenge. Other obstacles are the selectivity of the Austrian school system and the fact that the funding of minor refugees and asylum seekers is not taken into account.

Barcelona Centre for International Affairs

More to come? The refugee situation in the Middle East and the EU

by Eckart Woertz [@eckartwoertz](#)

September 2015

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

There are 4 million Syrian refugees in neighbouring countries and 7.6 million Internally displaced persons (IDPs) within the country. This is half of the entire population and a fifth of the global refugee population. Iraq now has 3.2 million IDPs. But there are also non-displaced Iraqis who suffer hardship, pushing the total tally of people who are in need of humanitarian assistance to 8.2 million. Syrian refugees in Lebanon now constitute about a fifth of the population, and there are concerns about a spill over of the Syrian civil war. Given its demographic structure the EU needs economic migration, but asylum laws are not the best way to deal with it; an immigration law would be better suited. It could offer legal avenues for economically motivated migration based on a point-based system like Canada.

COMPARING EXPERIENCES

Chatham House - The Royal Institute of International Affairs

Syrian refugees in Jordan confronting difficult truths

by Doris Carrion [@DorisECarrion](#)

September 2015

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

Civil war in Syria has caused a refugee crisis not only in Europe but also in Jordan, raising the latter's population by at least 8%. This paper claims Jordan government and the international community should take difficult but necessary steps to prevent the crisis from making life worse for the country's most vulnerable residents as price hikes and strains on public services and public order have left local inhabitants feeling neglected by the Jordanian government and international donors. If current trends continue, resentment and alienation is likely to increase in the coming years with fearful consequences.

Istituto Affari Internazionali

Turkey's evolving migration policies: a Mediterranean transit stop at the doors of the EU

by Ahmet İçduygu

September 2015

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

In Europe there is a common misconception that Turkey is primarily a country of emigration (or migrant sending country) and a source country for asylum seekers. However, reality is that Turkey has morphed into a country of immigration, and more prominently a transit country, as a result of intense migratory movements over the last two decades. This paper analyses the evolution of Turkey's migration policies and the way in which EU-Turkey relations have affected Turkey's migration laws and practices.

Morocco's experience of migration as a sending, transit and receiving country

by Mehdi Lahlou

30 September 2015

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

If Morocco appears to be Africa's gateway to Europe, it is a gateway that until today has been used primarily by Moroccans – more than 3 million Moroccans currently live in EU countries such as France, Spain and Italy. The number of other nationalities entering Europe through Morocco has seldom exceeded 20,000 annually and was no more than 7,300 in 2014. Thus, while Morocco is a country of migrant departure, it is only a minor host/transit country for migrants in search of better living conditions outside of their region of origin. Such a configuration has been the basis of recent Moroccan migration policy.

Friedrich-Naumann-Stiftung für die Freiheit (Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom)

"Viele Menschen werden bleiben!" Herausforderungen der Zuwanderung syrischer Flüchtlinge nach Jordanien, in den Libanon und nach Deutschland

by Ulrich Wacker and René Klaff

14 September 2015

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

Current estimations suggest that up to 800,000 people will apply for asylum in Germany in the current year 2015. A majority of them are refugees from the war zones of the Arab East and the Mashreq. Many of the ones arriving will have to stay forever in their host countries, in European ones but also in the Middle East. This paper analyses which are the specific challenges that Lebanon and Jordan are facing, and which conclusions can be draw for the political debate taking place in Germany?

REGARDS CROISÉS

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

Auf der Suche nach Alternativen. Griechenland zwischen Europa-Frust und russischer Versuchung

by Julian Rappold [@JulianRappold](#)

17 September 2015

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

This paper claims the EU should seriously tackle Russian growing influence in Greece. Tensions within the Euro Group for the debt crisis led to a loss of prestige of EU in Greece. Conversely, in the Greek public debate Russia has been regarded as an alternative to "the Brussels austerity". However, Tsipras' efforts for strengthening- ties with Moscow has not yet paid, especially because Russia can't provide any financial support to Greece. Nevertheless, only if EU's promise of prosperity for Greek society is fulfilled, it can defeat Putin's strategy.
